

#SIDNEYSTRINGERMAT

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MAT NEWSLETTER EDITION 6

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST NEWSLETTER 2026

SPRING TERM





Sidney Stringer
Academy

CEO MESSAGE 2026

A Spring Term of Celebration!



www.sidneystringertrust.org.uk/

Welcome to our Sixth 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 feels like this term has flown by, full of events, celebrations, and hard work.

Our Multi Academy Trust (MAT) newsletter highlights key events from across our Trust. These include visits to Crufts, World Book Day, Language Networking events, trips to Spain, and school shows. What hasn't made the newsletter but should be mentioned is the hard work of the staff and students preparing for GCSE, BTEC, OCR, and A-level examinations, which start after the Easter holidays.

With all this in mind, we are looking forward to a well-earned holiday.

Thank you to all for your continual support, and have a wonderful holiday.



Claire Turpin
CEO Of Sidney Stringer MAT





RIVERBANK ACADEMY

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

@RiverbankAc



Arts and Crafts Valentines Event

It has been a busy and inspiring term for our students, filled with creativity and community engagement!

Our Post 16 Active Citizens stepped up as fantastic leaders, organizing a heartwarming whole-school Arts and Crafts Valentines event where everyone enjoyed decorating cakes and making cards.



World Book Day

For World Book Day, the school transformed as pupils and staff dove into their favorite stories, with some even crafting impressive "Knights in Tin Foil Armour" to bring tales to life.



Beyond the classroom, our students have been busy applying their life skills in the local community, confidently navigating trips to the library and local shops. Whether they were handling transactions at the supermarket or exploring new books, their independence was wonderful to see. These experiences are vital for building confidence, and we are so proud of the progress everyone is making.




Sidney Stringer
Academy

SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY

A Year of Success and Growth

@SIDNEYSTRINGERA

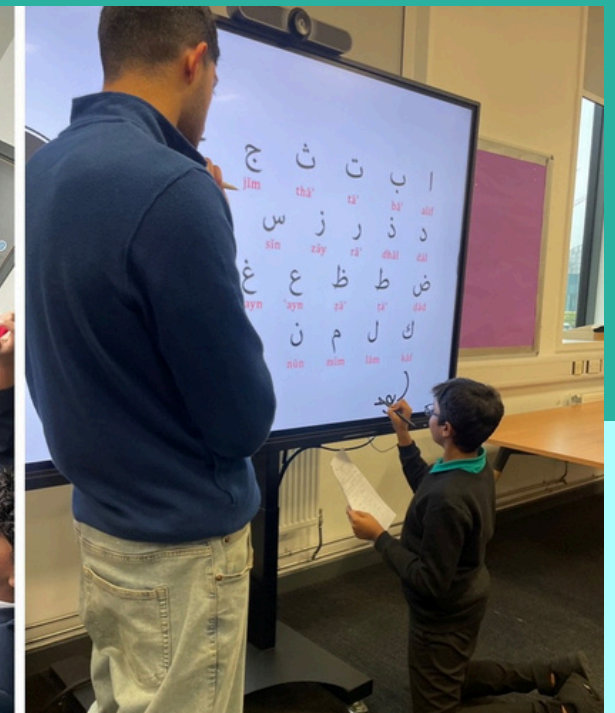
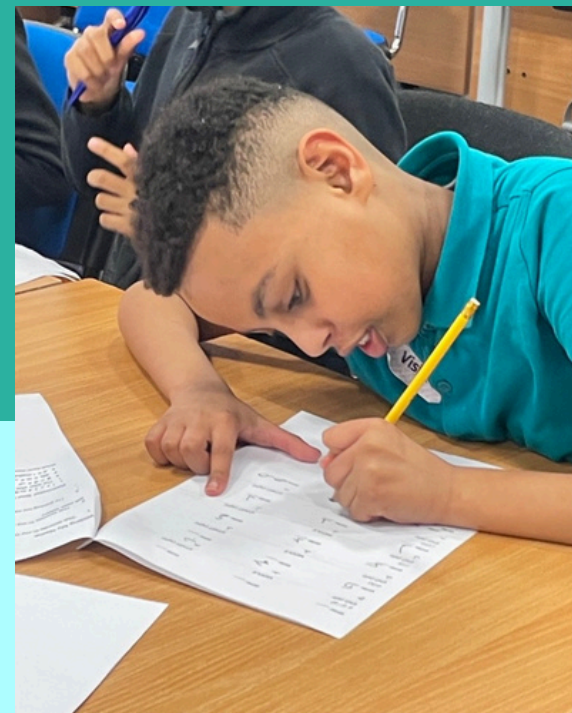
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Languages

This half term The Swanswell Language Network welcomed nearly 50 students from 5 different schools across the region, including Stringer Primary, to join them for Languages Unlocked, a celebration of International Mother Language Day. Students participated in workshops on Tamil Kolam Art, Polish culture, Arabic writing and a multilingual Escape Room.

Also, 18 students from Sidney Stringer Academy took part in a Languages trip to Malaga in Spain. They visited historical sites such as the Alcazaba and the stunning Alhambra Palace in Granada, practiced their Spanish in a local school, tried local dishes such as churros and enjoyed some well earned rest at the beach.



Stem

From 9–12 March, Sidney Stringer Academy was delighted to host four days of fully funded STEM workshops for our Year 8 students. Thanks to the support of STEMworks and Stellantis, every student in the year group had the opportunity to take part in a full day of hands-on engineering activities designed to spark curiosity, teamwork and innovation. Stellantis, one of the world's leading automotive manufacturers, operates at the forefront of engineering and vehicle design. The company develops cutting-edge technologies that power some of the world's most recognised car brands, designing and manufacturing advanced vehicle systems and components that shape the future of mobility. Their support for initiatives such as these workshops helps connect classroom learning with real-world engineering careers.

During the sessions, students worked in teams of five to complete a challenging engineering brief. Using a range of resources—including Lego, K'Nex, motors, electrical circuits, batteries and coding iPads—each group was tasked with designing and building their own programmable robot. The robots needed to navigate an obstacle course and then activate a switch mechanism to illuminate a light on a structure the team had built. To achieve this, students had to develop an understanding of the technical principles behind mechanics, electronics and coding, mirroring many of the processes engineers use when designing real-world systems.



The day was not only about technical learning; it also supported students' personal development and leadership skills. Each team member took on a specific role, such as structural engineer, electrical engineer, software engineer or team leader, encouraging collaboration, responsibility and problem-solving. At the end of the day, teams presented their creations, explaining how their robots worked and reflecting on what improvements they would make if they had more time. This final presentation element helped students develop their communication, analytical thinking and confidence. Each group was scored based on their performance and overall efficiency of their work.

Rob from STEMworks praised the students' engagement throughout the workshops:

"It's a brilliant opportunity for the students and it's been a pleasure to come into the school. They've behaved impeccably and have certainly demonstrated the school's values throughout the day. There are definitely some budding and enthusiastic engineers here, and we would love to continue working with the school to support them."



Student feedback was equally positive. Ridwan in Year 8 commented:

"It was such an amazing experience to be able to do something so technical and hands-on. It's something I probably wouldn't have had the chance to do if the school hadn't supported it."

Overall, the STEM drop-down days were a fantastic success, providing students with a valuable insight into the world of engineering. Initiatives like these are an important part of Sidney Stringer's commitment to broadening students' horizons, helping them understand the wide range of careers available while also developing the teamwork, leadership and problem-solving skills that will support them in the future.

SSA World Book Day 2026

The corridors were buzzing, the costumes legendary and the message was clear: books have the power to change everything. Our assembly challenge introduced the 6 minute reading challenge proven to reduce your stress levels by 68%. The Senior Leadership Team took a literal approach to the GCSE curriculum roaming the school dressed as famous quotations and the English Department went back to the dawn of time dressing as Myths and Legends - it was a walking revision session! Additionally, every Year 7 visited the library to claim their free World Book Day book. From mysterious adventures to laugh-out-loud comedies there was something for everyone. Competition was fierce across the school with tutor groups battling to work out who was hiding behind their favourite book and library quizzes. World Book Day in English saw the art of oral storytelling brought to life in sessions that weren't just lessons but rather performances that brought ancient words to life!



On Tuesday 24th February, we were joined in school by EPIC, the Education Policy Innovation Centre. The visitors ran a Legislative Theatre workshop to help this school and the education system learn more about and to develop staff and student relationships. Both Year 7 and Year 10 workshops included staff from across the school, a mix of teaching and pastoral staff. During the workshop, we got to learn from each other, hearing stories and empathising with the different challenges staff and students face. We then worked together within the workshops to create scenes that demonstrated some of the problems, before developing these scenes and creating our own worlds where we could find the solutions that we would want to see.



It was fascinating to see the different opinions between students and staff but also the similarities in what we found a struggle. The project isn't over yet though as later this month, the EPIC team will be joining us again to host a collaborative, cross school event, where existing participants will work together to develop a longer performance to share with a wider audience.





ERNESFORD GRANGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Striving to achieve excellence for all of our young people.

@EGCS1973



Welcome Back Mrs Earles

It is a great privilege to be returning to Sidney Stringer Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) at Easter this year. For the past two and a half years, I have been Headteacher at a school in Bradford. I am so proud of what we have achieved at that school and it has taught me a great deal that I will be able to use in my future career. Prior to that, I worked for Sidney Stringer MAT for 15 years. During that time, I was a MAT Vice Principal where I worked at Ernesford Grange leading on Teaching and Learning. I loved this role and I very much enjoyed getting to know the staff and students. Therefore, returning to Ernesford Grange and the MAT very much feels like returning home. I am incredibly excited to learn about Ernesford as it is now. I know that the students, staff and community have achieved many things, that attendance has increased, that outcomes are better than ever and that trips and enrichment are quite rightly key features of the school. I am looking forward to working with the staff, students, parents, guardians and the community to ensure that Ernesford Grange Community Academy goes from strength to strength and continues to be at the centre of the community that we serve.



World Book Day 2026

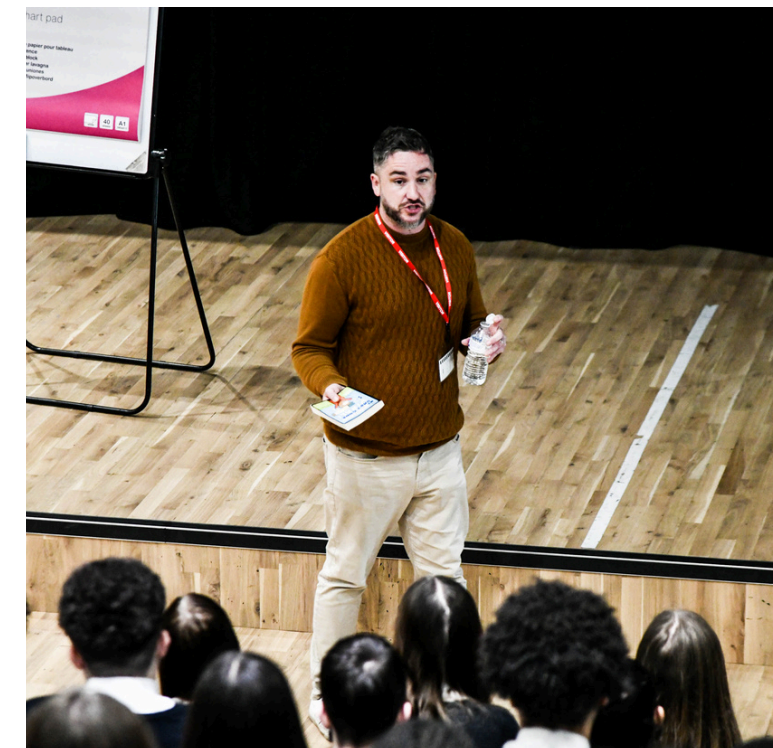
World Book Week is always a highlight in the calendar at Ernesford Grange. While we celebrate the importance of reading all year round, this national event gives us a perfect opportunity to push that passion even further.

As you know, reading is vital. Not only does it improve comprehension, accuracy and fluency, but it also develops vocabulary and opens the mind to a world of imagination.

This year, we were delighted to welcome Ben Davis. Ben has written several fantastic novels, including: *The Private Blog of Joe Cowley*, *My Dad is Definitely not a Crime Lord* and many more. Throughout his talk, he had students laughing, jumping and most importantly, feeling inspired to create and write for themselves.

Which leads us nicely onto them having these opportunities in KS3 English lessons. Students embraced the theme, by 'Going All In'. The idea is that reading shouldn't be an isolated activity, but something that lives alongside a child's hobbies and interests.

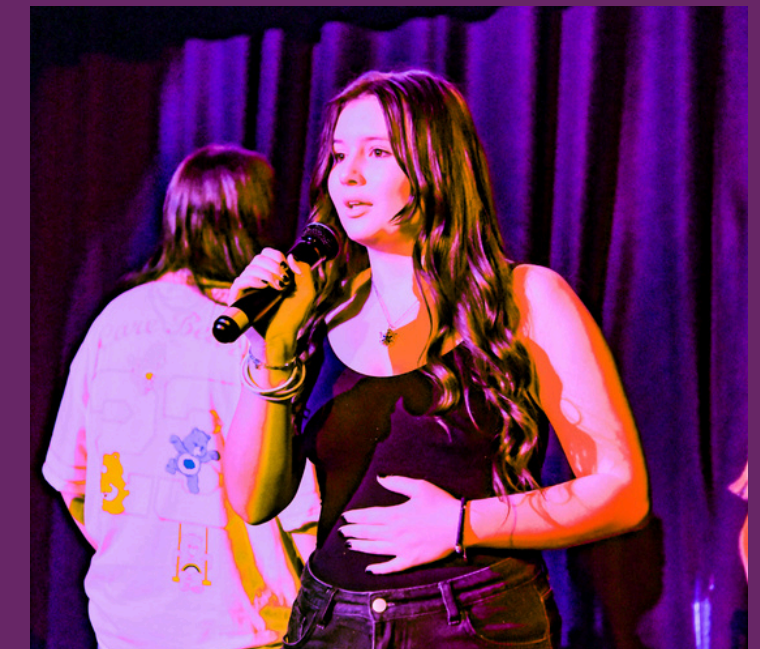
It has been another successful year celebrating World Book Week, and we are excited to see how our students continue to develop their reading habits. I will leave you with this quote by George R. R. Martin 'A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one'. Let's embrace reading to experience more.



Band in the Making

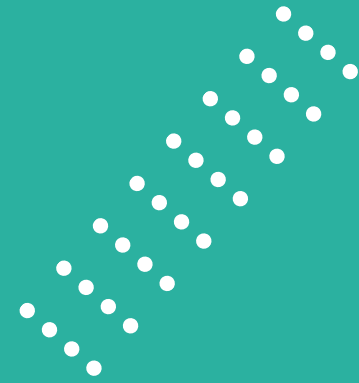
In the Spring Term, our school hosted the exciting Band in the Making event, where students came together to form new bands and showcase their musical talent. After a week of auditions, 10 bands were formed, each preparing to compete for the champion title. The competition was fierce and full of energy as the bands performed for their peers and judges. After an impressive series of performances, 5 bands advanced to the final round while the other 5 were eliminated. In the end, 5Quency delivered an outstanding performance and claimed the championship title.

Congratulations to 5Quency and well done to all the students who took part in this fantastic celebration of music and teamwork! This was all organised by the brilliant Year 11 student, Liam D.





Sidney Stringer
Primary



SIDNEY STRINGER PRIMARY

Believe | Achieve | Succeed

@SSAPrimary

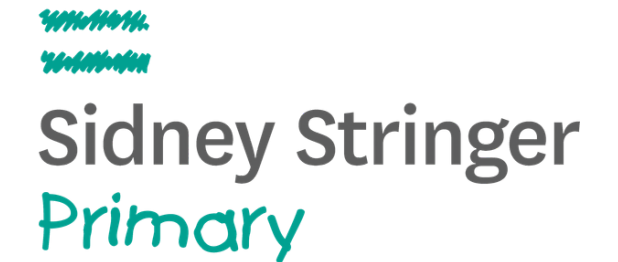


World Book Day at Sidney Stringer Primary

The school was buzzing for World Book Day this year! The children looked incredible in their character costumes, especially during Mrs. Larkin's story-themed singing assembly. We all explored the wordless book '*Journey*' by, Aaron Becker, which sparked everything from rewriting endings, character descriptions, role plays and book reviews. To finish, teachers swapped classes to read the stories the children in each class had voted for. A truly brilliant day was had by all!



SIDNEY STRINGER PRIMARY


Sidney Stringer
Primary

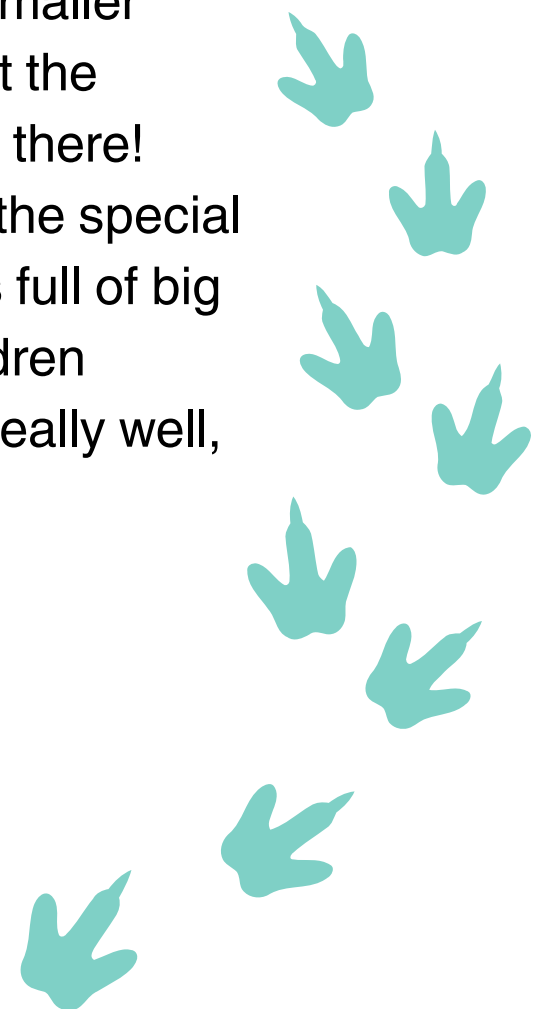
Crufts

Some children from Sidney Stringer Primary went to the Crufts dog show. These children were carefully selected after being identified as children that have taken really good care of our school reading dogs over the previous year. The children loved meeting all of the dogs, especially seeing some in novelty outfits. This was especially exciting as since it was World Book Day, the children were wearing costumes too!



All Things Wild

Stomp, stomp, big roar! Here comes the dinosaur! Children from Sidney Stringer Primary visited All Things Wild. The children got to meet a range of farm animals, handle some smaller insects and reptiles and meet the enormous dinosaurs that live there! They also enjoyed exploring the special adventure playground, that is full of big trucks and vehicles. The children behaved beautifully and did really well, walking a very long way!

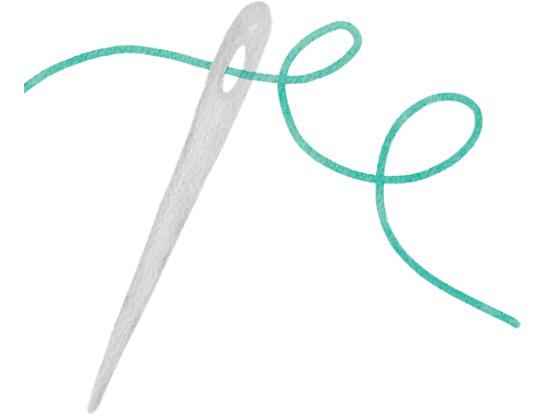




Sidney Stringer Primary



Sewing



The children in Reception have been learning to sew simple felt hearts to give to their Mummies for Mother's Day. They learnt how to run the stitches up and down and were very careful with the needle. We think the final products look absolutely beautiful, and will make lovely gifts.





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

We have enjoyed another wonderful World Book Day at Radford Primary Academy. It was fantastic to see so many brilliant costumes from the children and the staff! The whole school completed work from the book entitled 'Journey.' It is a word-less book and the children did various writing activities to complement it. We also enjoyed an assembly together, where some Year 6s shared their favourite books and explained their reasons.



Lunt Roman Fort

Year 4 visited the Lunt Roman Fort and had a deeper look into the lives of Roman soldiers and how they lived during the invasion of Britain. They took part in their own battle and learnt about the heavy armour the soldiers would wear to protect them. They had a look around the museum which had fantastic artefacts from around 2000 years ago!



Herbert Art Gallery

Our Year 3 students recently enjoyed a visit to The Herbert Art Gallery. The children fully immersed themselves in the interactive exhibits, gaining hands-on experience that sparked curiosity and significantly boosted their cultural capital. It was a fantastic day of exploration that left everyone inspired and eager to bring their new insights back into the classroom.





WOODFIELD SCHOOL

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

@1woodfield1



World Book Day

World Book Day on 5th March was well celebrated at all sites at Woodfield.

Staff and students made a big effort to look the part for the occasion, and 12 secondary students went to Stoneleigh Road, where they were enthusiastically received to read to (and be read to by) some of the primary students.

Here are some photos from the day!



A Day in the Life of a Woodfield Mental Health Champion

@1woodfield1

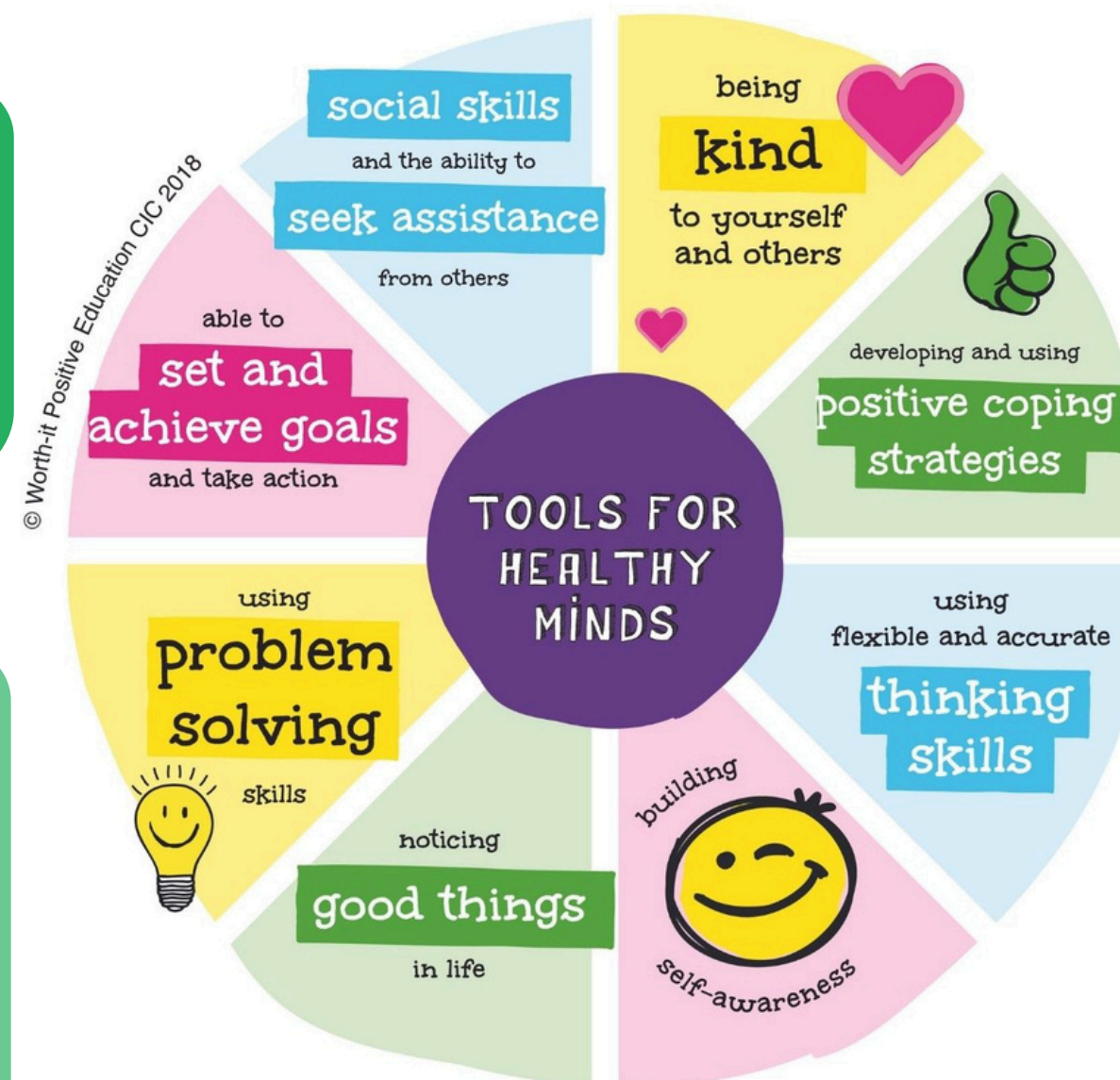


When do you mentor?

I have a set number of lessons that I mentor on a Friday. I am also able to go to the Woodlands site if there are particular students that I work with that are dysregulated.

What do you do when you mentor?

When I mentor I fulfil a LSA role at times so I will help younger students understand their work and scribe for them. I will also support students who are dysregulated outside of the class. I understand how they are feeling so sometimes it helps them to have someone closer to their age to talk to and I am able to get them back in class.



Who are you working with?

I work mostly with WA or WC but i have also mentored the girls at primary and would like to start a girls group once we are all on one site.

Why do you enjoy it?

I like helping the kids understand and helping them have a better future. It is also giving me some experience as I would like to work in a school like Woodfield when I am older.



WOODFIELD SCHOOL

Woodfield Art

I wanted to share some of the pieces of art work students were all involved in at the end of last half term. The students had lots of fun colouring in all the Keith Haring characters to form the finished sculpture.

The original piece was created by an artist called David Kracov - "THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX". The meaning behind it all is lovely and symbolizes the importance of questioning, exploration and looking beyond traditional boundaries.

Well done all (especially the staff who helped me cut them all out.) Also, a special mention needs to go to VL, a Year 8 student who is currently really developing his pencil sketching skills.

Nikki Harris



Woodfield DIY Certificate

To prepare students for life beyond Woodfield, students from the secondary site have been completing a bespoke course in DIY skills.

Students at Woodlands (KS3) have been completing a Bronze award which covers the basics such as safety and using different types of electric drill.

As students progress up the school they learn other important skills such as repairing plasterwork, basic household electrics and concreting in a fence post. So far 17 Woodlands students have achieved the Bronze certification. At Hawthorn Lane we have 7 Silvers and 5 Golds. Well done to all of the students who are working on the course!

NHS Vanguard

There is an exciting new partnership launching at **Woodfield Secondary sites** as part of our ongoing Positive Directions Vanguard work, 'Beyond the School Gates'. This is one of many exciting projects that will begin to land across our sites as part of the work taking place as part of the NHS Vanguard Project.

Beyond the School Gates is a new early-intervention initiative delivered by **Sky Blues in the Community**, designed to support our young people to access positive community-based activities and opportunities, enhancing both their in-school experience, but also helping engage them out of school too.

From after February half-term a Sky Blues Practitioner will be **co-located at the secondary site one day per week**, working directly with all children to explore interests, build confidence, and connect them to opportunities beyond the school environment.

In principle, this pilot will offer:

- **1:1 regular support** from at least one (but possibly more) Sky Blues in the Community Practitioners for pupils in a mentoring-type role in school
- Help for young people to identify their interests and goals
- Support to explore local clubs, groups, sports, creative and community opportunities (practitioners will actively meet pupils outside of school to support engagement)
- A strengths-based, relational approach focused on participation, confidence and belonging

This offer is open to **all children and young people at our secondary site** who will benefit from 1:1 time to:

- Explore interests and strengths
- Build confidence and social connections
- Access inclusive, community-based activities





Sidney Stringer
Multi Academy Trust

Thank you

