

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2025

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that takes place between 7-16 March 2025!

During British Science Week, all students were given the opportunity to take part in a variety of STEM activities. We also held our own poster competition allowing students to explore the concept of adapt and change. The variety in the poster entries really highlighted how each class adapted the task to meet the diverse interests of our learners. Some KS3 learners also chose to visit the Magna Science Adventure Centre as part of Orchard in the Community.



EXAMS

The Summer 1 term sees the start of our GCSE exam series and we will be continuing with Functional Skills exams also. We recognise that exams can come with a lot of pressure, and it is easy to feel overwhelmed by them. With this in mind we have arranged for Compass Go to come in prior to the exams to deliver an Exam Stress Workshop.

Feeling stressed, worried or under pressure around exams can be difficult to manage but hopefully with the workshop, the support of staff and our therapists our learners will cope well. If you would like any more information on exam stress there are excellent resources online: [Info on exam stress - for 11-18 year olds](#) | [Mind - Mind](#)

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 6th March saw us celebrate world book day. This is an event that we never let pass us by. Reading for fun is the biggest indicator that a child will grow up to enjoy a happier and more successful life - more than family circumstances, their parents' educational background or income. As always, our staff and learners pulled out all the stops with their wonderful costumes.



ORCHARD PROM!

We are thrilled to announce that Orchard will be hosting our first ever Prom, a special event for all of our learners to enjoy! The Prom will take place on Friday 13th June, at our Sargon Way site. Learners will be collected on their normal transport and the event will run from 11:30-13:30. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our learners to celebrate the school year and creating lasting memories. Attendance is entirely optional and learners can choose whether they would like to participate. We look forward to making this a fun and memorable occasion for everyone.



READING

Throughout this term, all learners have engaged with various Reading activities to expose them to the wide range of text types and genres that are available to them. Activities have included: dressing up on World Book Day; visiting STARRIDER to purchase comic books; looking at different play scripts during National Shakespeare Week and our KS4 learners have been assuming the role of teacher by reading to all younger learners.



TRIPS AND VISITS

Class 2's learners loved learning all about life onboard the ill-fated Titanic, during their visit to the Titanic Exhibition in Leeds, on the back of learning about the Industrial Revolution. Learners were each assigned an actual passenger and had great fun finding out if they survived or not! As part of British Science Week, KS3 learners visited Magna Science Adventure Centre and put their knowledge of the four elements of our world (Earth, Fire, Water and Air) to good practice in an interactive way.



CAREERS UPDATE

This half term year 11's have been busy focusing on completing their work experience placements in industries they have shown an interest in, providing them with a practical experience in a real-life setting. The learners have completed their placements in all different sectors and the feedback from the employers has been amazing! Next term, it will our Year 10's turn where they will be heading out into our local area to gain a valuable insight into the world of work.



This term, KS3 have been examining the Animal Care sector. They have been identifying the different job roles and places where you can work with animals. They have also looked at what skills and qualifications would be required to work with animals and visited Nunny Farm to see what caring for animals involves. Next term, KS3 will be exploring facts about the career they are interested in and completing a portfolio on it and presenting it to their peers.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW -SUMMER 1

	Foundation	KS3	KS4
English	Poetry (Kennings & Acrostic)	Book & Film Study Skellig	Poetry (Ballard)
Mathematics	Shape & Geometry Multiplication Tables		Handling Data & Statistics Multiplication - Times Tables
ICT	PowerPoint Creating, Formatting & Editing Presentations		
Science	Chemistry - Earth Rocks & Fossils (Volcanoes)		Chemistry - Physical & Chemical Properties
PSHE/RSE	Health & Wellbeing	Health & Wellbeing (Y9 RSE Unit 2)	Health & Wellbeing
Human & Social	History Medieval Religious Beliefs		History World War I
People and the Community	Believing - God: Our World		Believing - Life Journey (Living a Faith)
Aesthetic & Creative Arts	Painting - Use of Colours		Sculpture GCSE Art - The Natural World
Talkabout	Social Skills Programme - Assertiveness (Part 1)		

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

If you are needing assistance regarding a potential safeguarding concern during the half term, please contact a member of Orchard Education via our main reception (01472 898498).

The DSL will be checking the safeguarding telephone each day at 4pm.

Other services to help over the break are: -

- Integrated front Door (Children's Services) Members of the public and professionals can call the IFD on 01472 326292 (option 2, option 2) (Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm).
- Report a concern to Children's Services - [SaferNEL | Report a concern - SaferNEL](#)
- Children's Social Care also run the Emergency Duty Team (EDT), which you can contact on 01472 326292 (option 2).

ONLINE SAFETY

It is easy for parents/carers to feel intimidated when it comes to social media and our children's usage of apps such as TikTok, but there are some helpful resources out there to support you in keeping the lines of communication open and helping them understand what is appropriate in terms of privacy settings, time spent online and the activities they're engaging in online.

[tiktok-guide-for-parents-revised.pdf](#)

[CEOP Safety Centre](#)

DATES AND EVENTS

Wednesday 23rd April - Children return to school

Monday 28th April - Compass Go Exam Stress Workshop (SW)

Tuesday 29th April - Compass Go Exam Stress Workshop (LR)

Monday 5th May - Bank Holiday

Wednesday 7th May -Year 5 open day

Thursday 15th May - GCSE Mathematics Component 1 examination

Friday 23rd May - GCSE English Language Component 1 examination

Friday 23rd May - Children break up for half term