South Charnwood High School

'Encouraging excellence, valuing people'

Newsletter Issue 35 – Friday 11th September 2026

Headteacher's message:

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. I hope you all managed to enjoy a restful and refreshing summer break with family and friends making the most of the sunny weather. It has been an absolute pleasure welcoming back our Year 8, 9, 10, and 11 pupils, alongside our new Year 7 cohort who have made a fantastic, smooth transition into life at South Charnwood High School. Our pupils have returned smartly dressed and ready to learn, immediately re-engaging with our core expectations of being Polite, Prepared, and Productive.

Over the summer, we were delighted to celebrate another set of outstanding GCSE results with our outgoing Year 11 cohort. An incredible 50% of the year group achieved at least one Grade 7 or above, with almost 60% beating their target grades across their subjects. Their hard work, dedication, and resilience have truly paid off, and we wish them every success as they move on to their post-16 studies and apprenticeships.

Summer success was not limited to exams. Huge congratulations to Emilia B in Year 9, whose winning design in the NAPA Racing UK helmet competition was worn by driver Cam Richardson during the Knockhill race weekend in August! An amazing achievement.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all parents and carers who took the time to complete the mobile phone survey at the end of last year. We are extremely grateful for your feedback and continued partnership as we work to maintain a focused, disruption-free learning environment for all pupils. Further details will follow in the next couple of weeks outlining clear guidance on how the new government legislation will be implemented in school after October half term.

In line with our ongoing commitment to supporting pupil well-being, this newsletter includes details on a 'Parent Cheat Sheet' focused on resetting children's social media algorithms. We know the damaging impact that excessive scrolling, online distractions, and harmful content can have on young people's sleep, mental health, and classroom engagement. We strongly encourage you to sit down with your child to review their digital habits, refresh their feeds, and promote regular screen breaks.

Looking ahead, the Autumn term is already packed with exciting opportunities and events. Key dates for your diary include our Year 10 Information Evening on Wednesday 16th September, Post-16 Evening on Wednesday 23rd September, and our optional Macmillan Non-Uniform Day on Friday 25th September (£1 cash donation). We are also looking forward to welcoming prospective pupils and families to our Open Evening on Thursday 1st October from 4:30pm to 7:00pm.

Finally, as always, we love to celebrate the holistic success of our pupils outside of the classroom. If your child has achieved something special in their sports, arts, volunteering, or community work over recent weeks, please do share your news and photographs with us at media@southcharnwood.org.

Thank you for your continued support as we begin another busy and productive school year.

Mr Andrews.

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EMILIA'S WINNING HELMET DESIGN

Over the summer holidays, Emilia B in 9JW entered the NAPA Racing UK helmet design competition in support of Race Against Dementia – and her design was one of just six chosen to be worn by the NAPA Racing team during the Knockhill race weekend in August 2026!

During the race weekend, Emilia had the fantastic opportunity to meet the driver who would be wearing her helmet, Cam Richardson. She was also given an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour, including a look inside the touring car garages and a chance to see her favourite driver's car.

After receiving her helmet, Emilia was given access to the team's staff trucks, including the data truck and the tyre truck. She also visited the drivers' truck, where she got to meet her favourite driver, Sam Osborne.

What an incredible experience – congratulations, Emilia!





The helmets are now being auctioned off to raise money for Race Against Dementia.

RAINBOW OVER SOUTH CHARNWOOD

Thank you to Mrs Sprason for sharing 2 beautiful photos of the rainbow that greeted her on her way into school last week.





GCSE SUCCESS CONTINUES AT SOUTH CHARNWOOD

Congratulations to our GCSE cohort who received such fantastic exam results. An incredible 50% of the cohort achieved at least one Grade 7 with almost 60% of the cohort beating their target grades,

We are delighted that their hard work and dedication to the courses has been rewarded.

We wish all pupils every success in their post 16 courses and know that the values and attributes shown during their time at South Charnwood will lead to further success in the future.











PARENT CHEAT SHEET – RESETTING CHILDREN'S ALGORITHMS

As part of our ongoing commitment to your child's well-being, we want to address a challenge that is increasingly impacting our pupils: the damaging effect of social media on young people's mental health, focus, and self-esteem. We are seeing a rise in sleep deprivation, anxiety, and online distractions that directly affect classroom engagement and emotional resilience.

To support you at home, click here for a Parent Cheat Sheet: Resetting Children's Algorithms. While platforms are engineered to keep children scrolling, you can actively alter what they see. We highly encourage you to sit down with your teenager this week to clear their video histories, refresh their feeds, and use 'Not Interested' tools to filter out harmful content. By actively retraining these apps and encouraging regular screen breaks, we can work together to create a much healthier digital environment for our young people.

Thank you for your continued partnership in safeguarding our pupils' well-being.

SOUTH CHARNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

The Headteacher, Staff and Trustees warmly invite you to visit the school on:

Thursday 1st October

4.30pm to 7.00pm

All welcome

BROAD LANE, MARKFIELD, LE67 9TB

TEL: 01530242351

EMAIL: OFFICE@SOUTHCHARNWOOD.ORG

Non Uniform Day

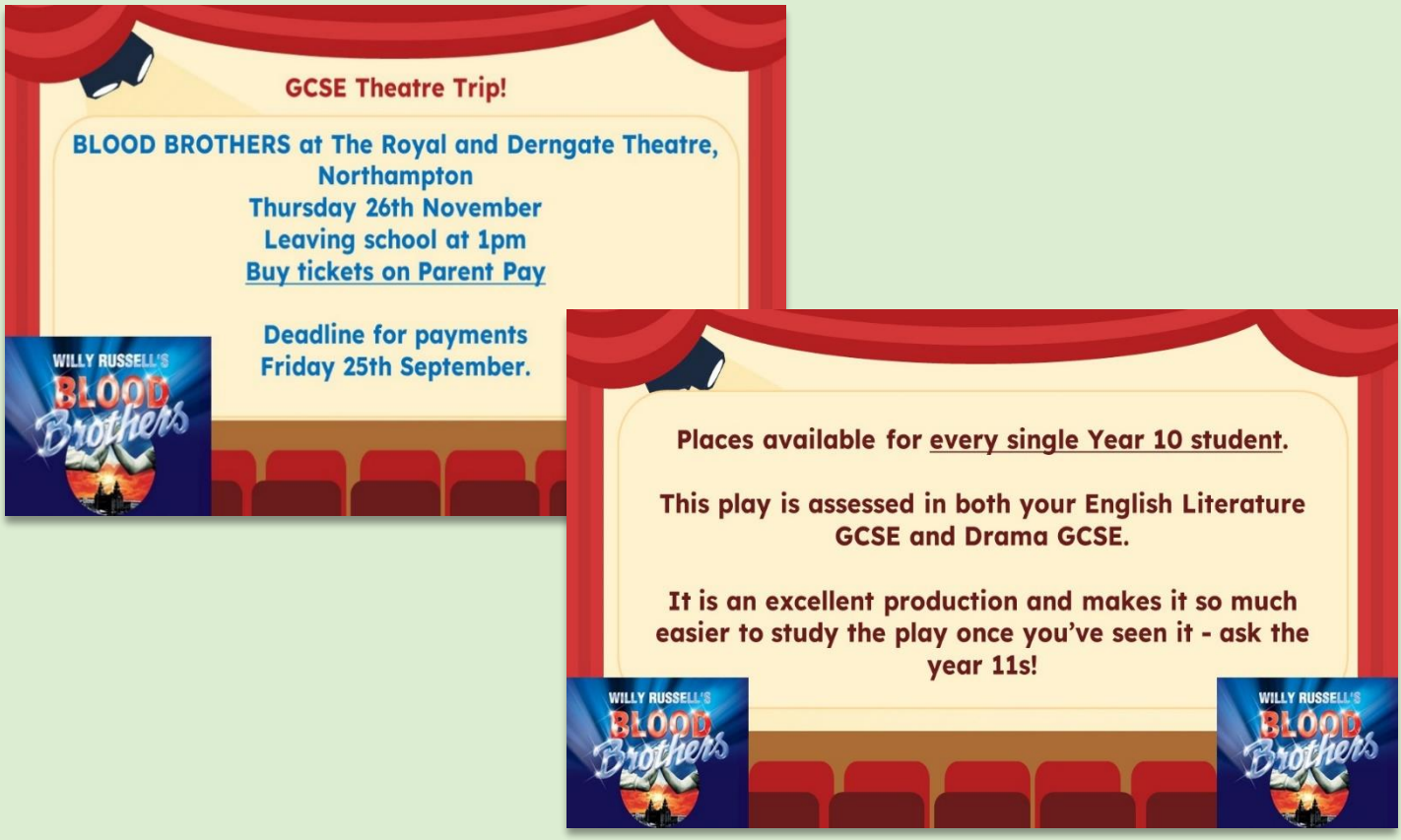
Friday 25th September is an optional non-school uniform day in aid of the Macmillan Charity.

If your child wishes to come to school dressed in non-uniform clothing, please could you send them with a £1 donation for the charity. This is not available on Parentpay; **it is payable on the day in cash only.**

Any child dressed inappropriately will be asked to change. Inappropriate dress includes cropped or strappy tops, rude slogans, jewellery, false nails and eyelashes.

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Please remind your child that they must still wear their lanyard on non-uniform days.



LANGUAGES HOMEWORK

Homework is very important in languages; that is why it is set every week. In year 7, this alternates between French and Spanish. Each week your child will need to learn key phrases off by heart. They will have a weekly vocabulary quiz to check how well they have learnt the phrases as well as a recap of the previous weeks.

Why do we do this? Learning a language is about recognising key vocabulary and grammar, and being able to put them together in sentences. Our lessons will focus on how to pronounce these words and we will practise building sentences and paragraphs. Without learning what the words mean at home, this vocabulary and grammar will not move into the long-term memory. This means your child will struggle to do the work in class because so much of their thinking time will be spent working out what the individual words mean.

How do you learn these key phrases off by heart? Your child should spend *on average five minutes each day at Key Stage 3* learning the phrases. What is *guaranteed* not to work, is just reading the words off the page; their revision must be active. Your teacher may set homework to be completed online (my.thisisschool.com), on paper, or a mixture of the two. They could write the phrases out in French/Spanish a few times, then do "look, cover, write, check" both into French/Spanish and into English. They could get you as parents or friends to test them (don't worry about your pronunciation!). They could create flashcards and use them to test themselves, or use an online flashcard app like Memrise. Your child's teacher will demonstrate some of these techniques throughout the year. If ever your child is struggling and they have used all of the methods above, please encourage them to come and see their class teacher for further tips.

How do we check your child has done their homework? Pupils are required to hand in the revision sheet they have been provided by their classroom teacher, or complete the online homework they have been given. Failure to do one of these will result in a detention.

If your child's average score on the weekly vocabulary quizzes falls below their target score, their teacher will have a supportive conversation to discuss with them why completing the revision homework has not led to high levels of recall. For example, this could be because they completed the homework the night it was set, and then have forgotten the majority of the spellings before their vocabulary quiz the following week. At no point will your child ever be issued a detention for a low vocabulary quiz score, and any conversation we have with them about it is supportive and aimed at improving their self-esteem.

If you have any questions, please ask your child to pass a note to their languages teacher and they will be happy to respond.

Supporting a Loved One Who Self-Harms: Workshop for Parents & Carers

Various dates and venues available in North West Leicestershire!

Is someone you care for self-harming or you worry that they are? Not sure what you should do?
Come join us to get a better understanding of what may be happening, and how you could support your loved one when they need you most.



For more information and to book go to:
https://bit.ly/SHworkshopNWL
or scan the QR code below

Better Mental Health for all

PERSONALITY DISORDERS UK

Supporting a Loved One Who Self-Harms: Workshop for Parents & Carers

MONDAY 21/09/2026 7pm-8.30pm at The Marlene Reid Centre

Is someone you care for self-harming or you worry that they are? Not sure what you should do?
Come join us to get a better understanding of what may be happening, and how you could support your loved one when they need you most.



For more information and to book go to:
https://bit.ly/SHworkshopNWL

call 01530 510515 or scan the QR code below

Better Mental Health for all

PERSONALITY DISORDERS UK

Teen Health

We would like to remind you of a service based in school called Teen Health.

Teen Health work with young people aged 11-19 on three key areas:

- Mental and emotional wellbeing (self-esteem, body image, resilience etc.)
- Healthy relationships (friendships, bullying, violence etc.)
- Risky behaviours (substance and alcohol misuse).

Our allocated worker, Lisa Preston, will be at South Charnwood High School every Wednesday delivering workshops, 1-1s and lunchtime drop-ins.

Anyone can refer including the young person, parent or school. (Please note that Teen Health require consent primarily from the young person to work with them.)

You can find more information and the referral form here.

Sidekick

The Leicestershire Young Carers Team would like to make you aware of a new confidential text support service available to Young Carers aged 13 - 18. It is called SIDEKICK and is run by the charity Action for Children. All the information about the service can be found here.

This service is a great opportunity for Young Carers to access support in a quick, confidential and anonymous way.

Future Newsletters – Pupil Achievements Outside School

We know our pupils are talented in all sorts of ways, not just in the classroom! We'd love to celebrate their successes and achievements outside of school too.

Has your child been **excelling at a sport, performing on stage, volunteering, raising money for charity, helping others or making a difference in their community?** We want to hear about it!

Send your news (and, if possible, a photo) to **media@southcharnwood.org** and you could see their achievement celebrated in a future newsletter!

Dates for your Diary

- 16th September, Year 10 Information Evening
- 21st September, Year 11 Shrewsbury Prison Trip
- 23rd September, Post 16 Evening
- 25th September, European Day of Languages
- 25th September, non-uniform day in aid of MacMillan (see above)
- 1st October, South Charnwood Open Evening
- 5th October, Year 7 Team Building Day
- 8th October, All Year Groups, Online Settling In Evening