

SALFORD CITY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



14th February 2025



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO THIS HALF-TERM?

- Diving Back into Learning in the New Year!
- ASPIRE: Education with Character
- Bee Clubs
- House Competition at SCA
- Careers: Exploring Future Opportunities
- Excellence in Music Programme
- SCA Community Hub
- Transition: Step Up to SCA
- Sporting Success at SCA
- STEM Pioneers
- Reading and Literacy





Dear Families,

I am delighted to share with you the highlights of what has been a fantastic half-term at Salford City Academy. We started back in January with some changes to our behaviour systems and re-induction to the SCA way. I am really pleased that these changes have been embraced by students and staff, and they are having a really positive impact across the academy. We have had a number of visitors come to the academy this half-term who have noted the warm, calm, welcoming culture. I feel a real sense of pride in how students have impressed visitors, particularly regarding their manners and politeness. A recent United Learning visit highlighted that SCA students are some of the most polite and well-mannered across the whole group of 91 schools. We are continuing to invest in our character education and values and have further plans to develop our Student Charter into the Summer Term, making it easier for students to be recognised for their continued efforts. We also have some exciting reward trips planned for the end of the year.

Receiving such positive feedback from visitors has made us recognise the importance of inviting people to see SCA in action, including our community and families. Therefore, next half-term and into the Summer Term we will be opening our doors to parents and carers to visit during the school day to see us in action. More information will be in this newsletter.

We have had exciting developments across teaching and the curriculum. The quality of the teaching at SCA is recognised as a strength, not only reflected in our GCSE results but also highlighted in external reviews by subject experts.

We have been focusing this half-term on literacy and oracy skills. It's great to see students feeling more confident in class as they make use of oracy tools and academic language in both speaking and writing. As a result students are doing more independent work and extended writing pieces.

As we approach next half-term, our students have been busy rehearsing and preparing for the 2025 production of 'Oliver'. We are very excited about hosting our next school production and would love as many of you as possible to come along and celebrate student commitment to expressive arts.

Attendance remains a critical priority at the academy. Whilst we have seen the expected winter bugs, absence rates remain higher than they should be, we need to continue to work together to improve student attendance. Please reinforce at home the expectations of high attendance and the importance of attending regularly, not only for academic growth but for students' wellbeing and character development.

I'd like to thank all staff, students, parents and school partners who have supported us to have such a successful half-term. In particular to our parents, your support truly makes a difference. I wish you a peaceful break with your families.

Warm regards,

Katie Eaton
Associate Principal

Diving Back into Learning in the New Year!

This half-term students have excelled in their lessons, working hard and making brilliant progress.

When students returned from the Christmas break students in all years took part in sessions to raise their awareness of learning behaviours. Students have put into practice learning from these sessions and the impact on their learning has been really positive.

A particular focus of the sessions was on how to work independently. This is a challenging area for many students, so sessions have been focused on developing confidence, concentration and proof-reading skills. Over the half term teachers have built on these areas with students and this has led to many successes. Students and teachers will continue to work on this moving forward, especially for revision so students are developing good independent study skills and habits.



PROUD TABLE



Students are always encouraged to visit the Proud Table on a Friday lunchtime to show their House Leader examples of work that they are proud of! This is a positive way for students to finish the week, and they walk away with a treat as well as points for their house.

ASPIRE: Education with Character!

Our ASPIRE Programme is designed to allow students to develop character and values that will equip them for a happy and successful life.

This term, our Student Leaders have been discussing the importance of promoting a sense of belonging with all students across the academy. One way they implemented this was through celebrating the Lunar New Year and encouraging all students to participate - Student Leaders put together red envelopes containing a lucky coin to symbolise prosperity and a sweet treat and handed them out to all students. They also decorated the school and met with our catering team to organise delicious Chinese food at lunch. The students showed fantastic teamwork skills in organising this event!



Check out our video
showing some of the
brilliant food served
during lunch!



Developing good character is an important and integral part of daily life at SCA. We started this term with extended form-time, focussed on defining the behaviours that underpin our REACT values and help us to:

**“Do the right thing, at the right
time, for the right reasons in the
right way.”**



Bee Clubs

Our new Spring Term timetable is out!



We have had a great start back after Christmas for clubs at SCA! We have a new extra-curricular timetable for Spring, which you can find on our website. We have also created a 'Bee Club Handbook' which outlines all the exciting activities that we offer, and their benefits for students! Scan the QR code to read the booklet, or [click here](#).



Students get so many benefits from participating in clubs: they can make new friends, stay healthy, de-stress, learn new skills, develop teamwork and much more! At SCA we are committed to offering a wide range of activities, so there is something for every student to enjoy.

Our Chess Club has been taking off in popularity this past half-term, with students enjoying games during break and lunchtimes. We have even started an SCA Chess Tournament with some of our regular attendees, the winner will receive a custom trophy!



House Competition at SCA

Our House Competition has been in full swing the past half-term!

The House competition picked up where it left off before Christmas. House assemblies were full of energy and House spirit. Special acknowledgement to the following students who all received their House Colours in assemblies:



Niamh (Y9)
Mia (Y8)
Farrah (Y8)



Naqeebah (Y8)
Rania (Y7)



Mirna (Y8)
Arianna (Y8)
Ollie (Y7)
Luke (Y11)



David (Y7)
Confidence (Y8)
Jawaher (Y10)

House Colours are awarded to students by their House Leader for having made a significant contribution to their house's progress. It is a special honour to receive House Colours and these students should be very proud!



This past half-term we held a Darts House Competition for KS3 and KS4, these were really successful events with a great atmosphere. It has even fostered a love of darts amongst some students, as we now hold a Darts Club every Tuesday lunchtime! The highest scorer of the competition was Luke in Year 11, who received a dart board and set of darts as a prize.



Check out a video of the competition here!

It's still all to play for next half-term, we have a House Benchball Competition coming up, and House World Book Day challenges. Here are the standings so far for this academic year:



Careers: Exploring Future Opportunities

This half-term has been an exciting time for our Step Beyond programme!

First, we relaunched our ITV partnership for Years 8-11, and introduced it to our Year 7 students for the first time. Jason Spencer, the Business Development Director at ITV, came in to chat with the students about how ITV is evolving, especially with the use of new technologies like AI. He also shared what students can expect in the upcoming months. This ties into our ongoing commitment to ensure all students get a chance to engage with the workforce and explore alternative pathways, like apprenticeships.



Year 9 had the exciting opportunity to take part in an ITV speed networking event this past half-term! They got to speak with people from a range of careers at ITV, and ask them questions about their role and how they got there!

UPRISER
CHANGING FUTURES WITH COMPLEXITY

itv

Over the past year, ITV has built an exciting, impactful programme across the pillars of Curriculum, Character, and Careers for students from Year 7 to Year 11. Led by the dynamic team of Jason Spencer, Gill Greenwood, Claire Haslam, and Lauren Jones, this programme is a true collaboration with teaching staff and student feedback. ITV's big ambition is to not just get students excited about careers in the creative industries but to inspire them to join ITV and become part of their extraordinary team.

Careers: Exploring Future Opportunities

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We've also kicked off the Year 10 Prince's Trust Mosaic Mentoring Programme. A group of Year 10 students have been selected to join an 8-week group mentoring programme, where they'll take part in fun activities and work together in teams to develop important skills like communication, problem-solving, and resilience. This programme is a great opportunity for students to grow their commitment, teamwork, and communication skills as they collaborate with others and push themselves to achieve common goals. The programme is run by volunteers who are professionals eager to share their experiences and advice to help students plan for their future.



Guest Speakers

Our Year 9 students were lucky enough to hear from guest speaker John Egan, the Non-Executive Director and Shareholder of Knoop's the luxury hot chocolate brand. John shared his inspiring journey from growing up on a council estate in Rusholme to holding leadership roles at major companies like Ted Baker, Duke & Dexter, and Dune London. Despite facing setbacks along the way, John's story is all about resilience and perseverance. He's now thriving at Knoop's, and his talk really resonated with the students, encouraging them take responsibility of their own actions and behaviours to achieve their goals!

We have lots of exciting things coming up next half-term, such as an ITV Apprenticeship Panel with Year 8, University visits and our Spring Term Enrichment Day!



Excellence in Music Programme



Last term, our Year 9 Excellence in Music students had the chance to visit MediaCityUK at Salford Quays to see the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra perform live on BBC Radio 3. For many, it was their first time seeing a live orchestra, and the mix of classical and modern music made it a memorable experience.



We also held an enrichment day with Year 8, celebrating music from around the world. Our Excellence in Music students stepped in, helping to lead sessions and performing in the final celebration. Sessions included dhol drumming with visitor Abdul Salek, a samba workshop featuring samba drums and brass, and a music improvisation session with Ali Roocroft from the Royal Northern College of Music. Ali will be our musician-in-residence this year, providing music workshops and 1:1 development sessions for our students.



This term, the Excellence in Music group has started working on their Silver Arts Award. Students are working on their individual Unit 1 Arts Challenges, developing new performance pieces, and tracking their progress along the way.

Finally, we're excited to share an opportunity for families: the Liverpool Philharmonic Music Industry Careers Fest 2025 on Saturday, 8th March. This event showcases careers in the music industry, but please note it's not a school trip, so students must be accompanied by parents/carers, more details to follow on Arbor. Thank you for your continued support – and keep an eye out for our next **Excellence in Music newsletter**, which will feature articles written by our talented students!



SCA Community Hub

Salford City Academy Community Hub is growing!

We are holding 'Community Conversations' the first Tuesday of every month. Come and join our Community Lead, Sarah, and other members of staff for a cup of tea and share with us what you think the community would benefit from! We will be in various other locations in the community:

04.02.25 (10:30am - 12am) - Brookhouse Shops

25.02.25 (10:30am - 12:30am) - Asda, Eccles

04.03.25 (10:30am - 12am) - Brookhouse Shops

18.03.25 (9:00am - 10am) - Barton Moss School



Anyone is welcome to come and join us, we want to hear from you!

You Asked, We Listened:

After listening to the community requests, we have responded by setting up a Stay and Play group. This group is every Wednesday (term time only) from 9:15am - 10:30am at SCA. These sessions are for ages 0 - 4, and adults will be provided with a hot drink and snacks!

Coming up we have a free Family Film Night on the 26th March, from 4:30pm - 6:30pm at SCA! To Book your place scan the QR code or [click here](#).



We also have a 1940's Tea Dance coming up on the 3rd April for the senior members of our community! This is a free event, and there will be refreshments provided, as well as live Swing & Jazz Music by Michelle Ferrer! To book this event, ring our reception at 0161 789 5359.

Transition: Step Up to SCA!

Our Step Up programme runs from Year 4 - Year 7 to ensure students have a smooth transition to secondary school.

This past half-term our Transition Lead, Mrs Johnson, has been visiting all of our local Primary Schools and teaching Year 5 students dance lessons! The students started with a strong cardio warm-up and worked on their core strength with some fun plank activities. The students then took part in a street dance routine.

Check out Westwood Park's moves on our socials!



STEP UP

To Salford City Academy



On February 6th we hosted our Exciting English workshops for primary students. Godfrey Ermen and Beech Street students enjoyed a day at SCA with our English department, learning about how fun the subject can be!

We also held our Transition Valentines Disco for Years 4, 5 and 6 on 13th February! This was a brilliant event full of music, dancing and lots of treats. Thank you so much to all of you who came and celebrated with us!



Sporting Successes at SCA!

This past half-term our PE department has seen some exciting developments. We have a new Head of PE, Mr Birds, and a new PE Teacher/Dance Coach, Miss Griffin.

In January some of our students attended the All Aboard Youth Indoor Rowing Championships. They represented the school brilliantly, with the boys team coming 3rd out of Greater Manchester schools!



We have lots of exciting extra-curricular activities available to students, both at lunch time and after-school. One particularly exciting opportunity is our Rugby Club on Wednesday after-school, led by an external Rugby Coach! We encourage all students to get involved, as there are so many benefits to these activities, they may discover their new favourite hobby!



There is an opportunity for boys that are interested in Rugby to join the Salford Red Devils rising stars programme! These will be first class training sessions; students will be coached by Red Devils academy players. Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to sign up.

As the weather is getting brighter and lighter, we will be having more fixtures for students on our sports teams. Keep an eye out on our socials for regular pictures and updates on scores!

STEM Pioneers



This has been an exciting half-term for our STEM Pioneer group!



The Year 7 Pioneers have made remarkable progress this half term with their STEM on Track project. The Go-Kart frame has been fully constructed, and the engine was successfully installed during the final week of the term. The group will continue to enhance their build and incorporate their design elements next term, in preparation for their test day in May and the final race day on June 14th, 2025.



Impressively, the group is leading nationally in the Race Academy associated with the project, providing them with the essential engineering knowledge to complete their build.



Introduction to Commercial Construction

In addition to their STEM achievements, the Pioneers were introduced to the world of commercial construction. We were thrilled to welcome RECOM Solutions to the academy, where they provided an in-depth presentation on the construction process, from initial planning to project completion. The students engaged actively, asking insightful questions and demonstrating their enthusiasm and maturity. As a result, RECOM Solutions has invited several students to visit their site, offering them a firsthand experience of the construction industry in Manchester and beyond.



We are incredibly proud of the Year 7 Pioneers and their accomplishments this half term. Their dedication and passion continue to shine, and we look forward to seeing their continued success in the coming months.

Reading and Literacy

Become a Literacy Champion with Salford City Academy!

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving reading across our academy, we are working with the National Literacy Trust to support their Literacy Champions programme.

This initiative empowers volunteers to raise awareness of the importance of literacy within their communities. Volunteers receive training to understand local literacy challenges and learn how to deliver engaging activities to address them. They can then support existing literacy projects or create their own small-scale initiatives.

If you're interested in becoming a Literacy Champion, please contact anne.hickey@salfordcity-academy.org.



In January some of our Year 11 students visited The Lowry Theatre to see *An Inspector Calls*. The students really enjoyed and benefited from seeing this key GCSE English Literature and Drama text in performance!



READING
imagination | knowledge | enjoyment
At Salford City Academy

Coming up next half-term is World Book Day, we have lots of exciting activities planned at SCA to hopefully inspire a love of reading amongst students!

Key Dates:



- Monday 24th February - Students return after half-term break
- Thursday 27th February - Year 9 Parents Evening and Options Selection Evening
- 18th - 19th March - School Show: "Oliver"
- Thursday 20th March - Enrichment Day 2
- Wednesday 26th March - Family Film Night (Community Event)
- Thursday 27th March - Year 11 Parents Evening & Ambition Event
- Tuesday 1st April - Year 6 Parents Transition Coffee Morning
- Thursday 3rd April - 1940s Tea Dance (Community Event)
- Friday 4th April - Students break up for Easter



**We hope you have a lovely
half-term break!**

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