JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

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JPSA Newsletter

14th November 2025



Dear Students, Parents, and Carers,

We are delighted to invite you to our first Parents' Forum of the year, an opportunity to come together, share ideas, and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Following feedback from our recent Parents' Survey, we have put together an agenda that we hope you will find helpful and informative:

1. Making the Most of Arbor – Tips and guidance on using our school platform effectively.
2. Understanding My Child's Reading Age and Supporting at Home – Practical strategies to help foster a love of reading.
3. Online Safety and Supporting My Child – Key advice for keeping children safe in the digital world.
4. A chance to provide feedback on how we can improve our academy.

This session is useful for parents/guardians of any year group. Please note that the discussion on reading ages will be specifically relevant for Key Stage 3 and 4.

Parental Forum -

Date: Thursday 20th November
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: EC1

We ask that you sign up to the event using the link below:

JPSA Parents' Forum - Thursday 20th November 2025 - Booking Form

Your voice matters, and we would love to hear your thoughts and ideas during the session.

Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to seeing you there!

With kindest wishes,

Laura O'Leary
Principal



Upcoming Events in November:

Mon 3rd—Fri 28th	Year 11 and Year 13 Mocks
Mon 17th	Shoebox Appeal Deadline (Y8,Y9,Y12 & Y13)
Weds 19th	Andrew Jobbing Senior Maths Kangeroo
Weds 19th	British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1
Weds 19th	JPSA Parent Teacher Association AGM
Thurs 20th	SEND Information Evening & Parent Forum
Thurs 20th	Tanzania Fundraising (Evening Event)
Fri 21st—Sun 23rd	Ingestre Hall Residential Art Trip
Weds 26th	'Solutions of the Planets' Year 9 Talks
Weds 26th	Tanzania Trip—Parent Meeting—6.30pm
Thurs 27th	Year 13 Parental Consultation Evening
Fri 28th	INSET DAY

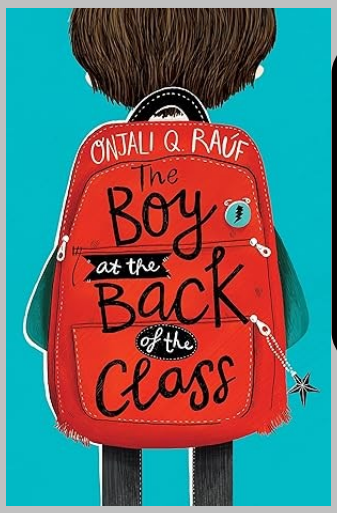


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What are our students reading?

Year 8 Recommended Reads:



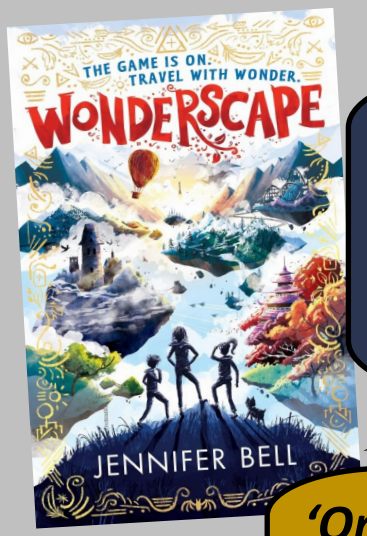
'Boy at the Back of the Class'

In our English lessons we are reading 'This Other Side of Truth' which is brilliant and it is about refugees. This book is similar as it tells a story about how people have come to live in England from other countries and how we should treat everyone kindly. ***Willow E, 8C***



'Cosmic'

This is about a boy who pretends to be a man and who gets into lots of trouble. I've just finished reading it and I would give it 10/10. ***Harry Y, 8W***



'Wonderscape'

The book is a fantasy which I really enjoy. You have lots of puzzles to solve being stuck in a game which is great to have a go at. ***George S, 8E***



'One Piece'

This is about a boy who wants to be a King of Pirate when he is older. I really like how it is based on anime. ***Gurkeet W, 8C***

Our student book group which takes place every Wednesday 3.10 - 4pm in the library with Mrs Martin are currently reading 'Ruby in the Smoke in KS3 and 'Wuthering Heights' in KS4 and KS5.

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Lilah in 8W has completed her abseil down Derby Cathedral (after being postponed from the original date due to high winds!). In total she managed to raise £440.66! This will make such a difference to the children and young people at Rainbows Hospice.

Well done Lilah we are very proud of you!



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Sixth Form Updates:

T4U Shoebox Appeal:



Reminder that the deadline for the Shoebox Appeal is Monday 17th November.

Visit from Dame Jasvinder Sanghera:

Our Post 16 students and many staff were presented to by global speaker and author of 'Shame', Dame Jasvinder Sanghera, who shared her personal story of forced marriage and honour-based violence. Huge thanks go to Jas N in Year 13 who's bravery and proactive approach, secured a space in the very busy diary of Dame Jasvinder.



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Remembrance:





At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month – we will remember them. We held a two minute silence across the academy. Our trumpeters performed the Last Post beautifully. We were so proud to see our students who are cadets, wearing their uniforms with pride.

Children in Need:



Thank you to all our bakers who provided delicious cakes for our Children in Need Bake Sale. Thank you to our Sixth Form students who did a fantastic job organising the event.





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Melle Exchange 2025:



JPSA Music students had the time of their lives in Melle as part of the Senior Wind Band exchange. It was the 47th year of the exchange. Students spent their first morning in a German school, visited a planetarium and played the traditional game of football.



A busy but incredible week continued for students.

JPSA Senior Wind Band had a wonderful evening performing in front of a pack church. Accompanied by performances from local musicians, the Band played songs from classical pieces through to Queen and Star Wars!



The Senior Wind Band then blew the audience away with their incredible performance in Melle Theatre on Friday night.

A total of over 80 JPSA and Melle students came together to perform a fantastic range of music from classical to film themes.

Celebrating 47 years of the programme, the longest running English/ German exchange of its kind. The music department couldn't be more proud of them all!





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Art Update:

Inktober Competition

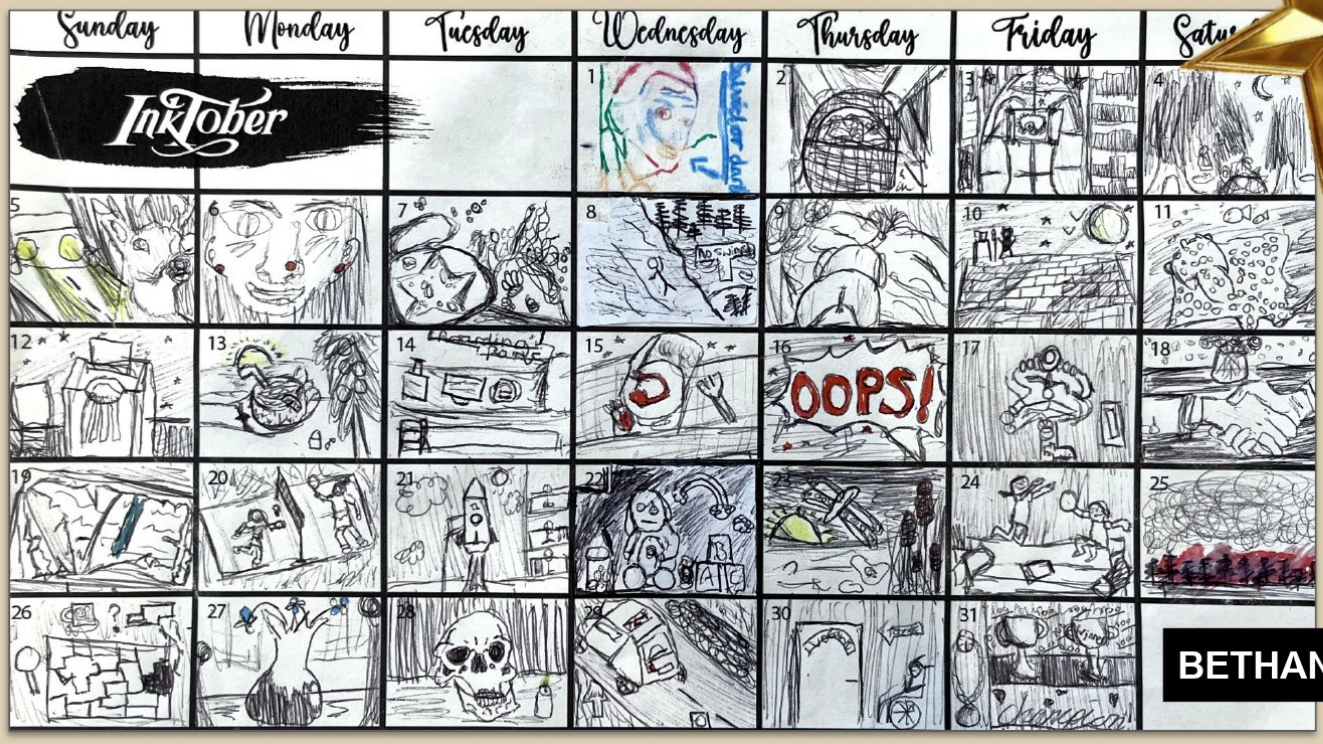
Well done to everyone who took part in our Inktober competition.
Below are our incredible winners and highly commended. Keep an eye out for the Inktober display outside of C Hall soon!

STAFF WINNER



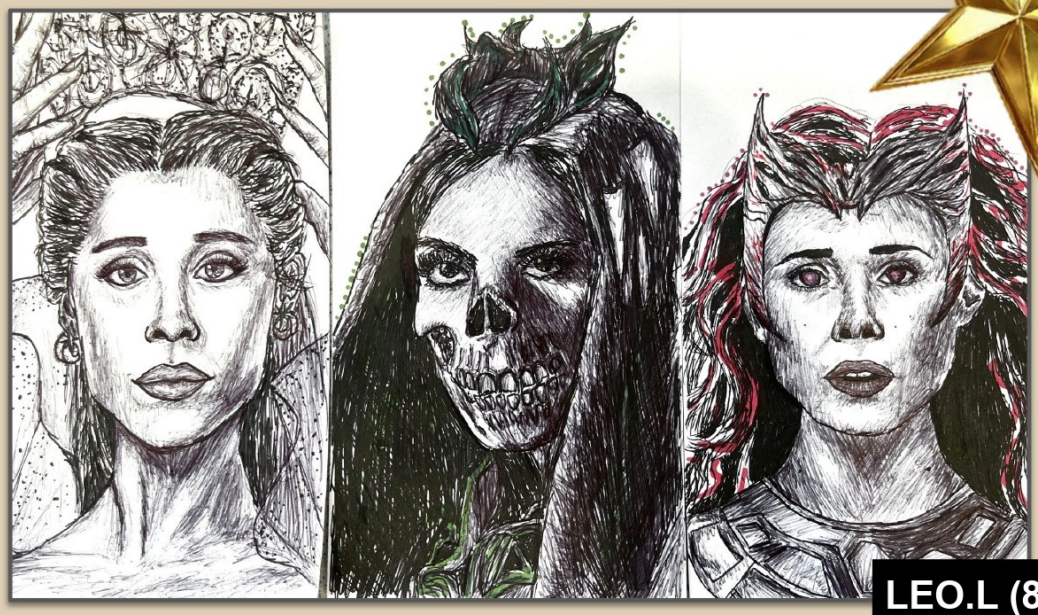
MRS KNIVETON

YEAR 7 WINNER



BETHAN G (7T)

YEAR 8 WINNER



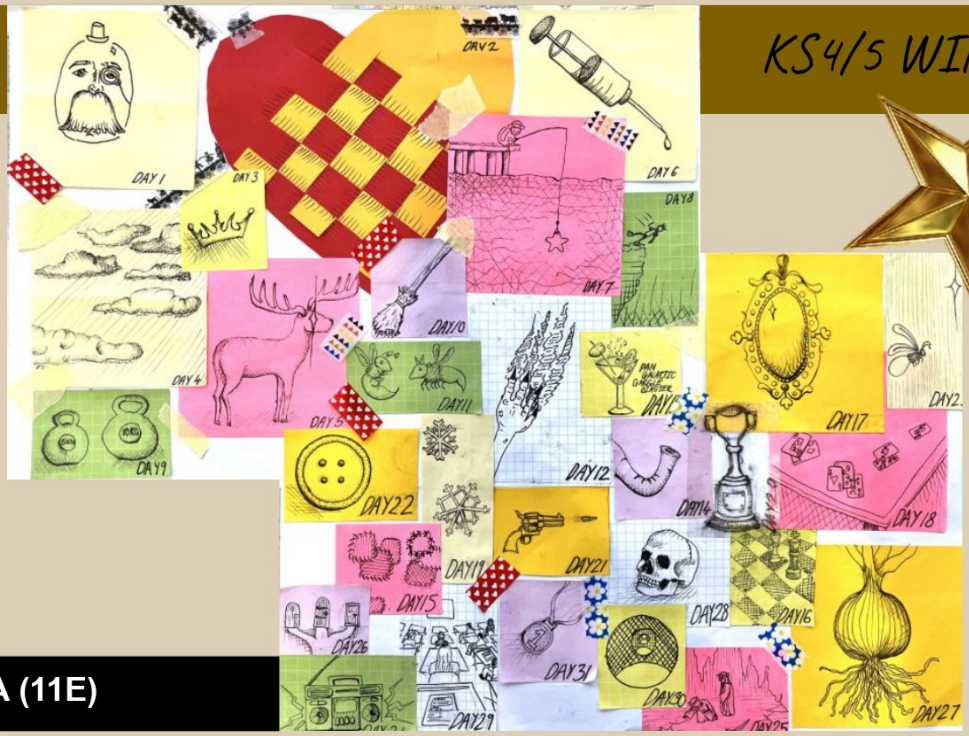
LEO.L (8W)

YEAR 9 WINNER



MARLIE.F (9O)

KS4/5 WINNER



KATHERINE A (11E)

Art Update:

‘Portrait in Your Hand’

Year 8 were asked to create a 'Portrait in your Hand' to show us their personalities, hobbies and interests. These are some of the wonderful homework outcomes that have been created!



History Update:

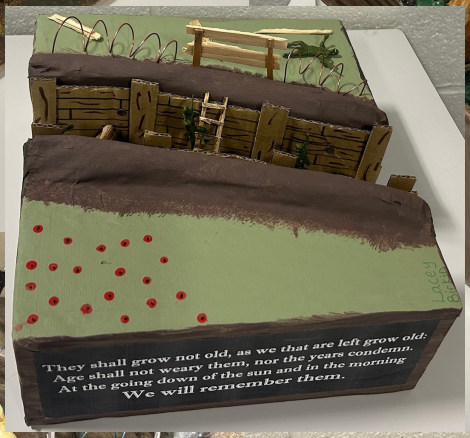
Mr Thorpe would like to say a huge well done to everyone for their incredible trench designs! It was fantastic to see such a wide variety of creative ideas. Over 30 golden tickets were handed out – far more than he expected when the homework was set, but that really shows how impressive the work was! A shortlist of 10 was finally narrowed down to a top 5. It was a tough decision!

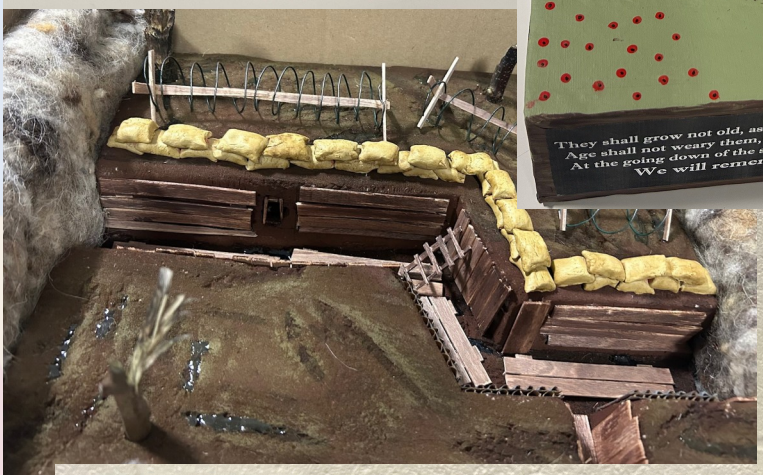


5th: James B - for his computerised design.
4th: Lacey B - for her trench design focused around 'remembrance'.
3rd: Jess S - for her 3D printed design
2nd: Enan S - an action-packed trench model!
1st: Jacob W - a trench model with remarkable detail.

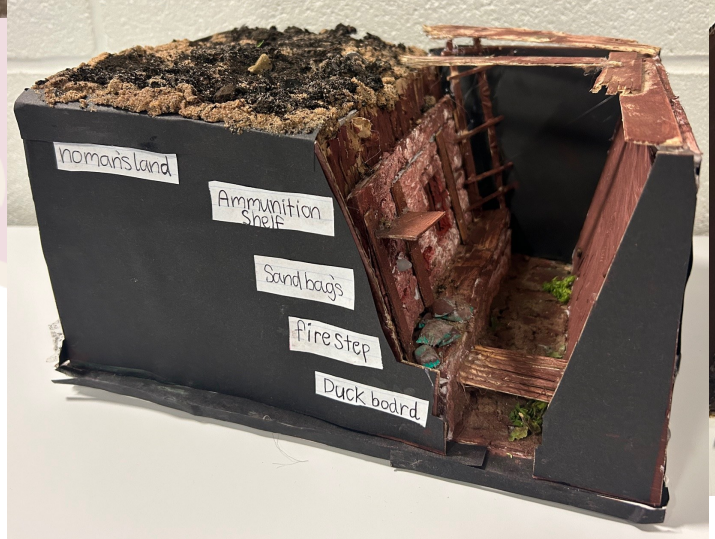












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History Update:

The Battle of Hastings

Over the past couple of weeks, our History students have been bringing the Battle of Hastings to life! As part of their studies, they designed their own Anglo-Saxon and Norman shields — with some truly fantastic results. Well done to everyone for their creativity and effort!



Food Technology Update:

Year 8 have done an amazing job - learning about the chemical and functional properties of the ingredients of bread and then experimenting with different bread shapes.









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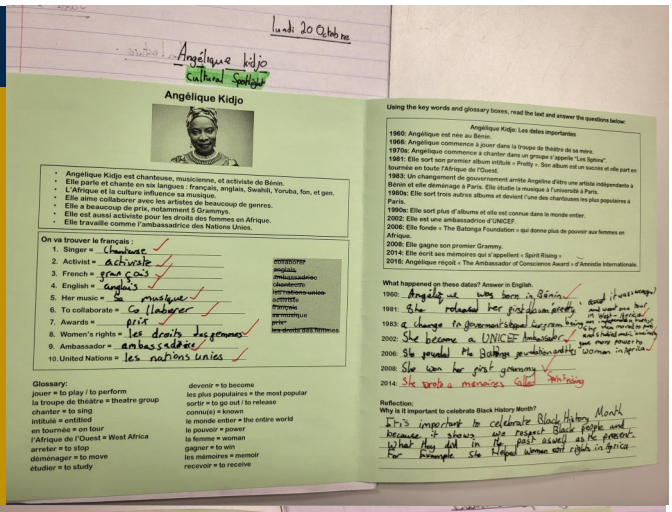
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Modern Foreign Languages Update:

This term, our students have been exploring languages in a creative and cultural way. Here's a snapshot of what they've been doing in French, German, and Spanish.

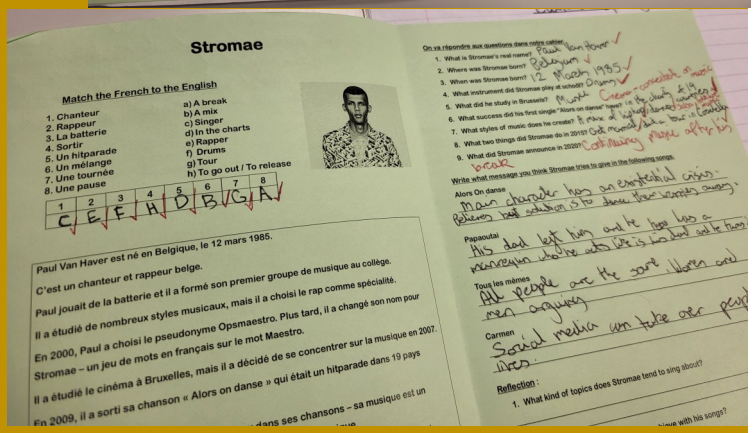
French

In celebration of Black History Month, our students have been learning about the lives and achievements of notable French-speaking figures. Year 7 learnt about Joséphine Baker and her love for France, as well as her remarkable work as an entertainer and activist. Year 8 explored the career of Angélique Kidjo, the Grammy-winning singer from Benin, while Year 9 discovered the Belgian artist Stromae, enjoying listening to and analysing some of his most famous songs.



German

In November, children across Germany, Austria, and Switzerland celebrate St Martin's Day by making lanterns and taking part in lantern processions led by someone dressed as St Martin. They sing traditional songs and enjoy seasonal treats. Our Year 8 and Year 10 students joined a special lunchtime culture session to learn more about this tradition. They listened to both traditional and modern German music, sampled a variety of classic German snacks, and even tried their hand at making their own lanterns.





Spanish

Across all KS3 groups, students have been exploring the Day of the Dead. They watched videos, took part in interactive activities, and decorated colourful skulls and *Catrinas*, bringing this vibrant tradition to life in the classroom. Some groups also explored the cultural significance of the Day of the Dead, discussing how families honour and remember their loved ones through altars and offerings. We'd also like to highlight the work of our Year 8 students, who have been learning about food and healthy eating, creating fantastic projects in which they drew their meals and described them in Spanish.



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PE Update:

Running and Fitness Club Off to a Flying Start!



The first week of the John Port Running and Fitness Club was a huge success, with 25 enthusiastic students taking part in a speed and agility–focused session.

Students threw themselves into the fun and competitive cone retrieval team game, followed by shuttle relays to really test their pace and determination.

A big well done to Miss Clements, who did a fantastic job motivating and preparing everyone for action, and to Mrs van Dijk, who loved seeing so many students eager to keep fit and push themselves.

Go Team John Port!

Congratulations:

Henry H, Year 12, took part in his first camp with England Athletics on his Youth Talent Program. He was one of 210 athletes (over 600 applied) selected from England to attend the 2 year program!

He was based at Loughborough University for 2 days and trained with England coaches and had lectures in Sports Psychology, Nutrition, Anti-doping and had 6 hours of elite athlete training.

Well done Henry!!



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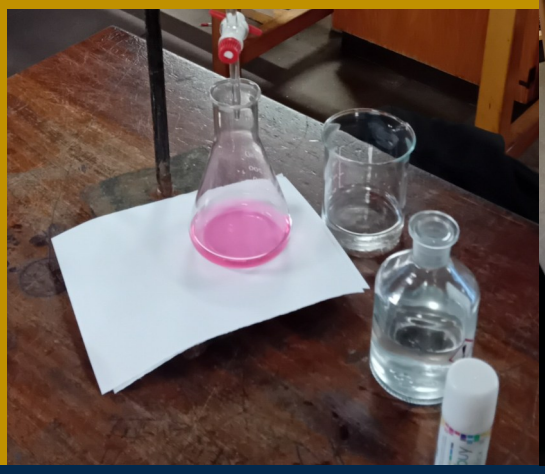
Science Club Update:

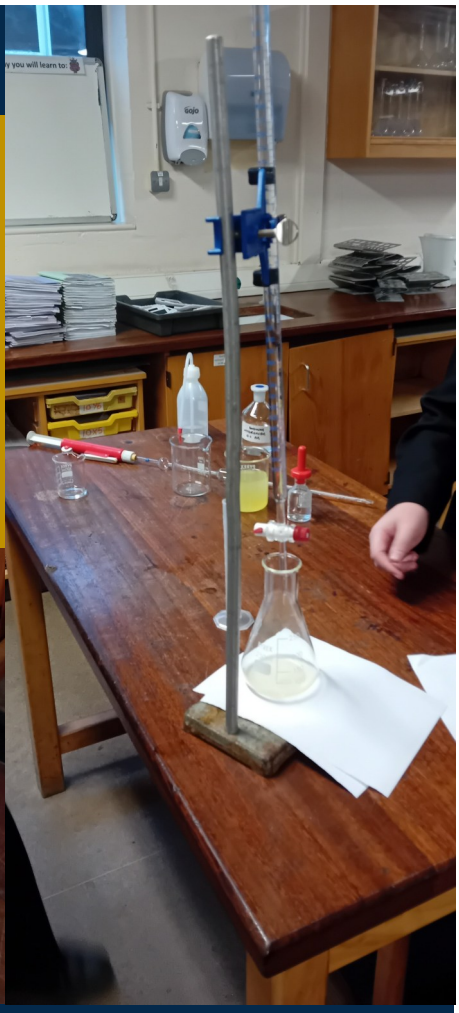
An exciting start to the Gold Level Science Award Club that began this term for Year 9 and Year 10 students.

Titrations aren't just about drops and data —with every swirl of a flask, the exact chemistry behind everyday substances can be discovered.

Students experienced using titration equipment to investigate the concentration of citric acid in lemon and orange juice.

I'm sure if you were to ask one of our budding scientists, they may be able to tell you which contained the most.





What's on in the Community:



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www.ticketsource.co.uk/derby-county-women

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