



#SIDNEYSTRINGERMAT

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MAT NEWSLETTER
EDITION 3

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST NEWSLETTER 2025

SPRING TERM



CEO MESSAGE 2025

A Term of Great Success!

@sidney_mat



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Welcome to our Third MAT Newsletter!

Dear Students, Staff, Parents, Carers, Governors and Friends of Sidney Stringer MAT.

I am delighted to share our Spring Newsletter with you. It is full of exciting events from across our schools in the Multi Academy Trust (MAT). We have news about Ofsted, World Book Day, Educational Trips and Visits, Sporting Achievements, Careers Events, and even a meeting with Ed Sheeran!

As Spring is upon us, we welcome the sunshine, and it has certainly put a spring in our step.

We are all looking forward to a well-earned holiday and an opportunity to recharge our batteries, ready for the beginning of the tests and examination season in the summer term.

Thank you to all the students, staff, parents, carers, governors, and friends of our MAT for your continued support.

Have a wonderful holiday.



Claire Turpin
CEO Of Sidney Stringer MAT

Ofsted

Ofsted

Ofsted



**LET'S TALK
OFSTED SUCCESS!**

OFSTED Inspection 2025



“GOOD”



On Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th March, we welcomed four OFSTED inspectors into our school. This was our first inspection since May 2019, when we were incredibly proud to achieve Ernesford's first ever 'Good' rating.

This recent visit was an ungraded inspection, which means OFSTED did not provide a new judgement, but instead looked at whether we have continued to maintain or improve on the standards seen in 2019. They could either confirm that we're on the right track, or raise concerns that could trigger a full graded inspection at a later date.



@EGCS1973



At this stage, we can't share the final outcome just yet as the report hasn't been published. However, we are very pleased with the feedback we received during the visit and look forward to sharing more once we are able to.

Over the two days, inspectors visited a number of lessons, spoke with students and staff, and reviewed the responses from both the parent and staff questionnaires. They were very positive about our curriculum, noting how carefully it's been planned to help students build their knowledge and understanding over time. They also highlighted how ambitious our teachers are for our pupils, and were impressed by the strong, respectful relationships between staff and students.

One inspector told me directly that I should feel proud of our pupils—and I was proud to tell her that I feel that way every day!

When it came to safeguarding, inspectors praised our team for knowing the school and local community extremely well. They acknowledged the team's commitment and tenacity in following up on any concerns.

Our students told inspectors that they feel safe at school and trust staff to take action when issues are raised.

Behaviour around the school was described as calm and orderly, with pupils being consistently polite and respectful—both to adults and to each other. Inspectors were also pleased to hear how clearly our pupils could talk about their ambitions for the future and how school is supporting them to get there.



OFSTED Inspection 2025

As a leadership team, we were told that we know our school inside and out, and that our open, honest approach stood out.

The inspection team recognised that we don't shy away from asking the difficult questions and that we constantly seek to improve—something that's really important to us as we continue to strive for the very best for every child and family.

Looking ahead, OFSTED agreed with our key priorities of improving attendance, using assessment to challenge our children in lessons and continuing to support our children who find it most difficult to meet our high expectations for behaviour.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing the full OFSTED report with you as soon as it becomes available.



@EGCS1973



RIVERBANK ACADEMY

*Where learning leads to greater
independence, employment &
further education.*

@RiverbankAc



World Book Day 2025



@RiverbankAc

WBD 2025

We celebrated World Book Day in style, with lots of wonderful costumes and fun throughout the day!

It was a fantastic way to celebrate the joy of reading. We also visited Ernesford Grange Secondary School library, which provided a great opportunity for our pupils to explore a larger library setting and further foster a love of reading. In addition, we've invested in new books for our school, purchasing them from a local supermarket. Reading is fundamental to a child's development, and we are committed to providing a wide range of engaging and high-quality books.



Riverbank Academy



Resident Trip to Wales:

A group of our pupils recently enjoyed a five-day residential trip to Wales. The trip included exciting and challenging activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, and hiking, all designed to promote teamwork, resilience, and an appreciation for the outdoors. Pupils had the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones, develop stronger friendships, and gain valuable experiences that enhanced their confidence, independence, and problem-solving skills. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and sense of achievement among the group as they engaged with nature and tackled each activity with determination and positivity.



World Championship Sporting Event:

Hull and Avon classes visited the CBS Arena to watch the Kabaddi World Cup—a high-energy and exciting sport originating from India. Pupils took along flags they had previously created during an Art workshop, proudly waving them to celebrate South Asian culture, teamwork, and international unity. They had the fantastic opportunity to witness men's and women's teams from Scotland, England, India, Hong Kong, Italy, and several other countries, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship in this thrilling global sporting event. It was a memorable experience that inspired enthusiasm and cultural appreciation among all who attended.

Horticulture Area:

Our pupils have been actively involved in supporting and enhancing our ecosystem by carefully growing and nurturing plants in our dedicated horticulture area. This valuable, hands-on experience provides an excellent opportunity for pupils to learn important lessons about nature, develop a sense of responsibility through regular plant care, and deepen their understanding of sustainability and environmental stewardship. Through this engaging practical activity, pupils are not only contributing positively to their immediate surroundings but are also gaining skills that will help them in the real world.



Dance:

Our students have been making great progress in their Dance lessons, and we celebrated their achievements by awarding certificates in our assemblies!

We're incredibly proud of their dedication and hard work. Congratulations to all our talented dancers—keep it up!


Sidney Stringer
Academy

SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY

A Year of Success and Growth

@SIDNEYSTRINGERA

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Street Artist Workshop:

GCSE Fine Art students have been creating amazing drawings and sculptures for their 'Urban Environment' project. They worked with Mick Batchelor, a local street artist who runs 'dynamickart' and has created work internationally and for clients such as IKEA, Warwick University, and Coventry's City of Culture campaign.

In two workshops, students learned to create graffiti backgrounds with spray paints and added symbolic Coventry-themed images, like Lady Godiva, Coventry's car industry, and Coventry City FC, using markers and pens. CBS partly funded this project and will also refurbish the school's rooftop garden, where the finished murals will be displayed to celebrate students' talents.



@SidneyStringerA

Ed Sheeran Meets Stringer!

Fifteen enthusiastic members of the Music Project, led by Mr. St John for the past two academic years, were treated to an unforgettable evening of band music, promised to feature a surprise guest. The moment our students realised that the immensely popular musician Ed Sheeran was the special guest, their expressions were absolutely priceless!

Mr. Sheeran and his team were thrilled to hear about Coventry's efforts to elevate music and creative arts in education. There's hope that both the music industry and the government will rally around this cause for even more support.

The excitement didn't stop there! Mr. Sheeran engaged our students in a lively question-and-answer session, with other guests joining in the fun. The Financial Times representatives captured numerous photographs, alongside the students snapping selfies with Mr. Sheeran. As if that wasn't enough, he later mesmerised everyone by performing one of his hit songs live!

The entire event was pure magic, creating memories that our students will cherish for years to come.



 Sidney Stringer Academy



@SidneyStringerA



Football Festival:

On the 21st January, some of our Year 8 boys attended a football festival at the Aston Villa training ground. Participants from various local schools enjoyed a day filled with excitement, camaraderie, and healthy competition, displaying impressive skills and teamwork.

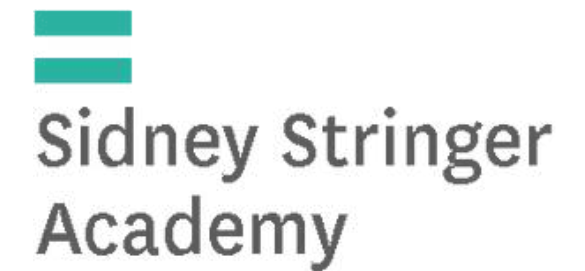
Despite the close competitiveness of the matches, our boys showed great determination, sportsmanship, and respect for opponents. Although they drew one match and lost four, the team demonstrated resilience and never gave up until the final whistle. David Tudora stood out as a key player, scoring all five of the team's goals and earning admiration from teammates and opponents alike.

Liam Bailey also showcased his talents in goal, making several impressive saves and limiting the opposition's scoring opportunities. The team's strong defensive performance highlighted their dedication and unity. Overall, the festival was an inspiring and unforgettable experience, leaving the boys with valuable lessons in confidence, teamwork, and sportsmanship to carry forward.

SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY

16+ Trip To London:

For many years, we have organised this annual trip for our 16+ students, and it continues to be one of the most anticipated events of the year. This action-packed day started with a memorable photo stop at Buckingham Palace, followed by breathtaking panoramic views of London from the iconic London Eye. Afterward, students enjoyed lunch together in the vibrant atmosphere of Leicester Square before exploring Covent Garden for some festive Christmas shopping. The day concluded with the much-awaited highlight—visiting Winter Wonderland at Hyde Park, where students had a fantastic evening experiencing thrilling rides, tasting delicious food, and capturing lots of wonderful photos and memories with their friends. It was truly a day filled with excitement, laughter, and festive cheer!



World Book Day:

This week at Sidney Stringer, we celebrated World Book Day in style! Staff and students came dressed as their favourite book characters, and we saw some truly fantastic outfits.

There was definitely an Alice in Wonderland theme emerging, with Mad Hatters, Cheshire Cats, and even a few Queens of Hearts making an appearance. It was a wonderful day filled with creativity, reading, and lots of smiles.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined in the fun and made the day so memorable!





ERNESFORD GRANGE

COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Striving to achieve excellence for all of our young people.

@EGCS1973





Ernesford Grange Build a Sports Car :

The project launched in September 2024, with 35 students signing up to be involved in the project from Years 9 - 13.

Step 1: Autumn Term - Stripping the Donor Car:

The project began by stripping a Mazda MX5 donor car. Students removed the interior, exterior panels and mechanical components. This process included disconnecting wiring looms, disassembling the subframe, and removing the engine. The goal was to reduce the car's weight from its original 1100kg, preparing the remaining chassis and parts for the new kit. Rust removal and component cleaning were also a significant part of this phase. The shell weight turned out to be 360kg when it went to scrap.

Sponsorship: We appreciate our generous sponsors! As of March 2025, we have raised almost £3000 through donations and our GoFundme page.

Step 2: Spring Term - Preparing Parts for Chassis Installation:

With the donor car stripped, students focused on preparing the chassis and components for the MEV Exocet kit. This involved tasks such as cleaning and painting parts, stripping, cleaning, painting and reassembling shock absorbers. The next steps were to prepare the chassis for fuel and brake line installation. Precise measurements and drilling were essential for installing the floor, which was riveted to the chassis including applying a specialist adhesive and sealant with clecos, before rivets were permanently fitted. The next step was to drill and fit rivet nuts to secure the fuel and brake lines. The subframes and wishbones were sent to be sandblasted and powder coated and were then reassembled and polybush sleeves were greased and reassembled. The brake calipers were stripped, cleaned and prepped for painting before having new seals and pistons fitted.



Summer Term: The next steps are to install the subframes, rear differential and to turn the chassis the right way up to make it start looking like a sports car. We will also strip and inspect the clutch and flywheel and fit a new timing belt kit to the engine before installing the engine and gearbox.

For offers of support, please email: pkobrin@egacademy.org.uk.



ERNESFORD GRANGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Pi Day:

On Friday 14th March, our school celebrated Pi Day in the Mathematics Department and what a fantastic day it was! Students had the chance to take part in a variety of exciting activities, all themed around the mathematical constant π (Pi). One of the highlights of the day was our Pi Recital Challenge, where students competed to see who could recall the most digits of Pi from memory. A huge congratulations to our new Pi Champion, Lauren from Year 10, who amazed everyone by reciting an incredible 103 digits of Pi!

The celebrations weren't just about numbers, there was plenty of delicious fun too! Students and staff enjoyed a selection of tasty pies in the restaurant, embracing the spirit of the day. Adding to the excitement, we hosted a "Pie the Teacher" charity event, where students had the chance to launch pies at some very brave teachers, all in the name of a good cause. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and made the day so memorable. Be sure to check out the photos from the event.



A Week of Creativity and Celebration for World Book Week:

This year, we had a truly memorable World Book Week, packed with exciting activities that sparked creativity and a love for literature. The week began with students diving into English projects, which ended in a brilliant showcase—from writing memoirs to staging a court case for Macbeth, students developed both investigative and creative skills.

On Tuesday 4th March, poet Spoz led an engaging poetry workshop for Years 7–10, followed by an online author event on Wednesday, giving students valuable insights into the writing process. Thursday, World Book Day, saw staff dressed up in style—with Year 11 teachers wearing key quotes from set texts to support revision in a fun and visual way. In assemblies, we also explored the science behind reading, highlighting how our brains respond as if we're truly living the story.

It was an inspiring week, and we're excited to carry this energy forward into the rest of the year!

School Improvement Visit:

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On Tuesday 6th March we had a full 6th Form review done as part of our school improvement visits. The inspector spent time looking at our curriculum offer, outcomes, personal development plans, careers guidance and destination data. She met all stakeholders including speaking to the students and getting their viewpoint on teaching and learning and the enrichment opportunities we provide. This was a great opportunity to celebrate everything we do at Ernesford and to reflect on what we can improve on to ensure that students have the best possible chances to be successful in the future. Here is a snippet of some of the comments made by the inspector.

Leaders are highly ambitious for Ernesford Grange to provide students with the best possible Post-16 experience. They are creative and tenacious in finding ways to make this happen. Numbers have grown and continue to grow. The curriculum is being developed with students' needs and best interests at the heart. Outcomes are improving and students go on to destinations that reflect the school's high ambition for them. The relational approach is a big part of school. Staff take a trauma-informed approach to building relationships and there is a qualified MIND practitioner in the staff.



School Improvement Visit:



Leaders are proud of the provision's inclusivity. There is a strong focus on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). 100% of students have gone onto destination of their choice: 70% attending university, 20% degree apprenticeships and others in employment.

The personal development offer is very strong. It is 'dynamic': deliberately planned, yet responsive to achieve the stated aims of preparing students as well as possible for their next steps. Students were very positive about their experience at Post-16. They feel they receive good guidance on how to study at A-level, such as how to manage their time. They also feel they are being well taught and are on track for exam success.

There is so much more we will share throughout this academic, however we are really pleased to get an in depth review to help us now focus on areas we need to further develop and to embed the strengths highlighted so we can continue our journey toward 'Excellence for all'



Sidney Stringer
Primary

SIDNEY STRINGER PRIMARY

Believe | Achieve | Succeed

@SSAPrimary



SIDNEY STRINGER PRIMARY



ZooLab:

One of the most wonderful things about SSP is the lovely, family atmosphere. We love welcoming parents and sharing exciting experiences. This year, we held many events, with highlights being Sparklers and Stories and Ice Creams and Stories! Can you tell we love reading?!. At Sparklers and Stories, families enjoyed cozy storytime with cozy cushions, twinkly lights and hot chocolate. Ice Creams and Stories featured outdoor storytime and delicious ice cream in the beautiful sunshine. Thank you to Mr. Byrne, Miss Docker, and all staff for making these events a success.



Football:

The year 6s have been playing in lots of different football matches. The boys have had a Tigers vs. Turtles (our year 6 classes) football match after school. Everyone played really well, and the game finished with a 1-1 draw.

The girls have been playing football against other schools at the AT7 centre. They scored 6 goals throughout the tournament, coming 5th out of 18 teams.

In all matches our pupils have shown excellent sportsmanship and represented the school brilliantly.

@SSAPrimary

Canoeing- Leamington Boat Centre:

Year 2 have been canoeing at Leam Boat Centre. The children got to paddle a canoe up (and back down) the River Leam, and pedal a pedalo all the way to Pirate Island and back. They had fun playing games on the river, including doing 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes' whilst standing up on their boat! The children were all very competent boatsmen and women by the end of the day. Luckily, nobody fell in because the water was very cold!

Everyone returned tired but happy, already excited for their next adventure!

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Sidney Stringer
Primary





Sidney Stringer
Primary



World Book Day:

Each March at Sidney Stringer Primary we celebrate World Book Day, and this year was no exception. The staff and children all came to school in wonderful costumes, celebrating their favourite book character.

The children had a special assembly and did work around the book 'Flotsam' in their English lessons. It was fantastic to see everyone's enthusiasm and creativity throughout the day. We can't wait to see which characters inspire the children next year!



Kabaddi:

Some of our very talented Year 5s were chosen to go to the Kabaddi competition at the CBS arena. The children showed excellent sportsmanship and worked together well. One team came third, winning a bronze medal each!

As well as competing in a Kabaddi match, we were lucky enough to get tickets to watch an international Kabaddi match at the CBS arena. 30 keen Kabaddi fans went to see Hong Kong China Women's Team take on India, with India winning 73-21.

It was an inspiring experience for everyone involved!





RADFORD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our logo and motto “**High Flyers**” embodies our ambitious aspirations for the children and adults in our community.

@RadfordAcademy



World Book Day

World Book Day was a resounding success, filled with vibrant celebrations of reading. The children's enthusiasm was seen throughout the school, their love for books, and their creative costumes were a testament to their engagement. The shared experience of reading "Flotsam" together in assembly created a wonderful sense of community, and the subsequent classroom activities ensured that the day's literary focus was both enjoyable and educational. Moving forward, the feedback from both students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, encouraging us to plan even more interactive and inclusive activities for next year's event.



RADFORD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Zoolab:

The Zoolab visit proved to be a captivating experience for the children, igniting their curiosity about the animal kingdom and supporting their learning in each topic. They were thrilled to interact with the various creatures, handling them with a mixture of excitement and gentle respect. The session fostered a deeper understanding of animal habitats and dietary needs, as the children actively participated in discussions about where each animal lived and what they needed to survive. It was a hands-on learning opportunity that brought the natural world to life, leaving a lasting impression on the young learners.



Graduation:

This year marked the beginning of a valuable partnership with IntoUniversity, a charity dedicated to empowering children to pursue University education. As part of this collaboration, Year 6 embarked on an enriching trip to Warwick University, where they immersed themselves in an engineering module designed to mirror university-level study. The experience culminated in a memorable graduation ceremony, where the students, wearing traditional caps and gowns, confidently presented their research on inspirational engineers, demonstrating both their academic prowess and public speaking abilities. Beyond the formal presentations, a comprehensive tour of the university campus provided a tangible glimpse into the world of higher education. The children's thoughtful questions to current university students offered invaluable insights into university life, effectively broadening their perspectives and igniting their aspirations. This day, a seamless blend of academic achievement and future-focused exploration, left an indelible mark on the Year 6 cohort, fostering a deeper understanding of the possibilities that lie ahead.

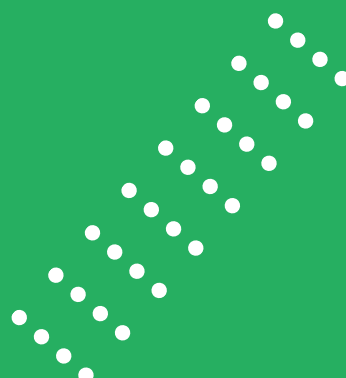
Coventry Building Society Young Writer of the Year Award:

We are delighted to share that Ariana from Year 5 and Dhanvanth from Year 3 made it to this year's final of the Coventry Building Society Young Writer of the Year award. The children were invited to the CBS Arena to take part in the special event. Ariana was awarded a Highly Commended merit for her story, whilst Dhanvanth was awarded first place in his category. Ariana and Dhanvanth have represented Radford Primary Academy brilliantly.



Living Eggs:

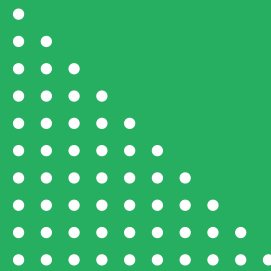
The school was buzzing with excitement in March, and for good reason! Their learning experience took an exciting turn with the arrival of ten eggs and an incubator. The children eagerly awaited the moment when the eggs hatched, and their patience was rewarded with the arrival of some very cute chicks. The children through school loved caring for the new arrivals and thoroughly enjoying the fascinating process of watching them hatch.



WOODFIELD SCHOOL

*We are committed to become a beacon
of excellence in SEMH education.*

@1woodfield1



Careers Fair

Mr Plant organised a careers event in February at the Powerleague Sports Hall for the whole of the secondary school. The event was very interactive, with lots of activities in which the students could take part.

Organisations participating in the event included -

- Sky Blues in The Community (Coaching Pathway) / Activity Reactive blaze pods
- EKFB (HS2 / Construction Pathway) / Activity Construction simulator and remote control diggers
- Cleggs (Construction Pathway) / Contractors developing our new site
- Adult Education (Further Education)
- North Warwickshire College (Further Education) / Activity Hairdressing
- Civil Service / Activity: Who done it?
- Prospects - Future Career Pathways with Lynda our Careers Advisor

HG students said after the event - "We had a great time looking around and talking to the different career opportunities. We found it very helpful."



Big Brum Theatre:

Big Brum Theatre visited our school to perform *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The performers brought professional sets and costumes, creating an immersive theatrical experience. Students had the opportunity to explore the set and engage in discussions with the cast about the characters and themes of the play.

As always, we were incredibly proud of our Woodfield students, who demonstrated excellent engagement and respect as an audience. The performance was followed by classroom activities to deepen students' understanding of the story.



Easter Fair:

On a very sunny 2nd of April, Woodfield held their first Easter Fair.

This was a great opportunity for parents and carers to support the school and their children.

There was a great turnout, with lots of prizes and chocolate on offer.

Well done to the team led by Nikki, Jenny and Wanda for organising another great event! Nikki said "Thank you all for your help on all the stalls today. It was such an amazing turn out once again. Seeing generations of families having lots of fun is what Woodfield is all about. Our days can be difficult but when we have moments like this it reflects on why we do our jobs and cherish our students so much."

RE Curriculum Trip:

This term, WA visited Berkswell Church and Gurdwara Guru Nanak Parkash as a visit to support the Religious Education curriculum.

It was an incredibly positive experience, and we are so proud to share that our students represented the school in such a respectful and thoughtful manner. They displayed excellent behavior throughout both visits, showing both respect and effort while fully participating in the experience. Their efforts made us all very proud, and it was wonderful to see them engage so meaningfully with the visits.



Sporting Activities:

Students at Woodfield have continued to take part in sporting activities.

Mr. Campbell has been taking students out to play golf, not only to learn the game but also for its therapeutic benefits.

Mr. Campbell said "Woodfield School is signed up with The Golf Foundation. We are currently completing Unleash Your Drive which is a 6 week golf program designed to support mental health. Through the sport of golf, the program is designed to give strategies to help with resilience, anger management as well as teaching pupils the etiquette of Golf. "

Woodfield also fielded a basketball team for a game earlier this term. Woodfield had a basketball match against Solihull Academy. It was a great experience for the pupils and we are hopefully going to arrange more matches.

World Book Day

World Book Day at Woodfield was a resounding success, with students and staff enthusiastically participating in a range of literary activities. Staff engaged in a 'Masked Reader' event, while students took part in a 'Big Write' challenge, crafting reviews of their favorite books.

As a recognition of their efforts, students were awarded certificates. During outdoor lessons, students visited local retailers to redeem their book vouchers, and our dedicated secondary student readers had the wonderful opportunity to read to primary students, fostering a love for literature across all age groups.





Sidney Stringer
Multi Academy Trust

Thank you

