

April
2026



The Redhill Academy

NEWSLETTER



APRIL NEWSLETTER

2026



As we begin the summer term, I am delighted to reflect on an exceptionally vibrant and rewarding few months across our school community. The articles in this month's newsletter showcase the impressive breadth of opportunities our students have embraced.

Our co-curricular programme remains a real strength, with students taking full advantage of the enriching experiences on offer. We have also seen students shine beyond the classroom with several of our pupils enjoying unforgettable experiences with Nottingham Forest and the Premier League Inspires National Reading event.

As we move into exam season, academic aspiration has also been at the forefront this term. Our Year 12 visit to Oxford University offered a motivating glimpse into life at one of the world's leading institutions. Similarly, our annual Presentation evening continues to be a highlight of the calendar, recognising the incredible academic and pastoral achievements of students across the school.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. I hope you enjoy reading about the many achievements and experiences that have made this a memorable Spring term.





CO-CURRICULAR SPOTLIGHT



Our Crochet After School Club runs every Tuesday in S9, offering students a calm, creative space to explore a timeless craft. Crochet is a simple but rewarding skill that builds concentration, patience and confidence, while giving students the chance to produce something unique with their own hands.

Crochet as we know it today began to take shape in the early 19th century, with the first published instructions appearing in the Dutch magazine *Penélopé* in 1823. The term itself comes from the French word for “hook,” used in European lace-making as early as the 17th century. Despite its straightforward tools, crochet has been used for generations to create clothing, accessories, household items and decorative pieces.

Beyond its creative appeal, crochet has practical real-world applications. Students learn skills that translate into design thinking, problem-solving and even small-scale entrepreneurship, as crochet remains a popular craft in fashion, home décor and handmade markets worldwide.

Students of all experience levels are welcome. If you'd like to try a hobby that is relaxing, practical and endlessly adaptable, come along to S9 on Tuesdays and get involved.





NOTTINGHAM FOREST



Late February brought two exciting opportunities for our students to engage with Nottingham Forest in ways that showcased their enthusiasm, maturity, and love of learning. First, two of our students, Saoirse and Eva, were selected to serve as ball girls at a Nottingham Forest Women's match—a memorable behind-the-scenes experience that allowed them to see professional sport up close. Both students approached the role with confidence and dedication, impressing staff with how well they took on their responsibilities and represented the school.

Then, the following week, Mr Peters accompanied a group of ten students to the Nottingham Forest stadium for a Premier League Inspires National Reading event. This visit encouraged students to explore reading and storytelling in a fresh environment, taking part in activities designed to inspire creativity and engagement. The group also enjoyed a tour of the grounds, adding an exciting extra dimension to the day.

We are incredibly proud of all the students involved. Whether supporting a live sporting fixture or discovering new ways to connect with reading, they demonstrated teamwork, curiosity and a positive attitude throughout. These opportunities offered valuable experiences they will remember for years to come—well done to everyone who took part.





OXFORD UNIVERSITY



Our Year 12 students recently took part in an inspiring visit to Oxford University, giving them the chance to explore one of the world's most renowned academic environments.

Throughout the day, students toured a range of facilities, including libraries, study spaces and departmental areas, gaining a clearer understanding of what studying at a top university involves. They also had the valuable opportunity to speak with current students, who shared their experiences of university life, academic expectations, and the vibrant Oxford collegiate community.

This visit is an important part of our commitment to raising aspirations within the Sixth Form. We are proud to maintain a strong record of students progressing to both Oxford and Cambridge through our dedicated Oxbridge Programme. The programme provides tailored guidance, subject-specific support, interview preparation and enrichment opportunities designed to help high-achieving students excel in competitive applications. Many of our former pupils have gone on to study at these prestigious institutions, and it is encouraging to see this next cohort engaging enthusiastically with the opportunities available.

The trip proved both motivating and eye-opening, offering students a real insight into what their academic futures could hold. We look forward to supporting them as they continue to explore their post-18 options and work towards their ambitions.





BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Our recent Battle of the Bands event, held on Wednesday 25th February, was a fantastic celebration of musical talent across the school. Students from a wide range of year groups took to the stage, showcasing an impressive mix of rock and indie bands, acoustic performers, vocal groups and several remarkable first-time acts. The standard of performance was exceptionally high, with creativity, confidence and musical skill shining throughout the evening.

A huge well done to every student who performed—you each brought something unique to the event and helped make it a brilliant success. We would also like to extend our thanks to the dedicated backstage crew and staff whose hard work ensured the night ran smoothly. It was a wonderful showcase of the enthusiasm and talent within our school community, and we are proud of everyone involved.





WORLD BOOK DAY



This year's World Book Day brought a full week of activity, creativity, and excitement to our library. We were delighted to welcome back Redhill alumna Lisa Williamson, who returned to deliver engaging creative writing workshops that inspired students across multiple year groups. Later in the week, we also hosted an after-school digital event offering a behind-the-scenes look at Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, giving students a unique insight into the production and storytelling behind the stage show. To mark the occasion, our reading corner now features a special wizard-themed display celebrating Harry Potter and other magical books.

As part of the celebrations, students enjoyed a busy programme of lunchtime and breaktime activities. On Tuesday, the library transformed into the Cosy Club, where students settled in under low lights with calming music and hot chocolates while they read. The atmosphere was warm and relaxed, offering a quiet space to appreciate books in a different way. On Wednesday, the School Book Club hosted its own Reading Celebration Fair to a packed turnout. Students created impressive displays based on their favourite books and arrived in a fantastic array of costumes. Prizes were awarded for the best dressed and the best display, adding extra excitement to the celebrations, and the event also included a bake sale to raise money for the Readathon.

We were thrilled to see such strong participation throughout the week, with students embracing every opportunity to celebrate reading, writing, and creativity. Thank you to everyone who took part, supported the events, or contributed their enthusiasm and imagination. World Book Day continues to be a highlight of our school calendar, and this year's celebrations were a wonderful reflection of our students' passion for literature.





DANCE EVENING



This year's Dance Evening once again proved to be a highlight of the school calendar, bringing together students from Years 7 to 13 for an inspiring showcase of talent, creativity and confidence. The event opened with bold, high-energy performances from our large co-curricular groups in Years 7 and 8, demonstrating impressive teamwork and enthusiasm. These were followed by thoughtful and expressive solo and small-group pieces from older students, each presenting their own style and choreography to an appreciative audience.

The evening, generously supported by the PTA, offered a wonderful celebration of community and the performing arts. We extend our thanks to Mrs Brookes for her leadership in coordinating the event, to Miss Smith for her dedicated work on group choreography, and to Mr Haslam and the technical team for ensuring the production ran smoothly. It was a fantastic occasion for all involved, and we congratulate every performer for contributing to such a memorable night. We look forward to welcoming families and friends back for next year's performance.





POETRY BY HEART



On Monday, students from across the Redhill Trust came together at Bolsover for the annual Poetry By Heart final. Representing our school were three talented finalists: Ged, Charles, and Esther, each competing in their respective Key Stages. The standard of performance was exceptionally high, with entrants from all nine Trust secondary schools delivering confident and accomplished recitations.

We are delighted to share that, despite the strong competition, two of our students were crowned winners in their categories:

- KS3 Winner – Ged
- KS5 Winner – Esther

This is an outstanding achievement and a testament to the hard work, commitment, and creativity shown by our students throughout the competition. All three finalists gave impressive performances, and we would also like to commend Charles, who narrowly missed out on the KS4 title after delivering a powerful and well-received recitation.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and talent demonstrated by our finalists and congratulate them on representing the school with such confidence and maturity.





RUGBY UPDATE



The past few weeks have been an exceptional period of progress and commitment for our rugby teams, particularly our Year 10 boys, who continue to demonstrate maturity, resilience and sporting excellence. They began the month with an impressive 48–21 victory at Alderman White, led by captain Justin and vice-captain Toby. Highlights included Ethan scoring his first try, powerful line breaks from Jacob and Justin, and consistently high tackle counts from Jack and Sam—an outstanding squad performance that set a positive tone for the weeks ahead.

We were also proud to be nominated for the England Touch Affiliate School of the Year, recognising the strength of our expanding rugby programme, our links with local clubs such as Mellish RFC, and the high-level pathways now available to our players, including two Year 10 students training with the Leicester Tigers academy. Although we did not win the award, the nomination itself reflects the dedication and growth within our school community.

Most recently, the Year 10 boys delivered a determined performance in tournament play. After a narrow 17–7 semi-final loss to The Brunts School, they moved into the Plate Final against Alderman White, where they battled hard in challenging conditions and finished as runners-up with a 28–19 result. Justin again led with exceptional commitment, heading directly from the tournament to train at the David Ross Centre for the Leicester Tigers Academy. We extend our thanks to Jordan and Cole for their continued coaching and support, and we congratulate the entire squad on their efforts and achievements.





RED NOSE DAY



We are delighted to share the fantastic results of our Red Nose Day bake sale. Thanks to the incredible generosity and enthusiasm of our school community, we have officially raised £376.85 for this important cause.

The event was a wonderful display of teamwork and kindness. Our students, parents, and staff all contributed—whether by baking delicious treats, purchasing goodies, or offering donations—and we are truly grateful for the support shown throughout the day. Red Nose Day aims to make a difference to the lives of people across the UK and around the world, and we are proud that our contribution will help support the charity's vital work.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for making this event such a success. Your support and community spirit continue to shine.





PRESENTATION EVENING



At the end of March, we were proud to host our annual Redhill Presentation Evening, a special event dedicated to celebrating the hard work, progress and outstanding achievements of our learners across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

The ceremony brought together students, families, staff and alumni to honour accomplishments from the 2024–2025 academic year, recognising both academic excellence and wider contributions to school life. The evening was complimented with beautifully performed musical items by the Student Vocal Ensemble, Head Girl Poppy and Year 11's Cheuk. Showcasing the talent within our school community.

We were delighted to welcome back this year's guest speaker, Laura Harvey, an economics lecturer at the University of Loughborough and Redhill alum. Laura delivered an inspiring address reflecting on her time at Redhill and the experiences that shaped her academic journey. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of special awards by Mr Hardy, Miss Barfoot and Mr Burns, including the John de Boer Trophy for Outstanding Achievement at Key Stage 5, the Sally Jackson Award for Outstanding Pastoral Contribution to the Academy, and the Melissa Ellis Prize for Achievement in Modern Foreign Languages. These awards recognise exceptional dedication, personal growth and the distinctive ways in which students enrich our school community.

A huge congratulations goes to all award recipients for their ongoing commitment, resilience and achievements, and our sincere thanks to the families, friends and staff who joined us to make this year's Presentation Evening such a memorable occasion.



HOUSE TOTALS

Most House Points

ARH

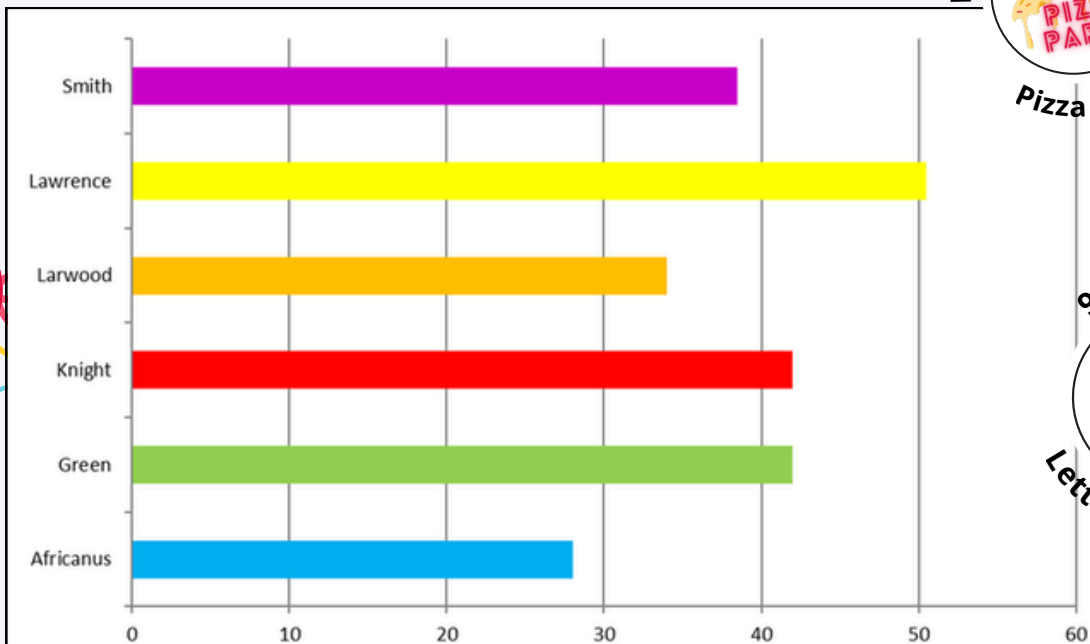
Well done to ARH who had the most house points!

Top Attendance

DIG

Well done to DIG who had the best attendance!

INTER-HOUSE CUP STANDINGS



Be the top tutor group!



Pizza Party!

98+% attendance



Letter home

PRIZE DRAW



REDHILL WAY AWARDS



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS,
WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE MOST HOUSE POINTS
THIS TERM!**

AFRICANUS

CHARLOTTE
MAKEY

VISMAYYA
KANNAN



GREEN

DAISY
LEMAN

ANNABELLE
SKILLINGTON



LAWRENCE

VALERIE
OKUNGBOWA

CHARLIE
FRANKLAND



LARWOOD

IBRAHIM
EITEZAZ

SETH
HALL



KNIGHT

LILLIE
SHARPE

BORIS
METODIEV



SMITH

JESSICA
RAY

POLLY
HAYE





UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday 13th April**- Start of new term.
- **Friday 17th April** - Year 9 trip to Macbeth.
- **Monday 20th April** - GCSE MFL speaking exams (until 27th April), Year 10 mock exams (until 1st May), inter-house science challenge.
- **Wednesday 22nd April** - Lisa Williamson writing workshop.
- **Wednesday 29th April**- Year 7 & 8 junior maths challenge, Year 8 HPV vaccinations.
- **Thursday 30th April** - Year 11 commendation evening.
- **Tuesday 5th May** - Assistant Head of House Challenge, Year 12 next steps conference (Day 1), Year 7 parent's evening.
- **Wednesday 6th May**- 6th Form Spires graduation day, Year 12 trip to University of Derby.
- **Saturday 9th May** - DofE Bronze practice expedition (to 10th May).
- **Tuesday 12th May** - Year 8 DofE Parent's info evening.
- **Friday 15th May** - Year 9 & 10 trip - Theatre Royal
- **Friday 22nd May** - End of half term

