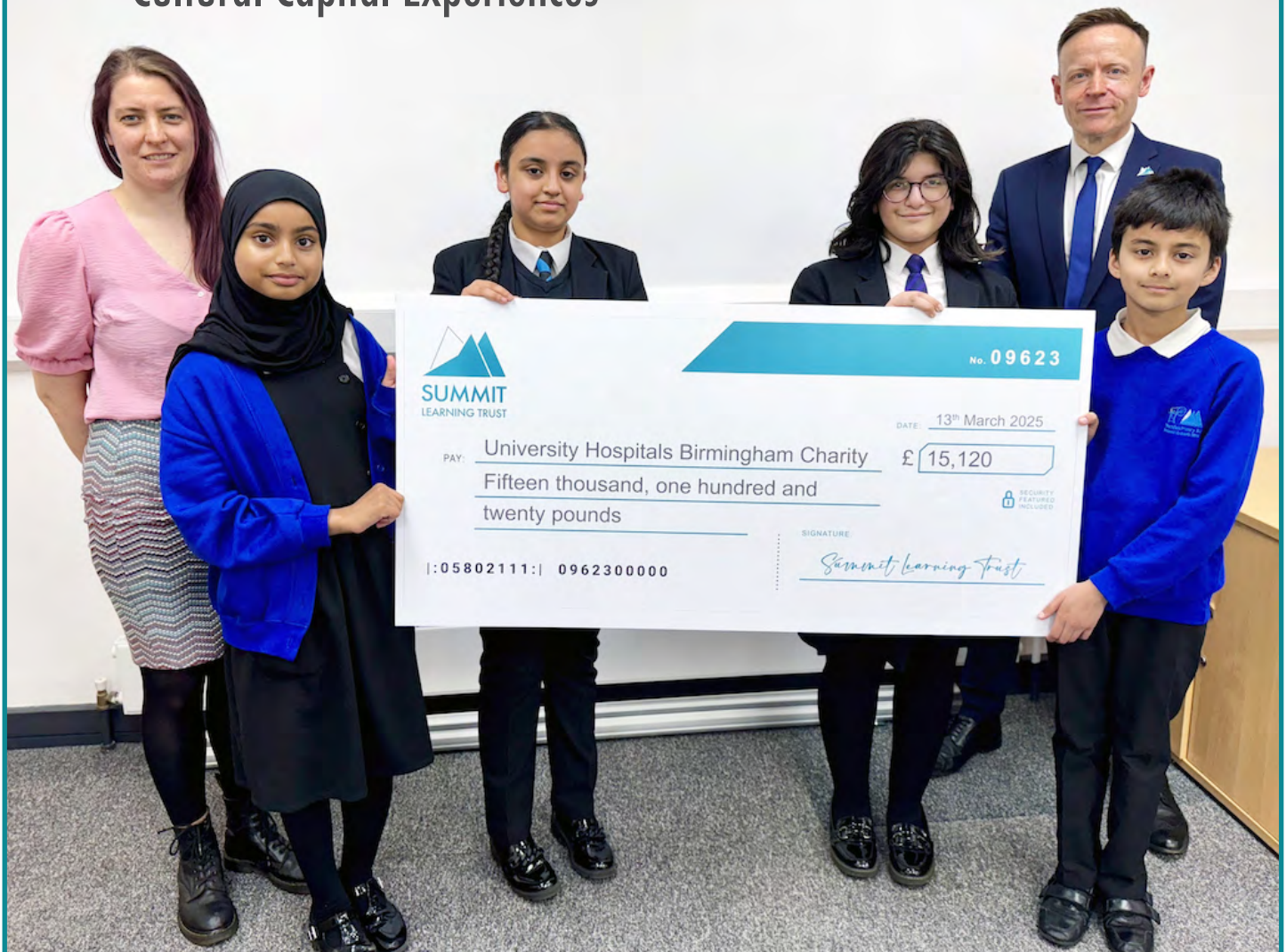


RoundUp

Summit Learning Trust News

Also in this issue:

- Driving Literacy and Oracy
- Cultural Capital Experiences



#ScalingNewHeights

Welcome

A huge thank you to our parents, carers, families and communities for supporting our academies to achieve so much with our learners this term. Spring 2025 has been an exciting time for our Trust family. It has been very pleasing to see the ongoing hard work by our children and young people, and notably those who have public assessments next term, whether these be A Levels, vocational qualifications, GCSE examinations, SATs or other national assessments.

Summit Learning Trust achieved strongly in 2023, and even better in 2024, and this can give our learners and their families huge confidence in the high levels of expertise of our teachers and educational support colleagues. Our Summit family are acutely aware of the importance of these results to each of our children and young people in terms of giving them opportunities in later life. Our schools and college provide additional preparation sessions and additional resources for learners, and I strongly encourage our children and young people to fully access the offer to ensure that they enter examinations in May and June with great confidence.



This term has seen inspectors from Ofsted visit Erdington Hall Primary School and The Oaklands Primary School. It was very pleasing to read in the Ofsted reports what we already know at Summit, in that our learners are receiving a very high quality level of education and care at both schools. Our teacher training arm, South Birmingham SCITT based in Solihull, which identified that our trainee teachers are receiving a high-level offer as they embark on their careers in teaching. Many of our leaders and teachers trained at our SCITT and we are blessed as a Trust to be able to grow and develop our own talent in this way for the benefit of all our children and young people.

This edition of the Roundup gives a small snapshot into some of the achievements made at our Summit academies, and it has been a pleasure to see the work that takes place day in, day out with our children and young people.

We are all proud of the efforts made by our learners and staff members in supporting charitable initiatives which will help those with the greatest need in our communities. Thank you to those learners and colleagues who have completed voluntary work and raised funds for the University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) Charity, who were our Trust's chosen charity for 2024. We comfortably surpassed our £10,000 target, achieving a figure above £15,000. Huge thanks to our Summit family and friends for your efforts and generosity in enabling us to support this local charity and local families in this way. As we move into 2025, we look forward to working hard to fundraise and raise the profile of the amazing Kids' Village charity, which you can read more about in this edition.

Our Summit Base Camp programme continues, and I thank colleagues and external partners for enabling us to provide a consistent level of support for children and young people across our schools and college. This provision serves as the foundation to enable them to continue making strong levels of academic progress. We now work to support other schools and colleges beyond Summit to offer similar initiatives to their families.

After Easter, we will be launching our annual parents and carers survey, and I encourage you all to complete this. These results will support us greatly in continuing to further enhance the education of your children so that they thrive and flourish in our care.

Thank you all for your ongoing support for your child's school or college. Have a happy and healthy Easter.

Vince Green
Chief Executive Officer

Our Academies raise over £15,000 for Birmingham Hospital charity

Birmingham and Solihull learners have been raising money for Queen Elizabeth Hospitals Birmingham Charity, Heartlands Hospital Charity, Good Hope Hospital Charity, Solihull Hospital Charity with a wide range of fundraising activities, including bake sales, summer fayres, and Christmas carol concerts at the hospitals.

Collectively, the nine Summit Learning Trust academies have raised £15,120 for the charity, after choosing them as their chosen charity for 2024 based on their amazing work in the local community.

Learners took part in a wide range of activities to fundraise, including the Summit Challenge walkathon, summer fayres, carolling in the hospitals during Christmas, and charity bake sales in school and college.

Summit Learning Trust encourages its learners to be charitable and giving to others, and many learners were particularly excited to be fundraising for a charity which they or their families have previously used.

From tiny newborns on the Neonatal Unit, to elderly patients living with dementia, the charity supports two million patients and their families, as well as 25,000+ members of hospital staff, every year.

They provide 'added extras' that are over and above what the NHS provides as standard, including helping to refurbish facilities, purchase vital, state-of-the-art equipment, fund life-saving research and more.

The charity also supports our armed forces by running **Fisher House UK**, a "home away from home" for military families at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, home to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine.

Vince Green, CEO of Summit Learning Trust, said: "The charitable efforts of our learners in order to impact positively on our communities through University Hospitals Birmingham charity is really inspiring to see. I know that this money will make a positive difference to many who are in hospital and to their families and we look forward to continuing to support our local charities for many years to come".

Mike Hammond, the Charity's Chief Executive, said: "What Summit Learning Trust have achieved is incredible. Their hard work and dedication is inspiring and will make a huge difference to the patients and their families that benefit from what we are able to provide, thanks to this donation. On behalf of everyone at the Charity, I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved."



Summit Learning Trust Chooses Kids' Village as Charity Partner for 2025

Summit Learning Trust is excited to announce that Kids' Village will be the charity partner for the year 2025. Our Trust has chosen to support the groundbreaking initiative, which provides critically ill children and their families with the opportunity to experience free, magical breaks away from the stresses of hospital life.

Founded in 2018 by Gary and Claire Fletcher, whose daughter Sammie was diagnosed with cancer at a young age, Kids' Village is dedicated to creating a

safe, serene, and supportive environment for families who have faced life-threatening illnesses. The first of its kind in the UK, Kids' Village is being built in the Staffordshire countryside and will offer respite holidays to families facing unimaginable challenges. With 10 lodges, a central facility, and a range of tailored activities, it will offer these families a much-needed escape, complete with all expenses covered.

The partnership with Summit Learning Trust aligns with our Trust's commitment to community engagement and supporting children and families in need. Through this partnership, Summit Learning Trust will help raise awareness, encourage fundraising, and offer volunteer support for Kids' Village as the charity moves forward with its mission to bring joy, peace, and magical experiences to those who need it most.

Last year our Trust fundraised for the University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) Charity, with staff members from Summit academies completing a variety of sponsored challenges including cycling from Birmingham to London and climbing Mount Snowdon.

Vince Green, CEO of Summit Learning Trust, said: *"We are honoured to partner with Kids' Village and help bring this much-needed project to life. The work they do is extraordinary, providing critical respite and giving families the opportunity to create precious memories together. We look forward to supporting Kids' Village in any way we can this year, and we hope our efforts will help make a meaningful difference to the families they serve."*



Click or scan to watch Video

DfE 'Breakfast Club'

available at all our Primary Schools
from 28th April 2025



Free breakfast will continue to be available for all our Primary school children. Contact your school for further details.

Performing Arts Learners Shine at Birmingham Rep

A group of talented learners from Years 8, 9 and 10, alongside learners from several other academies across the Midlands, including Erdington Hall Primary (part of our Summit family), made an unforgettable impact at the Birmingham Rep earlier this month, performing in the much-loved opera *Hansel & Gretel*.

This extraordinary evening saw learners take the stage with professional opera singers and members of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), with the performance directed by Caius Lee from the Armonico Consort. Their hard work and exceptional talent were on full display as they captivated the audience with their performance.

Notable figures, including Major General Timothy Hodgetts CB CBE KHS DL of West Midlands and Birmingham's Lord Mayor, Councillor Ken Wood, attended the performance, adding to its significance.

The event was also featured on BBC Midlands Today, helping to share this incredible achievement with an even wider audience. As the opera's quote reminded us, *"And even in the darkest night, somehow you will find the light"*—a perfect reflection of how our learners shone brightly on stage.

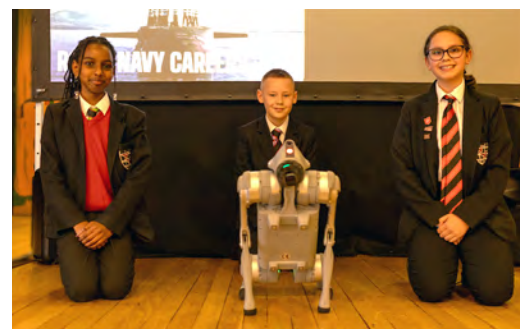


We are now looking forward to our next body of work with the Transformation Partnership which will feature ballet as the artistic medium. Thank you to Khadeem Duncan Banerjee and his partners for this opportunity.

Careers Engagement

This term has been filled with a wealth of insightful guidance and enriching experiences provided by our Careers team. Year 8 and Year 9 learners participated in engaging activities with the Royal Navy, focusing on developing their soft skills. Year 9 High-Achieving Pupils (HAP) had the opportunity to visit Oxford University, inspiring them to aim high in their future endeavours.

National Careers Week brought out a competitive spirit with the "Guess the Job" House competition, while Year 8 took a fascinating trip to the Black Country Living Museum, exploring the history of work and past professions. Year 10 learners have been benefiting from ongoing Maths mentoring with Aston University, enhancing their GCSE skills.



We also hosted the STEM Roadshow for Year 7 and Year 8, where learners were given a demonstration of Artificial Intelligence with Lexi, the Cobot, and explored the crucial topic of online safety, particularly how to avoid scams. Year 7 learners took part in Eco and Green Jobs Literacy workshops, as well as Fashion workshops, in line with our Tread Lightly initiative. Year 9 learners were visited by the National Grid for an engaging STEM workshop.

Finally, Year 9 are gearing up for their GCSE Options choices later this year, preparing for the next exciting step in their academic journey.

Driving STEM - MP Jess Phillips

We were excited to welcome Jess Phillips, our local MP, and Chris Catto, the National College STEM Link from Bishop Challoner Catholic College, to our school for an important discussion on the future of STEM education. The visit focused on the critical need for resourcing in STEM subjects, which supported our learners in areas such as coding, technology, and sustainability. The conversation explored the impact of recent cuts to STEM funding and the importance of continuing to invest in these vital subjects to ensure our learners had the skills needed for the future. Our learners demonstrated their skills and projects from Coding club to our guests, highlighting the importance of hands-on STEM education. We were grateful for the opportunity to engage with our local representatives and highlight the ongoing efforts to inspire and equip learners with the tools to succeed in an ever-evolving world.



School Attendance

A recent Department for Education report has highlighted a strong link between regular school attendance and future earnings, emphasising how consistent attendance during school years can significantly impact a learner's financial success later in life. The report suggests that learners who miss school frequently are more likely to struggle academically, which can limit their opportunities for higher-paying jobs and career advancement. In contrast, learners with better attendance tend to perform better academically, develop stronger skills, and have access to more opportunities in their future careers. This underscores the importance of prioritising attendance, as it not only affects immediate academic outcomes but also has long-term implications for economic success.

We were thrilled with the significant improvement in our school's attendance this year. The dedication and commitment of our learners and staff members truly paid off, as we saw positive trends in our attendance records. Our learners showed great responsibility in prioritising their education, which has had a tremendous impact on their academic progress. We are proud of their efforts and the support from parents and carers.

Iftar Celebration

Our school's Iftar celebration was a resounding success, bringing together colleagues, learners, and the local community for a memorable evening. The event was graced by the presence of Jess Phillips, our local MP, and Sir David Thompson QPM, Deputy Lieutenant, both of whom added to the significance of the occasion. The food was amazing, offering a delicious array of dishes that reflected the spirit of togetherness. A special thank you went to Mrs. Kosir for her dedication and hard work in preparing the event alongside the learners, ensuring everything ran smoothly and was a great success. We also owed our thanks to Mr. S. Arshad, Morrisons Small Heath, and Tesco Stronger Starts for their incredibly generous donations.





Erdington Hall Primary School
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

It's Official, we are a 'happy place to learn'

What a time we have had at Erdington Hall this Spring. We are proud to say that we have had a very positive visit from Ofsted. Not only were they impressed by the wonderful things we shared about our school, they were thrilled to see them in action. Ofsted said that Erdington Hall is a **'happy place to learn'** and that our colleagues feel **'proud to work'** in our school.

This term, we also confirmed with Birmingham City Council that we will increase our numbers in 2026. We will offer 60 Reception places from September 2026 and onwards. Thank you to all of wonderful families who support our school so well. We will continue to grow from strength to strength and achieve more.

We Love Learning at Erdington Hall

We are proud of all our learners, especially Year Six, who have been revising hard for their SATs. They are working hard to be ready. Thank you to our parents and carers who have come along to regular parents evening throughout the year so far. The attendance in the last few weeks for Year Six has shown great improvement. They were able to enjoy a reward at the end of their hard work and are making excellent progress. Keep it up, Year Six. Additionally, we have many successful workshops from Nursery Stay and Play, to library sessions, coffee afternoons and Family Space. This has been a great opportunity for our parents and carers to work with their children in school on exciting activities. We look forward to more as the year continues.



Learning with the Hippodrome Theatre

Our children have been involved in workshops with companies such as the Hippodrome theatre and The Past Presents who have brought history to life. Our children thrive from these experiences and develop their learning in the wider curriculum.



Attendance

Our families have been working with us to help their children attend school as often as possible. With so many children being successful in their attendance, they have entered a competition called the 20-day challenge. I know that one of our Year Four children was very happy with the prize of a...BIKE.

We are proud of our children and the responsibility they take in school. This has included training in Wellbeing Ambassadors and Play Leader training where our older children are learning to help our younger children play together happily and safely. We have recently had visits from Oaklands Primary School and Beacon Behaviour Support. They were incredibly impressed to see how lunchtimes are place of enjoyment, sharing and safe play and how adults promote excellent behaviour. We were lucky enough to have a famous author visit our school. He spoke to the children about what inspired him to write and create his books. So many of our children have been inspired by this and we continue to celebrate the love of reading. At the end of this term, we have been celebrating the different cultures we have in our school. Recently, it was Eid and our children were able to celebrate in school together as well as take part in Easter activities. It is wonderful to have such a rich and diverse community.

Year 5 Take the Stage

Our superstar learners in Year 5 have taken part in performing at the Birmingham Rep this month, performing in the much-loved opera Hansel & Gretel. They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with opera singers and perform in a real theatre.



Business Studies at the Etihad

A group of business learners recently visited the Etihad Stadium, home to Manchester City FC, for an insightful tour and business workshop. The tour allowed them to explore the stadium's impressive facilities, while the workshop focused on the intersection of sports and business. Learners engaged in discussions about marketing, sponsorship, and management strategies employed by top-tier sports organizations. The experience offered valuable real-world business insights, blending the excitement of football with professional development opportunities.



International Women's Day and Leadership

Celebrating International Women's Day at Lyndon School with inspiring conversations about leadership, ambition, breaking barriers and accelerating action. A special thank you to HM Royal Navy for sharing their experiences and insights with our learners.

Learners also visited the Mayor's Chambers to continue conversations on leadership and equality. They even got to try on the Mayor's robes.



Happy Pi Day

Happy Pi Day. Our Maths team and learners have been celebrating Pi Day with exciting activities, challenges, and of course... plenty of pie. A great way to explore the magic of 3.14 and have some fun with numbers.



English

A group of 30 Year 11 learners watched a performance of the GCSE text they are studying, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Big Brum Theatre captured the essence of the novella and brought it to life for our learners.



STEM

Year 9 learners experienced an exciting STEM workshop, they faced a series of challenging tasks. It was an inspiring day of creativity, teamwork and growth. Well done to all learners for their hard work and determination.



DofE

Well done to all our Year 10 learners who completed their first expedition on Saturday, 1st March. They tackled a six-mile walk, overcoming muddy terrain along the way. A fantastic achievement for all—well done.



DofE Awards evening at SSFC was fantastic. A wonderful celebration of our learners achieving new goals & building resilience and resourcefulness. Congratulations to all involved. Well done from the DofE team



Making Communities Safer

The Tackling Sexual Harassment Road Safety Committee at Lyndon School showcased their work on how they are making the communities around their schools safer by presenting their work to the Mayor of West Midlands Mayor Richard Parker.



Ski Trip 2026

Learners and staff members enjoyed an amazing time skiing in Andorra. Learners made progress each day and some made it to the top of the mountain.



CBSO Centre

Learners from Lyndon performed at the CBSO Centre as part of Modulo run by Orchestras For All. It was a brilliant experience rehearsing and performing in this amazing space.



Year 11s received their BTEC results



Climate Action

Our Climate Action Group & Junior Prefects took action today. They hit the streets for a community litter pick, keeping our neighborhood clean and green. Thank you to everyone who joined in—small actions make a big difference.

DofE Awards evening at SSFC was fantastic. A wonderful celebration of our learners achieving new goals & building resilience and resourcefulness. Congratulations to all involved. Well done from the DofE team

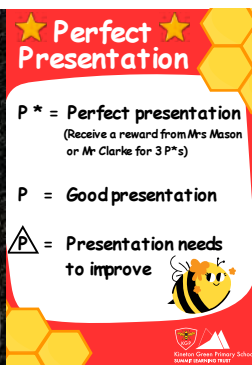
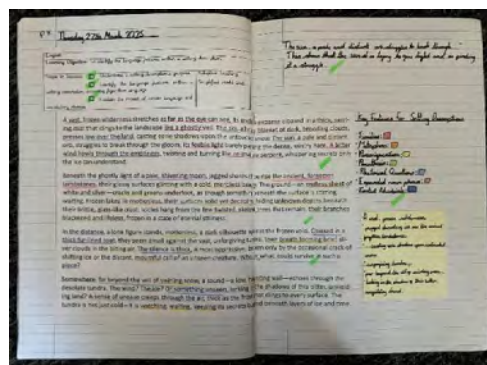




Kineton Green Primary School
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

Perfect Presentation

We have recently introduced 'Perfect Presentation' across the school to raise the quality of presentation in our children's books, encouraging them to take pride in their work and make it the best it can be. Once children are awarded 'perfect presentation' three times they will receive a reward. We are already seeing some amazing presentation.



Choralist

Miss Maddock arranged a full-on singing experience for our Year 1 to 6 learners. An experienced choralist, Rebecca Ledgard from Ex Cathedral joined us in school for the day, treating all our learners to a musical experience to remember.

PTA News

Our PTA have been helping the children to make Mother's Day special by selling bunches of daffodils and gift bags for the children to purchase. The PTA will also be holding a spring event on Saturday 5th April, featuring a car boot sale, a range of PTA stalls, bouncy castles and food for the family. Why not come along..



Year 6 PGL Trip

At the beginning of March our intrepid Year 6 learners spent three days at the PGL adventure centre, Boreatton Park on the Welsh border. They enjoyed all of the activities which included canoeing, rock climbing, high ropes and much more, demonstrating courage, resilience and great teamwork.





Pegasus Primary School
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

We are a 'Voice 21 Oracy School'

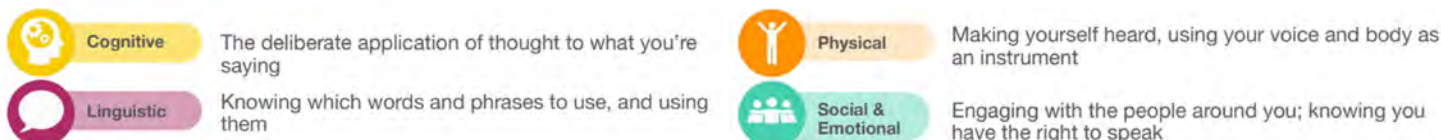
In January 2022, Pegasus officially became a Voice 21 Oracy School. We are committed to ensuring that every learner leaves primary school with the ability to express their ideas clearly, communicate with confidence, and speak eloquently. These vital skills are captured by the word 'oracy' which was coined in the 1960s to give spoken language parity with literacy and numeracy.

Within the classroom, oracy serves as a powerful tool for learning. By equipping learners with the skills to be both effective speakers and attentive listeners, we empower them to better understand themselves, their peers, and the world around them.

Mastery of oracy enhances self-confidence, self-esteem, and empathy, while fostering cognitive development and success across all areas of study. Our goal is for every child to possess the oracy skills necessary to thrive in the world they will enter, enabling them to not only express agreement, but also respectfully challenge and debate differing views and opinions. Furthermore, oracy plays a crucial role in promoting social mobility, allowing all learners—not just a select few—to find their voice and achieve success both academically and in life.

We are committed to cultivating a high-quality oracy education where children learn through conversation and dialogue. This is implemented through our carefully designed oracy pathway, which ensures that children have opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions and presentations throughout the year. Examples include performance poetry, acting as tour guides during trips, and participating in parliamentary-style debates.

Over the past three years, our staff have participated in comprehensive training through Voice 21 to advance oracy within our school. We are now embedding this professional development across our curriculum, incorporating in-house training and the sharing of best practices. The intentional and explicit teaching of oracy, integrated throughout all phases and subjects, will support our children in making progress across the four key strands of oracy as outlined in the Oracy Framework.





The Oaklands Primary School
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

Exciting Experiences

Our Year 5 children have had an unforgettable experience this half term, taking part in a remarkable opera workshop as part of our ongoing collaboration with The Armonico Consort. Through weekly lessons with a professional singing teacher, the children have developed their vocal skills, confidence, and appreciation for opera.

Their hard work and dedication culminated in a stunning performance of Hansel and Gretel on stage at the prestigious REP Theatre in Birmingham. They sang alongside other schools, professional opera singers, and a live orchestra, creating a truly magical and memorable event. It was inspiring to see our children rise to the challenge, showcasing their talent and passion for music in such a professional setting.

Adding to the excitement, the BBC reported on the performance, featuring our learners and even including an interview with one of them. This fantastic opportunity not only celebrated their achievements but also highlighted the importance of music and the arts in education—something we pride ourselves on at The Oaklands.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 learners for their enthusiasm and commitment to this project. A huge thank you to The Armonico Consort for their continued support in providing such enriching experiences for our children.



Live Lessons - Maths

This half term, we were delighted to welcome parents and carers into school for our latest round of Live Lessons. Across all year groups, families had the opportunity to step into the classroom and take part in mathematic lessons alongside their children.

These sessions provided a fantastic insight into the strategies and methods we use in school, helping parents and carers understand how to support their child's learning at home. It was wonderful to see families engaging with the lessons, working together on problem-solving activities, and gaining confidence in modern mathematical approaches.



We know how important home support is for a child's learning journey, and these sessions have been a great way to strengthen that connection between school and home. We look forward to our next Live Lessons next term.

World Book Day 2025

A Fantastic Celebration of Reading

On Thursday, 6th March, we celebrated World Book Day in style. The day was filled with excitement as our Oaklands community dressed up as their favourite book characters, bringing stories to life through their creative costumes. From superheroes to witches, every corner of our school was brimming with literary magic. Throughout the day, children enjoyed sharing stories with each other, fostering a love for reading and learning. They took part in online book quizzes with our Summit family and were delighted when a 'mystery reader' came to share a story with each class.

As a special treat, every child had the opportunity to choose their very own book to take home, ensuring that the joy of reading continued long after the day ended. World Book Day was a huge success, sparking imaginations and inspiring a passion for books. We can not wait to do it all again next year.



Exploring the Joy of Reading

Visiting Acocks Green Library

As part of our Reading for Pleasure curriculum, a group of learners visit Acocks Green Library each week, immersing themselves in the wonderful world of books. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to explore the library, discover new stories, and take part in engaging book discussions.

Recently, some of our Year 1 children enjoyed a special treat when a story was brought to life through puppetry. Watching characters leap off the page in such an interactive way sparked their imaginations and deepened their love for storytelling.

These visits not only foster a passion for reading but also help children develop confidence in choosing and discussing books. We are thrilled to continue this partnership with Acocks Green Library, ensuring our children experience the joy and excitement that reading brings.





Yarnfield Primary School
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

Enriching Incredible Half Term

As we approach the end of another incredible half-term, it has been a time filled with hard work, exciting learning opportunities, and celebrations across the school. From preparing for important assessments to enriching workshops and trips, everyone at Yarnfield Primary School has been giving their very best.

Assessments and Determination

In Year 6, our learners have been working with determination and focus as they prepare for their KS2 SATs. With booster sessions and extra support, they are showing resilience and dedication. We are so proud of how they are rising to the challenge and supporting each other along the way.

Year 4 have been equally committed as they get ready for their Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). Quick recall of times tables is such an important skill, and our learners have been practicing through fun and engaging activities, showing great improvement and enthusiasm.



Meanwhile, our Year 1 learners have been immersing themselves in phonics as they prepare for their upcoming Phonics Screening Check. Through daily phonics lessons, interactive games, and plenty of reading practice, they are making fantastic progress in their early reading skills.

But learning at Yarnfield is about more than just assessments. We take pride in offering a broad and balanced curriculum, packed with enriching experiences that bring learning to life. This half-term, our learners have taken part in exciting trips and workshops that have deepened their understanding of the world around them. From historical adventures at castles to hands-on science experiments and creative arts projects, every child has had the opportunity to explore, discover, and grow.

It has also been a time for celebration. This half-term, we came together as a school community to celebrate Eid, recognising the importance of togetherness, kindness, and joy. Learners and staff members enjoyed learning about Eid, sharing experiences, and celebrating with friends, making it a truly special occasion.

As we look ahead, we know there is even more to come. With more trips, workshops, and exciting learning opportunities on the horizon, we can not wait to see what the next half-term brings. Well done to all our learners for their hard work and commitment. Thank you to all our colleagues for their dedication and commitment to our learners - you make Yarnfield Primary School a wonderful place to learn and grow.



A Thrilling Journey to the ESU Public Speaking Regional Finals

This year's path to the ESU Public Speaking Regional Finals was nothing short of exhilarating, as our talented team, comprising Fayzan Asif, Kimora Ellis, and Sahib Choudhury, came agonisingly close to securing a place in the National Final at Cambridge University.

Our journey began in November with the first heat, an exciting night of oracy hosted online by the English-Speaking Union. Ninestiles was proudly represented by two teams, but while one unfortunately fell at the first hurdle, our remaining team battled through to claim the runners-up spot.

Building on this success, we took things a step further in the second heat at the start of February. Fayzan, Kimora, and Sahib travelled to Lordswood Boys' School to face tough competition in their first in-person event of the year. It was a nail-biting round, but Ninestiles shone through. Fayzan was named runner-up for Best Speaker, while Kimora secured the title of Best Chairperson – an outstanding achievement.

Then came the much-anticipated Regional Final on Thursday, 20th March, held at Ninestiles. The night was hosted by our very own Kirandeep Kaur in Year 11, and amidst the pressures of PPE examinations, our three champions delivered show-stopping performances. However, with only one team able to progress to the National Final, the honour ultimately went to King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls.

After three gruelling rounds of competition, our learners did us proud at every stage. We will be back next year, determined as ever, with two new teams ready to take on the challenge and strive for a place on the hallowed grounds of Cambridge University.



Ninestiles Student Union have been busy

It has been a VERY busy term for the Student Union, but we are very much enjoying our work with Modeshift. In March, members of our Student Union met the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Shahin Ashraf MBE. Our pitch went well, and we were awarded £200 in funding to help launch our campaign for sustainable travel which will launch this month. We are asking all stakeholders to find a more sustainable way to travel for a week in April; we would like staff and parents/guardians to leave the car at home, take pleasure in walking, get the bus, or car share. The Student Union will be awarding prizes to encourage strong participation.



Our work as a Trust on Tackling Sexual Harassment is also continuing. In February, we met and presented our action plans to The Lord Mayor of the West Midlands, Richard Parker. The mayor praised our efforts and answered our burning questions. He is keen to help us with the suggestions we discussed. We now have lots of work to do and we will be enlisting everyone's support and dedication to tackle sexual harassment in and around our community.

We as a Trust student body attended the #RelationshipReset National Summit conference on 14th March with members of Citizens UK, which was attended by schools and colleges all over the UK, as well CEOs of various Trusts, Mayors and Councillors from different towns and cities. Citizens UK is an organisation which helps people overcome injustice; they bring together everyday people and local organisations to build a better and fairer society. They were very interested in the work we have been doing on tackling sexual harassment in our local areas. A charter has been created recently, which provides a clear framework on expectations for providing a safer environment and tackling sexual harassment. Citizens UK commended the work done so far.



Oxbridge Offers

Following a record-breaking year at Solihull Sixth Form College for Higher Education applications, university offers are arriving, including offers to study at the top institutions in the country.

Two learners met with College Principal Martin Sullivan this term to discuss receiving Oxbridge offers. Dan Martin has been successful in getting an offer from Queens' College at the University of Cambridge to study German and ab initio Russian. Meanwhile Eliza Hamid has an offer for Biology at Somerville College at the University of Oxford.



Dan Martin came to the College from King Edward's School Birmingham to study A levels in German, History and Politics and believes this offer is an extra motivation to do well in his examinations this summer.

"I am extremely pleased to receive an offer. I applied to Cambridge because it's the best university in the world for modern foreign languages. The application process was very stressful, with multiple different stages to worry about, but I received lots of support from staff at College. This offer has given me motivation to study hard in the final months of Year 13 to secure my place at Cambridge."

For Eliza Hamid, a former Queensbridge School student, her A level studies include Biology, Chemistry and Geology. She explained the process she went through to get her offer.

"I was fortunate enough to not have to sit an entrance exam and that made things less difficult than I imagined they would be. I had support with my Personal Statement and a mock interview and I did lots of super-curricular activities such as watching documentaries and attending a summer school to help prepare me. The pressure is on to achieve my grades, but I think a degree at Oxford would open many options for my future career."

College Principal Martin Sullivan, himself a former Oxford postgraduate, spoke to the learners about their offers and wished them luck for their summer examinations.

"Getting an Oxbridge offer is a big achievement and I hope our learners are as proud of themselves as I am of them. I wish them the very best of luck in their examinations this summer and I hope I will get an opportunity to celebrate with them on Results Day."

"Many of our young people are still waiting to hear what offers they get from university. We had 1,047 applications made this year and I'm proud of all of our learners for the dedication they showed in their applications, while also juggling their A level, BTEC or T level studies. I know there is still a lot of hard work to do, but I have every faith that if they stay focussed, they will achieve their dreams."

Employability Fair

The College gave learners the opportunity to think about their future careers in March, when the annual Employability Fair took place.

Dozens of employers attended the event to set up stands at the careers fair and many also delivered a programme of talks to learners.



Among the businesses who came onto campus were:

AstraZeneca, Cisco, Fitniss, Mondelez, PhysioFit, PM Group, SAE Creative Media and Virgin Media O2. The Police, Birmingham City University, Birmingham Newman University, Coventry University, Solihull Council and South Birmingham SCITT, which offers School Centred Initial Teacher Training offered by the Summit Learning Trust, were also in attendance.

While the careers fair in the College's Sports Hall was open to all learners, an afternoon of employment talks was aimed specifically at BTEC learners and Year 13 employment seekers. Among the topics of the talks were Apprenticeship opportunities and careers in fields such as engineering, finance, IT, law, nursing, physiotherapy, policing, sport and teaching.



Assistant Principal Oona Stone commented: "It was a wonderful afternoon in College. We are very grateful to all the employers who gave up their valuable time to come onto campus and speak with our young people. We want to make sure our learners have as much information as possible about the wide variety of progression opportunities open to them and this event really opened their eyes to many careers they had not even considered before."

Community Iftar

Learners, families and staff members came together for a celebration of Ramadan in March, as the third annual Community Iftar took place on campus, raising £600 for Islamic Relief.

The event provided an opportunity for those celebrating Ramadan to break their fast, while also offering members of the College community of all faiths or no faith to come together and get a better awareness of Ramadan. Among the special guests in attendance was Mayor of Solihull Councillor Shahin Ashraf MBE, as well as representatives Reverend Caz Hague from the Solihull Faith Forum.



Iftar began with speeches in the College lecture theatre as College learners spoke about what Ramadan means to them, providing an opportunity for non-Muslims to gain a great understanding of their faith and the real meaning of Ramadan. The Mayor also gave a brief speech, before guests heard the Call for Prayer and then fast was broken with food in the form of chicken and vegetarian dishes, samosas, cakes, dates and other fruits.

Anisa Lokat-Fanning, Associate Assistant Principal, commented: "This is the third year we have held a Community Iftar in College and the event was again very well supported. It's fantastic to see our community coming together for a beautiful celebration for Ramadan. The event reflected our multi-cultural community and was a reflection of the College's commitment to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. Huge congratulations must go to the team in our Student Development Office, who worked incredibly hard, together with learners from the Iftar committee and Student Council, to organise such a brilliant event."

International Women's Day

Learners and staff members came together for International Women's Day in March and displayed placards around campus to highlight some of the famous women of note from recent and distant past and the impact they have had on the rights of women today.

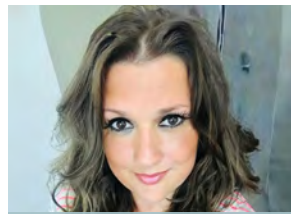




Dr Matt Pritchard



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Regard



Kate Jones



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