



Mark Rutherford School

The Rutherford Review

Headlines

Welcome to another jam-packed end of term newsletter, and our final one for this academic year! Again, there is literally something from every area of our school which reflects the amazing achievements of our students who continue to be supported by a committed and hardworking staff body. I continue to be immensely proud to be the Headteacher of our school community. The end of a term is always so busy however, seeing students perform at the Dance Display, Summer Concert, engage fully in Sports Day and celebrate at their Year 11 and Sixth Form proms continues to inspire me every day.

The summer term has been very intense for staff and students with external examinations for our Year 11 and 13s, as well as mock exams for Year 10. We anticipate some very good results in the summer and look forward to seeing students on Thursday 15th (A Level) and Thursday 22nd August (GCSE) to celebrate their achievements. Students in other years have had a wide range of successes to include in Computer Science, Performing Arts, District Athletics, The Brilliant Club and our Year 9 Industrial Cadets. In addition, we held our very first #LitFest!

As a school we have worked hard to drive whole school improvement. The new core values which were introduced in September (**Motivated, Respectful and Successful**) have been embedded and will continue to be underpinned by our Behaviour Policy in September. Our school is a happy and safe place, as evidenced in the parent/carer survey which was sent out at the end of the spring term. Teachers have also been working hard on our curriculum provision to ensure it continues to be broad, balanced, ambitious and knowledge rich. There are a number of changes that will be shared with you in more detail in September.

This academic year we have just four staff leaving:

- Mrs Slade has been our Lead Science Technician for over thirty years! We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.
- Mrs Calcott is relocating to the south west having been with us for over 12 years. She is going to be sorely missed by the Science department and wider school community.
- Miss White is relocating to the north west after she gets married this summer. As an ex-student, ex-trainee and now ex-colleague we have high hopes she will return again at some point!
- Finally, Mrs Keaveney is leaving from the English department to pursue other things.

All have had such a positive impact in our school community and are going to be very much missed. We thank them for their hard work, dedication, commitment and the support they have given our students and the wider school community during their time at our school. We wish them all the best for the future and hope they stay in touch.

Finally, we start the new academic year on Tuesday 3rd September 2024. A letter communicating the arrangements for the first week back will be sent out shortly.

I hope you enjoy reading this term's newsletter and I wish you a lovely safe summer break.

Mrs K Foster,
Headteacher

Mark Rutherford KS3 and KS4 Coders Flying High at Cranfield University

Mark Rutherford School students were in competition with representatives from schools across Beds, Bucks and Northants at the illustrious Digital Aviation and Technology Centre (DARTeC) at Cranfield University, for the prized British Computer Society Coding Challenge 2024 awards.

This year there were 78 entries from around the region and Mark Rutherford Team Terabyte Coding Club students were up for the challenge. Our KS3 students Oliver and Harry (Year 8) were awarded first place for their brilliant Identity Theft Scratch game. In addition, our amazing KS4 team consisting of Jack, Wahid and Jessica, seized a first place award for their excellent and proficient Python coded game based on the topic the Dark Web.

Congratulations to all of the winners and all of the Team Terabyte Coding Club students.

Ms Mussington



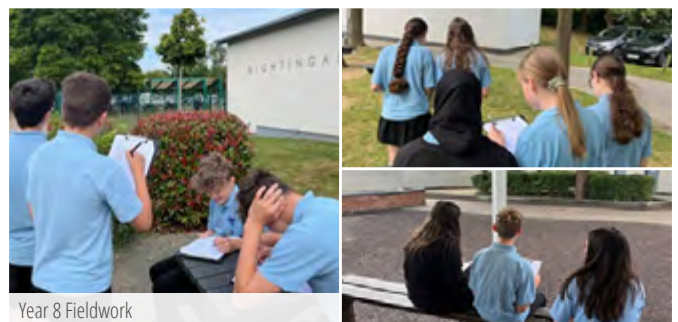
Geography Studies

Year 10 have investigated Ecosystems across the world, particularly focusing upon Tropical Rainforests and Deciduous ecosystems. The year group have also completed their mock exams which have given them a flavour of what next year's exam programme will look like.

Year 9 have studied Watery World and Changing UK landscapes with a particular focus on physical processes and landforms in upland and lowland areas.

Some students in Year 8 have been learning how to conduct a fieldwork study in National Fieldwork Month with a focus upon "How sustainable is Mark Rutherford School?". Students have enjoyed walking around the school grounds to collect and present their findings. We look forward to their conclusions! Other groups in Year 8 have been studying Going Global particularly focusing upon the TNCs, the fast fashion industry and its impacts, Fair Trade and Food Miles. I think they have thoroughly enjoyed the balloon debate and discussing the importance of shopping locally.

Mrs Renfrew



Year 8 Fieldwork

Geography News

It has been a busy and exciting term across the year groups. We have welcomed Mrs Renfrew, Head of Geography. We have said goodbye and very much good luck to our Year 13 and Year 11 Geographers as they have completed their A Level and GCSE exams. Year 11 have travelled to Felixstowe to complete their final fieldwork data exploring coastal processes and management for their Paper 3 GCSE exams. Year 12 and some Year 11 future Geographers were able to participate in an online workshop with the University of Sheffield, and a mix of leading Grammar and Independent Schools across the country to understand more about planning for Sustainable Cities. Our students' ideas and work ethic was exemplary and we had so much positive feedback from the lecturers and advisors.

Year 12 have been busy investigating Hazards and Hazard Management, Exploring Water and Carbon studying Coasts and Contemporary Urban Environments. Just recently they have been starting to think about their NEA (non examined assessment) and in the next few weeks they will have planned and collected data focusing on carbon sequestration around the Bedford embankment area.

Geography Department



Year 12 exploring sampling methods

Year 7 Geography

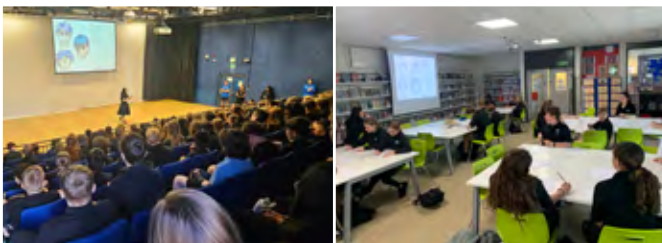
Year 7 have studied a range of topics from Asia looking at culture, climate and landforms, North America learning about people, place and hazards such as hurricanes, volcanoes and earthquakes. Some groups have also learnt about Glaciers and how our landscapes have changed.

Mrs Renfrew

Mark Rutherford Literary Festival

We hosted our first Literary Festival this term. This is a celebration of all things literacy, arts and culture. Students in all year groups were able to access presentations, talks, workshops and book signings from Sonia Leong, Kimba and Seth Burkett. The event has been a huge success and has created a positive dialogue around reading for pleasure and careers. We'd like to thank all involved and we're already planning the next one!

Mr Johnson



Literary Festival Logo

Students were tasked with a competition to design a poster for the Literary Festival. This beautifully designed poster was created by Mellissa in Year 10, encompassing the literary theme as well as Mark Rutherford School's core values. Thank you, Mellissa!

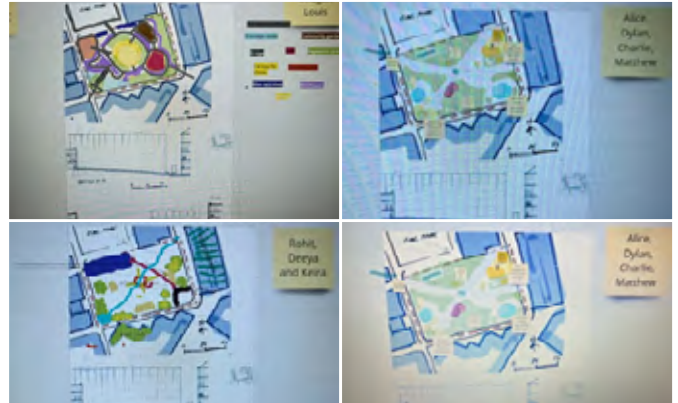
Mr Johnson

Year 12 Sustainable Cities

On Thursday 20th June, the current Year 12 A Level Geography students along with some current Year 11 students were given the opportunity to listen to a talk given by Andy Clayden and Elisa Olivares from the University of Sheffield. They spoke about ways in which cities can become more sustainable through different landscape architecture techniques as well as giving us an insight to future sustainability projects within the University. The talk linked to the contemporary urban environments topic in A Level Geography and therefore was useful in aiding our knowledge.

Furthermore, with the use of the Miro app, we were able to create our own sketch and design of what we imagined a sustainable city to look like. Overall, it was a great experience and a fun way to increase our understanding of urban sustainability.

Deeya, Year 12



Examples of our students work exploring sustainable city plans for a designated area in Sheffield

Scholastic Book Fair

As a part of our Literary Festival, we hosted the Scholastic Book Fair. This is a pop-up event in celebration of reading for pleasure and providing our students with an alternative selection of reading to that which is available in our school library. We had over 200 books of the newest titles from over 60 publishers delivered to the school and students were able to access these throughout the week. I'd like to thank Mrs Unwin for organising this as a part of our successful Literary Festival.

Mr Johnson

Computer Science News

This has been an exciting year for Computer Science students from Years 7 to 13. A trip to Bedford University to attend the Powering Transformation event took place in the Spring term. This gave an insight into higher education and the world of work, which involved taking part in a problem-solving challenge which focused on solving social and environmental issues using technology. This is now a regular event sponsored by tech companies such as Dell. Students had fun doing all sorts of IT related challenges. The day was facilitated by the Talent Foundry, and students had the chance to engage with Dell mentors and university student ambassadors who supported the workshop. Students had an opportunity to ask about higher education and careers in the Tech sector.

Mr Mataire



University of East Anglia AI Event

Artificial Intelligence is outperforming classical programs and human beings in many tasks, doing them faster and more accurately. This is done by combining the power of mathematics and mathematical representations and the speed and computational power of current technology. Dr Laure Daviaud, Associate Professor in Computing Sciences in the School of Computing Sciences at UEA, presented an Online Lecture on the power of mathematics, which allows artificial intelligence to learn and outperform (most of the time) existing technology. This was about linear algebra, probabilities, via optimisation and calculus and how artificial intelligence creates a mathematical representation of the world that we cannot even comprehend.

Back in Bedford, local heads of IT departments in schools meet at Bedford Modern School on the 27th of June to discuss the use of AI in schools. On the agenda was:

- ChatGPT 4.0 and the impact on education
- What has/hasn't worked with AI / ideas for AI use
- How are schools dealing with the age restrictions of AI?

Mr Mataire



Bedford River Project

A group of Year 8 students have been involved in the Bedford River Project this year. We were really pleased to be able to take them on a trip on the John Bunyan Boat (after lots of worries about the river being too high!). They enjoyed a relaxing trip on the river, where we spotted a heron; then we walked down to the Higgins Museum where the staff put on a tour of the museum for us. The students then enjoyed an art workshop with an artist, where they made a collage of a bird's eye view of the River Ouse in Bedford. We also had a prize giving event with many students being awarded for their achievements.

Mrs Unwin

Health and Social Care

Year 12 Health and Social Care students are learning about the roles and responsibilities of professionals and the organisations they work for, how policies and procedures inform practice and the varied needs of individuals who access services within the community. They are bringing their learning to life with a "create a town project"! to be able to apply their knowledge to real life.

Mrs Sacco

Careers

More than 60 Year 9 students met up with representatives from 15 local businesses at our discovery event, and found out about opportunities and jobs in the NHS, interior design, robotics, roofing, engineering, care, defence and accountancy - to name a few! Huge thanks to the local businesses who supported us again; we know how valuable students find the interaction to support their future plans.

Mrs Unwin



Psychology

In the biological topic in Psychology the Year 12 students created brains out of plasticine and labelled them, to help them understand the structure of the brain and what each component controls.

Mrs Sacco



Health and Social Care Event

We were lucky to have a training ambulance on the school site, from the University of Bedfordshire, so students could see inside and talk to the paramedics. As part of our careers in health and care event, we also had representatives from Obex Dentistry, occupational health, Bedford hospital, the Embrace charity, social work, hospital buildings, and health and safety.

Mrs Unwin



Coding Clubs

This year we had a large group of students taking up the Coding Club as an extra-curricular activity. There is a wide variety of activities in both the Junior Coding Club (Years 7 to 8) and the Senior Coding Club (Years 9 and 10). Students took part in the Cyber Challenge which is annually held at Cranfield University in the Summer term. Well done to our three teams who are participating. I had a chance to look at their computer program submissions. A lot of time and effort has gone into those projects. The competition is a positive way to fulfil STEM benchmarks like linking curriculum learning to careers.

Mr Mataire

Dunster House

A number of students took a visit to a local company, Dunster House, to get an insight into the company and how the business has grown and developed. We were impressed that we met the Managing Director, Chris Murphy, who very proudly took us on a tour and showed us lots of new developments and talked to us about the company's ethos and charity projects.

Mrs Unwin



Higgins Workshop

As part of the Bedford River Project, students took part in a workshop at the Higgins Museum. The workshop involved painting and decorating an aerial view of the River Ouse, emphasising the contour lines. Here are some of the students at work.

Mrs Unwin



Take your Child to Work Day

We held our annual Take Your Child to Work Day in April, with 95 Year 8 students going out to the workplace with parents or members of their family, or a family friend. Students visited a variety of places of work and some further afield than Bedford, including Milton Keynes, Warwick and London. They all came back really positive about their experience in the world of work!

Mrs Unwin

First Aid

Learning basic first aid skills is part of our PSHE curriculum. Year 7 and Year 8 students have learnt basic first aid skills including how to treat allergies, asthma, bleeding and choking as well as basic life support skills. Year 8 tutors delivered practical lessons on how to perform CPR and put someone into the recovery position.

Mrs Purcell



Talent Foundry

Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed the sunshine during their tour around the Polhill campus, to find out about student life at the University of Bedfordshire. This was part of the Talent Foundry initiative who encourage students with their career aspirations. The day was featured a team enterprise challenge, which tasked students to come up with an idea about how to use new technologies to address a global issue such as climate change or pollution.

Mrs Unwin



Tyre Challenge

For the Year 8 students who remained in school on Take Your Child to Work Day, we organised an activity where the students were taken off timetable for the day to take part in an enterprise challenge, in small teams using skills such as team building and creative skills. Even though they didn't go to a workplace on the day, we made sure that they had an opportunity to develop their workplace skills, including negotiation and teamwork!

Mrs Unwin

Year 7 Enterprise Project

In their PSHE lessons – Developing Skills and Aspirations - students worked in small groups to come up with an idea for developing the Year 7 grass social area. A winning group from each tutor group was chosen to present their idea to Mrs Foster, Headteacher, and Mrs Simmonds, our Business Manager. Myself, Mrs Foster and Mrs Simmonds were proud, inspired, and awe of the confidence, creativity and enterprise skills our students showed. The winning ideas will be announced before the end of the term and their ideas will become reality.

Mrs Purcell



Make Your Mark Theatre Company

In May, Make Your Mark Theatre Company participated in MTI's Junior Theatre Festival for the third year running. The students were involved in workshops, performances and also had talks from industry successes. It was a very long, but fun filled day that everyone involved loved. Make Your Mark Theatre Company performed a section from Annie Jr, which showcased skills such as acting, physical theatre, vocal ability, choreography and much more. The adjudicators gave us great feedback and loved what we had to offer. Emily and Kyla were selected as our AllStars and got to participate in a featured number at the awards ceremony on the main stage. Mark Rutherford School students were also awarded an 'achievement in dance' trophy to display. A huge well done to everyone involved. We also have lots of exciting trips and performances coming up that we cannot wait to share.

Miss Ellson



Mini-Marathon

Archie in Year 10 took part in the London Mini-Marathon in April and finished 41st out of 280 participants! It was an event that required qualification via County Championships. Congratulations Archie on your achievement!

Mr Taylor



District Athletics Championships 2024

On Friday 17th May we took our Year 7 and 8 Athletics teams to Bedford International Athletic Stadium for the 2024 District Athletics Championships. We had a very successful day, with the Year 7 boys' team finishing in 2nd place overall. This was a fantastic achievement, especially considering there were 27 schools in the competition!

Highlights from the day were as follows:

Year 7 Girls:

Molly – 4th in 800m

Year 7 Boys:

Reon – 1st in 100m and 3rd in Discus

George – 2nd in 200m

Harry W – 3rd in 800m and 3rd in Shot Putt

Harry F – 2nd in Javeli

Year 8 Boys:

Nathan – 2nd in High Jump and 4th in 300m

Fraser – 1st in 1500m

Year 8 Girls:

Neve – 2nd in 100m

Year 7 Boys team:

Reon George Harry F Milosz

Noah Harry W Chase

Mr Snowdon



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Speakers

In recent months we have welcomed an array of visitors to speak to Year 12 students. Phil Critchlow, CEO and Founding Director of multi-award winning content and events agency TBI Media, spoke about his career and company. Mr Critchlow began as a BBC trainee. After working across the corporation, he moved to Unique Broadcasting before becoming Director of Programmes. In 2016 he was made a Fellow of The Radio Academy, was given a Lifetime Achievement award for services to broadcasting in 2018. In 2021 he was awarded an OBE for Services to Radio and Television.

Ex-student Jamie Bridge always provides an entertaining delivery. He spoke about his route from school to advising on drug policy across the world. As a harm reduction professional, he is Chief Operating Officer at the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).

Michelle Nelson and Neville Palmer from the University of Bedfordshire addressed Year 12 students about their academic careers and routes into their current roles. Michelle, who is a Senior Lecturer, has current doctoral research interests exploring how Early Years Educators use language to make sense of the behaviour of children in early years settings. Neville is also a Senior Lecturer has worked in the field of Youth and Community work for over 20 years and have been involved in a variety of youth projects during that time.

Mr Nicholls

Oxbridge Chat

Former student Orla who is currently studying Geography at Newnham College, Cambridge spent time with those interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge. She explained the application process including interviews. She further explained the life of a student at Cambridge including how to manage the workload. Orla is the second Mark Rutherford School Geographer in recent years to study at Cambridge. In the Autumn we work with other schools to support our Oxbridge entrants, including providing interview practice.

Mr Nicholls

Medical Talk

Prospective medical students attended a talk provided by Nottingham University at Bedford School. This explored how to apply as well as what the medical school expects of its students. Students had the opportunity to tackle an exemplar UCAS question. This seeks to identify the potential for individuals to be successful, based upon aptitude.

Mr Nicholls



Wadham Project

Mark Rutherford School is the lead school for the Wadham Project in North Bedford. Alongside students from St Thomas More School, we organised a Year 10 visit to Wadham College in Oxford. The project aims to extend the experience of GCSE students beyond the school curriculum to enhance their academic potential. This year students had to solve a chemical quandary to access a locked box. The visit also allowed students to explore the college and the internationally renowned Pitt Rivers Museum. Another highlight was lunch with existing students and academics.

Mr Nicholls

Year 13 Valedictory Ball

This year the leavers' valedictory ball was held at Woodlands Manor in Clapham. Staff and students enjoyed a lovely meal. There were prizes for various categories including best dressed. JF Discos and Dean Maudsley provided the entertainment. Dean mesmerised with his tricks and magical turns. It was a tremendous send off to our Year 13 and we wish them all the best for the future.

Mr Nicholls

Brilliant Club Scholars' Programme

This year fourteen Year 12 students participated in the programme which is taught and assessed at university level. The subject this year looked at the development of the physical copies of Shakespeare's books and was entitled 'Shakespeare or not Shakespeare?

That is the Question.' The course tutor Michelle Michel is currently studying at the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham and brought a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm. As a result, eleven students gained first class grades with three others gaining a 2:1. This was a fantastic outcome and was rightfully celebrated with graduation at Selwyn College in Cambridge.

Mr Nicholls



Sixth Form Team on Tour!

The Sixth Form team visited Castle Newnham School on Wednesday 26th June to take part in their 'Next Steps' day for Year 9 and Year 10 students. A number of post-16 providers were present at the event, and there was a great deal of interest from students, in the range of subjects offered in the Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School. Year 12 students Sara and Maryam did a fantastic job in representing our school, and spoke confidently to prospective Sixth Form students about their experience of changing schools after Year 11. We all encouraged Castle Newnham students to attend our Year 11 in Year 12 open evening, which will take place on Thursday 14th November. Look out for more details in September.

Ms Vallance



Degree Apprenticeships

An interesting and important event was hosted at Biddenham Upper School on Tuesday 25th June, as a number of Degree Apprenticeship providers presented information to schools' Careers and Sixth Form leaders. Speakers from Specsavers Audiology, Network Rail, Unilever and FCDO Services talked about the Degree Apprenticeship routes available to students, about the opportunities on offer (especially 'earn while you learn!'), and about how to go about finding and applying for Degree Apprenticeship courses. This exciting option is one that we will be supporting some of our students to explore over the next academic year, alongside completing their UCAS applications for traditional degree courses.

Ms Vallance

UCAS Discovery Day

On Monday 17th June, all Year 12 students attended a UCAS Discovery Day at the University of Bedfordshire, on the Polhill Campus. At the event, students had time to browse the impressive range of post-18 options available to them, as Universities, Colleges, Apprenticeship providers and more were on hand to give the information, advice and guidance that students need as they consider their next steps and future plans. Students gathered a wealth of prospectuses on the day, and attended various talks on subjects ranging from accountancy to zoology! The day was a huge success and has inspired students to focus on the applications they will need to make as they begin Year 13.

Ms Vallance

UCAS Evening

Following the Discovery Day event, Year 12 students and their parents/careers attended an evening presentation delivered by resident UCAS expert, Mr Nicholls. The talk introduced families to the UCAS process, offered hints and tips to secure offers from higher education providers, and kick-started the focus on life post-18 that will come around quickly for students! The event was well-attended, and this is testament to the diligent approach of our Sixth Form students, as the talk clashed with England's Euros game against Denmark!

Ms Vallance



Year 12 Induction Day

It was fantastic to welcome new Year 12 students to the Sixth Form on Wednesday 3rd July, as they returned to Mark Rutherford School after their gruelling exam schedule, to take the next steps in their post-16 education. Our ex-Year 11 students were delighted to see Mr Snowdon and Mrs Mawer helping out on the day, and we were lucky to meet the students who have chosen to join us from other schools in the Borough and beyond.

After a tasty breakfast in the Common Room, new Year 12 students then attended their tutor groups with Year 13 students, who were on hand to ensure a smooth transition for anyone who might have been feeling nervous about the step up to the Sixth Form. Classes for all subjects that are taught in the Sixth Form were then provided for students, and teachers did a great job of ensuring that students left feeling excited about returning to school in September, when they will be able to follow courses in their specialist subjects, their favourite subjects, and in subjects that will prepare them for their future education and career choices.

The day concluded with a brief assembly that the Sixth Form Council also attended, and we look forward to students coming back after the Summer holiday, ready to explore the range of leadership opportunities offered post-16, as well as ready to work hard on their new courses.

Ms Vallance

Industrial Cadets Bronze Award Celebration Event

We attended the celebration event on Friday 28th June at the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge.



Honey, Jake and Mr Betts set off in a taxi in the morning together with our display materials and model.

Arriving at 9.15, Honey and Jake setup our stand.



There was a welcome speech in the lecture theatre and...



Then there was time to look at all the other teams stands and do a networking quiz, before we had a tour of the Engineering department.

After lunch we went back into the lecture theatre for a presentation by three Platinum Award cadets which involved a year long paid internship with an engineering company.

Then on to the awards. Everyone was presented with their Bronze award badge.



We were congratulated by Mr David Sobo, the Operations Director for EDT, the organisers of the event. Then trophies were given out for the best teamwork, innovation and project of the year.

We were runners up along with Notre Dame High School in the Innovation category.



Notre Dame went on to win the Peoples Choice award.

Well done to Honey and Jake for their attitude and behaviour on the day both were a credit to themselves and the school.



The Sixth Form STEM scholars - Future Leaders!

Every year our Smarties STEM club goes from strength to strength and it wouldn't be the success it is without our amazing group of Sixth Form STEM scholars.

This year, we had nine sixth formers initially, all eager to run the club, Marcella, Vincenzo, Amber, Ally, Inara, Maryam, Sumaya and Nuha. The Sixth Form students were participating in a Villiers Park Future Leaders programme. As part of the programme the students develop a range of skills including planning and organisation, research, communications and confidence coached by skilled mentors from Villiers Park Educational Trust based in Cambridge.

We are incredibly proud of the team for all their efforts and dedication. Sadly, Inara left the team early due to other commitments, however her contribution doesn't go unrecognised. We asked them to sum up what they achieved this year and highlight some of the incredible events they planned and organised themselves:

"Our Smarties Club, held every Wednesday, was an engaging and educational experience for Year 7s and 8s. Each week, students participated in a variety of exciting STEM activities, science experiments, and challenges, such as the egg drop, flame tests, and slime-making. As sixth formers, we thoroughly enjoyed leading these sessions, taking on leadership roles, and guiding the younger students through the fascinating world of science. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved, fostering both learning and fun in a collaborative environment."

"On our exciting primary school STEM Day, young students from nearby schools joined us for a thrilling adventure through spaced themed activities. They engineered creative solutions during the egg drop challenge, simulating how astronauts safely land on other planets. The Elephant Toothpaste was a hit, with kids learning about chemical reactions while imagining rocket fuel propelling them to distant galaxies. Painting the solar system in vibrant colours was also a fun and educational. We enjoyed working together as a team, the day was filled with laughter, learning, and a whole lot of fun!"

Sara, Maryam, Sumaya and Nuha

"On Wednesday 8th of May, we hosted a special after school event for the families of our Smarties STEM club students to showcase what their children have been doing in Smarties club. This event included 5 stalls which allowed the children to show off their STEM skills to their parents. Families took part in activities such as elephant's toothpaste, making slime, testing the aerodynamic properties of paper aeroplanes and using Bunsen burners to identify metal ions. The event was a huge success with 5 families attending. A quote from one parent was "Great for future generations."

Marcella, Vincenzo, Amber and Ally

