

SCHOOL READY; WORK READY; LIFE READY



Dear Families,

Welcome to the March edition of our Personal Development Newsletter. As we conclude another busy and exciting month in college, we have plenty to update you on once again. We have celebrated National Careers Week, International Women's Day, World Book Day, National Science Week, alongside supporting Comic Relief and visiting the theatre!

Happy Reading!

HD2026

The school dance show, performed over three unforgettable nights, was a true celebration of talent, dedication, and creativity. Each evening brought the stage to life with an exciting mix of styles, from energetic group numbers to beautifully expressive solos, all showcasing the hard work students have put in over the past months. The atmosphere was electric, with enthusiastic audiences cheering on every performance and supporting the incredible effort behind the scenes as well. A huge congratulations goes to all the dancers, choreographers, and staff who made the event such a resounding success—your passion and commitment made it a show to remember.



Student Council

Students were delighted to welcome Marie Tidball for a special visit on the 19th March, where she met with members of the Student Council. The council representatives engaged enthusiastically, asking a range of thoughtful questions about her role as an MP, including what inspired her to pursue a career in politics and how she works to represent her constituents. They were particularly

interested in her personal journey and the challenges she has overcome. Marie offered encouraging advice, urging students to believe in their voices, stay curious, and not be afraid to speak up about the issues that matter to them. The visit was an inspiring experience for all involved, leaving students feeling motivated and empowered.



National Careers Week

National Careers Week 2026 brought a hive of activity across the college, with a range of events designed to inspire students and support their future aspirations.

Our Access to Sheffield students took part in valuable one-to-one tutorials with their mentors, while Year 9 students were able to attend a GCSE options support drop-in at the Careers Café during lunchtimes.

The ever-popular Guess Who? activity also returned to

tutor groups, where students became “job detectives”, asking questions to uncover the careers of visiting volunteers. In addition, a new after-school gaming enrichment session proved a great success and is something we hope to offer again in the future.

The week concluded with our Year 8 students participating in Work Shadow Day, where they spent time in the workplace of a parent or close relative. This provided a valuable insight into the world of work and helped students better understand what a typical working day can look like.



World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day, we were excited to welcome a professional theatre group into school for a day of live performance and interactive workshops.

Our Year 7 students, who had been studying Macbeth, watched an engaging live performance of Shakespeare's famous tragedy. Seeing the play performed helped students deepen their understanding of the characters, themes and language, while allowing them to experience the drama as it was originally intended. Students also took part in workshops designed to build

confidence, creativity and performance skills.

Our Year 10 students, who had studied A Christmas Carol as part of their GCSE English Literature course, were offered the opportunity to take part in workshops, helping to further develop their analytical skills and support their exam preparation.

Live theatre was a powerful way to bring literature to life, helping students develop a deeper appreciation of the texts they studied. We were delighted to offer this opportunity and looked forward to a fantastic day of learning and celebration.



Science Week

The Science Department recently celebrated British Science Week with a range of exciting lessons and a special science show. This year's theme, "Curiosity", encouraged students to think deeply and ask big questions about the world around them.

In the lead-up to the week, students were invited to submit their own scientific questions, which formed the basis of the show. These included thought-provoking ideas such as: What if humans could photosynthesise? What

would happen if the Earth stopped spinning? What if the Earth were as big as Jupiter? and Why do some people dislike sprouts?

During their lessons, Year 7 and Year 8 students explored fascinating concepts including quicksand and non-Newtonian fluids. They also investigated the possibility of humans living on other planets, sparking curiosity about the future of space exploration.

It was a fantastic week that inspired students to think creatively, ask questions, and develop their love of science.

Science Live

Year 9 students recently took part in our annual visit to Sheffield City Hall for GCSE Science Live. This exciting event gave students the opportunity to hear from some of the UK's most celebrated science communicators. Among the speakers was

Robert Winston, who delivered an engaging talk on fertility. Students also heard from Jim Al-Khalili, well known for his television programmes, who explored the fascinating concept of time travel. In addition, Andrea Sella shared insights into chemical reactions, including an intriguing look at how zebras

get their stripes.

Students responded extremely positively to the experience and returned full of enthusiasm, with plenty of thoughtful questions to continue their learning back in the classroom.

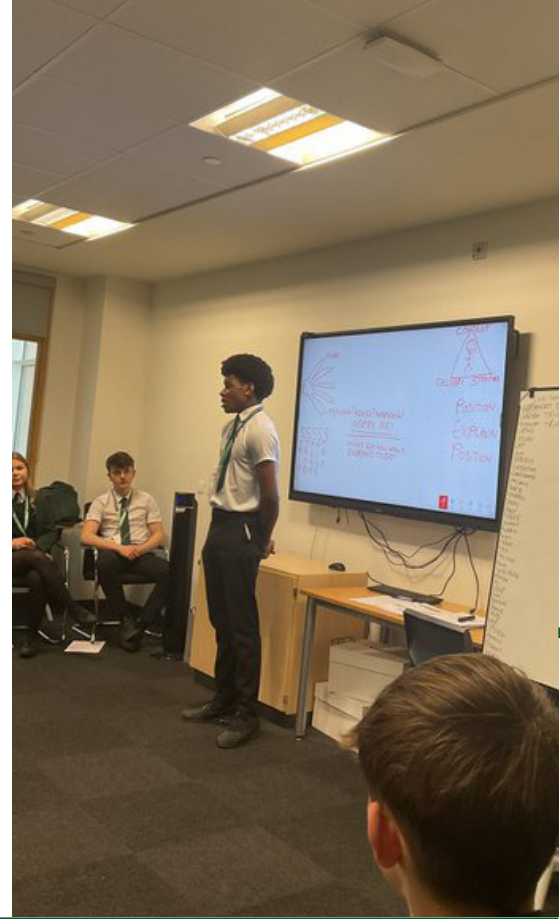
Speakers Trust Workshop

On Thursday 12th March 2026, 30 Year 10 students participated in the Speaker's Trust Speak Out Challenge.

They participated in an all-day public speaking workshop where they received training on the skills and the confidence to develop and deliver a speech on a topic they feel passionate about. Students were resilient in challenging themselves to communicate effectively with their peers and in group

settings. The facilitator was particularly impressed with our students' willingness to have a go and not be afraid to push themselves out of their comfort zone.

The workshop mirrored our oracy priorities as a school, upskilling our students as they become work and life ready ahead of work experience in July where they have the opportunity to develop their communication skills further. A huge well done to Raymond, Theo and Charley whose speeches were chosen as the top three (a very difficult choice to make!).



Anne Frank Conference

We are incredibly proud of Lily and Matilda in Year 9, who recently represented our school at the Champion Residential in Stratford-upon-Avon as part of the Send My Friend to School campaign. They joined student

champions from schools across the UK for an inspiring and action-packed few days of learning, collaboration and campaigning.

During the residential, Lily and Matilda received specialist training from the Send My Friend to School coalition on how to campaign effectively, design creative awareness-

raising initiatives, and write powerful letters to their local MPs to advocate for global access to education. They worked alongside other young people passionate about making a difference and developed the confidence and skills to speak up on issues that matter.

Comic Relief

On March 20th we enjoyed collecting money from students, families and staff to donate to this year's national Comic Relief appeal.

Our loose change buckets filled up very quickly as students arrived at school. Our canteen team served comic relief sweet treats with a donation from each sale going to Comic Relief.

We are very proud to share that we raised over £100 for Comic Relief 2026. Thank you for your generous contributions.



Everybody Dance Festival

We had a fantastic day at the Everybody Dance Festival in York! Fifty students travelled to York on Saturday 14th March, where they visited the St John's University campus to take part in an exciting Afrobeats dance workshop. Students also experienced

a full technical rehearsal on the York Theatre Royal stage before getting show-ready and performing to a sold-out audience.

Our performances were inspired by the theme "Around the World." Year 10 BTEC students presented "4 Minutes," a powerful piece exploring the idea of having just four minutes to save the

world from disaster. Our KS3 group performed "Conquest of Spaces," which celebrated famous explorers of land, sea, and air throughout history.

We are incredibly proud of all the students for their dedication during rehearsals and the energy and enthusiasm they brought to their performances.

Sports Ambassadors

We've had a wonderfully busy and exciting month! The Sports Leaders team have been supporting lunchtime activities at Holy Rood, working with the St Mary's Playleaders, and delivering dance workshops at Summer Lane. These sessions brought together 100 Year 2 children from Gawber, Summer Lane and St Mary's Primary Schools, and it was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm and energy from everyone involved.

We also hosted an exciting

Year 5 Orienteering event on the Horizon field for children from Joseph Locke, Shawlands and Holy Rood. It was a brilliant morning, with pupils confidently using maps to navigate the course and showing great teamwork and determination. As always, our Sports Leader Ambassadors were on hand to support and encourage, helping to ensure every child had a fun and memorable experience. They left with big smiles, already looking forward to the next event!

In addition, we held an inspiring "This Girl Can" Wellbeing Day at Base 71. The

day was packed with a variety of activities, including climbing, team building challenges, and workshops focused on health and wellbeing. It was a fantastic opportunity for girls to try something new, build confidence, and learn more about staying active and healthy.



Easter Eggs for Weston Park Cancer Hospital

The recent Easter Egg donations has been a tremendous success, with an overwhelming response from our school community. Thanks to the generosity and kindness of pupils, families, and staff, we were able to collect a fantastic number of Easter

Eggs to support children at Weston Park Children's Ward in Sheffield.

The donations will help bring smiles and a sense of joy to young patients during the Easter period. We are incredibly proud of everyone who contributed and helped make a difference - your support truly reflects the caring spirit of our school community.



Key dates in April

Easter Holidays commence Monday 30th March

College reopens to all students on Monday 13th April



**APRIL
CORE VALUE
of the month is
RESPECT**



RESPECT

We treat others the way we would like to be treated.
We celebrate that everyone is different, we are inclusive, and we embrace diversity

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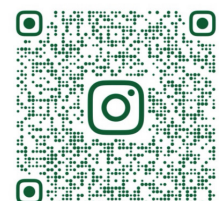


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