South Charnwood High School

'Encouraging excellence, valuing people'

Newsletter Issue 38 – Friday 6th November 2026

Headteacher's message:

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter following what I hope was a restful half-term break for all our families. It has been wonderful to see our pupils return refreshed and immediately re-engaging with our core expectations of being Polite, Prepared, and Productive as we move into the second half of the autumn term.

This edition highlights the vast array of learning and enrichment taking place across South Charnwood. In the classroom, our Year 11 Geographers recently completed human geography fieldwork in Leicester City Centre to prepare for their upcoming examinations. We were also delighted to participate in a successful Guinness World Record reading attempt alongside the National Literacy Trust, with 153,862 readers taking part globally. Meanwhile, our Food Technology department has been selected as one of only 200 UK schools to receive 10kg of rope-grown mussels through the 'Fish in School Hero' initiative—special thanks to Mrs Hemsill for her dedication to secure our allocation over half-term. Reading engagement remains exceptionally strong, with pupils reading over 14 million words in October alone; huge congratulations to our first Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires of the academic year, Bailey in Year 7 and Elizabeth in Year 8!

Beyond the classroom, 48 of our Year 9 pupils demonstrated magnificent resilience, teamwork, and spirit on their Brecon Beacons residential trip, tackling canoeing, rock climbing, and gorge walking. On the sports field, our Year 7 Girls Football team produced an outstanding performance on our 3G pitch to win their CVL tournament and progress to the District Final, while six pupils represented the school admirably at the Leicestershire Schools Cross Country event. Internationally, we are immensely proud of Wiktoria G in Year 7, who placed 4th out of 25 entries at the IDO World Tap Dancing Championships in Prague.

Turning to academic standards and support, the internal analysis of our 2026 GCSE results clearly reinforces national research that regular homework habits directly correlate with higher progress and long-term achievement. As autumn weather brings seasonal illnesses, please read the NHS advice regarding whether your child is too ill for school. We know that high attendance combined with excellent behaviour & completion of homework results in high achievement. Pupils must be in school unless the advice says not to do so. Please review our First Aid update; ensuring pupils arrive equipped for minor ailments helps preserve our medical capacity for urgent needs while encouraging independence. Parents should also note that an updated GO 4 Schools mobile app is rolling out this month for Android and iOS devices.

Looking ahead, we will mark Remembrance Day on Wednesday 11th November. Our Year 11 pupils begin their Mock Exams on Monday 16th November. We are holding a non-school uniform day for Children in Need on Friday 20th November. We also look forward to welcoming local business leaders to our next SCUBA roundtable on Thursday 26th November to explore 'Planet vs. Profit'. Local businesses, large & small, are encouraged to attend.

Finally, please continue sharing your child's successes outside of school via media@southcharnwood.org so we can celebrate them together.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Mr Andrews

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FIRST AID AT SOUTH CHARNWOOD

As the weather changes, we inevitably see an increase in minor illnesses and at the beginning of the school year we reminded pupils about how they should seek support in school when they are unwell.

In particular, we have reminded pupils about the appropriate use of our First Aid provision. Our First Aid team are here for pupils who genuinely need medical attention, for example following a significant injury, a serious allergic reaction, difficulty breathing or feeling faint.

Minor illnesses such as headaches, sore throats, colds and general aches and pains do not normally require First Aid, and our First Aiders are not able to provide pupils with painkillers. The NHS advises that children with a slight cough, runny nose, sore throat or headache can still attend school, provided they are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. The Department for Education also encourages schools to reinforce this message with parents and carers.

We therefore ask for your support in making sure that children are ready for the school day. If they have a minor illness but are well enough to attend, please ensure they have what they are likely to need, such as a water bottle and tissues and where appropriate, consider giving suitable pain relief before they come to school.

During lessons, if a pupil genuinely requires First Aid or is feeling so unwell that they need to go home, they must inform their class teacher. The teacher will issue an out of class pass so the pupil can go directly to the medical room.

Outside of lesson times, during break or lunchtime, pupils who feel unwell or require medical attention can go directly to the medical room. Of course, urgent medical needs will always be dealt with immediately.

This approach helps us to ensure that our limited First Aid capacity remains available for pupils who genuinely need medical attention, while also helping pupils to develop the independence and resilience they need to manage the minor illnesses and everyday challenges that are part of life.

WIKTORIA - TAP DANCING IN PRAGUE

Wiktoria G in year 7 recently returned from a fantastic week in Prague representing at the IDO World Tap Dancing Championships 2026.

Competing in the children duo section, Wiktoria and her partner delivered an outstanding performance, finishing 4th out of 25 starting entries and making everyone incredibly proud!



FAMILY HELP

Family Help are now taking referrals for their Christmas Toy & Food Appeal. This appeal supports children between the ages of 0 to 16 years who live in the borough to receive a gift at Christmas time. In addition to providing families, with food and essential items, The Hinckley Children & Family Wellbeing Centre have successfully run this appeal since 2009. To be eligible for a food voucher, families must meet at least three of the following:

Benefit changes; Benefit delay; Debt; Child holiday meals; Domestic abuse; Sickness/ ill health; Low income; No resource to public funds; Delayed wages; Refused short term benefit allowance; Homeless.

If you feel that you would qualify for this, please let either Mrs Juszkiewicz or Ms Warrington- Ramloll know.

NEW GO 4 SCHOOLS MOBILE APP COMING SOON

A new version of the GO 4 Schools mobile app for Android devices will be available in early November with a new version for Apple iOS devices following shortly after.

What does this mean for Android users?

From 1 November 2026, in the Google Play Store the older version of the GO 4 Schools mobile app for new installations will only be available for users with Android 14 or lower. Existing installations of the old app will be unaffected by this change.

Users who already have the old app installed will continue to be able to use it but should update to the new app when it is available to them. (For users with apps set to auto-update this will be automatic.)

What about Apple devices?

The updated iOS version of the app will be released once it has successfully completed Apple's review and approval process. This is expected to follow soon after the Android release.

SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD AT SOUTH CHARNWOOD

Something rather special is coming to our Food Technology department! South Charnwood High School has been selected as one of only 200 schools across the UK to receive a delivery of rope-grown mussels from Offshore Shellfish.

This exciting initiative will give pupils the chance to explore the journey of sustainable seafood from sea to plate, while learning about the nutritional benefits of mussels and the importance of making environmentally conscious food choices.

A huge thank you to Mrs Hemsill, who sacrificed part of her half-term mornings, waiting at 8am on both Thursday and Friday to secure our 10kg allocation before other Food Technology teachers got there first!

The mussels are expected to arrive later this month, and we can't wait to see what culinary creations our budding chefs come up with. Watch this space!



YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Squad:
Daisy P, Harriett P, Robyn H, Polly R, Lottie P (Captain), Eden B, Elizabeth R, Elsie J, Nevaeh W and Katelyn E.

On Monday 2nd November our Year 7 Girls Football team took part in the first stage of our CVL competition. The venue was our wonderful 3G pitch and we were competing against teams from Brookvale, Hinckley and Hastings. The overall winners advance to the District final.

South Charnwood 3 1 Brookvale
Our opening game against Brookvale started fairly even and with few chances. The game was goalless at half-time. For the second half Lottie was pushed further forward and scored within 2 minutes of the restart. Lottie went on to complete her hat-trick and the girls were off to a well-deserved winning start.

South Charnwood 5 0 Hinckley
Confidence was now high and the girls established a 3 nil lead by half-time. Knowing that goal difference could be important the girls were encouraged to be ruthless and scored a further 2 goals. Lottie scored another hat-trick with Daisy and Elsie also getting on the score sheet. Eden had another superb game in defence.

South Charnwood 1 1 Hastings
It was now all down to the final game. The Girls scored early through Polly and dominated the game. Against the run of play Hastings scored late on and the game finished 1:1. The Girls knew they had a superior goal difference so were crowned overall winners and await to see who their opponents will be in the District Final.

The Girls were an absolute credit to the school and an absolute joy to coach. They should all be proud of their efforts. Mr Whitley.

BRECON BEACONS



On Monday 12th to Friday 16th October, 48 year 9 pupils embarked on their residential trip to the Brecon Beacons.

As the trip leader I would like to say how proud I was to be a part of this experience. Pupils overcame fears, developed their communication and self-confidence and made memories for a lifetime.

Over the week they took part in a mountain walk, canoeing, gorge walking, rock climbing, night walk and orienteering.

Every pupil fully embraced each activity pushing themselves 100%. Well done to all pupils that attended! Thank you for all your hard work and effort.

Miss Newman









THURSDAY
26TH NOVEMBER
4.00 – 6 PM

SCUBA

NETWORKING EVENT

SOUTH CHARNWOOD
UNITED BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Planet vs. Profit: Will you join the conversation?

Today's youth aren't just looking for jobs; they're seeking purpose. They want to work for organisations that balance business growth with responsibility for our planet.

On 26th November at South Charnwood High School, our next SCUBA roundtable brings local business leaders and passionate students together to debate Planet vs. Profit and explore why ethical organisations attract young talent.

We're delighted to welcome key note speakers Emma Chouhan and Gavin Fletcher from East Midlands Freeport, who will share their environmental plans for future-proofing the Freeport. Along side them ex South Charnwood pupil, Amy Langton from Dyson Farming, will give a short presentation on the green initiatives driving more sustainable agriculture.

We're calling on local business leaders to join the conversation, collaborate with our SCUBA students and discover what matters to your future workforce.

SOUTH CHARNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

BROAD LANE
MARKFIELD
LE67 9TB

BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET BY VISITING:

WWW.SOUTHCHARNWOOD.LEICS.SCH.UK/OUR-SCHOOL/SCUBA

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EAST MIDLANDS FREEPORT

CROSS COUNTRY

On Saturday 31st October, 6 South Charnwood pupils attended the Schools Cross Country Race where they completed 3 laps of the 1km route.

In year 7, running their first schools cross country race on behalf of SCHS:

- Jessica G in 12th place
- Lexi H in 15th place



In year 8:

- Lowen G in 5th place
- Lily D in 7th place
- Sophie K in 8th place

In year 11:

- Freya D in 2nd place

Well done to all of the girls and thank you Mr Lockhart for organising.









THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEWORK

Research from across the country shows that homework can make a real difference to pupils' progress, with secondary school pupils benefiting by an average of five additional months' learning.

We wanted to see whether this was reflected in our own pupils' achievements, so we looked closely at our 2026 GCSE results. The findings were very encouraging and showed a clear link between completing homework regularly and achieving higher GCSE grades.

Pupils who completed the most homework achieved significantly better results across a range of subjects. Much of the homework we set is designed to help pupils remember and reinforce what they have learned in lessons, strengthening their knowledge and helping them retain it for the long term.

Homework also helps pupils develop important life skills, including managing their time, working independently and taking responsibility for their own learning.

We believe these habits play an important part in future success, which is why we encourage pupils to develop positive homework routines from Year 7 onwards.

A little effort, regularly, really can make a big difference!

SOUTH CHARNWOOD HELPED TO SET A NEW GUINNESS WORLD RECORD!

Several classes were able to take part in the recent Guinness World Record attempt organised by the National Literacy Trust and the British Council as part of The National Year of Reading.

The record was for the most people reading online together in 12 hours. We have had confirmation today that the record was broken with 153,862 people reading from 92 countries and territories around the world.

Well done to all of our pupils and staff who were able to take part.

ACCELLERATED READER



We are coming to the end of our first marking period for Accelerated Reader with just 3 weeks left for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 pupils to achieve their targets.

Prizes are already being claimed by those who have got there early and amazingly we already have 2 Word Millionaires!

This is a brilliant achievement, so huge congratulations to Bailey in Year 7 and Elizabeth in Year 8.

Don't forget to check up on your child's progress on Accelerated Reader to see how they are doing.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Our Year 11 GCSE Geography pupils recently completed their human geography fieldwork in Leicester City Centre, visiting three areas of urban regeneration: The Cultural Quarter, Gallowtree Gate and The Highcross Shopping Centre.



Students carried out environmental quality surveys, pedestrian counts, land use surveys and field sketches to investigate whether regeneration creates more opportunities or challenges. They engaged enthusiastically throughout, collecting accurate data that will support their judgements and help prepare them for their paper 3 examination.

Well done, Year 11!





Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in

A cough, cold or sore throat

Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

Threadworms

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Should go in (let the school know)

Cold sores

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice & nits

You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Hand, foot & mouth disease

If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Slapped cheek syndrome

Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Seek treatment before returning to school

Impetigo

They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Chickenpox

Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Keep them off (at first)

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Measles

They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

Vomiting & diarrhoea

Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Teen Health

We would like to remind you of a service based in school called Teen Health.

Teen Health work with young people aged 11-19 on three key areas:

- Mental and emotional wellbeing (self-esteem, body image, resilience etc.)
- Healthy relationships (friendships, bullying, violence etc.)
- Risky behaviours (substance and alcohol misuse).

Our allocated worker, Lisa Preston, will be at South Charnwood High School every Wednesday delivering workshops, 1-1s and lunchtime drop-ins.

Anyone can refer including the young person, parent or school. (Please note that Teen Health require consent primarily from the young person to work with them.)

You can find more information and the referral form here.

Leicester Young Carers

The Leicestershire Young Carers Team would like to make you aware of a new confidential text support service available to Young Carers aged 13 - 18. It is called SIDEKICK and is run by the charity Action for Children. All the information about the service can be found here.

This service is a great opportunity for Young Carers to access support in a quick, confidential and anonymous way.

Future Newsletters – Pupil Achievements Outside School

We know our pupils are talented in all sorts of ways, not just in the classroom! We'd love to celebrate their successes and achievements outside of school too.

Has your child been **excelling at a sport, performing on stage, volunteering, raising money for charity, helping others or making a difference in their community?** We want to hear about it!

Send your news (and, if possible, a photo) to **media@southcharnwood.org** and you could see their achievement celebrated in a future newsletter!

Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 11th November, Remembrance Day
- 16-20th November, Year 11 Mock Exams
- Friday 20th November, Non-school uniform day in aid of Children in Need
- Thursday 26th November, SCUBA network meeting
- 7th – 11th December, Year 10 Trip to Seville
- Friday 18th December, £1 donation (cash only), Christmas Jumper Day (worn with uniform)
- Friday 18th December, school closes for pupils at 1.15pm