



# Liberty Academy Trust News

Spring Term 2 2025

## Trust News

- ★ The Global Equality Collective nominated us for **Inclusive Trust of the Year** TES award .
- ★ Liberty had **written evidence published** in the Education Committee's inquiry, Solving the SEND Crisis.
- ★ All Liberty Academy Trust schools took part in an online synchronous Kahoot science quiz.

## Exec Board Activities

- ★ The CEO delivered **Stress Management training** to staff at Vanguard school.
- ★ The CEO co-chaired the **Whole Education SEND MAT Leaders** meeting with Simon Tanner of E-Act and attended the **Coalition Launch** meeting hosted by Educate Ventures to discuss latest updates and issues in the AI Education landscape.
- ★ The CEO met with colleagues at **The University of East London** to discuss partnership working and Liberty's involvement at an upcoming Conference and a joint submission to BERA for a research project.
- ★ Director of Safeguarding attended the **Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board**.
- ★ Director of Education attended the **AP SEND MAT CEO Network** in Nottingham as part of the National SEND & Inclusion conference and the **Pioneer Improvement & Workforce Committee & Trust Board** meetings as part of her Trustee role..
- ★ The Head of Digital, Data & Technology attended the **Star Chamber Scrutiny Board**
- ★ Director of Governance & Compliance attended the **Living Wage Local Action Group** meetings in Lambeth and the **IRMS ESG Digital Decarbonisation Roundtable**.





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Spring Term 2 2025

## Church Lawton

### Church Lawton School appointed as Cheshire East Lead Special School for Music!

Church Lawton have worked with The Love Music Trust for a number of years and developed a comprehensive curriculum and huge range of opportunities for all ages. After a rigorous interview and application process, we are extremely proud that Church Lawton were appointed as **Cheshire East Lead Special School for Music**.

The criteria for becoming a Lead School was:

- place a high value on music education, based on our current knowledge of your school and information from the annual data return
- be an ambassador for music education and music as a future career option
- have a strong music provision, both inside and outside of the classroom
- have an Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' in the school's most recent inspection.

In return for the school's work in this area, the school will:

- receive some instruments or equipment on perpetual free hire
- receive a priority invitation to take part in the Cheshire Show performance, Come and Play with the Hallé and the LMT Summer Celebration event
- gain access to other Lead Schools within and outside of Cheshire East for support and to share good practice
- gain recognition through the LMT Lead Schools' kitemark.

the love  
music  
trust





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Spring Term 2 2025

## Church Lawton

### Special Events

**April** - Autism Acceptance Month

10 Year Celebration of CLS

Welcoming two new parent governors

**6 March** - World Book Day

**21 March** - Red Nose Day

**17-23 March** - Neurodiversity Celebration Week

**Trips** - KS3 science trip to The Catalyst Museum, swimming, visit from local police to middle school to teach about CSI, Yrs 8 & 9 life skills trip on the bus to Costa Coffee, Yr 9 tour of Reaseheath College, secondary trip to cycle the Tissington Trail, KS4 geography trip to River Bollin.



### Church Lawton's Therapy Dog celebrated her 10th birthday!

Lottie interacts with students for both reading interventions and emotional support. For many students this helps them manage stress and anxiety and encourages friendships. The calming presence of Lottie has been invaluable in creating a safe and supportive environment in school.

The presence of Lottie in school has increased students' motivation to participate in school activities and she has supported many new pupils with transitions into school and with difficult emotional times they may be experiencing.

We have seen many students improve their communication skills by talking to and about her. This has been especially helpful for those who struggle with verbal communication, providing them with a nonjudgmental and patient listener.

Lottie has helped foster a sense of community and connection among staff and students, contributing to a supportive and inclusive school culture.





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Spring Term 2 2025

Church Lawton

## Some of the work covered this term...

### ★ Primary

- Maths - fractions, decimals, multiplication and division, White Rose
- English - cultural folk tales, non-fiction, Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief
- Science - living things/habitats, states of matter, light and sound
- Geography - study of Australia, our European neighbours, place knowledge, investigate India
- History - Romans, local history study
- Art / D&T - Roman shields, architecture, photography
- RE - Hinduism, Judaism
- Computing - Photo editing, 3D modelling

### ★ Secondary

- Maths - angles, ratio and proportion, representing data
- English - Romeo & Juliet, Blood Brothers, power and conflict poetry
- Science - movement and rocks, the earth, climate and bioenergetics, electricity, infection and response
- History - British America, industry and empire, slavery, the restoration
- Geography - physical landscapes, greenhouse gasses, global warming
- RE - ethical issues, how is goodness shown in the world
- PSHE - Brainwaves curriculum and healthy relationships
- Music - Liquid Logic Pro
- Art & Design - textiles, embellishing, digital manipulation

- ### ★
- Adventure Learning - The Social Farm



# Thames Valley School Newsletter



**Issue Date** | 04th April 2025

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# A message from our Principal

Mrs G Buley



Happy Friday!

I hope those of you who celebrated Eid this week had a wonderful time.

This week, it was great to see so many families join us for our craft afternoon both at Tilehurst and Hill Brow. Thank you so much for attending and for embracing your creative skills and an additional thank you to Mrs Garcia for her cupcakes that were very well received!

On Wednesday, Miss Archer organised visitors for our Year 8 and 9 pupils to discuss apprenticeships and technical pathways after they leave school at the end of Year 11. Pupils engaged in this very well and asked insightful questions, and it is so important that we support them to continue a growing awareness of their options once they leave school. Next half term, we will have independent Careers advisors coming into school to meet with Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils so that we can support in guiding their understanding of the world of work and life after school.

A reminder that Sports Day is on 25<sup>th</sup> April and that this will be held at the Atrium Health Club, Scours Lane, RG30 6AY. Parents and carers are welcome to attend, however, please confirm your attendance to the school office by emailing [office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](mailto:office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk) by 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 5pm.

If you wish to attend, please note the following arrival times:

Primary and Hill Brow Year 7 - 10.45am

Secondary - 11.45am

Leo class arrangements will follow separately.

I hope all pupils have a restful break over the next two weeks, and we look forward to welcoming them back to school on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Wishing those of you who celebrate, a Happy Easter.

Best wishes,

Mrs Buley

**CEO Video Update for Families: <https://vimeo.com/1072485963/bcb4fe6fcb?ts=0&share=copy>**

# Pupil Of The Term

## Thoughtful

**Molly S** has been awarded for always being responsible and diligent with her learning, and working hard across all subjects.

## Value

**Callum H** has been awarded for valuing his work and putting in an amazing effort with his learning.

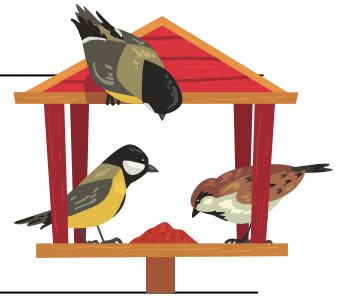
## Safe

**Stavros L** has been awarded for his kindness and consideration to all around in Leo Class, always listening well and following every instruction given.

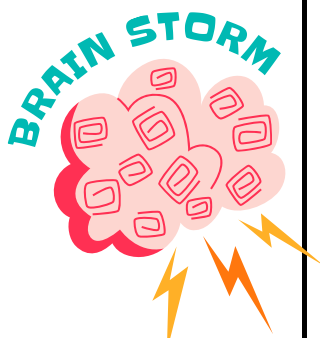
**A huge congratulations to these pupils  
from all the TVS staff.**



# What's been happening this week at TVS Tilehurst

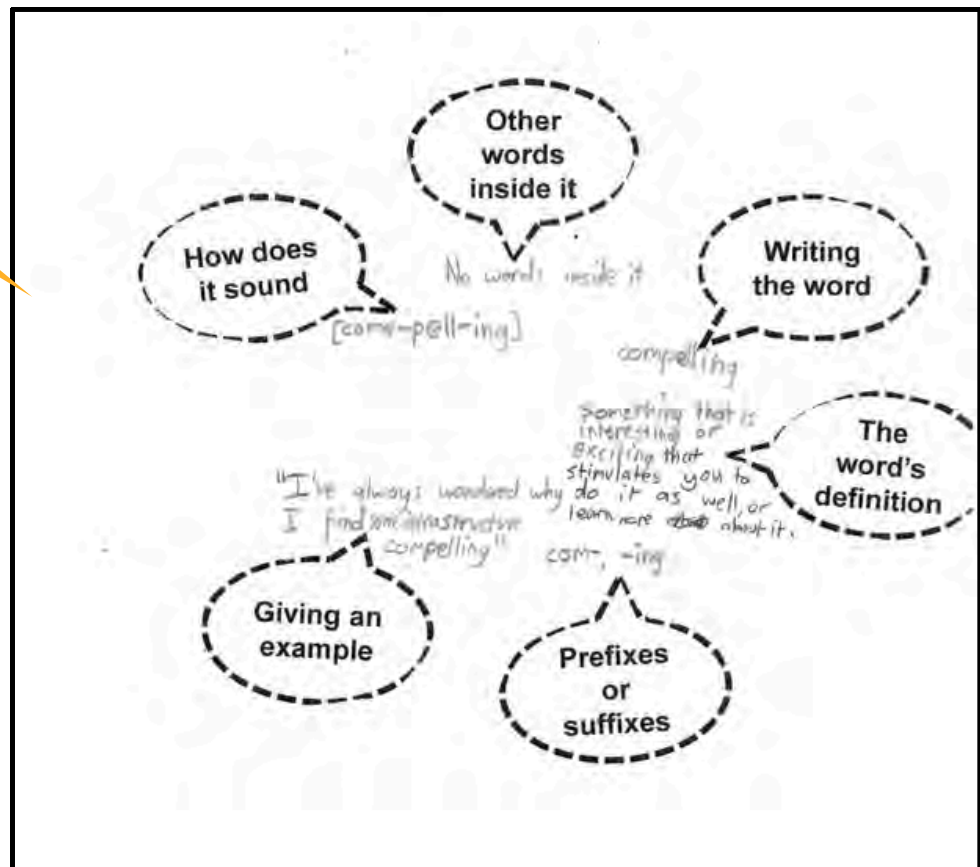


## Year 7 making bird feeders in DT Class



## Orion's Class

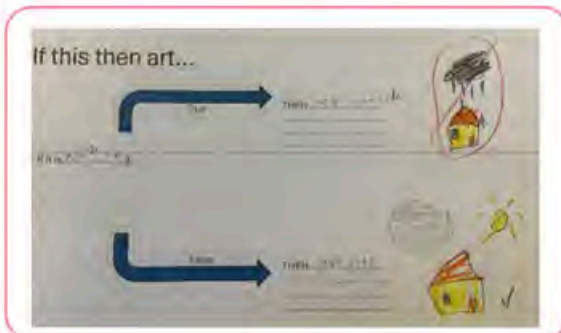
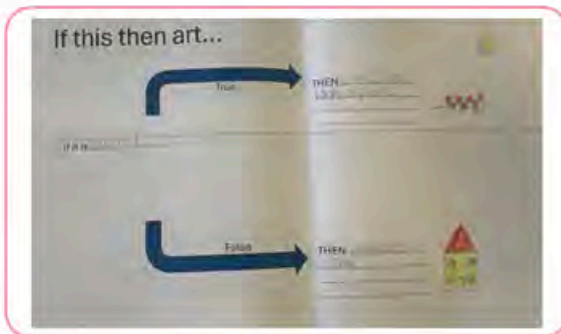
Orion's class has been focusing on the word 'Compelling' during their tutor time.



# IF this THEN that

This term we have been learning about programming concepts – this week we looked at conditional statements and loops. Some of the class created some conditional artwork.

- Come up with a rule - something that always happens in the same way. For example, "I go to school on Mondays".
- Then, come up with an exception, also known as a condition, to this rule. For example, "If it is a holiday, then I don't go to school on Monday."



## Loop dance.

1. **Decide how many times each action should be repeated, or "looped".** For example, "spin 2 times, clap 5 times, wiggle one time".
2. **Perform the routine all together, looping each action the designated number of times. Then, try looping the entire routine at least twice!**



# Phoenix's



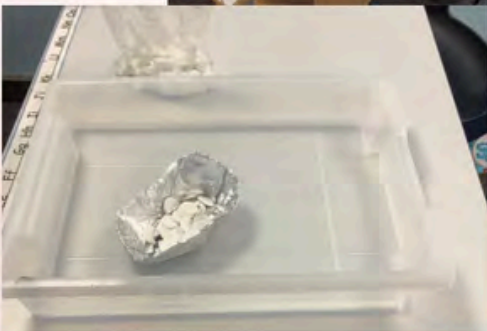
Homemade lava lamps



Skittle test



Buoyancy Test



# Science Afternoon

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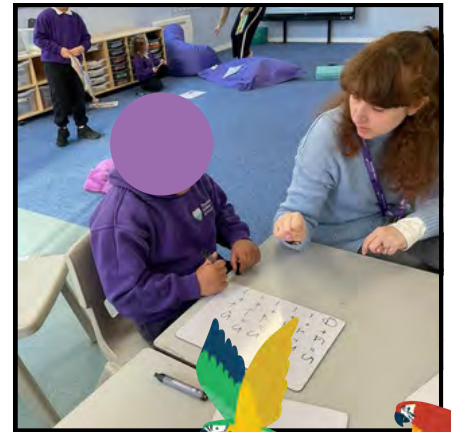
# What's been happening this week at TVS Hill Brow

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This week in Leo class, we've been very busy with Maths and English activities. The children have been working hard to develop their ability to recall number bonds and recognise initial sounds. It's been wonderful to see their progress and enthusiasm!

We also had our Easter activities, which were a huge success. All the parents attended and got involved, making it a truly special event. The children loved having their parents participate, and it added an extra layer of fun to our celebrations.

We had so much fun this week, and we hope you all have a fantastic Easter break!

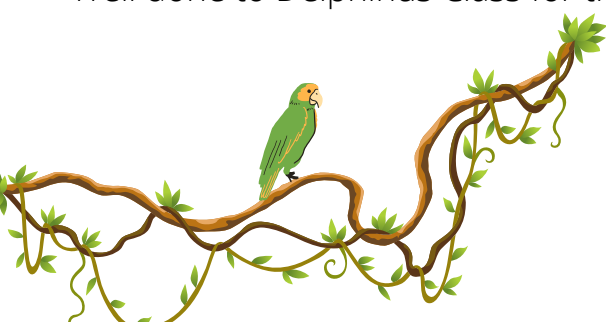


Delphinus Class has enjoyed a remarkable final week of the term. Our students have been diligently working on oil pastel drawings inspired by the renowned artist Henri Matisse. They skillfully recreated the famous piece, 'Le Chat aux Poissons Rouge,' and the results were met with great enthusiasm.

In our English lessons, we have focused on crafting detailed setting descriptions of the Amazon Rainforest. The students employed their sensory experiences to develop expanded noun phrases, painting vivid pictures for the reader. We will conclude this unit by writing imaginative stories set in the Amazon Rainforest.

Additionally, we had the pleasure of welcoming families into the school for a series of Spring Activities. Together, we created egg baskets, vibrant bunting, and delightful mini egg Easter nests.

Well done to Delphinus Class for their hard work and dedication this term!



# Spring Family Event







## First News-Celebrating Ramadan

This week, pupils learned about Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and a sacred time for Muslims worldwide. We explored the significance of fasting, our word of the week, and how it is more than simply going without food and drink. Fasting during Ramadan encourages spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and compassion for those in need. Pupils were fascinated to learn about Suhoor and Iftar—the meals marking the start and end of each fast—as well as the global customs and celebrations that make Ramadan unique across cultures. In class discussions, pupils expressed strong support for being taught about different religions. They agreed that learning about faiths such as Islam promotes understanding, respect, and tolerance. Many shared that understanding religious practices helps break down stereotypes and contributes to a more inclusive society.

As always, our goal is to create not just informed learners, but kind and thoughtful citizens. Learning about Ramadan gave pupils a chance to reflect on their own values and understand the importance of empathy across cultures.

Have a wonderful Easter Break!

Miss Eirini Akrivopoulou  
Head of English

### Should non-religious pupils be educated about religious practises?

**KCh** believed schools should teach about the topic but not to implement any practises onto the pupils

**DMa** believed it should be up to the child to decide as some may not want to be part of a faith, it may come across as offensive to some groups to practise their practise.

**BCa** saw the importance in learning about other cultures and the need to promote a multi-cultural society

### FirstNews



### Aquila

Should non-Muslim students be educated about religious practices like Ramadan in schools?

Aquila students agreed that it is important for schools to teach about a range of religions, so that we can better understand other walks of life. Students explained that learning about practices like Ramadan helps them to engage with peers who do practice this, and encourages more inclusive attitudes!

**CELEBRATING RAMADAN**

**FirstNews**  
Draco- First News  
31/03/25

Word of the week:  
Fasting

Fasting means not eating or drinking for a specific period of time.

We think it's important so we can talk to people we meet who follow different religions and have some understanding of their practices and traditions. It helps with conversations.

**Over to you:**

Should non-Muslim students be educated about religious practices like Ramadan in schools?

**RAMADHAN**

Some practices might be confusing and not make sense if we don't have an awareness of the religion they follow.

It helps with inclusion and helping everyone feel seen and accepted.

We have R.E. days which help us understand a range of different religions including the Muslim faith.

It's interesting to get to know other peoples' values.

## Taurus 'Celebrating Ramadan!'

- Yes, but get someone who does it to teach it so they have the correct knowledge.
- Students should be taught about the practices of different religions. Because it's important to their culture and it helps with tolerance and understanding.
- I think it does help promote understanding and tolerance, I do agree with the points such as helping build a community - I think the best way to do it respectfully and appropriately, is it shouldn't be forced because this could push people away from different religions instead of bringing people together. It could also be a helpful experience for students to have a go at some of the practices, so that they can get to know what those people go through - this could also build awareness of what's it's like to take part in these activities, so this would help it make more sense.



## CELEBRATING RAMADAN



It's currently Ramadan, a holy month in the Islamic faith that's important to Muslims all over the world. So, today we're looking at a special message (Muslims give of earnings) to find out more.

## FirstNews



### Ramadan Around the World

- Ramadan is observed globally—celebrations and customs may vary.
- Some countries have national holidays during Ramadan.
- Mosques become busier, and families gather more often.

### Did you know?

- The first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to Prophet Muhammad during Ramadan.
- The practice of fasting during Ramadan has existed for over 1,400 years.
- The fast begins with Suhoor (a pre-dawn meal) and ends with Iftar (a meal after sunset).
- Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan with a joyful celebration.

**Over to you:**  
Should non-Muslim students be educated about religious practices like Ramadan in schools?

*Demetrius*  
I think that non-muslim students should be educated about religious practices because it can show how other people celebrate different things

Non-Muslim students, atheists or not, should learn about the religious practices because this allows them to promote understanding, tolerance, and also building communities for yourself. In Ramadan, the Big Iftar that is served at the end of Ramadan has a lot of examples of good food, communion with friends and family, and most of all, kindness and respect.

*Yes, because it can improve diversity and culture.*

*ALFIE 14/25*  
What if they don't want to learn about other religions? I think because they're happy with the religion they already got.

### Word Of The Week: Fasting:

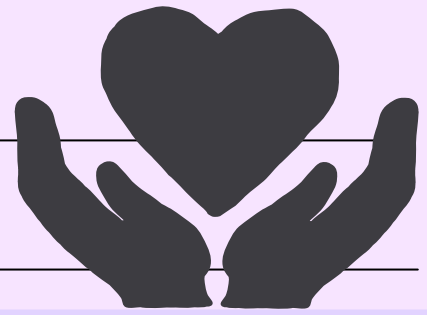
Fasting means not eating or drinking for a specific period of time.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

- Fasting is meant to:
- Bring people closer to God
  - Encourage self-discipline
  - Remind people of those less fortunate



# Transdisciplinary Team



In Primary, they reflected on what they have learned over the term in their relationships topic. As part of this, they completed some end-of-term summary questions all about how to be a good friend!

What are the five main qualities you look for in a best friend?

- kind
- Sincere
- share
- nice
- helpful

What can you do to help a new person make friends?

Self your name

Day 30

What is the one thing you will do every day to be the best friend you can be?

be kind



What would you do if someone was being mean to your friends?

stand up for them and tell an adult.

What are the five main qualities you look for in a best friend?

- funny
- kind
- nice
- share
- helpful



What can you do to help a new person make friends?

play with them

Day 30

What is the one thing you will do every day to be the best friend you can be?

be kind  
tell them to join

What can you do to help a new person make friends?

ASK them to play

Day 30

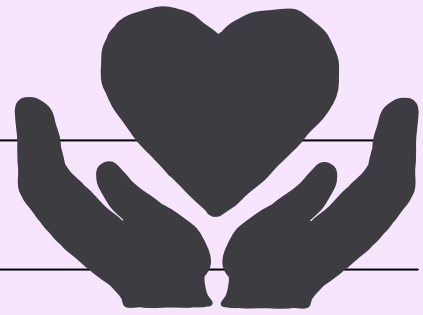
What is the one thing you will do every day to be the best friend you can be?

BE kind





# Transdisciplinary Team

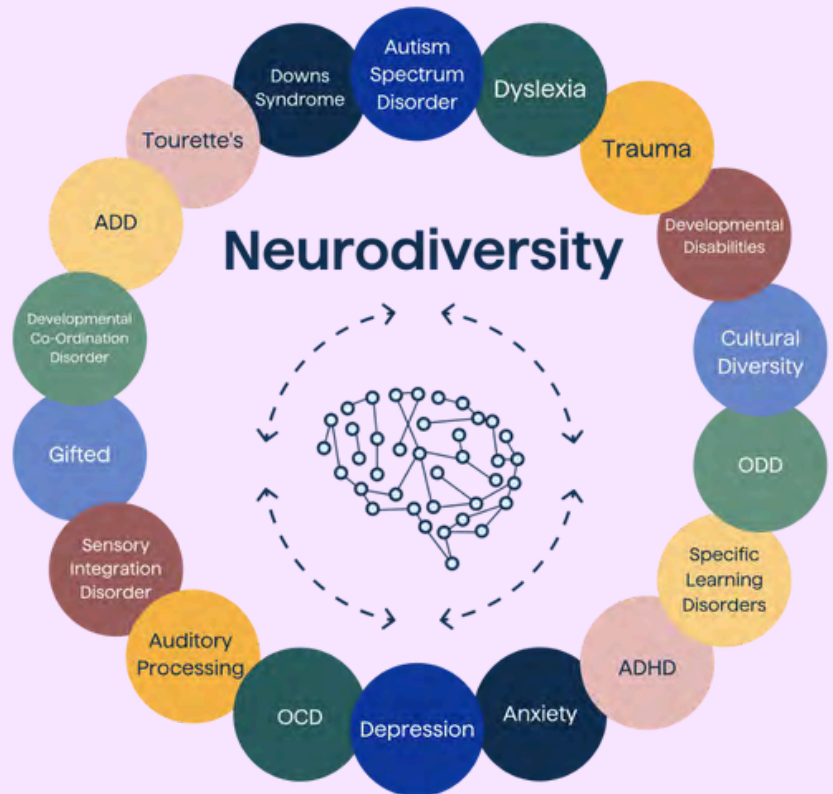


Next term's overview- Life Skills

In Personal Development, the topic will be neurodiversity!

Primary	<b>Summer 1</b> Food Preparation & Hygiene 
Year 7	Safety & Travel In the Local Community 
Year 8	First Aid 
Year 9	Money Management & Shopping 

Year 10	Home Management 
Year 11	Leisure & Balanced Lifestyle 



This topic will explore and encourage:

- **Inclusive philosophy-** It advocates for the acceptance of different ways of thinking and processing information, challenging traditional notions of "normal".
- **Self-advocacy-**The neurodiversity movement has empowered individuals to advocate for their rights and seek greater inclusion in society.
- **Impact on Society-** Understanding and embracing neurodiversity can lead to a more inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.



### Introduction to our First Issue!

Welcome to our first research insights newsletter!

This newsletter aims to bridge the gap between research and our everyday practice, making research accessible and actionable for all staff.

In this first issue, we focus on the importance of using neuro-affirming language in our schools.

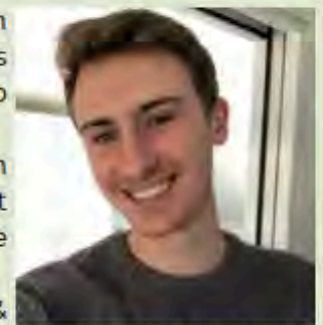
However, we recognise that finding out a person's individual preferences is always the best way to communicate effectively and sensitively.

### Research Summary - Keating et al (2023)

A team at the University of Birmingham, in partnership with the U21 Autism Research Network, surveyed over 650 English-speaking autistic adults worldwide to understand their preferences. This was one of the first studies to investigate language preferences outside of the UK or Australia.

While there is no universally accepted terminology, many autistic individuals in the UK prefer identity-first language (e.g., "autistic person") over person-first language (e.g., "person with autism"), as it acknowledges autism as a core aspect of their identity (Kenny et al, 2016).

This represents a shift from traditional medical language (focusing on deficits & disorders), to neuro-affirming language (emphasising differences & strengths).



**Connor Keating**

### The Reality

Inclusive, identity-first language:

**Autistic person/is autistic/neurotypical**

Seek individual preferences:

**Where possible, ask individuals how they prefer to be referred to.**

Educate & raise awareness:

**Promote neuro-affirming language among staff to foster an inclusive environment.**

Pathologising language:

**Person who has autism/ASD/ASC**

**Person with autism/deficit/normal people**

IDENTITY-FIRST



PERSON-FIRST



### Further Reading & Links

[National Autistic Society \(Kenny et al, 2016\)](#)

[Article - Keating et al, 2023\)](#)

<https://www.u21autismresearchnetwork.co.uk/about>



On Wednesday, 2nd April, Year 8 and 9 pupils attended a session about apprenticeships. This was delivered by two keynote speakers who discussed different post-16 options and future aspirations. The pupils were engaged throughout and were keen to ask questions and learn more about this route.

# APPRENTICESHIPS

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY  
Amazing Apprenticeships

Today, your child attended a session about apprenticeships with the Careers & Enterprise Company. They discussed key facts, including:

**700+** **The variety of apprenticeships available:** There are now over 700 different apprenticeships! You can find an [A-Z of apprenticeships here](#).



**Salary:** There is a minimum wage for apprentices, but many employers pay more than this.



**Tasks and responsibilities:** Apprentices do real tasks and have real responsibilities - an apprenticeship is not work experience.



**Qualifications:** Many apprenticeships have a qualification built in and apprentices work towards this during paid 'off-the-job' time.



**Duration:** Apprenticeships typically last between 1-6 years, depending on the level and role.



**Range of levels:** Apprenticeship levels range from Intermediate to Degree level.



**Types of employers:** Employers range from small companies to large, well-known brands and can be found in all industries throughout England.

If you would like to find out more about apprenticeships, you could visit:



[Talking Futures Activities](#)



[Amazing Apprenticeships Parent Zone](#)



[Download the latest edition of Choices](#)

If you would like to continue the conversation at home with your child, here are some question ideas:

Tell me something about apprenticeships

Did anything surprise you about apprenticeships?

What was the most interesting thing about apprenticeships?

Would you consider doing an apprenticeship in the future?

Do you know what sort of job / apprenticeship you'd like to do?

Discover more about apprenticeships: [www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)

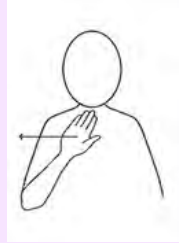
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# Makaton Signs Recap

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Yes



No



Happy



To Feel



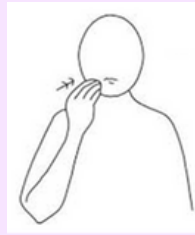
Sad



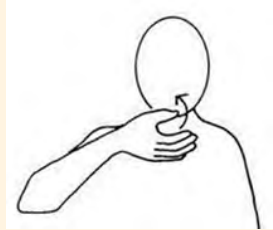
Toilet



Want



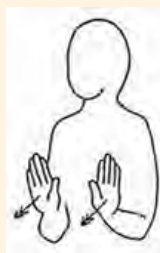
Eat



Drink



Sit



Wait

*How many  
do you  
remember?*

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**Upcoming**

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# events

**7th - 21st April** - *Easter Holidays*

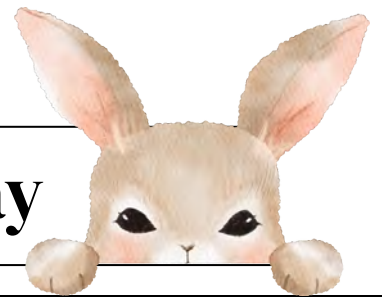
**Tuesday 22nd April** - Pupils return to school

**Thursday 24th April** - Earth Day

**Friday 25th April** - Sports Day



# What's On During Easter Holiday



**PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) EASTER HOLIDAYS 2025**  
 moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

<p><b>BURGER KING</b> From Monday 7th - Sunday 20th April 2025, Kids Eat Free with every adult meal, via the app.</p> <p><b>BILLS</b> Kids eat free Mondays - Fridays, from Monday 7th - Friday 25th April 2025.</p> <p><b>FARMHOUSE INNS</b> 2 kids eat FREE with one paying adult, Monday 7th - Friday 25th of April. Sign Up Required</p> <p><b>TGI FRIDAYS</b> Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)</p> <p><b>ZIZZI</b> Sunday 6th - Sunday 27th April 2025 kids eat free with every adult main. (excludes Saturdays)</p> <p><b>CAFE EIGHTY NINE @ THE RANGE</b> Kids eat free Sat 5th April - Mon 21st April 2025</p> <p><b>YO! SUSHI</b> Kids eat free all day (monday - friday) during all school holidays, when dining with an adult</p> <p><b>SIZZLING PUBS</b> Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids eat for £1.</p> <p><b>ASDA</b> Kids eat for £1 every, with no adult spend.</p> <p><b>TRAVELodge &amp; PREMIER INN</b> 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p><b>GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS</b> Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day</p> <p><b>WHITBREAD INNS</b> 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p><b>BEEFEATER &amp; BREWERS FAYRE</b> 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p><b>IKEA</b> Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am</p>	<p><b>PREZZO</b> Kids receive a free, 3 course kids meal, everyday at Prezzo between 31st March - 27th April 2025</p> <p><b>COCONUT TREE</b> One child (under 10) eats free every day, 12pm - 6pm from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April 2025</p> <p><b>PIZZA HUT</b> Kids eat free buffet from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April, until 3pm daily with a £10 spend.</p> <p><b>PRETO</b> Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms</p> <p><b>SAINSBURYS CAFES</b> Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.</p> <p><b>BELLA ITALIA</b> Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Sun to Weds. All Day Thursdays</p> <p><b>MORRISONS</b> Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend</p> <p><b>LAS IGUANAS</b> Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App</p> <p><b>TABLE TABLE</b> 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult!</p> <p><b>PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM</b> Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm</p> <p><b>HUNGRY HORSE</b> Kids eat for £1 on Mondays</p> <p><b>THE REAL GREEK</b> Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend</p> <p><b>SA BRAINS PUBS</b> Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays</p> <p><b>FUTURE INNS</b> Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.</p>
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**How's About The Cowsey?**

## WILD DAY

**FREE!**  
No need to book

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April,  
11.30am-3.30pm

Join Nature Nurture & friends for a fun and free day out for all ages.

- Dragonfly Trail
- History Hike with Terry's Reading Walkabouts
- Wild Art
- Nature Explorers
- Wild Workout
- Seed Planting
- 

Location: The Cowsey, Whitley

Get ready for an egg-citing adventure this half-term as the Reading Easter Trail returns to the town centre!

Follow the trail: Hunt down 12 colourful Easter eggs hidden in shop windows from 5 - 21 April. It's free and fun for the whole family!

Pick up your trail map from: The Oracle Shopping Centre (by Supercuts), Broad Street Mall customer service desk, Reading Museum or [download and print your own map at home here.](#)

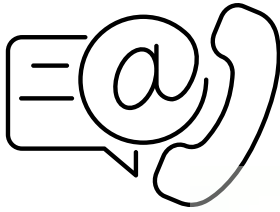
Supertato is coming to Broad Street Mall on 12th April. He will be appearing in Central Square at the following intervals: 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm.

The event is FREE and no booking is required!

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# Contact Details

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## **Thames Valley School - Tilehurst**

A: Conwy Close | Tilehurst | Reading | Berkshire | RG30 4BZ

**T: 0118 9424750**

E: [office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](mailto:office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk)

W: [www.thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyschool.org.uk)

## **Thames Valley School - Hill Brow**

A: Hill Brow | Hartland Road | Reading | Berkshire | RG2 8JD

*for any Hill Brow queries, please email [office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](mailto:office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk) and our receptionist will pass onto the appropriate person to make contact with you.*

*Thank You*

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# Reporting Absences - Pupils

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To report a pupil's absence, please contact school office on 0118 9424750 (option 1) or email [office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](mailto:office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk)

For Medical appointments, please provide evidence of the appointment this can be sent via email or a screenshot attachment.



## End of Term Newsletter

Friday 5th April, 2025

### Principal note

The Spring Term has been nothing but eventful and has brought a series of challenges to us all; staff, families and students. Despite several disruptions and recent changes, the pupils have been supported and, in the main, shown their resilience throughout. I would like to thank staff, parents and carers alike who have worked hard through this period. I am happy and proud to see so many pupils participating in planned events and trips this term, of which there have been many. To name a few: Mr Renton took Year 11 to the Moca gallery; Ms Mohamed took Key Stage 4 to see *Macbeth*; 10a went to Westminster Abbey and Ms Shamyrbekova organised many life skills trips across all key stages. I am also looking forward to how we can continue to add to the cultural capital for our pupils into the Summer Term.

There are a few changes to the staff team to draw your attention to. Following Mr Parker-Tyreman's resignation, I will be taking on the role of Interim Principal. I want to take this time to recognise the incredible hard work Mr Parker-Tyreman has done to stabilise the school and thank him for his vision, his leadership and his care for the staff and students during the last two and a half years. I know he will be missed and know he wishes all the best for Vanguard. Mr North will take on the role of Interim Deputy Principal supporting the work to continue to improve the school.

Fatima Mohamed, Head of English will be with us for one more term. She has decided to spend more time with her beautiful daughter. She has shared this with the pupils in a touching social story. Fatima has been an incredible asset to the school and will be sorely missed. She has led the English department with enthusiasm and great diligence and has shown great commitment to the pupils to ensure the best outcomes. Steve Carroll will take over as Head of English in the new academic year. He has worked alongside Fatima and is keen to ensure that the department continues to do well and has some exciting plans to move forward.

Finally, I just want to wish you all a very restful and happy break as we start our holidays from 1pm tomorrow. I hope you are able to enjoy some valuable family time and look forward to seeing the students at the start of the new term.

#### Keep In Touch with MCAS

If you haven't yet begun to use the **My Child At School** App, why not go to the school website for guidance on how to download the app for all communications to and from school, including timetables and important dates.



#### Important Dates

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** Staff Inset Day

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** Students return to school at 11am

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April** Key Stage 4 Parents' Evening

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May** Key Stage 4 and 5 exams begin

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** End of half-term

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** Students return to school



## The English Department

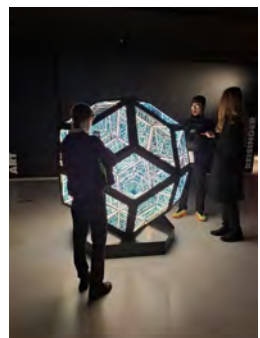
Years 10 and 11 enjoyed a thrilling production of **Macbeth** at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. It was great to see both parents and students enjoying themselves and the students had the opportunity to see Shakespeare come alive just before the exams!

Year 10 have been taking part in 'The Power of Voice'. This programme has been created by The National Literacy Trust to inspire the next generation of writers and invite them to understand how this can impact on social change. Our in-house author, Athian Akec, is a visionary of change and uses his voice and platform to good effect.

During World Book Day, comic characters, fictional characters and even inspirational people from literature came alive at Vanguard. It was great to see such passion from our students and I am sure the treats went down well during our Drop Everything and Read session on Friday! I can't wait to see next year's characters and costumes.



Change your story



Year 11 artists recently visited the new Moco Museum at Marble Arch. The exhibitions included contemporary artists such as Banksy, Marina Abramovic, Damien Hirst and Andy Warhol. The works seen included a Japanese Zen Garden, giant metal balloons, graffiti art and light installations.

It was really pleasing to listen to the students' thoughts and opinions all the way back to school. The ideas and skills seen are being used in the final developments of the exam preparation. Well done, Year11 artists!

## The Art Department

## Careers

Vanguard Sixth Form students attended the **UK University & Apprenticeship Search** event at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium on Friday, 21st March. The event provided students with opportunities to explore universities, apprenticeships, and career options by engaging with exhibitors from a range of institutions and industries. Informative seminars covered key topics such as student finance, personal statements, apprenticeships, and university life, helping students make informed post-18 choices.

**Vanguard Sixth Form and Y10 students attended the Next Steps Lambeth Careers Event on 7th March**, engaging with employers, universities, and training providers to explore future pathways. Students participated in workshops, networking sessions, and exhibitor stands, gaining valuable insights into apprenticeships, higher education, and career opportunities.

Year 10 students took part in a 9 week **Spiral Skills Employability Programme**. This included weekly sessions and up to three days of hands-on work experience in the hospitality sector, using the **Skills Builder framework** to develop key employability skills.

