



The Fountains High School

Spring Term 1



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Executive Headteacher Update

As we reach the end of a busy term, I want to thank our students, families, and staff for their continued positivity and commitment. Fountains High School continues to be a place built on *Kind Hearts, Wise Minds and Brave Souls*, and that has been evident in every corner of the school over the past few weeks.

World Book Day was a real highlight, with staff and students fully embracing the day. The effort, creativity, and sense of fun showcased everything that makes our community special. Thank you to everyone who helped bring the event to life.

Our Next Steps Event was another significant moment in the school calendar. It was fantastic to welcome so many partners, including Derby College, Burton and South Derbyshire College, Lotus Care, Mencap, and others, who provided valuable guidance about future pathways. The engagement from families and students was excellent, and it reinforces our commitment to strong preparation for adulthood.

We've also continued to strengthen links with the local community, including the collaboration with the East Staffordshire Family Hub and their work supporting families with uniform and wider services. It's always encouraging to see the community supporting one another.

We also wished Holly Lakin our best wishes and good luck. Holly has been offered a fantastic opportunity to be part of a new team to support young adults with SEND support into Adulthood. Our new Designated Safeguarding Lead, Jasmeen Prada, has started and will be introducing herself over the coming weeks, if she hasn't already.

As we move into the next half-term, our focus remains firmly on providing the very best for our students; academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for being part of our journey and for helping us create a school where every young person belongs, believes, and becomes.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Gareth Allen

Executive Headteacher

Spotlight on Attendance

Our whole-school attendance currently stands at 90.16%, which is an impressive 4.4% above the national average.

We are also incredibly proud to celebrate the 20 students who have maintained **100% attendance** so far this academic year.

A huge thank-you to all our staff and to parents and carers for their continued support in encouraging students to attend every day. Your efforts make a real difference to their progress and wellbeing.

Chris Mulvenny

Attendance and Inclusion Officer | Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Key Stage 3

Medieval Britain – Class 3M3

Class 3M3 have had a fantastic time exploring Medieval Britain this term.

Students brought history to life by designing and building their own model motte-and-bailey castles, complete with towers, defensive walls and moats. As part of the topic, they also created working mini trebuchets and had great fun testing them to see how far they could launch their projectiles.

This activity was a brilliant mix of creativity, teamwork and hands-on learning. Well done to everyone in 3M3 for their fantastic effort!

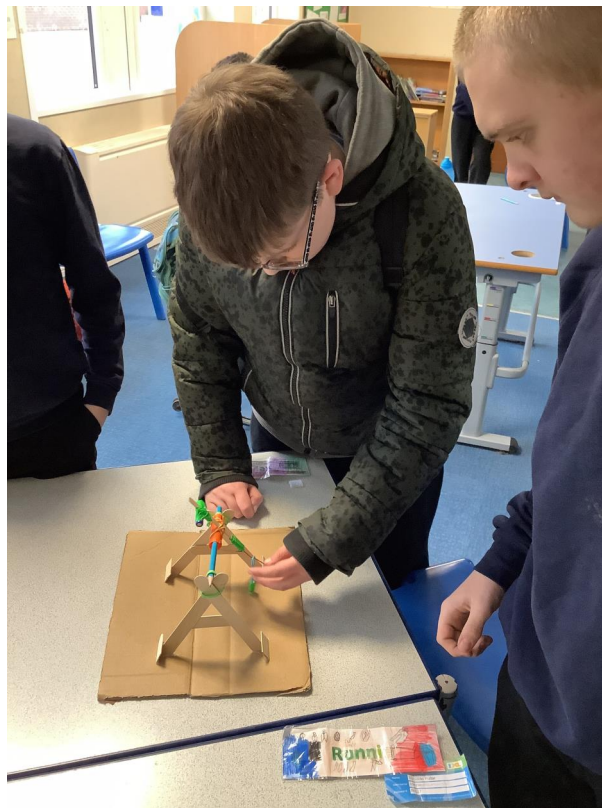
Whitemoor Lakes Residential

Twenty-seven KS3 Nexus and Mosaic students recently enjoyed an exciting residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes. Despite the weather, students took part in a wide range of activities including canoeing, archery, climbing, gladiator challenges and fencing.

Students showed fantastic teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm throughout the trip and had a brilliant time trying new experiences.

Mary, Queen of Scots Visit

KS3 Nexus classes welcomed historian Lesley Smith, who visited the school to present as Mary, Queen of Scots, bringing history to life through an interactive session. Lesley was impressed by the students' engagement in the session, and the myriad of questions they asked.





KS3 Enterprise – Ceramic Easter Bunnies

Students in 3N3 have been busy painting and decorating ceramic Easter bunnies as part of an Easter-themed Enterprise project.

As part of the project, Blu Hardy from Hardy Signs visited the students and spoke to them about how products are designed, created and sold. Students used this advice to develop their own unique bunny designs, learning more about how small businesses work.

The finished bunnies will be available to purchase from the school shop next week, with all funds raised going towards the School Community Fund.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the project, gaining experience not only in creative design but also in understanding the basics of enterprise and running a small business.





Key Stage 4

The Yorkshire Sculpture Park Visit

On Tuesday, KS4 Art Options students visited Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield to support their Life Skills challenge and WJEC Entry Level 3D Studies coursework.

Students were very fortunate to have beautiful weather, which allowed them to explore both the indoor galleries and the outdoor sculpture park. During the visit they were able to see a wide range of sculptures created by well-known artists, including Damien Hirst, William Kentridge, and Henry Moore.

The trip gave students the opportunity to experience art in a real-world setting and gather inspiration for their own creative work.







KS4 Enterprise – Painting the Precambrian

Students in KS4 Enterprise recently took part in an exciting community project with the National Forest called *Painting the Precambrian*.

As part of the project, students painted fossil designs that were displayed at Bradgate Park during the 'Geopark in the Dark' event that took place from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th March.

The event recreated what the Precambrian seabed may have looked like millions of years ago, and brought together artwork created by thousands of volunteers and school children from across the local area.

Our students really enjoyed being part of the project and were proud to represent the school in a community event. Rob Driver from the National Forest also visited to congratulate the students on their fantastic work and effort.



Kaleidoscope

Spring Learning

Kaleidoscope students have been exploring lifecycles and the theme of Spring across the curriculum this term.

Students have enjoyed a range of engaging activities including sensory stories, science lessons and community visits. During one visit along the Jinny Trail, students went searching for frogspawn and spent time identifying plants and flowers in the sensory garden, helping them connect their learning to the world around them.

Everyone also had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day, with students dressing up and taking part in sensory storytelling and reading activities in a variety of different environments.

Eid Celebration

On Wednesday 18th March, staff and students from Kaleidoscope invited parents and carers into school to enjoy a day of Eid celebrations through a range of exciting multi-sensory activities. They took part in food tasting, created their own Eid cards and decorations, and had the opportunity to try on traditional clothes, jewellery, and henna designs. It was a joyful and engaging experience that helped everyone learn more about this special festival.

K5 at Scropton Horse Centre

K5 have absolutely thrown themselves into their voluntary work at Scropton Horse Centre.

From mucking out to getting fully involved in every task, students have shown fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork and determination.

Their hard-working attitude and positive mindset have really stood out, and they have represented both themselves and Fountains High School brilliantly in the community.

We couldn't be prouder of you, K5!

Photos from the visit can be seen below.











School Council & Committees

School Council Trip to London

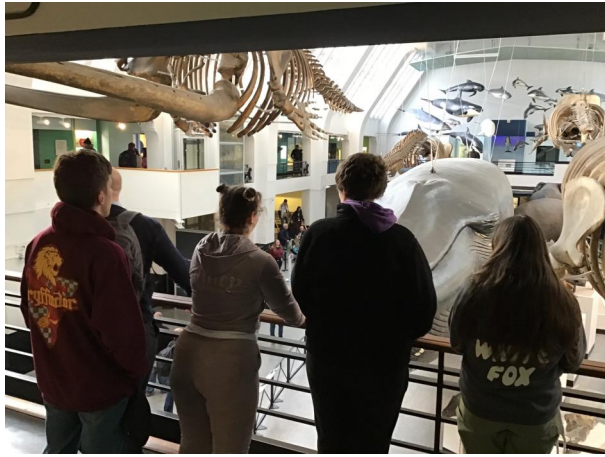
In January, our School Council had an unforgettable trip to London.

The highlight of the day was a fascinating tour of the Houses of Parliament, where our fantastic guide, Joe, took students through the history, traditions and important role Parliament plays in shaping laws and representing people across the UK. Students were particularly interested in learning how young people can have their voices heard and how everyone can play a role in democracy.

The day also included a visit to the Natural History Museum, where students explored the galleries and discovered some of the museum's incredible exhibits.

From navigating busy train stations to choosing and buying their own meals, the trip became a fantastic enrichment experience. Students developed confidence, independence and teamwork skills while creating memories that will last a lifetime.







Post 16

Post-16 celebrated **World Book Day** in truly magical style this year!

A Magical Takeover

The department was transformed for the day with a fun Harry Potter-themed takeover. Students were greeted by “wizards” around the department, bringing lots of laughter and a touch of magic to the celebrations.

Alongside this, students took part in special STARBOOKS reading events, held both at the Coffee Bean Café and at Post-16 BSDC. These created a relaxed and welcoming space for students, staff and visitors to enjoy books together, share favourites and discover new reads.

It was fantastic to see everyone getting involved, with a real buzz around reading throughout the day.

Author Visit – Darren Simpson

As part of the celebrations, students also welcomed author Darren Simpson, who delivered “World Building” workshops inspired by his book *The Memory Thieves*, which students have been reading this term.

Students explored how authors create imaginative worlds and were really engaged throughout the session, sharing ideas and developing their own creative writing.

Darren also spoke about his journey to becoming an author, which students found both inspiring and encouraging.

Feedback was very positive, with students describing the session as informative, enjoyable and engaging.

Potting Shed

Students in the Potting Shed group supported the Branston Pickle Trail, a community art trail taking place on 28th March 2026 with local businesses across the area getting involved.

As part of this project, students filled one of the trail pots with a colourful mixture of spring plants and helped to improve the local environment by taking part in a litter pick around the surrounding area.

Back at the Potting Shed, students have also been busy preparing for Easter, creating Easter wreaths and planting up Easter baskets. These activities help students develop practical gardening skills, creativity and teamwork while spending time outdoors.

The Coffee Bean

Coffee Bean Café – Mother's Day Event

Students involved in the Coffee Bean Café enterprise project recently hosted a special Mother's Day event, welcoming families and guests to the café to celebrate together.

Visitors were able to enjoy refreshments in a warm and welcoming atmosphere while students supported the event by helping to prepare and serve items in the café.

The event was a lovely opportunity for students to showcase their hospitality and teamwork skills, while celebrating with members of the school community.





Other News

Safeguarding Update

We would like to let you know that we have a new **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** **Jasmeen Padda** at the school.

The DSL helps to make sure all students are safe, supported and well cared for.

If you have any concerns, please contact the school and ask to speak to the safeguarding team.

Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassador Achievement

We are delighted to share that Anthony and Toby have recently been awarded Ambassador Status with the Holocaust Educational Trust after successfully completing and submitting his project and reflection.

This is a fantastic achievement and recognises the dedication shown in learning about the history and lessons of the Holocaust. As part of the Ambassador role, students help to share the important lessons from Auschwitz with others, promoting understanding, remembrance and the importance of challenging prejudice.

We are incredibly proud of Anthony and Toby for this achievement and the commitment they have shown throughout the programme.





World Book Day

Earlier this term, we celebrated World Book Day across the school.

Students and staff enjoyed a range of fun activities, including dressing up, sharing stories and taking part in reading sessions. It was lovely to see everyone getting involved and enjoying books together.

A special well done to our staff costume winners, who helped make the day even more fun and memorable for everyone.

World Book Day gave students the chance to explore new stories, share their favourites and enjoy the magic of reading.

 *Take a look at some of our favourite moments below.*







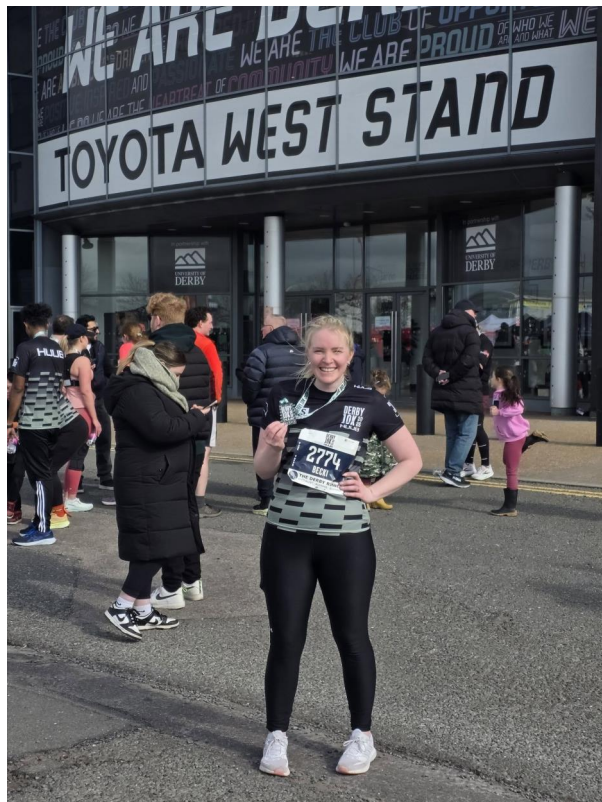
Fundraising Success

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Becki Shelton's Derby 10K run on Sunday 15th March in aid of the Kaleidoscope and Mosaic Festival.

Becki completed the run in an amazing 1 hour 18 minutes, and together we have raised £740 so far!

The GoFundMe page is still open for any last-minute donations. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated, shared support and wished Becki good luck.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fountains-high-school-kaleidoscope-mosaic-summer-festival>



Our Superstar Senior – Cracker

We were delighted to welcome Shannan, SEND Team Manager from Provide Education, into school to present a very special award to our much-loved school dog, Cracker.

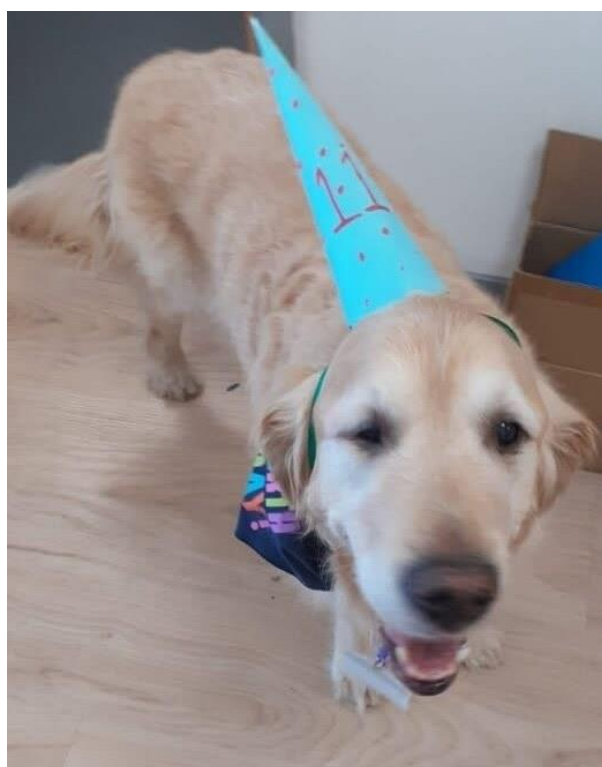
Cracker has officially been recognised as a “Superstar Senior” in this year’s pet show – and we couldn’t agree more!

For nearly 11 years, Cracker has been a huge part of life at Fountains High School. He has supported students during important moments, joined trips and activities such as Duke of Edinburgh, sponsored walks and residentials, and has even spent time supporting a local SEND primary school.

Cracker has brought comfort, boosted confidence, and made people smile on difficult days. He continues to be a calm and friendly presence for both students and staff.

He has recently celebrated his 12th birthday. He may be slowing down slightly, but he still loves coming into school, listening to students read and being part of our community

We are so proud of our Superstar Senior – well done, Cracker!





Miles for Smiles

We've had some exciting deliveries at Fountains!

The amazing team at Miles for Smiles have kindly raised funds for four brand new activity benches for our students and they've already been a huge hit!

Breaks and lunchtimes are now even more fun, with plenty of smiles all round. A huge thank you to Callum and everyone at Miles for Smiles for your generosity and support, it truly makes a difference to our school community.



Sailing Race Night

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Sailing Race Night.

The event was a fantastic success, with over **£1,500 raised** to support the upcoming sailing trip, an amazing achievement!

It was great to see so many people come together for an evening of fun, including races, raffles and fundraising activities. Your support makes a real difference to the opportunities we are able to offer our students.

We are already looking forward to the next Race Night, so please keep an eye out for future dates and opportunities to get involved.







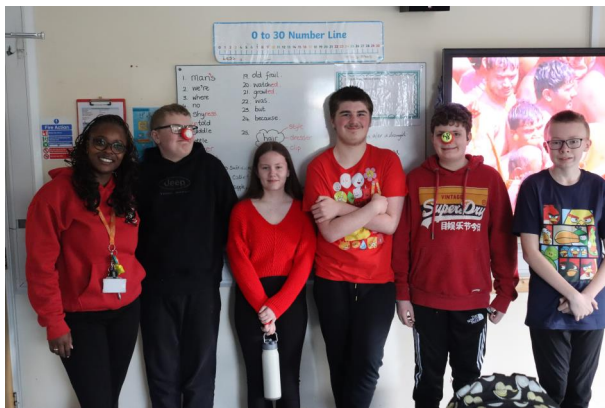
Red Nose Day

We had a fantastic time celebrating Red Nose Day in school!

Students and staff got involved in a range of fun activities, helping to raise money for a great cause while enjoying the day together.

Thank you to everyone who took part, donated and supported the event, your contributions will help make a difference to people's lives.





Sustainability

Sustainability Tip of Term

Please remember to recycle your Easter egg packaging where possible to help reduce waste.

Many Easter eggs come with plastic trays and cardboard boxes, which can often be separated and recycled at home.

Quick Tips:

- Remove chocolate foil and dispose of it correctly
- Recycle cardboard packaging in your paper recycling
- Check local guidance for plastic trays

 Small actions can make a big difference!



Community Notice

We have been contacted by **Five Rivers Child Care**, a fostering agency based in **Bromsgrove** that supports families across the West Midlands and surrounding areas.

They are currently looking for people who may be interested in becoming foster carers. Foster carers provide a safe, supportive home for children and young people who need extra care for a period of time.

Five Rivers provides specialist therapeutic support to both carers and the children they support, and work closely with schools and other services to help young people thrive.

If you would like to find out more about fostering and how you could make a difference in a young person's life, please see the information leaflet attached.



**Five Rivers[®]
Fostering**



*Find out
more here*

Foster with us

If you are interested in a life-changing vocation and can provide a safe, loving home to a child in care, we'd love to hear from you.

0333 0603 962
five-rivers.org

REMINDERS

New School Menu

Our new school menu is now available. Please check the school website or communications sent home for details of the updated menu options.

Parent governors

Fountains High School is looking for one committed Parent Governor to join our Governing Board.

If you're passionate about making a real difference to our school community and supporting the success of our students, we'd love to hear from you!

Contact our School Business Manager hlyon@fountains-high.staffs.sch.uk for more information.

Diary Dates

Monday 13th April- Return to school

Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th April- KS4 Residential to Standon Bowers

Monday 20th to Friday 24th April- Post-16 Sailing Trip

Monday 4th May- Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May- Inset Day for staff. School closed to students.

Monday 11th May to Monday 15th June- GCSEs for some KS4 students.

Thursday 14th to Friday 15th May- Kaleidoscope Post 16 Residential to Lea Green.

Monday 22nd May to Tuesday 2nd June- Half Term Holiday

Tuesday 16th June- Sponsored Walk

Wednesday 17th June- Kaleidoscope Summer Festival 'Fountainsbury'

Monday 22nd June to Friday 3rd July – KS4 Work Experience Opportunities

Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th June- Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Practise Expedition

Thursday 2nd July- Transition Day

Thursday 2nd July- KS3 Afterschool Cookout

Tuesday 7th July - Sports Day

Wednesday 8th to Friday 9th July- Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Qualifying Expeditions

Friday 10th July- Fountains Got Talent

Monday 13th July- Post-16 Leavers Assembly

Tuesday 14th July- KS3 Cinema Visit

Wednesday 15th July- Prom for Years 11, 12, 13, 14

Thursday 16th July- KS4 Seaside Visit

Friday 17th July- Break Up for Summer Holidays

Tuesday 1st to Friday 4th September- Inset Days for staff.

Monday 7th September- School open to students.

[Contact Us](#)



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[Visit us on the web at www.fountains-high.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.fountains-high.staffs.sch.uk)