

ST PHILIP HOWARD NEWSLETTER

ST. PHILIP HOWARD
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



SPH - Heads, Hearts, Hands

2025

Together on the Success Journey



Welcome to the St Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Academy Newsletter. In this issue, we review the success of our students and our school community throughout 2025. The Newsletter focuses on key areas such as Students' Personal Development; Teaching and Learning and the curriculum, as well as elements of the Catholic Life of the school.

British Science Week

As a reward for their outstanding achievement as finalists in British Science Week, a group of students enjoyed an enriching and exciting educational visit to the Railway and Science Museum in York. At the museum, students explored locomotives, steam engines and Stephenson's Rocket. The highlight of the trip was the Wonderlab experience, where they took part in demonstrations on combustion and explosions. The day then concluded with a section on engineering, where students explored various STEM exhibits.



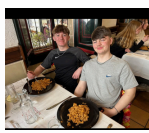
SPH
EXPERIENCE

Neurodiversity Week

To raise awareness of Neurodiversity Week, students participated in a silent disco. On 14th March, SPH held the silent disco to promote awareness of neurodiversity, highlighting the brains remarkable ability to process and adapt to situations differently. This gave students sensory control, so that they could enjoy the disco in their own way,

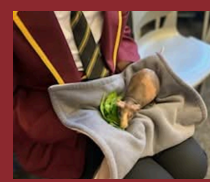
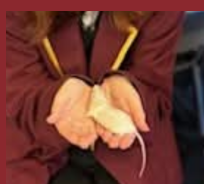
Spain 2025

St Philip Howard students enjoyed a spectacular three days travelling to Tossa de Mar, soaking up the sunshine. Students spent time visiting the coastline and enjoyed a boat trip to the caves, followed by sightseeing of the churches, Roman ruins and ancient lighthouse. Students sat down for a well-deserved traditional lunch of Paella at the end of the day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all!



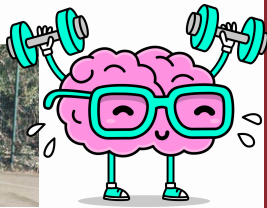
Animal Therapy

Once a week, students gather in the SEN department to take a break and spend time with trained therapy animals. Studies have shown interacting with the animals can help reduce stress, boost mood, and even improve focus and productivity.



Let's Talk

'Let's Talk' visited St Philip Howard on the 6th February for a session of physical activities, aimed at the positive habits for the mental health of our students. During lunch a range of activities to support this took place, supported by a coach. By releasing feel-good chemicals such as endorphins and boosting self-esteem, the students were able to clear their heads, set goals, and develop a sense of routine and discipline.



World Book Day

St Philip Howard celebrated World Book Day by having many activities throughout the first week of March. In the SPH library students could 'Blind Date with a Book', book swap and 'Teacher Storytelling' at lunchtimes. There was also a Literacy lanyard quest for the whole school to participate in, where teachers wore book covers on their lanyards for students to seek as many book covers as possible. Students that found the most books, collected a prize for their accomplishment.



Dodgeball Competition

Congratulations to our SPH students who supported a Primary School Dodgeball event. The event was held at Glossop Leisure Centre on Wednesday 5th March. Students lived out these values thoroughly, being respectful and professional at all times.



White Hall 2025

Several SPH students ventured to Whitehall for three days. The trip was an educational trip, with activities, to teach how to build fires, constructing bird houses, as well as taking part in rock climbing, and roasting marshmallows on the campfire. The students' time together enabled bonding and teamwork for all that were involved.



Happy Pi Day

On the 14th March, SPH celebrated National Pi Day. The Maths department set the challenge of learning as many digits of Pi as possible. Students who memorised the most digits were awarded a book 'Humble Pi' all about mathematics gone wrong!

$$\pi = 3.14$$

Leavers Assembly

On Wednesday 18 June, the Year 11 Leavers' Assembly marked a memorable and emotional close to an important chapter in our students' lives. Led by our dedicated Head of Year, Mr World, the assembly celebrated the journey, growth, and achievements of the Class of 2025. Good luck to our Year 11- Class of 2025!



Fingerless Magician

On the 11th March, SPH had the honour of welcoming an extraordinary guest, 'The Fingerless Magician: a performer whose presence left the students astonished by his magic! From card tricks to illusions, he captivated students and staff, teaching us the sentiment that anything can be possible with passion and commitment.



TEACHING & LEARNING

Pomodoro

Year 11 attended their Pomodoro revision sessions with our core subject teachers.

The Pomodoro Technique is a time management method developed by Francesco Cirillo.

it involves breaking work into short, focused intervals. 25 minutes, followed by 5 minute break.

Benefits include:

- Boosts focus and Productivity.
- Reduces Procrastination.
- Prevents burnout.
- Improves time Awareness.



Financial Education

On 27th February, Year 9 students had their final financial session. Led by the Maths department, students learned about what their money characteristics were and how to avoid wasting their money.



UKMT Intermediate Challenge

On the 12th February, SPH received the results of the UKMT Intermediate Challenge. We had a number of students achieving Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates, and a number of selected students have also qualified to compete in the next round of the competition. All entrants received a certificate of participation.



Options Evening

On 21st March, Year 9 students and their parents/carers attended our annual Options Evening - a key event designed to help students make informed choices about their future studies. The evening started with an assembly, followed by the opportunity to explore the wide range of subjects available to Key Stage 4, with teachers on hand to offer valuable insights and answer any questions.

Learning Outdoors

This Term, Year 8 students have embarked on an exciting new adventure: Forest School! The SEN department has set up the program to bring learning outside the classroom. This helps build confidence, resilience, and teamwork through hands-on activities in nature. Going into September this will be opened up to other year groups too participate.



Year 6 Transition

Our Year 6 pupils have now entered their enhanced transition programme and have engaged with great enthusiasm. In the first week of June, they enjoyed a guided tour of our school, familiarising themselves with key areas and learning more about day-to-day structure of secondary life. In the first week of July, they put knowledge to the test through a well received scavenger hunt, designed to reinforce their understanding of the school layout, meet members of staff, and encourage team bonding. Transition activities also moved outdoors, with pupils taking part in a series of Forest School activities, and escape room style tasks to further build personal growth.



Peer Reading

At the start of the Lent term, our Peer Reading Program fostered literacy skills and meaningful connections across the different year groups. Each week in the library, students are paired up with younger peers to support their reading development, offering guidance and support. The program is set in place to improve confidence and comprehension for our younger readers but also allows the older students to develop leadership and mentoring skills.



Human Rights

In our History Department students have been inspired to create artwork based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All students involved showed hard work and dedication. A special recognition goes to Lorenzo in year 9 for their out-standing piece of work. Students learned about the many legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions around the world.



Interventions

Throughout the Lent and Pentecost term, our school has placed a stronger focus on core subject interventions. These targeted sessions in English, Maths, RE and Science are designed to support the student, with work developing knowledge and skills and building confidence. This time allows teachers to close gaps and reinforce key concepts, allowing students to have a better understanding of the subject that form the foundation of future learning.

Careers Week



During the week of March, Students at SPH had the opportunity to explore future possibilities and connect classroom learning to the real-world paths. Mr Pacey our school's Careers Advisor compiled valuable exposure into the wide range of professions available.

Mr Pacey also worked closely with year 10 students, helping them prepare for their upcoming work placements. Taking the time to discuss interests and co-ordinating placements, his support ensured students felt confident and ready to take on a professional world.

Reward Assembly



At the end of the Lent term, we held reward assemblies to celebrate the effort, growth, and journey of learning. Students were rewarded with certificates, whether it was for academic excellence, progress, attendance, or positive behaviour, the assemblies recognised the hard work students put in every day. A big well-done to all that were awarded!



International Women's Day

On 7th March, St Philip Howard Celebrated International Women's Day. Students focused on the theme Temperance - a virtue that represents strength, self-control, and resilience. The day was a strong reminder of the role women play in shaping our world. Students joined together in prayer, reading scripture celebrating women, and gave thanks to the women in our lives.

Safer Internet Day

On February 11th, Mr Bailey Head of Computer Science led a Safer internet day for students of SPH. This years theme focused on online line scams that are targeted towards young people, who, believe it or not, are todays most effected age group for financial losses. Throughout the school day, students watched videos, used their scam spotting skills on a quiz, and completed worksheets. we also welcomed PC Buller to go further in-depth about the safety of being online and the use social media.



- 53% of teenagers have experience some form of cyberbullying.
- Over 60% of young people admit to using the same password for multiple accounts.
- 95% of teens use the internet daily, making digital safety more important than ever.



**Take a look at
the exciting
activities
happening in
Glossop over
summer
holidays 2025**

Summer Camp Actives

Adaptive Gaming Camp

Ages; 7-16 years

Location: Gamesley Community Centre

Football Summer Camp

Age: 11-16

Location: Gamesley Community Centre

Martial Arts Summer Camp

Age: 7-11

Location: Gamesley Community Centre

Boxing with MH Fitness SC

Age: 11-16

Location: Gamesley Community Centre

Street Art with Deggy Summer Camp

Age: 7-16 years

Location: Gamesley Community Centre

Glossop Leisure Centre Summer Camp

Age: 11-16 years

Location: Glossop Leisure Centre

For further details please visit:

The Bureau - Move More

<https://the-bureau.org.uk/services/move-more>



**Team SPH: heads, hearts, hands-
together on the success journey**