



6 March 2026

Dear parents and carers,

March has arrived and we have daffodils and crocuses flowering in the quad and the first baby sparrows (and maybe even some owls) in the woodland. We have also had some lovely warm weather this week - with temperatures in down-town Sonning Common peaking higher than Barcelona, Zagreb, Rome and even (on one day) Lisbon.

This week we welcomed back Reice from last year's Year 11 cohort who has been completing his Y12 compulsory Work Experience Week shadowing in the PE and Inclusion Departments. He has also taken the time to speak to a number of Year 10 and Year 11 students about ensuring they buckle down to work to ensure they get the grades they need for College or Sixth Form – a message that can never be repeated enough times! It has been lovely having him back as a confident, polite and mature young man.



I had a quick catch up with the CESA team earlier in the week too and they have asked me to share their latest [newsletter](#) with updates on fundraising and upcoming events.

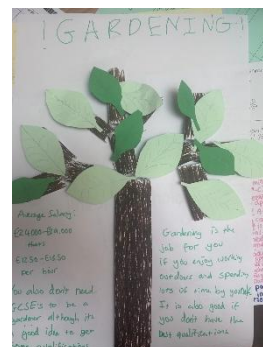
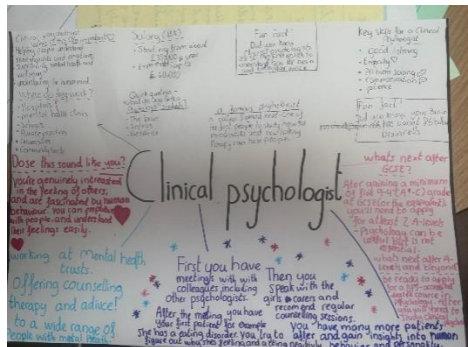
This week Year 11 Food Technology students have been completing their NEA with their “show cook”. The theme of “Pop Up Kitchen” proved great inspiration and we have had dishes as diverse as Chicken Chow Mein, Fish Tacos, Meatloaf, Katsu Curry, Thai Green Curry, Calzone, Risotto, Focaccia, French Onion Soup, Churros, cheesecake, eclairs and a host of cakes and tarts too. The overall standard from the 25 students has been extremely high with them demonstrating skills that professional chefs would be proud of. Many of you will know I take my role as “assessor” (or chief taster) very seriously and always leave feeling very proud and very full. I have had to apologise to more than one student this week about going back in for seconds (or thirds) meaning their take-home portion was markedly smaller than they might have been expecting! As this is exam work, we can't share any images of the final dishes unfortunately – but they will certainly form part of the end of year wrap up when we get there in July! A massive thank you to Mrs Ashley and Mrs Skitt.

Thursday morning was the deadline for Y9s to return their options form – I am very pleased to say we have maintained the 100% record (9th year) for forms being handed in. The long and fun process of analysing the data, deciding on options blocks and



allocating students now begins! A huge thank you to Ms Jackson and her Year 9 tutor team for chasing students to ensure this work can begin promptly.

Thursday also saw a group of students from Years 8 and 9 take part in a NHS careers day which involved talks and insights from different Healthcare professionals into their jobs and how they fitted into the bigger picture. Again, thank you to Ms Jackson for organising this opportunity and working with the students across the day so that they got the most from the event.



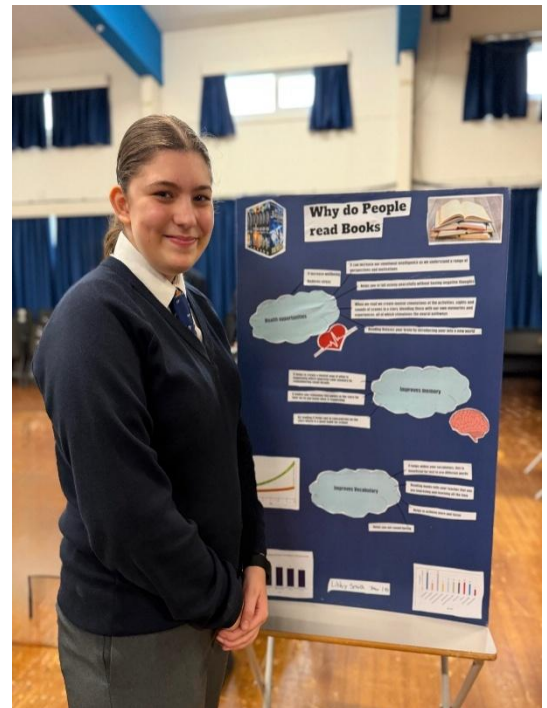
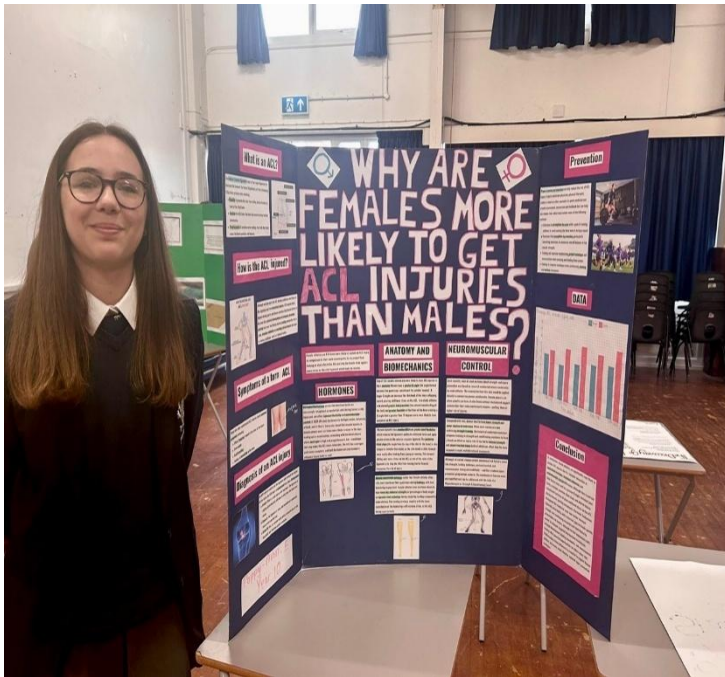
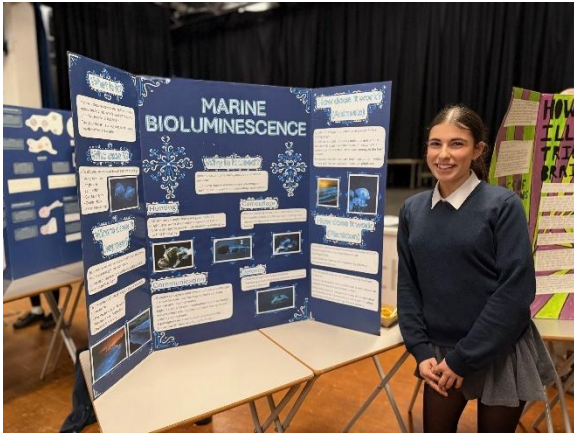
This afternoon our Archery troop have headed off to Wallingford to play in a fixture. Sadly, the lovely weather hasn't sustained and so it will be a bit of a damp affair, but they were upbeat and excited for the opportunity to pit their skills against other teams again. Thanks to Mr Kafroshi for taking them and for the encouragement you show them.

And finally, today we hosted the Science Fair at lunchtime. There were well over 50 student stands from Year 7-10 which varied from posters on particular scientists, specific discoveries to personal areas of interest and research. Students then presented their research to other students and staff. It was lovely to hear their enthusiasm and confidence in their presentations – the content of which was hugely varied – the prevalence of ACL injuries in female athletes, the science of DeJaVu, marine bioluminescence, the life cycle of a star, the work of Rutherford and Edison and the process of nuclear fusion! A handful of photos included below to give you a flavour of the presentations and details will follow next week with the winners as voted for by staff. A huge thank you to Mr Mav and the Science team for their encouragement of all students to take part and to the students themselves for embracing the challenge! You can see the pictures from this event at the bottom of this letter.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Miss E Bliss
Headteacher





Science Fair 2026

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