

February 2026

Carlton celebrates



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP ALL OUR STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR
BEST, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

LIFE AT CARLTON



Welcome to the first Carlton Celebrates of the new academic year. I am really sorry that we haven't shared this with you before now - unavoidable events meant the delay of the Autumn term issue. Rather than have a much smaller Spring term issue we are just going to do two newsletters this year, with this being the first.

As always, it has been an amazing term of individual and community achievements. We started the year with our Prizegiving event and ended with an amazing school show, bookending what has been a busy term and a half.

I spoke to students in the end of half-term assembly commenting on how proud I am of everything that they do. I stand by that statement: our students continue to be amazing and contribute so much to our school community - and this newsletter gives just some examples of this.

Enjoy what our students have been up to and please continue to keep sharing with me what your young people are doing outside of school for us to celebrate too.

Mr Hillyard

SEP-FEB HIGHLIGHTS

269044

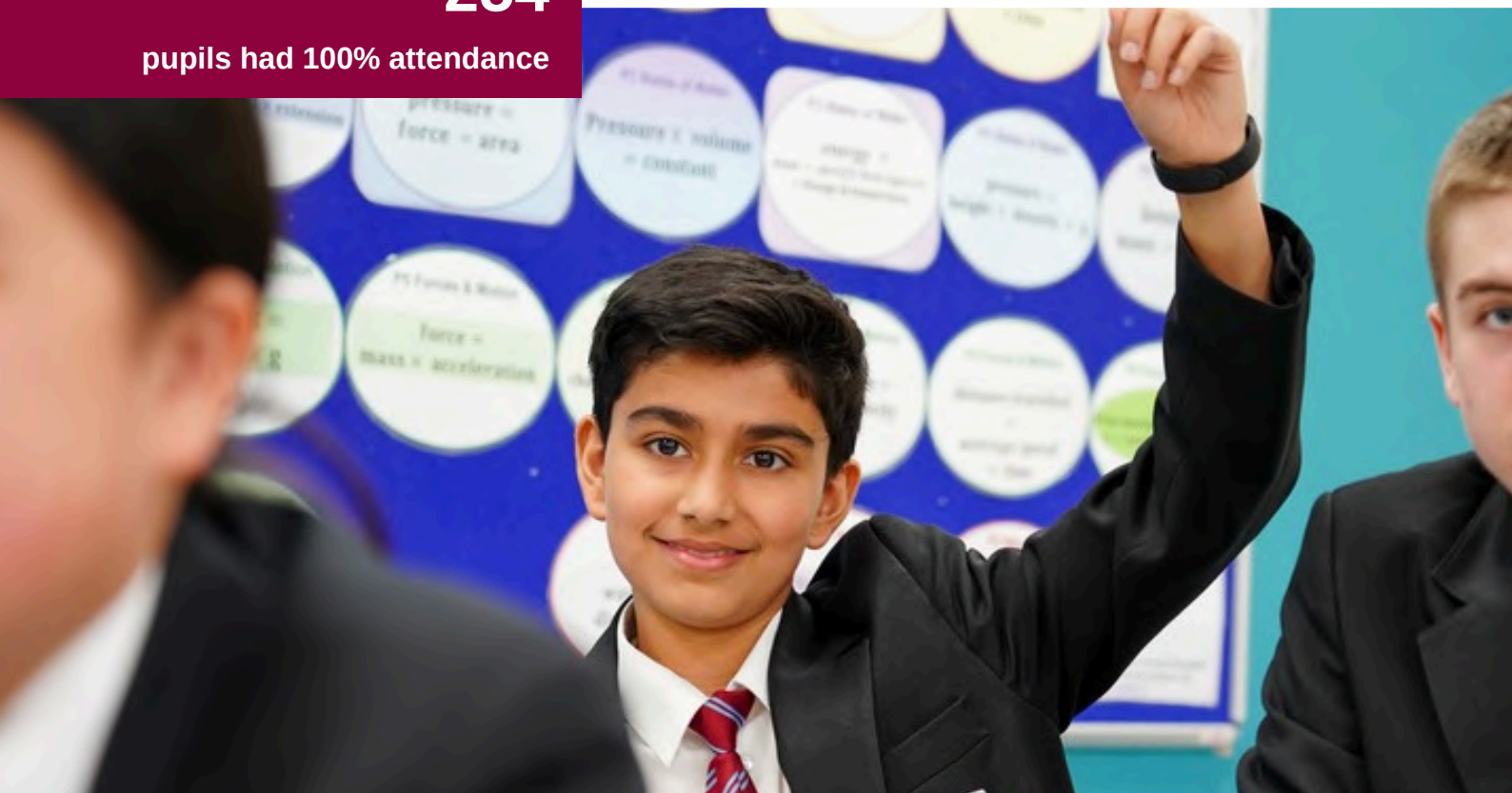
achievement points have been awarded

13775

C+ points have been awarded

254

pupils had 100% attendance



Disclaimer: Not all students who took part in events are mentioned in this newsletter. This is because we do not have consent for this. If your child currently doesn't have consent to have photos and names mentioned in newsletters and they would like to have this, please send them to see Mrs Bull in main reception.



OUR ANNUAL PRIZEGIVING EVENING

One of the first events of the academic year actually rounds off the previous academic year and that is our annual Prizegiving Evening. Held on 23 September, we awarded over 100 awards to students from current Year 8 to those who have now left and gone onto the next stages of their life at college or university, completing apprenticeships or moving onto employment.

The Awards are given to those students who achieve the highest grades in individual subjects. The night was then topped off with the overall awards including the introduction of a new award this year, the CARLTON Learner Award, celebrating the student who encapsulates our CARLTON Learner characteristics. Niamh walked away with the Performing Arts Award, whilst Ellie was awarded the Sports Award. Head boy and girl Philip and Lydia were awarded the Contribution to School Life Awards, whilst Fin and Libby were awarded the Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Outstanding Achievement Awards respectively, for achieving the highest grades in Year 11 and Year 13. Finally, Belle was awarded the inaugural CARLTON Learner Award.



We were lucky to be joined by Paralympian Alistair Patrick-Heselton who shared his inspiring story with the audience. Alistair spent the next day working with some of our students who really benefitted from his insights and motivation.

We were also treated to performances from Micah Watkins (accompanied by mum) and Jess Sims, to really help make the event a special one for all involved.

**Congratulations to everyone
who received an Award!**

FRIDAY REWARDS

The Open Area becomes a hive of celebration and pride on a Friday brektime as students from across the school have a chance to celebrate their hardwork with staff and enter our Golden Ticket prize draw.

5 December 2025 saw the launch of our brand new PROUD station! This is an opportunity for students to bring their work to be celebrated. Students have been joining us to show staff work they are proud of to recieve praise and prizes! We hope to see more students and their amazing work going forward.



Each Friday brektime, with music blaring and a disco lights spinning, students who have earned golden tickets can put themselves into the draw to win prizes. This term students can choose to put their ticket towards winning an iPad, a year's Netflix subscription or a £200 gift voucher! All three prizes draws will be drawn at random at the end of term.

GOLDEN TICKET	NAME: _____
THE CARLTON ACADEMY	TUTOR: _____
EXCELLENT ATTITUDE TO LEARNING, 100% ATTENDANCE & NO LATES	DATE: _____



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: PERFORMING ARTS

At The Carlton Academy the arts are a central part of both our taught curriculum and our Curriculum+ programme. To give you a flavour of this, we want to celebrate the Autumn term journey of the Faculty...



Presented by The Carlton Academy
Book by Dennis Kelly | Music & Lyrics by Tim Minchin

ROALD DAHL
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.

There will be Performances 4 - 6 February 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Theatre. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children and concessions. . We hope to see you there!
Tickets will be available via parent pay.

September

Over 100 students came along to audition for our production 'Matilda' which went on to be performed in February! Students rehearsed every Tuesday & Thursday and it all started to come together nicely as the auditions went on!! The Anything Goes Band also learnt the music to accompany our cast!

We launched our Performing Arts Ambassadors programme for the year after an application process where all our GCSE and A-Level students in Music, Drama and Music Tech could apply to become role models for the Performing Arts across school. They have been paired with a KS3 student with similar skills and have been meeting weekly to work together on performance pieces for our performance evenings throughout the year.

October

We had our first Ambassadors Performance concert on 9 October. These are informal performances where students can perform what they want and with whoever they want to help build confidence. We had some fantastic performances, and the students are always so supportive of each other! A real treat!

Our A-Level Music students sat their Grade 5 ABRSM music theory exam too, which they all passed! Well done to you all!

November

In November we had our first ever West End trip for Year 9 students, an unforgettable experience to London's West End to see The Lion King. From the incredible costumes and powerful storytelling to the breathtaking music and choreography, the production left students feeling inspired and full of excitement for their own creative work.

On 27 November 2025 some of our current and past students had their first headline gig at the Grove in Sneinton Market. The band are called Rosecage and they were amazing! A massive well done to Issac & Noah (along with ex-students Jared & Oscar)!

December

Tuesday 9 December was the turn of the Year 10 Drama class to perform their set text, DNA by Dennis Kelly, to a live audience in the Drama Studio. This was the first of many performance opportunities for them, and they did a fantastic job of showcasing their hard work, commitment, and creativity.

Wednesday 10 December was the second Performing Arts Ambassadors concert where, once again, students choose what to perform and who they wanted to perform with, performing to a small audience of their choosing! Yet another brilliant night full of creative and musical students!



Thursday 11 December was our whole school Christmas singalong in the theatre at lunchtime. It was loud and a lot of fun! Later that evening, Year 7 and students involved in Performing Arts were invited to the Nottingham Arts Theatre to see their annual pantomime, Robin Hood & Babes in the Wood. We had the entire theatre to ourselves, and it was wonderful to see staff and their families joining us for such a special event. We hope to make this an annual department tradition, as it was a fantastic evening filled with festive fun and community spirit. We were especially proud to see a number of our students performing in the show, including Emily and Mia as well as several ex-students who returned to the stage with outstanding performances.

Matilda

Our students and

staff smash it again!

The start of February saw our 9th school production come together. Matilda was a complete success with 115 students involved both on and off the stage and a live band made up of students and, for the first time in Carlton history, staff members too! Big shout out to Ms Brodie and Mr Harness!

The story is about a brilliant, neglected young girl with telekinetic powers who uses her intellect to overcome her abusive, dishonest parents and a tyrannical headmistress, Miss Trunchbull. Matilda finds support in her kind teacher, Miss Honey, and ultimately finds a loving home while teaching important lessons about resilience and standing up for oneself.

With a split cast consisting of team Newt and team Chokey, students had been rehearsing since last October.

The show itself was slick and professional and had so many funny and endearing moments between the characters.



A huge well done to everyone involved – now we have the difficult decision about what will be our 10th production for 2027!

READING UPDATE

BOOKBUZZ 2025

The Carlton Academy reading year started with Bookbuzz. Bookbuzz is a reading programme from the BookTrust that inspires a love of reading in 11 and 12-year-olds. Our students were able to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 16 stunning titles all carefully selected to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure. The most popular choices this year were *I Am Rebel* by Ross Montgomery and *The Girl who Couldn't Lie* by Radhika Sanghani.



THE REDHILL ACADEMY TRUST BOOK AWARD 2025 - 2026

Small groups of students in each of our Trust Primary and Secondary academies in Years 6-11 are currently reading and reviewing the twelve shortlisted titles and voting for their favourite book before we open up the vote to the thousands of students across our Trust to vote for their favourite front cover and first line. This will culminate in a huge event at The Carlton Academy on 13 March 2026 which will be hosted by Ben Davis who won our Children's Book Award in March 2022 with *The Soup Movement*. Our book groups are busily reading, reviewing and discussing their favourites (or not!) in their weekly meetings.





PE Update

Here's our sporting round up of the last term and a half...

September

17 On 17 September, the Year 11 girls' netball team took part in a netball competition going up against several other schools. They got one draw, and played very well in all their matches, never giving up. They displayed great sportsmanship throughout and should all be very proud of themselves

24 On 24 September, the Year 11 boys' football team played a match against Elizabethan. They played an excellent game and won with the score 5-1. Well done to Jenson, Alex and Toby for each scoring a goal, and to Liam who scored twice!

29 On 29 September, the Year 8 girls' football team played a match against West Bridgford as part of the U13 County Cup. They all played brilliantly and won with an amazing score of 5-1.

October

1 On 1 October the Year 9 girls' netball team played a match against Carlton le Willows. Even without winning the girls played an excellent game, getting used to their positions within the game and gaining confidence playing as a team.

2 On 2 October the Year 7 boys' football team played a match against Farnborough. They all played excellently and won with a score of 4-2. Big congratulations to Alex who scored all four goals and Noah with some amazing blocks!

6 On 6 October the Year 9 boys' football team played a match against Rushcliffe. Despite losing on penalties, all the students played excellently and remained well-mannered even though there were some questionable refereeing decisions. Well done to Keegan and Joel who both scored goals and our super goalie for saving a penalty!

7 On 7 October the Year 7 girls' football team played a match against Rushcliffe. Although they didn't win, they showed excellent resilience and teamwork, getting more comfortable with their team and positions, gaining confidence in the game as a team.

8 On 8 October the Year 9 girls' netball team played matches against Carlton le Willows and Arnold Hill. The team played amazingly throughout, beating Carlton le Willows 3-0. Despite losing to Arnold Hill, they had an incredible score and should feel very proud of themselves.

16

On 16 October the Year 9 girls' football team played a match against South Nottinghamshire Academy, winning with an impressive score of 7-1. The girls showed an incredible amount of team work, especially those who stepped up and shared playing in goal.

On 16 October the Year 11 boys' football team played a match West Bridgford. They played brilliantly, earning them a win with the score 1-0. Well done to William who made some unbelievable saves and Charan who scored the goal.



November

Throughout November the Year 7 girls' football team took part in several CVL Football events, playing matches against a variety of different teams including Arnold Hill, Redhill, Rushcliffe and more. All the girls performed well throughout, improving their skills as they grew their confidence working as a team. Well done to all players for showing resilience and excellent teamwork despite the chilly temperatures and tough conditions!

13 On November 13 the Year 10 boys' football team took part in a U15 Cup match, winning 3-0 against Newark! Congratulations to our goal scorers on the night.

19 The Year 7 boys' and girls' football teams were in action. Despite their best efforts, the boys lost 4-1 to Redhill. The girls played in 3 friendlies in the CVL. They played very well, trialling new positions and some new goalscorers came through! The weather was very tough with temperatures down to 0 so huge respect to both groups for playing through these tough conditions.

21 16 students took part in the Nottinghamshire Indoor rowing championships. Some races had over 50 entries. There were 6 medalists in individual events including: Lilly-Grace (Year 7 girls - bronze), Nash (Year 9 boys - bronze), Maria (Year 10 girls - bronze) and Oliver (Year 9 boys - silver). We also now have the reigning Year 8 girls' Nottinghamshire Champion too. Additionally, relay races were undertaken with pupils performing up a year e.g Year 7 students combined with the Year 8s and competed in the Year 8 relay and Year 9s did the same for Year 10 relays. The Year 8 boys' relay team finished 4th, Year 10 girls' relay finished 3rd and the Year 8 girls' and Year 10 boys' were champions both having a winning margin of over a 100m. Well done to everyone involved.

25 The Year 7 boys' football team advanced in the County Cup beating George Spencer 3-2.

26 The Year 7 girls' football team played 3 games in the CVL. They won two and the third team forfeited their game. Well done to all involved!

3

The Year 9 girls were involved in CVL action. They won one against CLW (1-0, scorer was Bea) but lost the other 2. The girls showed great resilience in this difficult tournament experience as they were off for 3 games in a row, in cold conditions. so it was difficult to keep warmed-up. Well done for the resilience girls!

The Year 7 girls' netball teams had their first competitive experience. Team black won one game 2-1 and lost one game 2-1. Team pink lost both games but only to a single goal in their second game. This was the first experience of a competitive game for all the girls and Mrs Malone and Miss Wynn were very proud of how they played after only 10 hours of netball training. They saw lots of potential within the group!

10

Our U16 girls' football team were in South Notts County Cup action with a 2-1 win over Redhill. Goals were from Amisha and Cerys (Cerys scored 2 minutes after saying she can't shoot)! It was a tough game as we only had 10 players but a brilliant team performance!

16

Despite some great goals, including two separate goals scored from the centre circle, the girls couldn't overcome the strength of the Rushcliffe team who took a commanding lead to win the match.

17

The Year 7 girls went up against Redhill in the South Notts County Cup and won 5-2. It was an amazing game in very windy conditions! The girls were playing in different positions as well to make it even tougher, showing their resilience once again! The highlight though, among so many, has to go out to Grace who was a Hat-Trick Hero, with three outstanding goals!

January

14

The Year 11 boys bowed out of the cup with a 4-1 loss to a very strong Outwood team. A cracking goal from Jamai wasn't enough to turn the tide but the lads did themselves proud.

15

The U16 girls played with just 10 players in the torrential rain. They put in a brilliant team performance and held out until the last 5 minutes of the game when we conceded 2 goals against Ashfield. They should be so proud of themselves for their resilience in horrendous conditions, and for fighting for the win until the final whistle. Special mention to Ellie for reffing and Leo for being a lineo: what commitment!! Given the option to go home both stayed.

21

A depleted Year 8 girls' team played three more matches in the CVL and were fantastic. The highlight was definitely our striker running through all 6 outfield players to smash it top bins against Arnold Hill. Thank you to those who took turns in goal.

26

Year 9/10 girls bowed out of the County Cup at the quarter final stage with a 6-3 loss to George Spencer. Great play by the girls and well done to the goal scorers.

28

Further CVL action for the Year 8 girls. Lost 1-0 to CLW 1 and lost 3-1 to CLW 2. They went on to beat Arnold Hill 3-2. The moment of the night goes to the student who scored a goal against CLW in a friendly from the half way line on the half volley, then span around in absolute shock with both hands on her head! An absolutely class moment.

11

More CVL action for the Year 8 girls. Results were: 2-0 win against CLW, 1-1 draw against CLW A, and 2-1 loss against Redhill.

There was another friendly netball match against CLW to help the team with playing competitive games. We played 7 different matches with the girls trying different playing positions and getting used to the rules of the game. The scoresheet says we scored 5 goals each. The girls learnt a lot and really enjoyed themselves. Well done!

Annually, our GCSE students join with others in the Trust to carry out Trust moderation. There was a great attitude shown by all GCSE students, who showcased their talent throughout the day. This was a high pressure day with 10+ members of PE staff watching from across the Trust. Well done to all involved.

12

The Year 8 and 9 girls fought hard against a strong Minster team in very muddy conditions. Unfortunately, they didn't win but showed immense resilience as always. Great effort from all on a muddy, wet pitch and with a depleted squad. Brilliant performance by Bea in defence.

**AMAZING FEW MONTHS OF FIXTURES AND
COMPETITIONS - WELL DONE TO ALL
INVOLVED. KEEP UP THE AMAZING EFFORT
AND COMMITMENT!**

»»» WINTER GAMES

Last term, the Trust Winter Games for Years 9 and 10 took place at Hall Park Academy on 1 October, and Years 7 and 8 took place on 5 November at The Redhill Academy. Students participated in a variety of events, including mixed netball, touch rugby, badminton, table tennis and boccia, plus boys' football.

This event is about inclusion, participation, and showing what it means to be part of a supportive school community and Trust. Our students were exceptional ambassadors for our school values, demonstrating kindness and respect – thanking organisers/referees, listening carefully to instructions and showing patience while waiting for their turn.

We are incredibly proud of our students for embodying respect, resilience and sportsmanship throughout both days!

»»» CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

Several Carlton Academy students have taken part in Nottinghamshire cross-country events over the course of this last term and a half. The first league race of the season took place on 4 October at Berry Hill, Mansfield and it goes without saying that conditions were absolutely appalling! Nevertheless, 8 hardcore TCA students (and temporarily, Mrs Watson) turned up and represented the Academy with smiles on their faces (mostly). They were brilliant including a couple of podium places too for Zach (1st) and Alex (3rd). At the end of the event the Year 10/11 boys were leading their team competition.

The next race happened on 22 November. Racers including Benjamin, Zach, Sadie, Alex, and Benji all ran in their second race in the space of 3 days in what can only be described again as truly miserable conditions. Alex finished 3rd and sat in 3rd overall. Zach finished 1st and sat 1st overall. The Year 10 boys remained ahead of the High School, winning the Year 10 team competition.

The final race happened on the 13 December. When all was said and done Zach became the Year 8/9 champion, Sadie became the Year 10/11 Champion and Alex came 3rd overall in his age group. Unfortunately, the Year 10/11 just missed out on taking the win but they should still be proud of their achievements.

But the successes continue...At the end of January, Zach competed in the Nottinghamshire Schools Cross Country Championships and came 1st place in his Junior Boys race (Years 8 and 9). As a result, he has been invited to represent Nottinghamshire Schools at the English Schools Cross Country Championships at Sefton Park in Liverpool on Saturday 14 March. He has also been invited to represent Nottinghamshire at the InterCounties Cross Country Championships at Wollaton Hall the week before. What an absolutely amazing achievement - we wish Zach the best of luck for both of his races.



»»» AREA CROSS-COUNTRY

34 students participated in the Area Cross-Country event on 20 November, as well as three Sixth Form helpers (Ruby, Evelyn and Abi) who were brilliant on the finish line handing out results in freezing conditions. Some performances included:

- Year 10/11 Boys: 5th Jude.
- Year 10/11 girls - Sadie 1st place
- Year 8/9 boys - Zach - 1st place, 5th Leo.
- Year 7 boys - 4th Alex, 11th Ben
- Year 7 girls - 11th Beth, 12th Kyawyn.

All top 12 finishers have been invited back to represent Gedling in the Nottinghamshire Athletics competition.

TRUST ROWING COMPETITION

Our students recently took part in an exciting Trust Rowing competition, competing against other schools from across the Trust in a day filled with energy and determination. Each group was represented by four students – two boys and two girls, who proudly stepped up to compete on behalf of the school. Each student participated in an individual race, before the event concluded with a thrilling team relay that brought the whole squad together. Our students demonstrated outstanding resilience, pushing through fatigue and encouraging one another to keep going, even in the toughest moments.

We are proud of all of our students, with every student showed tremendous effort. There were also some particularly notable performances: Oliver and Jacob secured an impressive third place, and the Year 9 relay team delivered an outstanding performance to take 1st place in the relay. To top off a brilliant day of competition, the overall Carlton team achieved 3rd place across the Trust! An excellent achievement for everyone involved!



A graphic celebrating the 'INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONS 2026'. At the top right are the logos for 'REDHILL ACADEMY TRUST Equality and Achievement' and 'Redhill Trust Sport'. The main text 'INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONS 2026' is in large white letters, with a yellow trophy icon to the right. Below this, the logos for 'Tupton Hall School REDHILL ACADEMY TRUST', 'South Nottinghamshire Academy', and 'The Carlton Academy' are displayed. At the bottom, a podium shows three positions: 1st place (yellow), 2nd place (grey), and 3rd place (brown).

YEAR 7 WALESBY



On 9 October, our enthusiastic Year 7s embarked on an unforgettable trip to Walesby. Their day was packed with adventure, teamwork, and laughter! From climbing to mastering archery, leaping through parkour challenges, battling it out in laser tag, and stacking crates sky-high, every moment was an opportunity to explore, connect and grow.

This Year 7 team-building event is a crucial part of our Induction Programme. By spending time together as Houses, students begin to build their belonging to both the Academy and House communities and begin to build those life-long friendships that school is so crucial for. It also provides students with lifelong memories of great school experiences.

YEAR 8 YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PARK



On 15 October, some of our Year 8 Geographers took a trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park. They got to explore and learn more about different animals from across the world. With lots of walk-through enclosures they got to see wallabies, lemurs, capybaras and more up close. We hope all the students that took part had a great day.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Christmas came early at our school with our Annual Christmas Fair on Thursday 4 December! From twinkling lights to mouth-watering festive treats, our Christmas Fair was bursting with joy, laughter, and community spirit. Thanks to all of the amazing stall owners, the fair was filled with Christmas spirit. All the students that performed did an amazing job keeping the energy high. We are very proud of all of you and hope we can continue seeing you shine throughout your Carlton journey!



Photos taken by Seb, Y11.

GREAT HALLOWEEN BAKE OFF

Thank you to all the students who participated in our 'Great Carlton Academy Halloween Bake-off' in October! We were blown away with how amazingly creative all the entries were. Seeing the variety of baked goods and sweet treats all decorated for the spooky season made us very proud of all the participating students for all showing up and being active in their school community. All the entries were incredible and it made choosing the winners extremely difficult. Congratulations to all the winners! We hope to see you all continue taking part in more competitions throughout the school year!



TRUST AWARDS 2025

On 20 September 2025 the Redhill Academy Trust Awards took place and congratulations are in order for both Ms Georgeson and Stephen Mathers! They were recognised by the Trust for their amazing efforts in contributing to our school's community.



ODD SOCKS DAY

On Friday 14 November, we participated in Odd Sock Day as a part of Anti-Bullying Week, which had the theme "Power for Good". This day celebrates individuality and uniqueness while prompting kindness and acceptance. We were thankful to see so many of our students taking part by wearing colourful and exciting odd socks along with their uniforms.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025

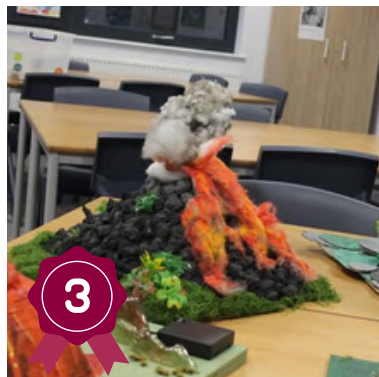
On 11 November 2025 at 11am we held our Remembrance Day ceremony where the whole school observed a two minute silence. We would like to thank Mr. Bird for joining the ceremony to play the Last Post and Reveille, our cadet students for attending in uniform, and our Head Boy and Head Girl for laying wreaths. The two minute silence is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedom and protected our way of life.



Competitions

YEAR 7 VOLCANO COMPETITION

Thank you to all of our Year 7s who participated in our annual volcano competition! With creations that lit up, smoked and exploded, there were so many impressive entries. These students were so creative with their volcano-making using paper mache, clay and resin to explain how these natural disasters form. It's no wonder our Geography team had a tough time choosing the winners. Congratulations to Alaya in 4th place, Yousef in 3rd place, Megan in 2nd place and Violet in 1st place. Another well done to the runners up Ki-Marni, Preston and Gilbert!



YEAR 7 SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT COMPETITION

Congratulations to our Year 7 Skulduggery Challenge winner, Molly! Molly impressed us with her thoughtful, creative, and detailed responses. Congratulations! Thank you to everyone who took part. Keep being curious, keep writing, and keep having fun with words!



CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 14 November our House Council held a fundraiser for Children in Need, selling cakes, painting nails and playing games to raise money. Thank you to all those who donated bought and baked goods for the sale, gave their time to help out and to all those who bought and helped us raise money.



We raised

£483.35

CHARITABLE CARLTON



Food Bank and Bag of Blessings

We are so proud of our school community for showing up and contributing to both the Food Bank and Bag of Blessings donations. We are truly impressed and inspired by the generosity everybody showed for both the Food Bank and Bag of Blessings charities! Students and staff worked together to collect donations that will make a real difference. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to these wonderful causes over the festive period. We also want to give a special shout-out to the students who volunteered their time to help bring all the items together for collection—your kindness and teamwork perfectly embody our school spirit!





UNO CLUB

Mr Hillyard's Thursday UNO club has become very popular with students from all years across school. We are pleased to see so many of our students coming together to play, showing friendly competitiveness and good sportsmanship with one another. They have now started having mini competitions. UNO is a great way to end the week - although Mr Hillyard is still a bit of a sore loser!



YEAR 7

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



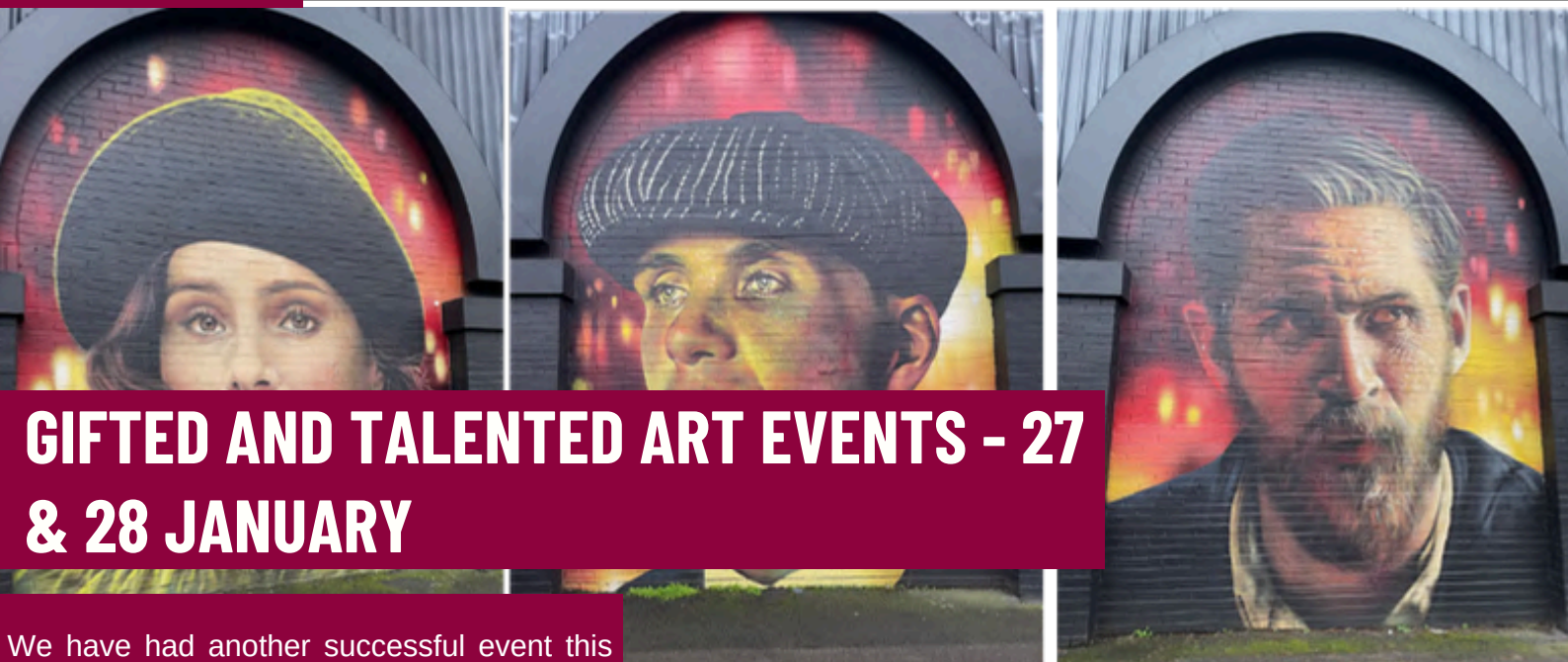
The Year 7 Photography club have been exploring the school through their lenses! From treasure hunts to trying new printing techniques, they've been diving deep into the world of photography. We hope to continue seeing all their amazing photos going forwards.

UNO Club - Thursdays, 3:10-4:00pm in the Open Area
Year 7 Photography Club - Mondays, 3:10-4:00pm



Follow the Art
Department on X
@Art_TCA

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS



GIFTED AND TALENTED ART EVENTS - 27 & 28 JANUARY

We have had another successful event this year, run over two afternoons, with four of our feeder schools taking part in this creative opportunity. With the theme for this year's Family of Schools Art Exhibition titled 'ECO Artists' students were introduced to several inspirational artists to influence ideas for the collaborative creation of a sea life creature. The aim was to think of ways to use clean waste materials and repurpose them into a piece of art whilst at the same time, consider how the art itself could deliver a strong message about protecting nature and about the 6 Rs of sustainability: Rethink, Reuse, Recycle, Repair, Reduce and Refuse. There were some impressive pieces with projecting elements starting to emerge during the workshop as students worked creatively with a range of materials. These have since been returned to schools to ensure completion and ready them to be exhibited in the 'Family of Schools' annual art show. The students from Carlton Juniors, Carlton Infants, Westdale Juniors and Stanhope performed exceptionally well during the event and were a credit to their schools. We wish to thank TCA Year 12 students for their support on these days too.



As part of their curriculum, and connected to the exam project Component 2 theme 'Found', we took Year 11 students (studying Fine Art, Graphics and Photography) to Birmingham on Tuesday 3 February. We enjoyed a trip to the National SeaLife Centre and then headed to the Digbeth mural trail, passing some incredible architecture on the way. As we followed a map of the area and through the Old Custard Factory, the trail captivated us with some fabulous graffiti art - especially the new Peaky Blinders murals by Mr Murals. Each year, the trip is tailored to help the students with the development of ideas, in particular with their final examination project which allows for a more personal approach. An enjoyable day, despite the weather, the students impressed us with their conduct and engagement, real ambassadors for the school and an absolute pleasure to be with.

Miss Dyer-Ince, Mrs Evans, Miss Tuffey & Ms Allen



Charity Update

**MACMILLAN
BAKE SALE**

£134



**CHILDREN IN
NEED**

£483.35



YOUNG MINDS

Students were encouraged to wear something yellow or green.

£118.47



**VALENTINE'S
BAKE SALE AND
CHARITY EVENT**

£241.97



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO ANY OF THESE EVENTS**



Year 7 Visit to The National Space Centre

We are thrilled to share the highlights of our recent Science trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester, which was an unforgettable experience for our Year 7 students. The trip was packed with engaging activities and learning opportunities that left everyone inspired and eager to explore the wonders of space further.

Activities and Highlights

- 1. Planetarium Show:** Our visit began with a mesmerising planetarium show that took us on a journey through the cosmos. Students were captivated by the stunning visuals and learned about the formation of stars, galaxies, and the vastness of the universe.
- 2. Workshop on how to live on Mars:** In this hands-on workshop, students carried out a selection of experiments so that they could compare their results and discuss the relevance to future human inhabitants on Mars.
- 3. Science show - It IS rocket science!:** In this exciting and explosive show, pupils explored the history of rockets which gave them an excellent grounding in the principles behind launching rockets to space.
- 4. Interactive Exhibits:** The National Space Centre's interactive exhibits offered students the opportunity to engage with various aspects of space science. From learning about the history of space exploration to understanding the technology behind space missions, the exhibits were both educational and entertaining.

Reflections and Takeaways

The trip to the National Space Centre was not only educational but also incredibly inspiring. Our students returned with a deeper understanding of the complexities of space science and a renewed passion for physics. The hands-on activities and real-world applications of their classroom learning made this trip an invaluable experience.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the staff at the National Space Centre for their hospitality and to our teachers for organising such a fantastic trip. We look forward to more exciting adventures in the future!

POETRY LIVE



On 2 February, Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend Poetry Live! an annual event which supports their preparation for their GCSE English Literature exam.

Their behaviour was excellent from start to finish and they really engaged with the event, listening carefully, taking notes at key points, and befriending students from other schools during the breaks. Harry put his hand up to ask an excellent question to Carol Ann Duffy during the Q&A session but sadly didn't get chosen, even though our school was right at the front!

Some Year 11s were also very excited to get a selfie with John Agard - apparently it has been doing the rounds on TikTok and lots of our others are 'gutted' that they didn't get one, too!

STEP-UP NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD VISIT

Ms Jennings went to New College, Oxford with a group of Year 11 students on 29 January and they were such a credit to the school. They showed curiosity during talks and asked thoughtful questions, particularly about college life and pathways into higher education. During the tours and academic sessions, they remained attentive, interacted confidently with staff and student ambassadors and demonstrated mature behaviour. I'm sure that there were a few who will no doubt be making university applications there in the future!





DUKE OF EDINBURGH



On Friday 12 December we introduced Duke of Edinburgh to our Year 9 students. They had an assembly where they were shown all of the exciting excursions and character building experiences that could be waiting for them if they chose to sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We believe that the experiences and memories they build completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award will stay with them throughout their lives, helping them develop into independent, well-rounded young adults ready to take on the world. We hope to see many of these students sign up!

During October, 40 Year 11s took part in the final part of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award - the expeditions. These consisted of walking for 8 hours a day in the Derbyshire Peaks across the weekend. They cooked and prepared their own meals and spent the nights in tents. All the students developed their skills from the training weekend in September. This cohort of students have faced national storms and overcame the difficulties the weather brought said storms with determination and unwavering teamwork. Those students who then completed all of their other sections (volunteering, physical and skills) received their certificate, badge and ties in our celebration event. It's been great to see so many students proudly wearing their silver ties around school and hopefully go on to achieve their Gold Award in the future.





DUKE OF EDINBURGH



A huge congratulations to our Gold Duke of Edinburgh students who have successfully completed their final qualifying expedition. Over the past few days, they have braved wind, rain, and sunshine, navigated their way through the Lake District around Keswick, and tackled some of the High Peaks along the way. With long days of camping, walking, and some very tired legs, they showed real determination, teamwork, and resilience. We are incredibly proud of their achievement. Well done to all for completing this milestone so successfully!



CAVENDISH HOUSE

Head of House: Mr Bali

House Achievement Co-ordinator: Mrs Williams

SLT Link: Mr Byrne

BE THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF

Following hot on the heels of winning the Carlton Cup in the summer, Cavendish House has continued to go from strength to strength as we aim to retain the cup this year. Cavendish students have made an impressive start to their campaign by having the highest attendance so far this year and are currently second for most Achievement points. We are also still the House with the highest participation in Inter-House events and this has been a common theme throughout my time as Head of House. We believe that school is what you make it and by trying fresh things we can find new challenges, opportunities and friendships.



Cavendish students have enjoyed taking part in the many activities and events which have already taken place this year; from the rowing competition which saw students and staff competing together to row the furthest distance for their House, to the Halloween Bake off where individual skill in producing the most eye-catching and gruesome cakes was the order of the day. Students showed off their artistic flair in the pumpkin carving challenge and also produced some excellent entries in the Christmas tree decoration design competition. We also took part in the annual charity collections at The Carlton Academy, this year with the Bag of Blessings collection and the food bank donation drive. The huge amount of donations really showed the generous and caring nature of the students we are lucky enough to have with us in our community.



The festive spirit continued with Christmas Jumper day with proceeds going towards Save the Children, and which coincided with Christmas dinner and carol singing led by students from all year groups.

CHRISTMAS
JUMPER
DAY



This has been a great start to the year: our new Year 7 students have settled in well and all too soon they will be in the position of our Year 11 students who have completed their mock exams with grit and determination. I am immensely proud of all the members of Cavendish House and look forward to seeing how they progress and flourish throughout their time at The Carlton Academy.

AMBITION NOTTINGHAM PROGRAMME

The Ambition Nottingham Programme, run in partnership with the University of Nottingham, welcomed a new Year 9 cohort to join the current Year 10 and 11 students who take part in the three year course. It aims to raise awareness of the opportunities open to students in further education through events both in and out of school. In November, Year 9 students visited the University to take part in a "Dragons Den" activity where they had to design a food business to fill a gap in the University's current offering and pitch it to two senior members of the University Leadership Team. Our students worked in teams with other schools and as always were a credit to The Carlton Academy. Two of our students, Marcus and Blossom, were part of the winning team and won Amazon gift vouchers for their great ideas and presentation.

Year 10 also visited the University in January to take part in a taster day where they experienced what it was like to be a student and attend lectures on subjects as wide ranging as the History of Imperial Russia, training the brain through psychotherapy and how engineers build earthquake proof buildings. They also explored the accommodation and services available to support students at University.

Year 11 had an in-school session in December which looked at the practicalities of applying to University, student finance and planning a budget for first year students.

The Year 9 cohort now look forward to visiting the University of Cambridge in March to experience what a world class university has to offer.



Year 12 and 13 Media Visit to Derby University

Media Studies students from Year 12 and Year 13 attended a rainy but informative day in Derby, meeting industry professionals and lecturers from the creative industries.

Students were first treated to a screening of Grand Theft Hamlet at Derby's local independent cinema, The Quad. This documentary not only explores the exploits of two friends attempting to perform a version of Hamlet using the video game Grand Theft Auto, but also offers a raw depiction of how people from all walks of life navigated their time during the Covid-19 pandemic. The film won Best Documentary at various international film festivals and received rave reviews.

After the screening, students had the opportunity to ask questions of the director and cast member Mark Oosterveen. Mark spoke about different aspects of his career, from acting in television to his creative process as a director. He also provided inspiring advice for the budding creatives in the room. Thanks to Into Film, a leading charity that specialises in film education.

Students then braved Storm Claudia to attend a podcast workshop and tour at the University of Derby. They were able to dream up and pitch their own podcast ideas, working with industry professionals and using state-of-the-art voice recording equipment. In addition, they observed third-year students planning and recording their own news bulletins in real time, as lecturers set a task requiring them to act as though they were in a real newsroom. This meant researching and preparing to broadcast while working to an incredibly tight deadline.

Special thanks to Miss Kaur for organising this trip. We look forward to doing it again next year—hopefully with calmer weather!



ALAIN "FUSION" CLAPHAM- INNER SPARK WORKSHOP, 15 DECEMBER 2025

On 15 December, students from Year 7 through to Year 13 were invited to a 50 minute workshop in the school theatre with Alain "Fusion" Clapham, a motivational speaker, who held an inspiring session on transformative storytelling. This is the second time we have hosted Alain, who is a genius at getting students to self-reflect on their dreams, awareness and purpose. Through real life stories and discussion, the idea of spreading kindness to others and building resilience was explored. Students had the chance to ask many questions at the end and share personal stories.



THE BRILLIANT CLUB: THE SCHOLARS PROGRAMME GRADUATION - 13 FEBRUARY SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY

Selected students from Year 9 have been working hard in the Autumn term, to participate in the Scholars Programme as part of the Brilliant Club. This is where selected PhD tutors share their knowledge and passion for a specialist subject with a small group of students in 7 sessions. This is to help them develop skills, knowledge and confidence to secure a place at a competitive university in the future. The students have been researching a science topic "The silent killer and the failing pump". Can we uncover the heart's secrets?' They had to compose a 1,500 word essay to pass, with the graduation ceremony held at Sheffield University, whereby students had a chance to meet other participating students from other schools and tour the university. Students were pushed to explore something new and out of their comfort zone, gaining amazing new skills along the way.

The Scholars Programme

POST-16 UPDATE

Breaking News

The A-Level league tables have just been released and last year's record breaking A-Level results mean that Carlton Academy had the fifth highest performing Sixth Form across the whole of Nottinghamshire, with a value-added score of 0.21! This is an amazing achievement for students. Well done to each and every one of last year's Year 13 students!

Year 12 Enrichment Trip

On 3 December, our Year 12 Sixth Form students had an incredible Enrichment Trip to Nottingham Tenpin. From bowling and escape rooms to laser tag and karaoke, it was a day packed with laughter, teamwork, and unforgettable moments. Taking a well-deserved break from studies to have fun with their new friends, this was a congratulation of how well they've settled into the new chapters of their education. The group showed that enrichment is all about boosting wellbeing, building bonds, and celebrating success together. We hope all of them enjoyed this well deserved trip.



Macmillan Bake Sale

Well done to the Sixth Form Committee who raised a total of £134 at the Macmillan bake sale they hosted on Friday 26 September, showing commitments to their school community whilst raising money for a wonderful cause.

Nottingham Trent Visit

On 10 September our Year 13s took part in the Redhill Academy Moving On Day at Nottingham Trent University. This was a great opportunity for them to learn about NTU as a university as well as more about university life as a whole, learning about the opportunities they can look forward to after their journey at The Carlton Academy is over.

University and Apprentice Fair

A group of our Year 13 students attended the UK University and Apprentice Search Fair at Leicester Tigers Stadium on 30 September. This was a great opportunity for them to talk to different universities and learn more about the courses being offered and the application process.

applicaa

Applications for September 2026 are still open (see next page).



CALLING YEAR 11

POST-16 APPLICATIONS FOR 2026 ARE STILL OPEN



Following our successful Post-16 Open Evening in October we are delighted with the number of applications from our current Year 11 students to study at our Sixth Form in September. We are still accepting applications and we urge students to not miss out on receiving an offer by completing their applications using Applicaa.

Why TCA Sixth Form?



*High quality
teaching*



*Amazing careers
advice*



*Strong pastoral
care*



*Dedicated study
space*

Register by following this link:

<https://theacademycarlton.applicaa.com/year12>

WERE YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, A
FORMER STUDENT OF THE CARLTON ACADEMY?



We are currently updating our alumni records and would greatly appreciate your help. If you know anyone who previously attended The Carlton Academy, please share their name and any relevant contact details (with their permission) to assist us in reaching out to them. Your support will help us celebrate our shared history, their current status and successes, strengthen our community, and keep former students informed about upcoming events and opportunities.

p.lockwood@theacademycarlton.org