

NEWS LETTER

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SPRING 26



LIFE
IN ALL ITS FULLNESS



THE BISHOP FRASER TRUST
HELPING ALL PUPILS TO SHINE



WELCOME

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”

Galatians 6:9

An Easter Message to Our Parents and Guardians

I write this at the end of a weekend marked by two moments that gave me pause to reflect.

The first was celebrating the 18th birthday of the son of close friends. At eighteen, there are many ways a young person might choose to celebrate, and the fact he still wanted us there meant a great deal. I remember when his parents first shared their news. It felt momentous at the time; now, with many children between us, it all seems to have passed in the blink of an eye. Standing there this weekend, watching him blow out his candles, it was impossible not to feel how true that is.

The second moment was quieter, but equally special. I received a card from a former student I taught over a decade ago, sharing that they have now

qualified as a solicitor. It was a simple gesture, but a powerful reminder of how quickly time passes and how much these school years matter. The impact of encouragement, challenge and care is not always immediate, but unfolds over time in ways we do not always see.

As we approach Easter, it feels fitting to hold onto that sense of perspective. With exams approaching, we know it can be difficult to keep pupils motivated, especially during the holidays. Gentle persistence makes a difference. By not giving up, you are helping them build resilience and a positive approach to learning that will serve them well beyond these exams. These moments, however challenging, pass more quickly than we expect.

This term has marked significant

growth for our Trust, with Walmsley, St Margaret's and Turton and Edgworth CE/Methodist Primary Schools joining us. We are fortunate to welcome schools with strong practice and well-deserved recognition.

We have also moved into the top 50 trusts nationally for attainment. The addition of these schools brings further opportunity for shared expertise and collaboration.

As you will read below, our schools continue to shine. A recent SIAMS inspection at Bolton St Catherine's Academy recognised our 'relentless pursuit of care and compassion' and a 'deeply embedded culture of respect.' Visitors consistently comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere and the warm welcome evident across the school.

I hope you enjoy reading the updates from each of our schools. There is much to celebrate. Thank you for your continued support and partnership this term.

God bless,

Tuesday Humby
CEO

At this point in the term, I have found myself reflecting on the many small moments that make up life across our Trust. So often, it is in these everyday interactions that the strength of our community is most clearly seen, in the care shown between colleagues, the encouragement given to pupils, and the quiet support that helps one another through busy and demanding days.

What stands out most is the way in which our shared values are lived out so consistently. Not in grand gestures, but in the way people treat one another and the belief that every pupil matters.

At this time of year, the words of Galatians feel particularly fitting, a reminder not to become weary in doing good. Much of what is given each day may not be seen immediately, but it matters deeply and makes a lasting difference.

Thank you for all that you do, often unseen, to make our schools such positive and supportive places to learn and work. It is deeply appreciated.

As we approach Easter, I hope you are able to take time to rest and recharge, and to enjoy time with those around you.

Lesley Durosomo
Chair of Trustees



Reading That Opens Up The World

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This term, it has been encouraging to see how reading continues to bring pupils together in meaningful ways. At Walmsley, the reading-for-pleasure partnership with a school in Ukraine has already begun to build genuine connections, with pupils writing to pen pals and taking part in shared live sessions. Through these exchanges, pupils are not only developing their reading and writing, but also gaining insight into lives and experiences beyond their own.

Alongside this, moments such as World Book Day, visits from authors and engagement with local libraries have helped to bring reading to life in different and memorable ways.

These are often the moments that stay with pupils, where reading is experienced as something enjoyable, social and worth returning to. For some, it is the point at which a particular book or author captures their interest more deeply and begins to shape their habits beyond the classroom.

What stands out is the way in which these experiences are strengthening pupils' relationship with reading over time. It is something they talk about, share and engage with more confidently, both in lessons and beyond. This matters greatly. A secure foundation in reading underpins access to the wider curriculum, supports independence in learning and builds confidence across subjects.

More than this, reading allows pupils to explore ideas, encounter different perspectives and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. In this way, it plays a vital role not only in academic success, but in shaping thoughtful, informed and curious young people.





Opportunity Builds Confidence

One of the most noticeable things across the Trust this term is how confidence is being built through what pupils are actually doing, not just what we say about it.

There have been some stand out moments. Pupils debating real-world issues through PeaceJam and beginning to shape their own social action projects. Year 5 pupils travelling to London and visiting the Houses of Parliament. Year



10 pupils spending time on a university campus, thinking seriously about what comes next. These are the kinds of experiences that make things feel real.

At the same time, there has been a huge amount happening closer to home. Drama performances, monologues and productions have given pupils the chance to step forward, sometimes for the first time. Music has been a constant presence too, from Rock Steady concerts to residential trips and rehearsals that bring pupils together in a different way. Not every pupil wants to be centre stage, but being part of something shared still builds that sense of belonging and confidence.

Sport has been another strong thread. Winning matters, and there have been some excellent achievements, including netball and football successes across the Trust. What stands out more, though, is the way pupils represent their schools, working as a team, dealing with pressure, and showing resilience. That is where confidence tends to grow most.

There have also been plenty of experiences that sit outside the obvious categories. Pupils building dens with

parents, visiting zoos and museums, meeting authors, welcoming community visitors, or taking part in careers events and STEM challenges. These moments can feel quite ordinary at the time, but they often stay with pupils and shift how they see themselves.

It is also important to recognise that confidence does not always look the same. For some pupils, it is performing or leading. For others, it is much quieter. Taking part when they would previously have stepped back. Speaking up once, even briefly. Sticking with something that feels difficult. Those steps matter just as much.

What feels positive is that these opportunities are not one-off highlights. They are happening regularly, across all of our schools. Over time, that consistency makes the difference. Pupils start to feel that there is a place for them, that they can contribute, and that trying something new is normal rather than exceptional.

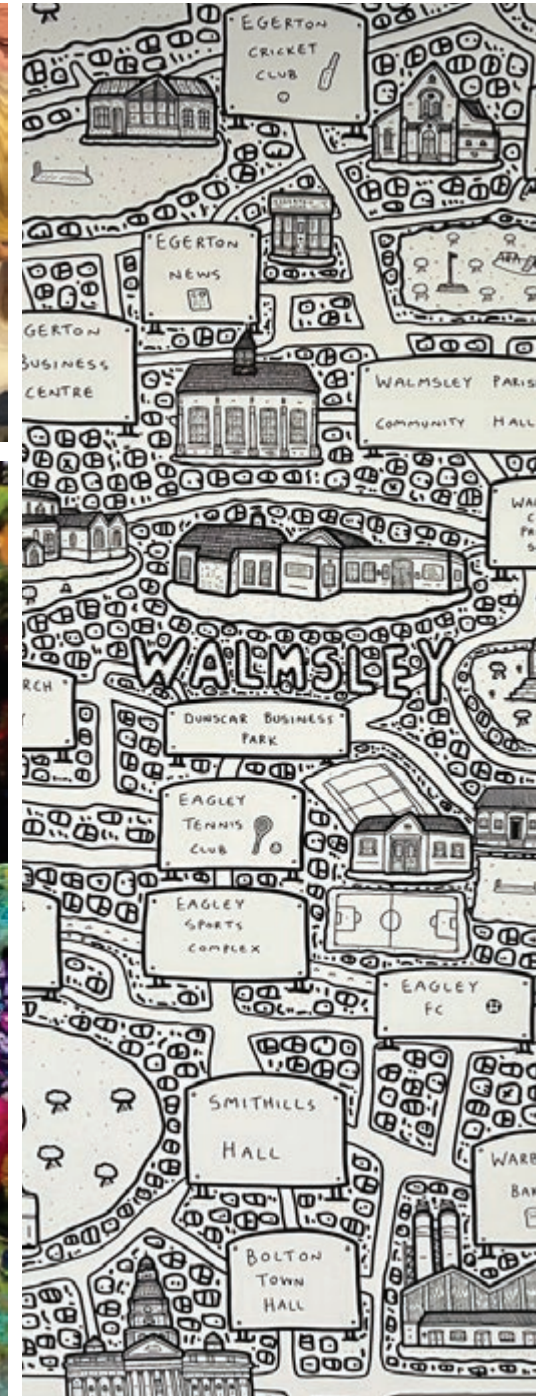
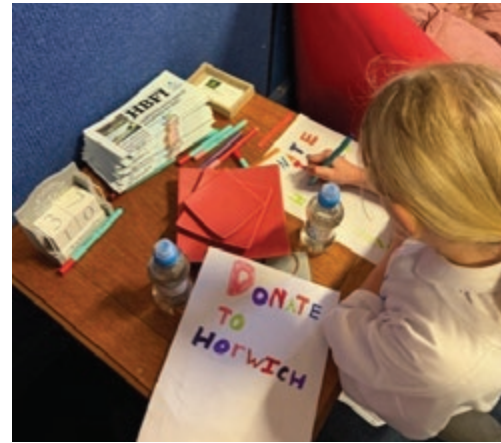
That is where confidence really comes from. Not from expectation, but from experience.

Where Community Matters

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Across the Trust, our schools continue to feel strongly connected, shaped by shared experiences and positive relationships between pupils, staff, and families. This term, that has been seen through events supported by parents, visits from authors and community partners, and pupils contributing through fundraising and social action. Within school, moments such as World Book Day, performances, trips, and pupils working together across year groups continue to strengthen that sense of belonging, helping pupils feel connected, supported, and proud of their school.





In Our
Schools
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Learning, Belonging & Opportunity ...

Pupils at St Margaret's CE have experienced a vibrant and enriching term, marking an exciting start as part of the Bishop Fraser Trust. Across the school, there has been a strong focus on providing opportunities that support pupils to explore, participate, and grow in confidence.

Experiences beyond the classroom have played a key role. Year 5's visit to London, including the Houses of Parliament, provided a memorable opportunity to connect learning to the wider world. Younger pupils have also benefited from hands-on experiences, including visits to the zoo and outdoor learning linked to their work on Stig of the Dump, where pupils built dens alongside their parents.

Creative and cultural opportunities have been a highlight. Rock Steady lessons and concerts have brought

music into the heart of the school, while World Book Day was celebrated with enthusiasm through costumes, shared stories, and a whole-school book fair. Pupils also had the opportunity to meet author Chip Kendall, further inspiring a love of reading.

The school community has been central to this term. Events such as the Valentine's Disco, supported by parents, and visits from community police officers have strengthened connections between school and home. Within school, The Hive has provided a space for pupils to develop independence and practical skills, including preparing for a World Book Day tea party.

Across the term, pupils have approached each experience with enthusiasm and positivity. It has been encouraging to see them engage so fully with the opportunities available, supported by staff who continue to create a rich and inclusive learning environment.









Exploring Pathways & Possibilities ...

Pupils have engaged fully with opportunities that support both their personal development and future aspirations. Year 10 pupils attended the National Apprenticeship and Education Event, where they spoke directly with employers, colleges and training providers, gaining a clearer understanding of the different pathways available to them after school.

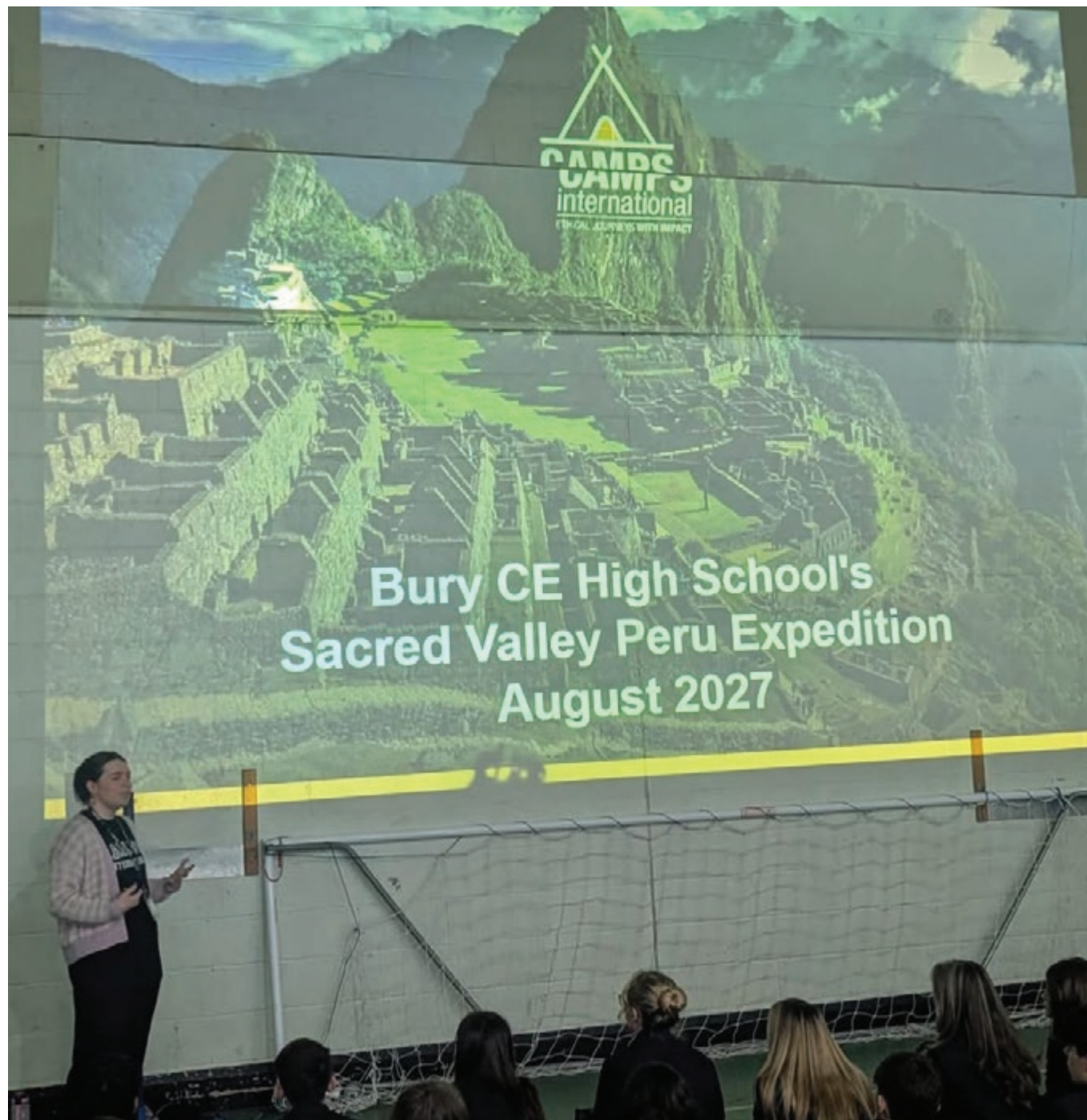
There has also been a strong focus on contribution and social responsibility. Through the City Inspires programme, pupils worked together on a social action project focused on mental health, showing maturity, compassion, and a genuine commitment to

supporting others in their community.

Sport has provided further opportunities for pupils to develop confidence and resilience. KS4 pupils achieved first and third place in a climbing competition, while football and bench ball fixtures across year groups have highlighted strong teamwork and positive attitudes. Pupils have represented the school with pride in each of these events.

The wider school community has also been strengthened through opportunities such as the Peru expedition information evening, which encouraged pupils and families to consider future experiences beyond the classroom, and through partnerships that support pupils through sport and wider enrichment.

Across the term, pupils have approached these opportunities with enthusiasm and maturity. It has been encouraging to see them growing in confidence and aspiration through experiences that feel real, purposeful, and connected to life beyond school.







Strong Voices, Shared Stories, and Real Experiences ...

Pupils at Walmsley Primary have enjoyed a vibrant and engaging term, with opportunities that have supported both their learning and wider development. A particular highlight has been the launch of the reading partnership with a school in Ukraine, where Year 5 pupils have written to their pen pals and taken part in live online sessions, beginning to build meaningful connections through shared texts and learning about each other's lives.

Creative experiences have also played an important role. The visit from artist Dave Draws, who created a mural of the local area, has provided a lasting resource for learning, while music continues to thrive through Rocksteady performances and the success of the school choir, who

have progressed to the final of the Last Choir Singing competition following an impressive performance at the Muni Theatre.

Sporting participation has been strong across the school. Pupils have represented Walmsley in a wide range of activities, including gymnastics, swimming, and athletics, with notable success in recent competitions. These experiences continue to build confidence, teamwork, and pride in representing the school.

Beyond this, pupils have benefited from a wide range of visits and experiences. From exploring Tudor life at Turton Tower and visiting Bromley Cross Library, to welcoming the Fire Brigade and local police into school, pupils have been able to connect their learning to real-world contexts.

Pupils have also shown a strong sense of community and responsibility. From independently organising a bake sale to raise money for Save the Children, to learning about different cultures and celebrations such as Holi and Chanukah, pupils are developing a growing awareness of the wider world and their place within it.

Across the term, pupils have approached each opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity. It has been encouraging to see them growing in confidence and independence, supported by staff who continue to provide a rich and varied learning experience.









Opportunities That Matter

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Pupils at Bolton St Catherine's Academy have had a busy and varied term, with opportunities across both primary and secondary phases that bring learning to life in meaningful ways. Reading has been a particular strength. World Book Day brought pupils and staff together through creative activities and shared storytelling, while Year 10 Reading Ambassadors have spent time in the library reading alongside primary pupils. These sessions have helped to build positive reading habits and strong relationships across phases, with younger pupils fully engaged and older pupils taking real pride in their role.

Wider experiences have supported pupils in thinking beyond the classroom. Year 7 pupils worked with visiting poet Matt Goodfellow, creating their own writing and exploring how their voice can be used to express ideas. Members of the Interact Club

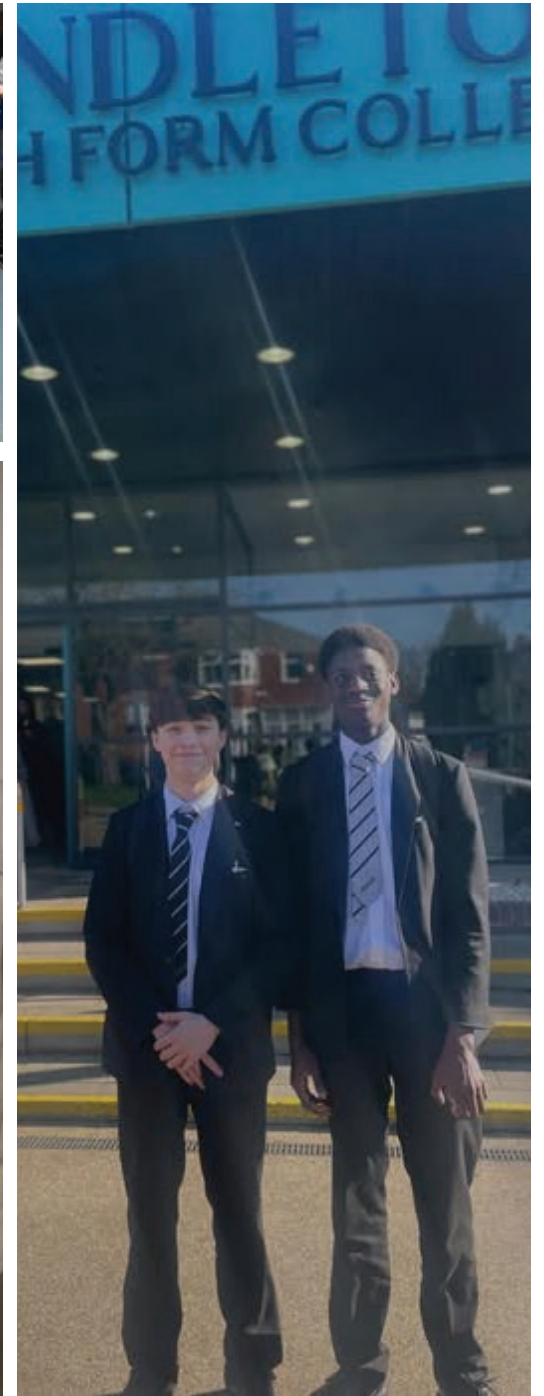
attended the PeaceJam event, where they discussed issues such as homelessness, inequality, and the role young people can play in making a difference. Pupils contributed thoughtfully and have begun to develop ideas for their own social action projects. Alongside this, Year 10 pupils visited the University of Salford, while Careers Week, including the Big Yellow Bus, provided further opportunities to explore future pathways and possibilities.

Learning has also been strengthened through additional experiences linked closely to the curriculum. Year 10 and 11 pupils attended a live performance of Macbeth, helping to bring the text to life, while Year 11 pupils took part in a Grade 7+ maths workshop at Pendleton Sixth Form College, working through more challenging content with focus and determination. In Art, Year 7 pupils explored the work of Hundertwasser, with one pupil extending this learning at home through a detailed model that is now being used in lessons. Pupils have also represented the school successfully in the Premier League Inspires Challenge, with one team progressing to the final.

Across the term, pupils have approached these opportunities with maturity and a positive attitude. Whether reading with younger pupils, contributing to discussions, or taking part in events beyond the classroom, it has been encouraging to see them building confidence through experience.











Athletics, Arts and Aspirations

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Pupils at St Catherine's CE Primary School have enjoyed a busy and rewarding spring term, with a wide range of opportunities across sport, creativity and enrichment beyond the classroom. Sporting participation has been a particular strength. Pupils from Key Stage 2 represented the school in Indoor Athletics competitions at Rivington and Blackrod High School, showing determination and teamwork throughout. Our swimmers competed in the Horwich and Blackrod gala with great spirit, while the Year 5 and 6 football team took part in a festival at Essa Academy. Four pupils also qualified for the Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships, with Freddie achieving third place as part of the Bolton team.

Creativity has flourished across the school. Year 6 worked with English

National Opera on a composition project, with their piece Green Caterpillar selected from over 100 entries to be turned into an animation. We were also delighted to celebrate Elodie in Year 6, who was named primary winner of the Trust Short Story Competition, recognised for her imaginative writing and ambitious storytelling.

Pupils have also benefited from a range of enriching visits and experiences. Year 5 explored Ancient Egypt at Bolton Museum, including a mummification activity, while Year 4 visited Chester Zoo to deepen their understanding of the natural world. Year 6 extended their learning through a visit to the Museum of Science and Industry and are looking forward to a Space Camp experience. Younger pupils have taken part in tennis coaching and workshops linked to computing and online safety, while Aspirations Week gave pupils the chance to hear directly from parents about future careers.

Across the term, pupils have approached each opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity. It has been encouraging to see them grow in confidence, supported by experiences that connect learning to the wider world.









Books, Careers and Student Voice

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There has been a real sense of activity and involvement across Canon Slade this term, with pupils taking part in a wide range of experiences that have brought learning to life. We were pleased to welcome back the AYF choir from Uganda, who led lunchtime concerts and worked with pupils across year groups, alongside a Year 8 Love Your Neighbour project exploring faith and global connections. In the library, students have been recognised through the Oliver reading awards for their commitment to reading, while others have achieved success in national and Trust writing competitions. Events such as National Storytelling Week, Holocaust Memorial Day and World Book Day have made the library a busy and welcoming space.

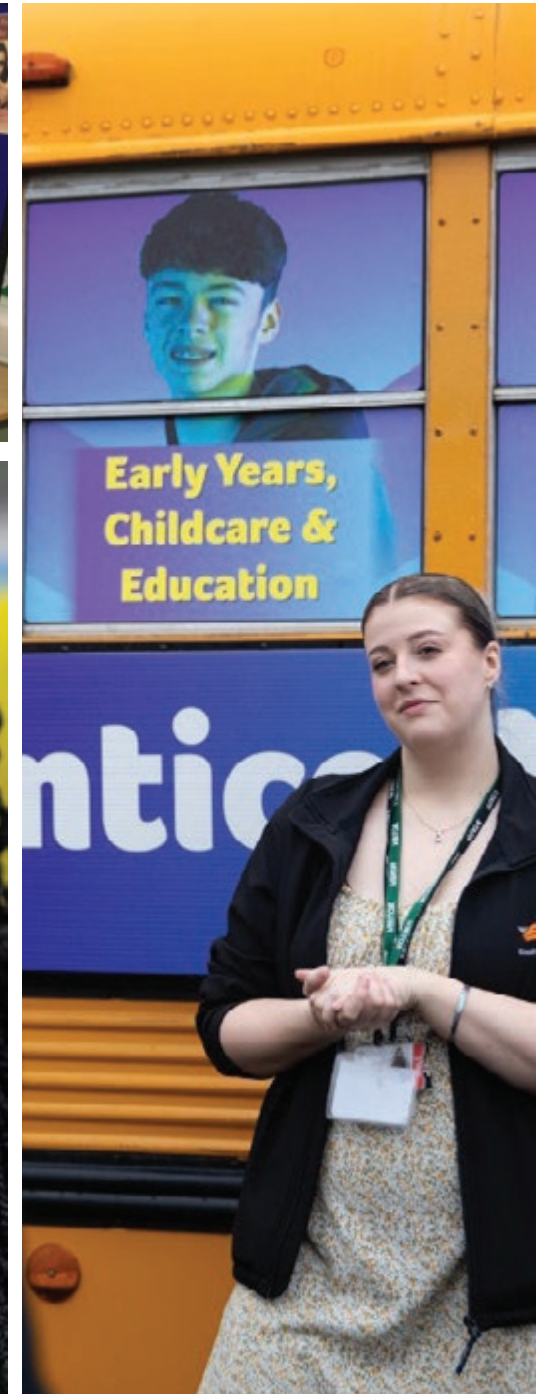
Careers education has also been a key focus. During World of Work Week, alongside National Apprenticeship Week, pupils explored future pathways through visiting speakers, form activities and drop-in sessions. Year 10 students benefited from Bolton College's Big Yellow Bus, gaining a clearer understanding of apprenticeships and routes after school. Students leading the Be Kind to My Mind club also organised events for Children's Mental Health Week, helping to create a supportive atmosphere across the school.

Pupils have also been closely involved in the Bolton Youth MP elections, with one of our own students, Simi Adebajo, standing as a candidate. Students across all year groups took part in voting, engaging with real democratic decision-making and taking pride in seeing one of their peers represent young people in Bolton.

In lessons, pupils have engaged in creative and practical learning, with new 3D printers enhancing Design Technology and preparations underway for a visit to the JCB manufacturing centre. Across subjects and clubs, pupils have approached their learning with enthusiasm.









Performance & Teamwork

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This term at St James has been full of memorable experiences, with pupils embracing opportunities to work together, perform and take part in life beyond the classroom. Year 8 pupils enjoyed a day at the Anderton Centre, where they took part in team-building activities and spent time outdoors as a form, building relationships and confidence. Residential visits to Quinta have also been a highlight, bringing pupils together through music, shared experiences and a lively programme of activities, including themed evenings such as a murder mystery event which pupils fully embraced. Year 10 pupils also took part in a camping experience, showing resilience, humour and positivity even in challenging, muddy conditions, and supporting one another throughout.

The creative arts have been a real

strength across the term. Year 11 drama students delivered an impressive evening of performances as part of their exam preparation, showcasing monologues, duologues and group pieces that reflected both confidence and careful preparation. Pupils also had the opportunity to watch *Mean Girls the Musical*, helping to bring their learning to life and deepen their understanding of performance. Experiences such as these have supported pupils in developing both confidence and creativity, while also strengthening their appreciation of live theatre.

A strong sense of community has been evident throughout school life. Pupils came together to celebrate St Patrick's Day and learn about different cultures, reinforcing the importance of understanding and respect within the St James family. The Caring for Others club led a successful Valentine's cake sale, raising funds through a well-supported event that reflected the generosity of the school community. Pupils have also continued to achieve in wider areas, including success in the STEM competition, where teamwork and problem-solving led to an impressive third-place finish in the North West final. Across the term, it has been encouraging to see pupils support one another, take pride in their achievements and contribute positively to school life.













Life in all its fullness