

#SIDNEYSTRINGERMAT

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MAT NEWSLETTER EDITION 7

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST NEWSLETTER 2026

SUMMER TERM





Sidney Stringer
Academy

CEO MESSAGE 2026

A Summer Term of Celebration!



www.sidneystringertrust.org.uk/

Visit to the House of Lords



*Claire Turpin, CEO, and Laura Niblock,
Director of HR and Operations,*

This July, our MAT was invited to the House of Lords for a discussion on the pressures, priorities and possibilities facing schools and Trusts.

The conversation between the Trusts highlighted many of the challenges currently facing schools, including SEND pressures, workforce challenges, financial sustainability, operational capacity, and parental expectations. However, one observation that resonated particularly strongly throughout the day was that whilst these challenges are real, there is also a huge amount to celebrate across the education sector, and in particular at our Trust. We were able to share what amazing work all our schools do every day; much of which is included in this newsletter.

The House of Lords visit highlighted that there are challenges, but our schools, trust, teachers and support staff continue to achieve incredible outcomes for children and young people every day, often in the face of significant pressures.

Therefore, I would like to thank all our staff, students and parents for their continued dedication to our schools. I am very proud of our Trust, and it was an absolute pleasure to go to the House of Lords to represent all of you.

Claire Turpin
CEO Of Sidney Stringer MAT

MAT INSET Day

There is nothing quite like the buzz of bringing together just over 780 staff members from across our Trust into one building. This year's MAT INSET Day delivered a powerful sense of community, uniting all of our schools to collaborate, network and share expertise. As we serve such a wonderfully diverse range of students, these unique opportunities are vital for ensuring our staff members are upskilled and supported.

We started the day off with a high-energy keynote. Staff came out with laughter, smiles and a real sense of excitement and invigoration. We then moved onto small 10 minute marketplace-style sessions, where staff were able to swap practical tips, creative activities, and clever solutions for everyday classroom situations. Finally, the day ended with some longer, more in-depth CPD sessions. We had over 60 sessions on offer, across a wide range of topics, all facilitated by the fantastic skills within the MAT.



MAT Art Exhibition

This years MAT Art exhibition was held again at St. John the Baptist Church in the city centre. The venue is a truly an amazing place that really created a calm, peaceful atmosphere, where visitors were able to really appreciate the fantastic work on display. Art and design are such important subjects in all six schools in the trust, allowing students of all abilities to be creative and express themselves visually.



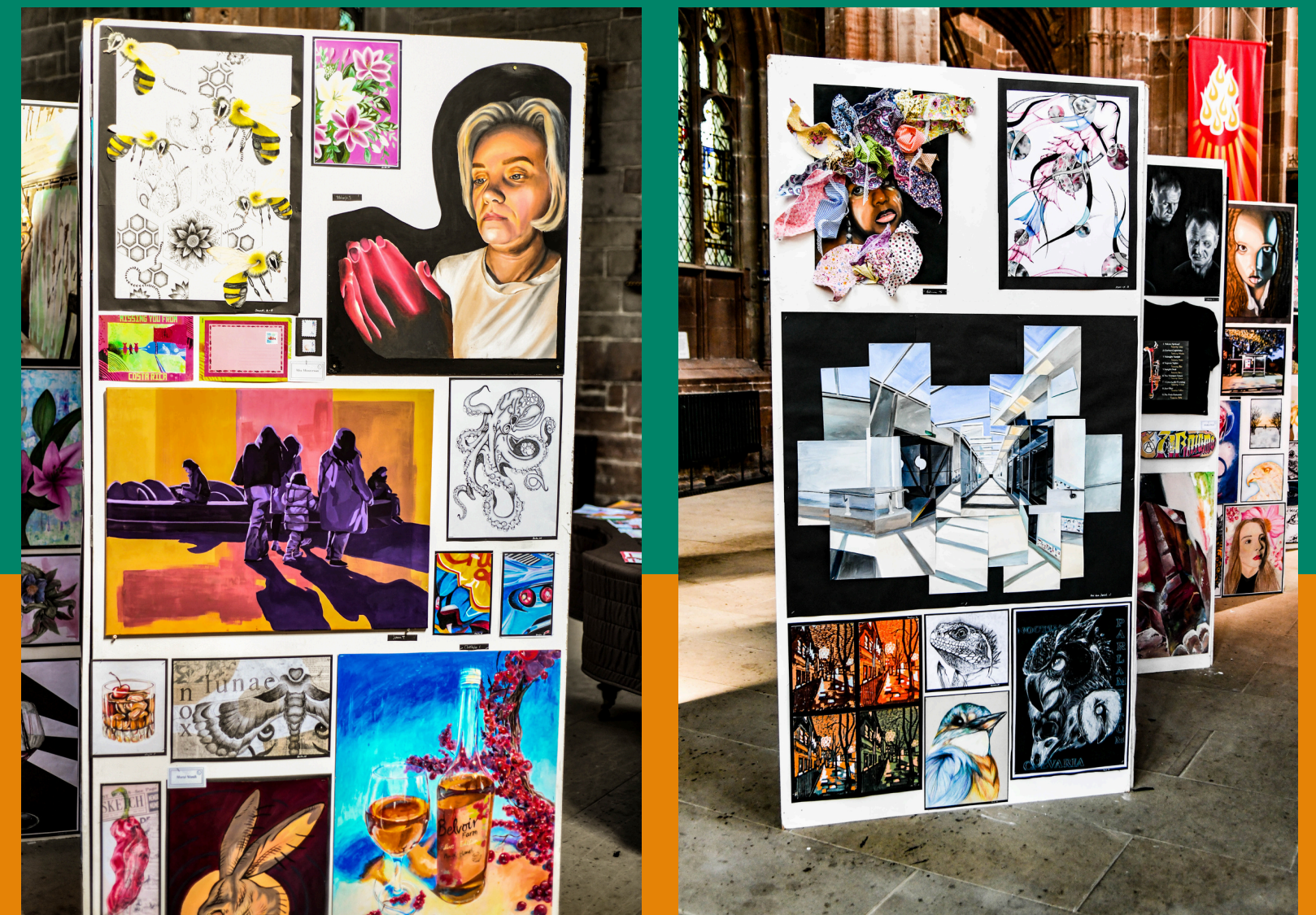
MAT Art Exhibition

Each year, awards and certificates are given out, this year the prestigious “Tomes” award, named after Wendy Tomes the previous CEO of the academy was given to a student at Ernesford Grange, Joanne (seen here below). The headteachers of all the schools in the MAT, also gave a special recognition award to their favourite piece of work from their own school.



Art staff from across the MAT schools

Ms Turpin said: "I am so proud of the standard of the work that students across Sidney Stringer Multi Academy Trust have exhibited. It is truly amazing to have so much talent in all of our schools. It has also been so nice to be able to display it in such a lovely building in the city centre."



MAT Art Exhibition





RIVERBANK ACADEMY

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

@RiverbankAc



Celebrating Achievement, Creativity, and Community

The end of the academic year at Riverbank Academy has been marked by a period of incredible energy, creativity, and collective achievement. We have proudly celebrated our pupils' successes in diverse arenas, ranging from showcasing their unique artistic talents in a public exhibition in Coventry City Centre to demonstrating remarkable determination by completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Our school spirit was also on full display during our vibrant Summer Camp, featuring a memorable water fight for our KS4 and Post 16 pupils, and at our magnificent Sports Day, which was a heartfelt celebration of teamwork, participation, and the strong, supportive bonds shared across our school community.





2026 art exhibition




Sidney Stringer
Academy

SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY

A Year of Success and Growth

@SIDNEYSTRINGERA

www.sidneystringeracademy.org.uk/



National Thank a Teacher Day

On Wednesday 17th June, we proudly celebrated National Thank a Teacher Day, taking the opportunity to recognise the hard work, care and commitment of all adults across the academy. Students shared messages of appreciation and thanks for the staff who support them every day. These messages recognised not only teachers, but all adults who help make the academy a welcoming, supportive and successful place to learn.

A video featuring students giving personal thank-you messages to members of staff who have made a positive difference to their time at Sidney Stringer started the morning, and a “Wall of Thanks” was displayed, sharing heartfelt messages from students for staff to read and enjoy. Isan in Year 7 said: “I’m really glad that teachers and all the staff at Sidney Stringer get recognised for their hard work, and they do so much for us.”

The day was a lovely reminder of the strong relationships across our academy community and the impact that staff have on students every single day.

@SidneyStringerA

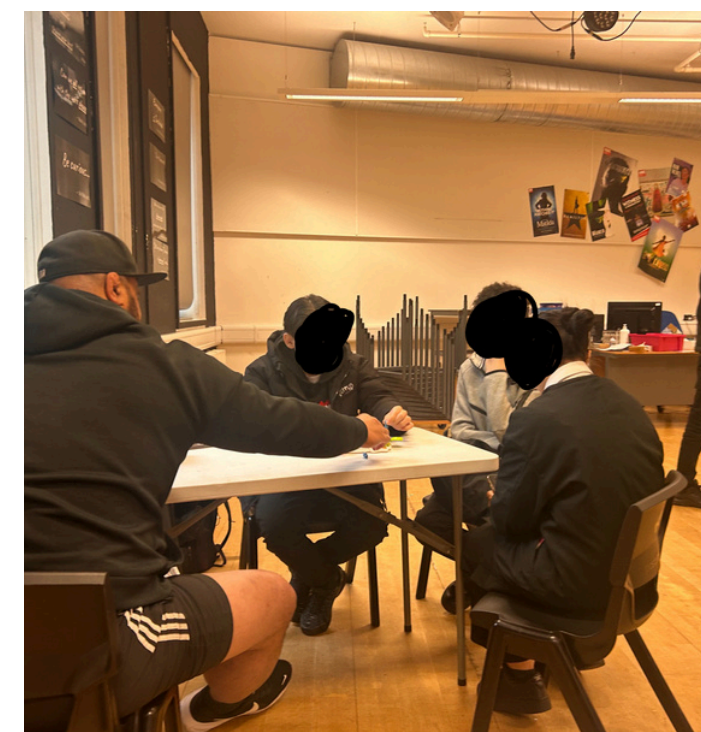
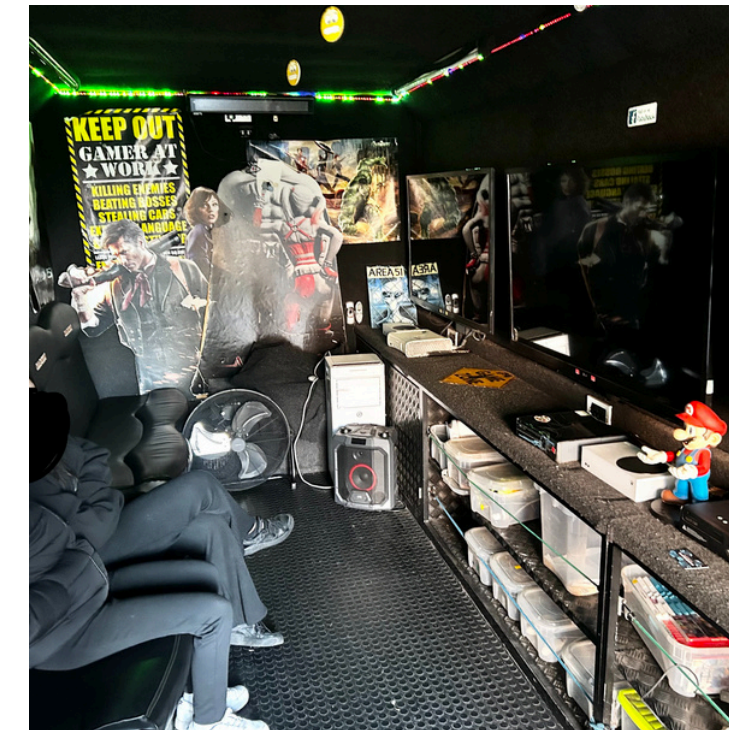


Dallaglio RugbyWorks: Supporting Students to Thrive in the Arboretum at Sidney Stringer

The Dallaglio RugbyWorks programme, a powerful intervention which uses sport, mentoring and wider experiences to help young people build confidence, develop life skills and make positive choices. Arboretum students have taken part in mentoring sessions, community social action, sporting activities and discussions focused on key skills such as manners, empathy, teamwork and decision-making. These sessions have encouraged students to reflect on their behaviour, understand themselves more deeply and refocus their energy positively, whilst broadening students' horizons.

Alongside rugby-based activities, students have heard from organisations including Rolls-Royce and the Probation Service, helping them understand different career pathways and future possibilities. Students have also been rewarded for their engagement, with treats at Creams, opportunities to use new sports equipment, and even a gaming bus brought into school. These rewards have helped motivate students and celebrate positive choices.

The programme has been led by mentors including James, a professional rugby player, and Helena, the regional project lead. Their consistent presence has helped students build positive relationships with trusted adults beyond the classroom. Helena said: "We always love coming into Sidney Stringer and working with the students involved in the programme. One of the most enjoyable parts of the job is seeing the change in students and the positivity with which they engage with other adults."



Sidney Stringer Sky Blue Celebration



We were awash with sky blue as students and staff came together to celebrate Coventry City F.C.'s historic promotion to the Premier League for the first time in 25 years. For our school community, this achievement felt particularly significant. Just metres from where Sidney Stringer now stands was Highfield Road, Coventry City's former home, where the Sky Blues last played Premier League football. For many of our students and families, the club represents far more than football: it is an important part of Coventry's identity and heritage.

As students arrived, they were welcomed by We'll Live and Die in These Towns by The Enemy, played across the tannoy. Staff embraced the occasion by wearing Coventry City shirts and sky-blue colours throughout the day. During tutor time, students explored Coventry City's remarkable journey back to the top flight, learning about the club's resilience, determination and belief after years of adversity. These are powerful lessons that resonate well beyond football. In the library, students browsed matchday programmes sourced by Miss Taylor, combining sport with literacy through articles, statistics and interviews.



SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY

At break and lunchtime, students enjoyed Coventry City colouring, badge making, flag making and photo opportunities with player face masks.

One student, David, said: “It was a really cool experience to be able to celebrate this, and something I won’t forget for a long time.” Mr Patel added: “This is what helps to bring communities together, so it’s really nice to be able to acknowledge the importance of our football club and the impact on the city.” The celebrations continued into lessons. In mathematics, students completed a Coventry City facts and figures quiz, while in English they used Bobby Thomas’s dramatic promotion-winning header as inspiration for creative writing. The day was a fantastic success and highlighted the power of sport to unite people, inspire resilience and strengthen community pride. Congratulations once again to Coventry City—Premier League football is back where it belongs. #PUSB 💙



@SidneyStringerA

ICC Women's T20 World Cup

This half term 7 PE students participated in a visit to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup at Edgbaston which was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. The students watched the double-header featuring the Netherlands v Bangladesh followed by the much-anticipated India v Pakistan. The atmosphere throughout the day was incredible, with the crowd creating a vibrant and exciting environment. The students thoroughly enjoyed watching international cricket of the highest standard and seeing some of the world's best female cricketers in action. It was a brilliant opportunity to experience a major sporting event, learn more about the game, and be inspired by the skill, teamwork and professionalism on display. The day was a huge success, and all 7 students came away having loved the experience and with a deeper understanding of the the sport at professional level.





ERNESFORD GRANGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Striving to achieve excellence for all of our young people.

@EGCS1973



Culture Day 2026

This year, for the first time ever, Ernesford decided to celebrate Culture Week in the month of June. The theme for the week was 'Around the World'. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school, and we have 64 different languages, students from over 40 different countries, and 8 different religions represented within our school community. We do not teach our students to be tolerant; instead, we encourage them to celebrate the differences and diversity that exist amongst us.

The whole week was planned and delivered by our amazing 16+ students. From planning assemblies and lessons, presenting to whole-school staff and students, delivering lessons, and organising the show-stopping Culture Show, this was a great opportunity for students to develop the interpersonal skills they can take with them into the future. Months and months of planning led to an amazing week that was so well appreciated by students and staff, and here are some snippets of what they had to say:

"Culture Day gives me a purpose, as we have to rehearse our dances, practise, and ensure that we represent our culture and country well."

Staff said: "The students are so well prepared and take so much pride in delivering lessons, as well as presenting their culture, that it makes us realise what an amazing community we are."



ERNESFORD GRANGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Culture Day 2025:

During the week, each year group had a drop-down day where they took part in sessions based on cultural art, dance and sports, such as Danish football. They also had the opportunity to experience music and dance, along with speeches written by our students that definitely pulled on the heartstrings.

To keep the momentum of the theme going, we asked all tutor groups, House Heads and departments to decorate their doors with a country of their choice. The purpose of this was to give our students an opportunity to express their creativity and to give them the feeling of walking through the world as they moved around the school.

As leaders of the school, we don't always get things right, so it is vital to provide opportunities that give us an insight into the day-to-day experiences of our students. We know the world is unstable and that people's perceptions need challenging. By providing them with a platform to raise their voices, we feel we are taking a step in the right direction.



We firmly believe that education is the greatest tool we have to change lives and, moving forward, as leaders of the school, we will try harder to strive for a better tomorrow.

We will not promise to make change immediately, as we all know that Rome wasn't built in a day. However, we can assure our students that, by raising their voices, they have given us the reasons to make those small changes, one at a time, so that the world can be a better place for the next generation.

On the evening of 26th June, we came together to honour and enjoy the range of cultures that make our community so special. This was a time to celebrate our differences, recognise our shared humanity, and appreciate the traditions, stories and values that shape who we are. From music and dance to traditional clothing and language, each performance represented a piece of history, pride and identity. It was a chance to learn from one another, to celebrate one another, and to come away with a deeper understanding of the world around us.

Sports Personality 2026

@EGCS1973



What an evening! Sports Personality 2026! These evenings just get better and better. This year there were around 170 people there but only 68 students were invited. Well done if you were invited you were very privileged to be there and your PE teacher thinks you are amazing. If you weren't there, then you need to be going above and beyond in your PE lessons to ensure you get invited next year. It is a very special evening. A massive well done to everyone but especially to Tilly McConnachie who won the Sports Personality 2026 Award!



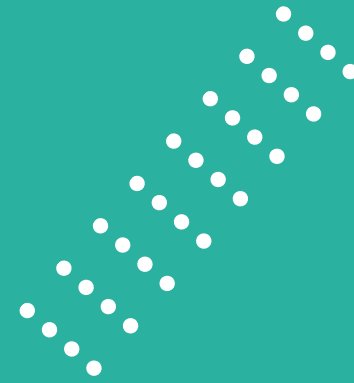
Year 11 Prom

On Friday 19th June, our Year 11 students celebrated the success of their school journey with a glamorous prom held at The Manor Hotel. All were dressed to impress and enjoyed an evening filled with dancing, excitement and laughter. A big thank you to Mr Blackmore and Miss Litherland for putting this event together, another thank you to all staff and students who made it a night to remember! It was an incredible evening and we wish them all the best for the future!





Sidney Stringer
Primary



SIDNEY STRINGER PRIMARY

Believe | Achieve | Succeed

@SSAPrimary



Musical Summer Spectacular


Sidney Stringer
Primary

On Monday, 29th June 2026, our students took to the stage at the Sidney Stringer Academy Theatre for a spectacular evening of music, singing and dance. The theatre was packed with families who gathered for the show to witness the culmination of months of hard work.

The programme offered a wonderful variety of performances that showcased the diverse talents across all year groups.

A Powerful Finale

The evening concluded with a stirring whole-chorus performance, leaving the audience in high spirits as they headed for refreshments. A huge thank you to all the staff who helped behind the scenes and to the parents for making it such a memorable, sell-out night!



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Sidney Stringer
Primary

Year 4 Take to the Skies: A Trip to the Heights of Abraham

This term, Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to the historic Heights of Abraham in Matlock Bath. The highlight of the morning was undoubtedly the cable car journey, which transported the children high above the Derwent Valley. As we glided upwards, the students had a unique opportunity to study the local geography and limestone crags from a bird's-eye view.

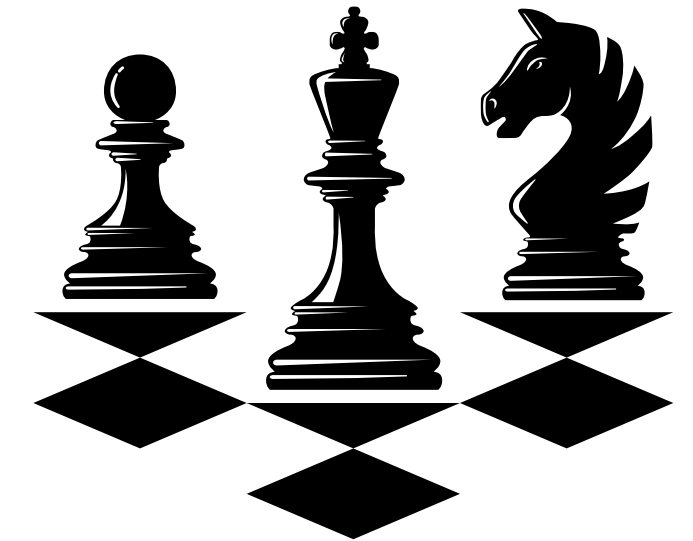
Everyone showed great courage and curiosity as they watched the ground recede and the spectacular landscape unfold below. Once at the summit, the class explored the Great Masson Cavern to learn about the area's rich mining heritage. The children represented the school excellently, asking insightful questions and engaging fully with the tour guides throughout the day. It was a memorable trip that brought our classroom learning to life in a truly unique and scenic setting.



SIDNEY STRINGER PRIMARY

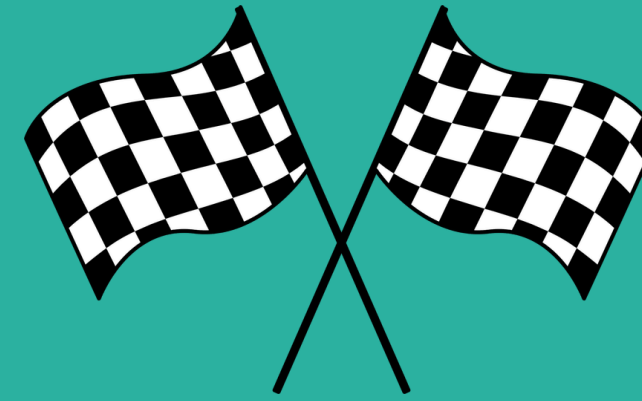


Chess Success



A dedicated team of Year 6 pupils proudly represented their primary school at the prestigious Coventry Schools Chess Final. After weeks of intense practice during lunch breaks, the clever strategists successfully outmanoeuvred multiple local schools to qualify for the event. The high-stakes tournament brought together the top junior chess minds from across the entire city. Facing incredibly tough opposition, the determined team calculated brilliant moves and demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship under pressure. Their hard work paid off spectacularly as they secured an impressive fourth-place finish overall. This remarkable achievement cements their status as one of the very best primary school chess teams in Coventry.

On Your Marks, Get Set ... Sports Day 2026!




Sidney Stringer
Primary

Our school grounds were a sea of house colours and determined faces for our annual Sports Day. It was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents and siblings cheering from the sidelines—your support truly helped our athletes go the extra mile!

A Morning of High Energy (KS2)

The day kicked off with Key Stage 2 taking to the track and field. The competition was fierce but friendly as the older students demonstrated impressive technique in the more technical events. From the precision of the javelin to the explosive power in the long jump and standing jump, the progress made in PE lessons this year was clear to see.

Afternoon Fun and Games (KS1)

After lunch, it was Key Stage 1's turn to shine. The energy levels remained sky-high as our younger students participated with huge smiles. The atmosphere reached a fever pitch during "Rob the Nest," where speed and strategy (and a little bit of chaos!) were the names of the game.



A Day of Inspiration: SSP Values Day 2026

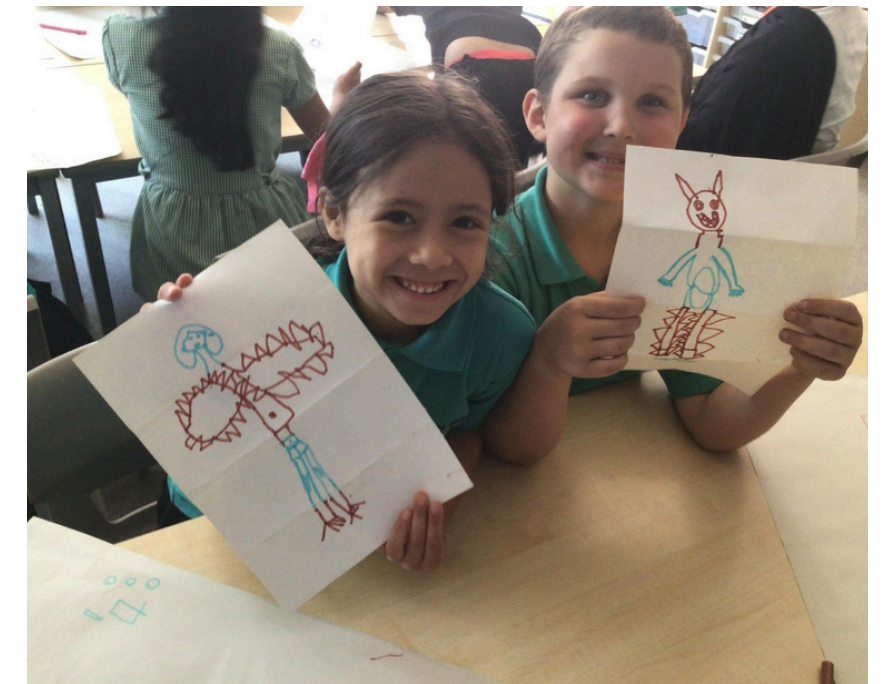

Sidney Stringer
Primary

In July, our school community came together for Values Day, a special event dedicated to celebrating our core principles and providing students with life-changing experiences. The day was designed not just for fun, but as a meaningful opportunity for children from Reception to Year 6 to develop new skills and demonstrate how they live out our school values every day.

Meet Our Inspirational Guests

We were honoured to host an incredible lineup of visitors who shared their journeys of determination and excellence:

- **Pep the Poet:** This keynote focused on the critical role of oracy in student development. Effective communication is fundamental to our students' academic success and personal growth.
- **JLR (Jaguar Land Rover):** Representatives visited to discuss exciting career paths in car design and auto engineering, sparking the imaginations of our future innovators.
- **National Grid:** Students engaged with team members to learn about the energy sector.
- **8 Limbs Gym:** Back by popular demand, trainers provided a high-energy session on the discipline and training required for Muay Thai.
- **First Aid:** Children learnt basic first aid skills, trained by a qualified practitioner.



Action-Packed Activities

The school was a hive of activity as students rotated through various sessions tailored to their age groups. Key Stage 1 students enjoyed a "Music Extravaganza," tested their aim with Tri-golf, and took part in a "Partner Pen Challenge" to practise cooperation.

Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 students got creative with still-life watercolour painting and pedalled their way to a healthy treat on the Smoothie Bike. A major highlight for everyone was the arrival of a real fire engine, which even required us to close the staff car park for the day to accommodate our special visitors!



Celebrating Our Progress

Throughout the day, staff were on the lookout for students embodying our values, rewarding them with special tokens for acts of kindness, determination and respect. For those needing a moment of quiet reflection between the excitement, the library was transformed into a "calm zone".

It was a truly memorable day that proved our school values aren't just words on a wall—they are the heartbeat of everything we do.



RADFORD PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

@RadfordAcademy



The Inaugural Johnson Cup

Our school community came together for a deeply meaningful afternoon of sport as we hosted the first-ever Johnson Cup. This special memorial football match was created in honour of Mr. Johnson, a beloved teacher who sadly passed away in the Easter holiday and whose passion for sports inspired so many of our students. The atmosphere was electric as two local primary schools took to the pitch to compete in his memory. It was a fiercely contested game filled with incredible teamwork and determination, but it was Radford who ultimately claimed victory and lifted the trophy. We are incredibly proud of all the players who demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship, and we look forward to making this an annual tradition when we hold the tournament again next year.



A New Addition to Our Art Gallery

If you take a stroll through our corridors, you will notice a stunning new addition to our school environment. We are thrilled to announce that the next section of our school art gallery is officially complete! This project was a true team effort, with the entire school working collaboratively to create a spectacular board of lines designed in the distinct, vibrant style of George Hall. Every single student contributed their own unique touch, and seeing the individual pieces come together into one massive, cohesive masterpiece is a wonderful reflection of our school spirit. A huge congratulations to all of our budding artists for bringing so much colour and creativity to our walls!



Radford Values Day 2026



On Wednesday, 8th July 2026, our school community came together for our annual Values Day—a special event entirely dedicated to celebrating our core principles and providing students with life-changing experiences. The day was designed not just for fun, but as a meaningful opportunity for children to develop new skills, discover creative passions, and demonstrate how they live out our school values every single day. Our school grounds were a hive of high energy and excitement as students rotated through an action-packed schedule of sessions tailored specifically to their year groups.

We were incredibly honoured to host a stellar lineup of visitors who shared their journeys of determination and excellence, sparking the imaginations of our future innovators and creators. Among our guests was Pep the Poet, a phenomenal performance poet and children's author who used his wonderful lyricism to focus on resilience and self-belief. Sharing his famous mantra, "Fear Tells Lies," he inspired students to find their voices and face challenges with confidence. Key Stage 1 students were also treated to a vibrant cultural experience with Milli Chapanda, a British-based Zimbabwean Shona cultural artist. Through traditional mbira playing, percussion, singing, and storytelling, she brought our values of care and unity to life through the joy of music.

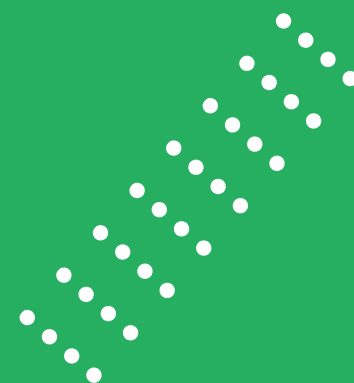




The inspiration continued for our Key Stage 2 students, who had the exciting opportunity to learn from successful film and TV actor Ali Zayn, known for his work on Netflix and beyond. Ali shared what it takes to achieve your dreams and the sheer determination required to succeed in the creative industries. Back by popular demand, professional trainers from 8 Limbs Gym provided a high-energy session focused on the intense discipline, respect, and physical training required when learning Muay Thai. Additionally, the team from Little Medics delivered a fantastic, practical session where our older students learned life-saving basic first aid skills, emphasising community care, excellence, and unity.

Alongside our wonderful guest speakers, our amazing school staff ran specialised challenges that kept everyone moving, thinking, and working together. During Mrs. Bailey's gardening sessions, students got their hands dirty in the garden area, learning about sustainability and environmental care while practising teamwork. Miss May's Challenge provided a series of team-building tasks designed to push our younger students to show determination and achieve goals together. Finally, a major highlight for Key Stage 2 was the Smoothie Bike, where students literally pedalled their way to a healthy treat, blending delicious smoothies using pure pedal power!

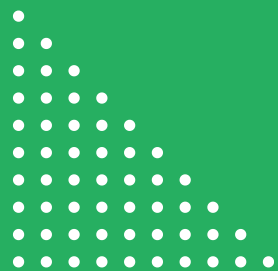
It was a truly memorable day that proved our school values aren't just words on a wall—they are the heartbeat of everything we do. A massive thank you to all of our incredible visitors, our hard-working staff, and our brilliant students for making the day such an outstanding success!



WOODFIELD SCHOOL

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

@1woodfield1



MAT Art Exhibition

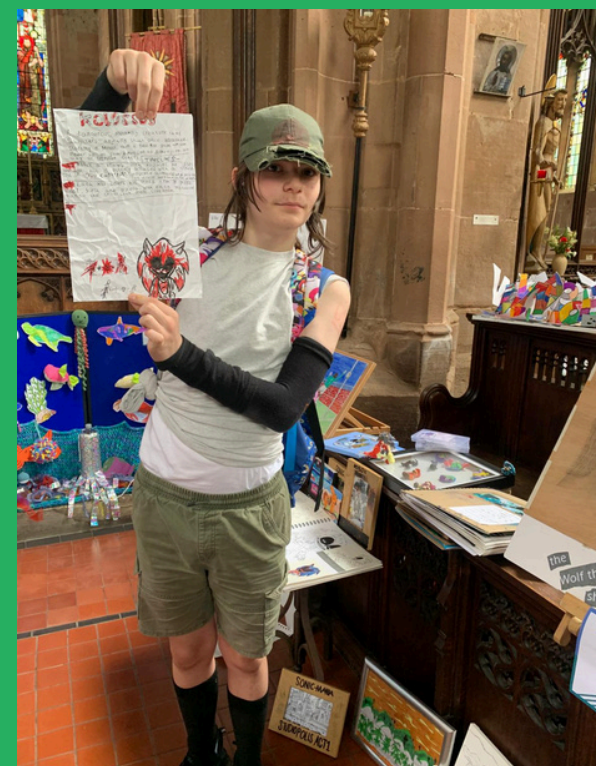
The MAT Art Exhibition was held 29th June to 2nd July and amongst the impressive artwork from the schools across the Trust, were some outstanding pieces created by Woodfield students.

Amongst the prize winners were Derren and Kai, who received the Headteacher's Award and Amazon vouchers.

Derren won his award for some superb photography work, and Kai was recognised for his hard work, resilience and determination throughout his GCSE course and exam.

Nikki, their Art teacher, said, "I am still buzzing after attending the MAT Art Exhibition, and I just had to reach out and share how incredibly proud I am of our students. The sheer level of talent, creativity and dedication on display was nothing short of breathtaking.

It wasn't just the school community that was blown away. We received incredible feedback and comments from both adults and students who attended the event."



Goodbye Year 11

As our Year 11 students completed their final GCSE examinations earlier last month, we wanted to take a moment to recognise what an incredible achievement this is and to thank everyone who has supported them on their journey.

In any school, GCSEs are an important milestone. At Woodfield School, they represent something even more significant. For many of our students, reaching this point has required immense determination, resilience, courage and hard work - it is the culmination of years of learning, growth and perseverance.

Over the course of this year, we have been privileged to watch our students prepare for this moment. Every morning, they arrived, settled themselves with calming music, mindfulness activities and supportive conversations before facing the demands of the day. They attended interventions, embraced additional support, revisited learning, asked questions and worked through subjects that they often found challenging.

What has stood out most has been their commitment and maturity. Every Monday morning, conversations often began with students sharing how much revision they had completed over the weekend!

Well done, Year 11, and all our best wishes for the future!



HAF Club

This summer, we will be running a HAF Activities Club, providing students with a variety of enriching off-site experiences designed to support their social, emotional, physical, and personal development. The programme has been carefully planned to meet the needs of SEN students by offering structured activities that encourage confidence, independence, communication, emotional regulation, teamwork, resilience, and positive social interaction in safe and supportive environments.

The exciting range of activities include PGL Residential Trip to Caythorpe, Go-Karting, Outdoor Adventure and Water based activities in Tamworth and a day trip to Stratford-on-Avon.

Our aim is to provide students with meaningful, enjoyable, and memorable experiences that support their emotional wellbeing, independence, confidence, and personal development during the summer holidays.



WOODFIELD SCHOOL

Cadbury's Trip

Woodfield UKS2 classes enjoyed a trip to Cadbury World in Bournville for our topic 'Hola Mexico'. The children looked at the history of chocolate, enjoyed a sample of lovely melted chocolate, experienced the 4D cinema and showed off their shooting skills on the ride at the end! Behaviour was excellent and we were so proud of how well they behaved and represented the school- Well done Woodfield!



Anca - National Teaching Awards

Our awesome colleague, Anca Acatrinei, became the proud recipient of a prestigious teaching award this summer. In recognition of her hard work with our students, she was nominated for a Pearson National Teaching Award.

Anca says:

"I am truly humbled, honoured, and incredibly grateful to have been nominated and to receive the Bronze Award at the Pearson National Teaching Awards.

To have my work recognised in this way is something I never expected, and it means more to me than I can express."

Anca was particularly touched by the beautiful words written by the well-loved author Michael Morpurgo in a letter which accompanied the award.

"The work you do – day in, day out – is life-enhancing. It is also often hard and exhausting – I know that. I've done it. But I know it can be hugely rewarding too. There are days when it feels like the best job in the world, and days when it feels... well, not like that at all.

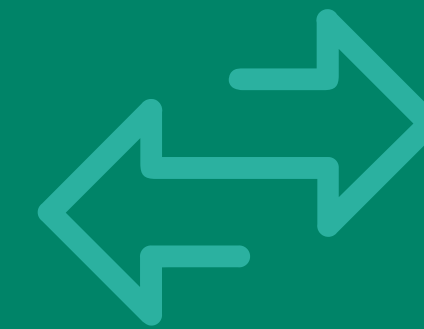
I am writing to you to congratulate you and to thank you. For a child to have a great teacher like you is so important. You open doors, shine a light. You spend your working life passing on to children all that you know and love. Your devotion to them, to colleagues, and to the schools you work in has been extraordinary.

If I had a trumpet to blow or bells to ring out, then that would be wonderful. But I have only this pen and these words to celebrate your achievements, to express my admiration. So, bravo you, bravo."

Congratulations, Anca!!



Changes to Free School Meals From the 2026 to 2027 Academic Year



Dear Parent or Carer,

We are writing to let you know about changes to free school meals (FSM) from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year.



What is changing?

Expanded entitlement for families on Universal Credit

From the start of academic year 2026 to 2027, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of earnings.

Going forward, there will be two types of eligibility:

- **Targeted FSM:** for households in receipt of universal credit earning £7,400 or less (includes free meals and additional support such as pupil premium).
- Other educational entitlements such as the Holiday Activities and Food program (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will also continue to be based on targeted FSM.
- **Expanded FSM:** for households in receipt of universal credit earning above £7,400 (free meals only)

Families with no recourse to public funds may also be eligible for Targeted FSM subject to meeting separate criteria. Please contact us directly if this applies.

All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 will also continue to be entitled to free school meals under the universal infant free school meals policy regardless of family circumstances.

End of transitional protections

Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals, even if their family circumstances changed during the rollout of Universal Credit. This is referred to as transitional protections.

Now that entitlement is being expanded to all families on Universal Credit, these protections will end at the end of the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

This means:

- Some children may no longer be eligible from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year if their family does not receive Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit
- Eligibility will now be based on current benefit status

What you need to do

If your child **currently receives free school meals:**

- In most cases, you do not need to reapply please see the information on the Coventry City Council Website:
<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals>
- Coventry City Council will check your eligibility automatically using the details already held and inform you of any changes to your FSM eligibility
- However, **we are advising as a precautionary message that all families reapply using this link:**
<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals/3>

If your child **does not currently receive free school meals:**

- You may now be eligible under the expanded criteria
- You will **need to apply through Coventry City Council using this website:**
<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals/3>

Not sure?

If you are unsure whether you need to apply or if your circumstances have changed, please contact:

- Coventry City Council - all information can be found on this website **<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals>** , or
- Add your contact ie Operations Lead, Head of Year, Pastoral Lead

They will be able to advise and support you.



Sidney Stringer
Multi Academy Trust

Thank you

