

February
2026



The Redhill Academy

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

2026



As we reach the midpoint of the spring term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an inspiring and energetic few weeks at school.

This term, our Arts Celebration Evening was a true highlight. It was wonderful to see the outstanding creativity, confidence and dedication of our performing arts students shine on stage. Their performances, along with the special awards presented, showcased not only exceptional talent but also the perseverance and teamwork that lie at the heart of artistic success.

Equally uplifting was our Sixth Form Culture Day, where students across Years 12 and 13 came together to share food, stories, music and traditions that reflect their diverse heritages.

Beyond these events, it has also been fantastic to see so many students engaging enthusiastically in the wide range of co-curricular opportunities available. With over 50 clubs running each week—from sports and performing arts to debating, languages, music ensembles and more—there truly is something for everyone. The willingness of our students to try new experiences, challenge themselves and contribute to the wider life of the school is something we are incredibly proud of.

As we move into the latter part of the term, I encourage all students to continue embracing these opportunities, supporting one another, and celebrating both individual and collective achievements.





STUDENT STORIES



We are incredibly proud to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Year 8 student Adreanna, who recently performed as one of the von Trapp children in Curve Theatre's highly acclaimed Christmas production of *The Sound of Music*. The production has just concluded a successful two-month run in Leicester, staged in honour of the 60th anniversary of the film's release, and has delighted audiences throughout the festive season.

Being cast in such a prestigious and well-loved musical is an exceptional accomplishment for any young performer. Adreanna's involvement stands as a testament to her dedication, hard work, and natural talent. Performing on a professional stage as part of a large and vibrant cast is no small feat, and she embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm and maturity.

The Curve Theatre production featured a company of young people from across the region, selected through an open audition process. To be chosen from such a wide pool of talented performers is a remarkable achievement and speaks volumes about Adreanna's ability and stage presence. Throughout the run, she helped bring the magic, charm, and energy of the von Trapp family to life—playing an important role in a musical that continues to capture hearts across generations.

We are delighted to share in Adreanna's success and to recognise the commitment she has shown to developing her performing arts skills. Opportunities like this inspire not only those involved but also fellow students who may be considering following similar creative pathways.





ETHICS CUP



We are incredibly proud of our Ethics Cup debating team for their outstanding performance in this year's competition. The team came first in the group stages out of 12 schools and narrowly missed out on the overall win in the finals after a close judges' vote. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work, critical thinking, and collaborative spirit.

The Ethics Cup is a unique competition designed to encourage interest in philosophy among secondary school students and promote respectful, thoughtful discussion on ethical issues of public concern.

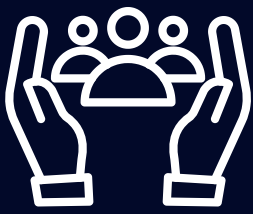
Unlike traditional debating tournaments, the focus is not on winning arguments but on advancing dialogue constructively. Students are rewarded for their ability to reason carefully, listen charitably, and engage in civil discourse—skills that are essential in a diverse society.

Please join us in congratulating the following students for representing the Academy so brilliantly:

Elizabeth, Katherine, Srinidhi, Sophie, Hattie, Sienna, Evie, Beth, and Gaurika.

Congratulations on their achievement and we look forward to seeing them continue to excel in future competitions!





SIXTH FORM CULTURE DAY

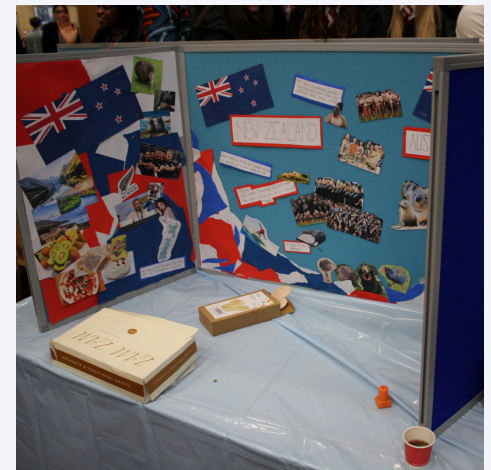


Last week, our sixth form students once again demonstrated their outstanding commitment to inclusion and community spirit as they celebrated Culture Day. Students in Years 12 and 13 worked with enthusiasm and creativity to produce information boards, prepare traditional foods, and design interactive games that reflected the traditions and stories they cherish from their own cultural backgrounds.

Students from across the school visited the main hall throughout lunch, enjoying a vibrant celebration of food, art, dance, and music. The event highlighted one of our greatest strengths as a school: the rich cultural diversity that shapes our community. With students and families representing heritages from around the world, our school environment is enriched daily by a wide range of languages, traditions, and global perspectives.

As part of the celebration, donations were collected in support of the Nottingham Refugee Forum, a local organisation offering vital assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in the area. We are proud to support their work and will share the final amount raised once confirmed.

We extend our sincere thanks to the parents and families who generously donated food, artwork, and cultural items. Their contributions helped make the celebration authentic, engaging, and truly memorable. Well done to all our sixth form students for creating an inspiring event that reflects the compassion, pride, and inclusivity at the heart of our school.





RECITAL EVENING



Our annual Recital Evening took place last night, bringing together talented musicians from Years 7–13 for a memorable celebration of musical achievement. The programme showcased an impressive range of instruments and styles, and we were especially pleased to feature performances from the winners of each category of The Piano Competition.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity for students to share the results of their hard work with an appreciative and supportive audience. For several performers, it was their very first time on stage, and their confidence grew with every note. The smiles, waves to family and friends, and proud moments were highlights of the evening.

This year's recital also included a number of heart-warming collaborative performances, including students accompanying one another and touching sibling duets. We were delighted to see more boys than ever volunteering to perform as solo singers, adding further variety to the programme.

Many students embraced the challenge of stepping outside their comfort zones, and their courage was rewarded with an exceptional audience response.

We extend our warmest congratulations to every student who took part. Their dedication, musicianship, and enthusiasm made Recital Evening a truly memorable occasion, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth in the months ahead.





STUDENT STORIES



We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding sporting success of Year 10 student Justin, who has earned a place in the Leicester Tigers Rugby Programme—one of the region’s most respected development pathways for aspiring young players.

The Leicester Tigers Rugby Programme, delivered in partnership with SMB College Group, provides high-quality rugby development alongside specialist education and first-class training facilities.

Being selected for such a demanding and prestigious programme reflects Justin’s commitment, work ethic, and talent on the pitch. He now becomes the second student in Year 10 to be offered this exceptional opportunity, highlighting not only individual success but also the increasing presence of our students within high-level regional rugby.

Please join us in congratulating Justin on this remarkable accomplishment—we are incredibly proud and excited to see where his rugby journey leads next.





THE PIANO



Last night's Piano Competition was an outstanding success. With the piano illuminated under a single spotlight, students from across the school delivered performances of remarkable confidence, expression and musicality, competing in five categories.

We were delighted to welcome guest adjudicator Chris Miggells, who provided thoughtful and constructive feedback to every performer. He also captivated the audience with a performance of one of his own compositions. Chris praised the exceptionally high standard on display, noting impressive interpretations of works by Debussy, Chopin, Liszt and Brahms, alongside polished graded exam repertoire.

Congratulations to our category winners:

- Category A: Alberto
- Category B: Ali
- Category C: Carmen
- Category D: Jaydeep
- Category E: Jason

A huge well done to all performers. Your dedication, talent and poise made the evening truly memorable for everyone in attendance.





STUDENT STORIES



We are thrilled to celebrate Lina and Leana, who have both earned UK-recognised Grade 3 certificates on the World Music and Dance Performance Programme, awarded by the PRSSV Institute of Performing Arts and Heritage. This is a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to their dedication, discipline, and passion for the art of dance.

Kathak, the classical dance form they study, is one of India's eight major classical dance traditions. Originating from the northern regions of the Indian subcontinent, Kathak has deep cultural roots, beginning with ancient storytellers known as Kathakars, who brought tales to life through expressive movement, rhythmic footwork, spins, and intricate gestures. Over centuries, Kathak evolved into a refined classical art—celebrated for its grace, intricate rhythms, and powerful storytelling.

Lina and Leana's success demonstrates not only their hard work, but also their commitment to preserving and showcasing a beautiful cultural heritage. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and cannot wait to see where their dance journeys take them next!





ARCHIE WHITEHALL



We were delighted to welcome former Redhill student Archie Whitehall back to school this week, as he spoke with our students about his inspiring journey from school football to the professional game.

Since leaving Redhill, Archie has continued to rise through the ranks of professional football. Last season, he was a key member of the Nottingham Forest Under-21 squad that lifted the Premier League International Cup. This year, he has reached another impressive milestone—earning his place within Nottingham Forest’s first-team squad.

Archie’s achievements are a testament to his hard work, resilience, and ambition, and they offer a powerful example of what can be accomplished with dedication and focus. During his visit, he generously shared insights into his training, his challenges, and the lessons he has learned along the way.

Our students greatly valued the opportunity to hear from someone who once sat where they sit now. Archie’s honesty and enthusiasm made his journey feel both relatable and motivating, and we are deeply grateful for the time he spent with us.

We wish him every success as he continues his football career and look forward to following his progress in the seasons ahead.





POETRY LIVE



At the beginning of February, a group of our students attended Poetry Live! at the Royal Concert Hall, an event designed to give GCSE learners the opportunity to hear live readings and insights from poets they study. The day featured an exceptional lineup, including Simon Armitage, John Agard, Carol Ann Duffy, Imtiaz Dharker, Daljit Nagra, and Owen Sheers.

Students also benefited from sessions with experienced examiners Tony Childs or Peter Buckroyd, gaining valuable advice on how to approach their upcoming assessments.

It was a highly engaging experience that brought classroom learning to life and deepened students' understanding of the poets and themes they explore in their studies. We are proud of how well our students represented the school and embraced the opportunity.





ARTS CELEBRATION



On Wednesday 4 February, Redhill hosted its annual Arts Celebration Evening (ACE), a highlight of the school calendar that recognises the outstanding dedication and creativity of our performing arts students. The event celebrates those in Years 9, 11 and 13 who have shown exceptional commitment to co-curricular drama, dance and music throughout the year.

The evening featured a vibrant programme of performances, with students showcasing work from across the performing arts disciplines. Their pieces demonstrated not only technical skill but also confidence, teamwork and a genuine passion for their craft. Speeches from our performing arts staff reflected on the importance of the arts within school life, while our visiting speaker, professional composer and pianist Simeon Walker, offered thoughtful insights into his own creative journey and the value of pursuing artistic expression.

A number of special awards were also presented during the ceremony. The Nichola Epworth Cup was awarded to Indy Cowley in recognition of her outstanding dedication to the performing arts during her time at Redhill. This award honours students who have made an exceptional contribution, consistently demonstrating enthusiasm, reliability and artistic growth. The Brian Foyster Music Award was presented to Charles Williams for the remarkable musicianship and commitment he has shown throughout his years at the school. Charles's contribution to musical life at Redhill has been hugely appreciated, and the award was proudly presented by Ben Foyster, who attended the event in memory of his father.

The school extends warm congratulations to all students who received awards this year. Their talent and determination continue to enrich the cultural life of Redhill, and we look forward to seeing what they will go on to achieve.



STAR OF THE MONTH

Most House
Points

ARH

Well done to ARH who had the most house points!

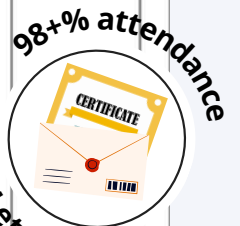
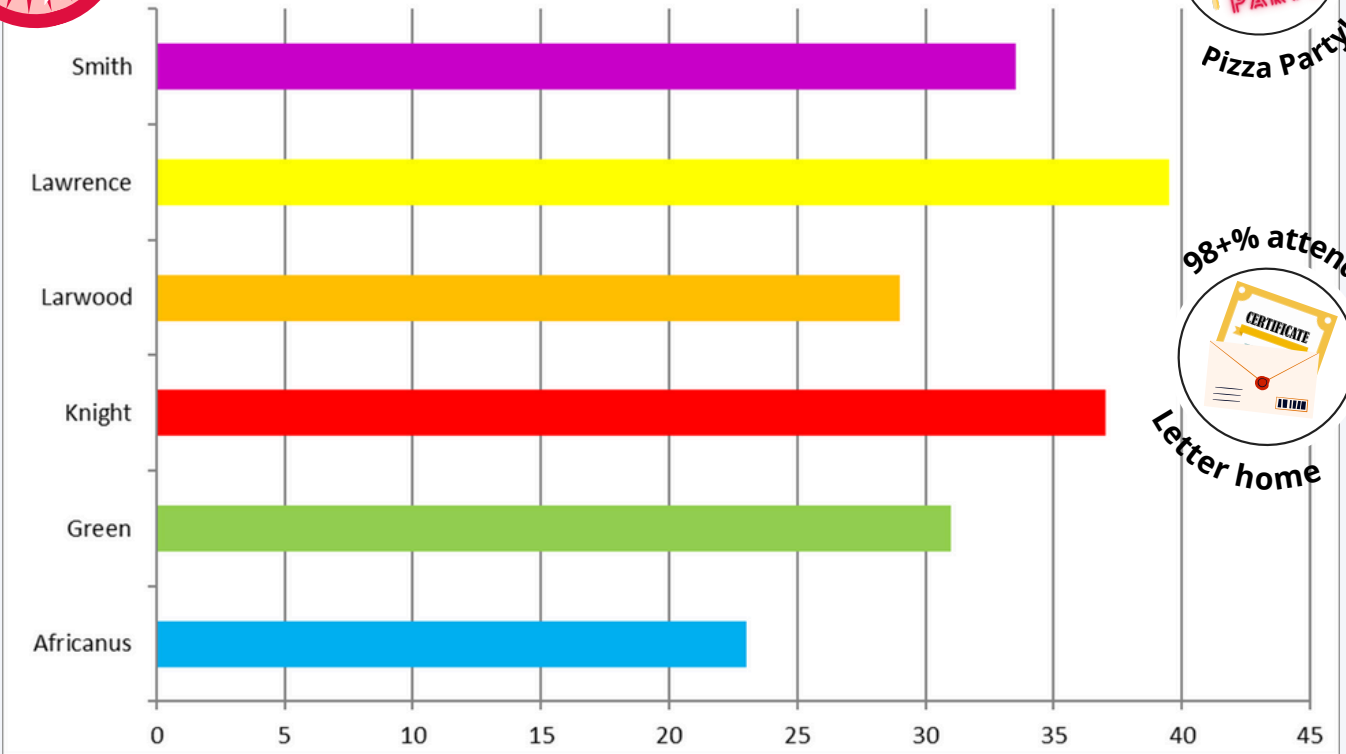
Top
Attendance

DIG

Well done to DIG who had the best attendance!



HOUSE TOTALS THIS TERM



It all starts with attendance... **BE HERE!**

Attend²Achieve

**GREATER THAN
95%
ATTENDANCE**



80% of students achieved at least 5 GCSE's including English and Maths when they attend more than 95%

**LESS THAN
90%
ATTENDANCE**



54% of students achieved at least 5 GCSE's including English and Maths when they attend less than 90%

**LESS THAN
80%
ATTENDANCE**



36% of students achieved at least 5 GCSE's including English and Maths when they attend less than 80%

As always, thank you for your continued support with attendance.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday 23rd February** - Start of half term, Inter-house chess challenge (all week), Y13 parent's evening
- **Wednesday 25th February** - Year 12 trip to Oxford University
- **Thursday 26th February**- Year 12 Drama trip - Nottingham Playhouse
- **Wednesday 4th March**- Library event: World Book Day, Year 9 parent's evening.
- **Thursday 5th March** - World Book Day
- **Friday 6th March**- Year 11 MFL mock exams (until Fri 13th March)
- **Monday 9th March** - Inter-house Assistant Head of House challenge (all week)
- **Tuesday 10th March** - Dance Evening
- **Wednesday 11th March** - Pathways Evening
- **Thursday 12th March** - Year 10 GCSE Drama trip - Derby Theatre
- **Tuesday 17th March**- GCSE Drama scripted performance evening
- **Wednesday 18th March** - A-Level Dance practical exam, Year 9 vaccinations (DTP/ACWY)
- **Thursday 19th March** - Intermediate Maths challenge (Kangaroo), Easter concert
- **Friday 20th March** - Move It! Dance trip
- **Tuesday 24th March** - GCSE Music recording day (1 of 2), DofE awards evening
- **Wednesday 25th March** - GCSE Music recording day (2 of 2), Presentation evening
- **Friday 27th March** - PSV football development tour (to 30th March), end of term

