South Charnwood High School

'Encouraging excellence, valuing people'

Newsletter Issue 36 – Friday 25th September 2026

Headteacher's message:

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter as the Autumn term moves into full swing. It has been wonderful to observe our pupils engaging so purposefully in their lessons while embracing the wide variety of extracurricular activities and enrichment opportunities on offer across the school.

Our pupils have already been involved in some inspiring experiences both inside and outside the classroom. This week, our Year 11 Sociology students gained a valuable insight into Crime and Deviance with a visit to Shrewsbury Prison, exploring life behind bars and testing their problem-solving skills in cell escape rooms. On an international level, we are thrilled that form 7JC is embarking on a collaborative reading project with a partner school in Ukraine as part of the British Council's UK-Ukraine School Partnerships programme, fostering global empathy and communication skills. We also saw fantastic community spirit from 10PH, who organised a delicious bake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, raising an impressive £111.80—well done to Mrs Hemsill's form for their hard work and generosity!

Looking across our wider school life, our Performing Arts department has unveiled a fantastic line-up for the year ahead, including our Winter Concert on 2nd December, a Dance Showcase in March, and our summer production of 'Fairy Tale Courtroom' in May, alongside weekly Charnwood Choir rehearsals on Mondays. In addition, we are pleased to share details of upcoming Friday night football coaching sessions at the school starting this October, delivered by local semi-professional footballer Sam Collins.

In this issue

Future Newsletters

Teen Health

Leicester Young Carers

Dates for Your Diary

Shrewsbury Prison

UK-Ukraine Partnership

First Aid in School

Football Coaching

Charnwood Choir

Performing Arts

Mobile Phone Pouch Update

We are finalising the details prior to launching mobile phone pouches for all pupils after October half term. Detailed information, including frequently asked questions will be sent to all parents in the next couple of weeks alongside assemblies for all pupils explaining the new system. I have answered several of the concerns raised from the parental consultation in this newsletter and hope they ease any worries. I am delighted that 99% of parents support the use of the pouches to ensure that all pupils can fully engage in their learning without interruption or worry and away from any source of potential interruption.

As the autumn weather arrives, please take a moment to review our First Aid provision guidance in this issue. We ask for your support in ensuring pupils are equipped for minor seasonal ailments like colds or headaches, keeping our medical team available for urgent healthcare needs while encouraging independence and resilience.

Supporting pupil well-being remains central to everything we do. A reminder that our Teen Health worker, Lisa Preston, is in school every Wednesday, and young carers aged 13-18 can access Action for Children's confidential 'Sidekick' text service.

Looking ahead, we have a busy calendar coming up, including our Open Evening on Thursday 1st October. Please highlight this to family and friends. In addition, we have a Year 7 Team Building Day on Monday 5th October, an online Settling In Evening for all years on Thursday 8th October, the Year 9 Brecon Beacons trip from 12th-16th October. A reminder for those pupils in Year 11 that there is the Brookvale Groby Post-16 Open Evening on Thursday 15th October.

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

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Mr Andrews.

YEAR 11 VISIT TO SHREWSBURY PRISON

This week our Year 11 Sociology students took a trip to Shrewsbury Prison as part of their Crime and Deviance unit.

Pupils were given the chance to explore the prison, speak with ex-prison officers and get a feel for what life is really like behind bars. Pupils took part in an escape room in the cells themselves, with only 2 teams emerging before time was up !

Thank you to Mrs Warden for organising the trip.











BROOKVALE GROBY POST 16 EVENING

The Brookvale Groby Post 16 Open Evening is on Thursday 15th October 5pm until 7pm.





We are thrilled to announce that the class 7JC is embarking on an inspiring international journey!

Next week, Miss Cunningham will be travelling to Poland to meet with teachers from across the UK and Ukraine as part of the British Council's UK-Ukraine School Partnerships programme, funded by the UK Government.

Through this initiative, 7JC is teaming up with a Ukrainian partner school for a collaborative project centred on the joy of reading. Together, students will explore captivating stories, build global empathy, and enhance their communication skills and mental wellbeing, all while connecting directly with their peers in Ukraine.

Stay tuned as 7JC discovers how reading can connect worlds, build confidence, and forge lasting international friendships!

MACMILLAN BAKE SALE

Well done to Mrs Hemsill's form 10PH, who held a bake sale in aid of MacMillan.

They raised a huge £111.80 for a worthy cause.







MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

MOBILE PHONE POUCHES UPDATE

We are looking to implement the mobile phone pouches after October half term in response to government legislation that all schools should operate as mobile phone free environments, which we are in full agreement with.

I will be sending a more detailed overview of how this will work before the half term. However, we wanted to answer some of the concerns raised from the parental consultation that took place before the summer holidays:

"Parents' support (98.9%) for the mobile phone ban during school hours."
Thank you for your support as we strongly believe that smartphones and other connected devices create a constant source of potential interruption. Even when a device is not being used openly, the expectation of messages, notifications and online activity can compete for a young person's attention. This isn't just about limiting screen time, it's about giving pupils the space to think deeply, engage meaningfully, and thrive in an environment designed for their growth.

"Long queues at 3:05 PM unlocking stations may cause pupils to miss school buses, leaving children stranded"
We have purchased extra unlocking stations which will be sited next to the bus park to allow all pupils to unlock their pouch at the end of the school day. In addition, we plan to stagger exit times from 3pm in the first two weeks to allow extra time for all pupils to unlock their phones before boarding the buses. We will also have staff on duty with handheld unlocking devices for those who are struggling to do this in time. Several local schools have already implemented this system without any issues since the start of the Autumn Term.

"How urgent family messages (e.g., medical emergencies, unexpected pick-up changes, illness) will reach a pupil during the school day."
Where a message is genuinely urgent, the school will ensure that the appropriate information reaches the pupil. Please contact the school main office on 01530 242351 or email office@southcharnwood.org. This does not represent a change from our existing arrangements as phones are already expected to be switched off and out of sight throughout the school day.

Examples of urgent messages may include:

- an unexpected change to transport arrangements
- a family emergency
- an urgent change affecting collection at the end of the day

The school cannot routinely pass on general messages, reminders or information that is not time-critical. This is necessary to ensure that staff capacity remains focused on teaching, safeguarding and the effective operation of the school.

"How the pouch system will work for pupils with specific health needs, such as Type 1 diabetes & continuous blood glucose monitoring via phone apps"
An adapted pouch, which allows access to the device, may be provided where this forms part of an existing medical plan. Adapted pouches will be authorised by Senior Leadership for medical needs only. Existing medical plans will normally provide the necessary evidence.

We hope this eases many of the concerns that were expressed by parents.

Further information will be sent to you in the next couple of weeks prior to the pouch launch scheduled after October half term. Pupils will also receive clear instructions via assemblies to explain how the system will work.



FIRST AID PROVISION IN SCHOOL

As the weather changes, we inevitably see an increase in minor illnesses and at the beginning of the school year we reminded pupils about how they should seek support in school when they are unwell.

In particular, we have reminded pupils about the appropriate use of our First Aid provision. Our First Aid team are here for pupils who genuinely need medical attention, for example following a significant injury, a serious allergic reaction, difficulty breathing or feeling faint.

Minor illnesses such as headaches, sore throats, colds and general aches and pains do not normally require First Aid, and our First Aiders are not able to provide pupils with painkillers. The NHS advises that children with a slight cough, runny nose, sore throat or headache can still attend school, provided they are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. The Department for Education also encourages schools to reinforce this message with parents and carers.

We therefore ask for your support in making sure that children are ready for the school day. If they have a minor illness but are well enough to attend, please ensure they have what they are likely to need, such as a water bottle and tissues, and where appropriate, consider giving suitable pain relief before they come to school.

During lessons, if a pupil genuinely requires First Aid or is feeling so unwell that they need to go home, they must inform their class teacher. The teacher will issue an out of class pass so the pupil can go directly to the medical room.

Outside of lesson times, during break or lunchtime, pupils who feel unwell or require medical attention can go directly to the medical room. Of course, urgent medical needs will always be dealt with immediately.

This approach helps us to ensure that our limited First Aid capacity remains available for pupils who genuinely need medical attention, while also helping pupils to develop the independence and resilience they need to manage the minor illnesses and everyday challenges that are part of life.



COLLINS COACHING

Sam Collins began his football journey with Nottingham Forest, joining the academy at the age of 7 from Groby Juniors, and progressing through the youth ranks to the U21s. His development was interrupted by a broken leg in 2023, but he returned to football and continued his career in senior football. After leaving Forest in 2025, he joined King's Lynn Town, gaining valuable experience and regular first-team football. In 2026, he moved to Real Bedford, where he has continued to develop as a technically gifted and hard-working midfielder. Sam started his football coaching career this year, based in Groby, and is looking to offer some Friday night autumn/winter group sessions at South Charnwood. As a local coach, he is keen to contribute to the development of local footballers - booking details are on the posters below, for 7-11 and 11-14 year olds, or contact Sam for more information.

CC
COLLINS
COACHING

NOW OFFERING GROUP SESSIONS!

AGES 7-11

FROM OCTOBER

WREAKE VALLEY ACADEMY,
SYSTON, LE7 1LY
MONDAY 5-6PM

SOUTH CHARNWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL,
MARKFIELD, LE67 9TB
FRIDAY 6-7PM



£15
MAX PER PLAYER

WHAT PARENTS & PLAYERS SAY

★★★★★
Sam delivers 1-to-1's that are exactly what we wanted for our 8-year-old; fun and engaging sessions that are also high energy and high intensity - perfect for developing his skills and confidence.
TOM
(PARENT)

★★★★★
My 8-year-old really enjoyed his first session recently with Sam, and wants to do it again. He struggles with meeting new people, but clearly felt very comfortable with Sam!
THERESA
(PARENT)

★★★★★
Sam is kind and never makes you feel like you can't achieve a skill. He is a good coach and an even better person.
BOBBIE
(PLAYER)

collinscoaching_ | 07724 874496 | s.h.collins7@gmail.com

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER • UEFA C LICENSED • DBS CHECKED

DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE, IMPROVING SKILLS, FUN & POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT.

CC
COLLINS
COACHING

NOW OFFERING GROUP SESSIONS!

AGES 11-14

FROM OCTOBER

SOUTH CHARNWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL,
MARKFIELD, LE67 9TB
FRIDAY 7-8PM



£15
MAX PER PLAYER

WHAT PARENTS & PLAYERS SAY

★★★★★
Sam delivers 1-to-1's that are exactly what we wanted for our 8-year-old; fun and engaging sessions that are also high energy and high intensity - perfect for developing his skills and confidence.
TOM
(PARENT)

★★★★★
My 8-year-old really enjoyed his first session recently with Sam, and wants to do it again. He struggles with meeting new people, but clearly felt very comfortable with Sam!
THERESA
(PARENT)

★★★★★
Sam is kind and never makes you feel like you can't achieve a skill. He is a good coach and an even better person.
BOBBIE
(PLAYER)

collinscoaching_ | 07724 874496 | s.h.collins7@gmail.com

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER • UEFA C LICENSED • DBS CHECKED

DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE, IMPROVING SKILLS, FUN & POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT.

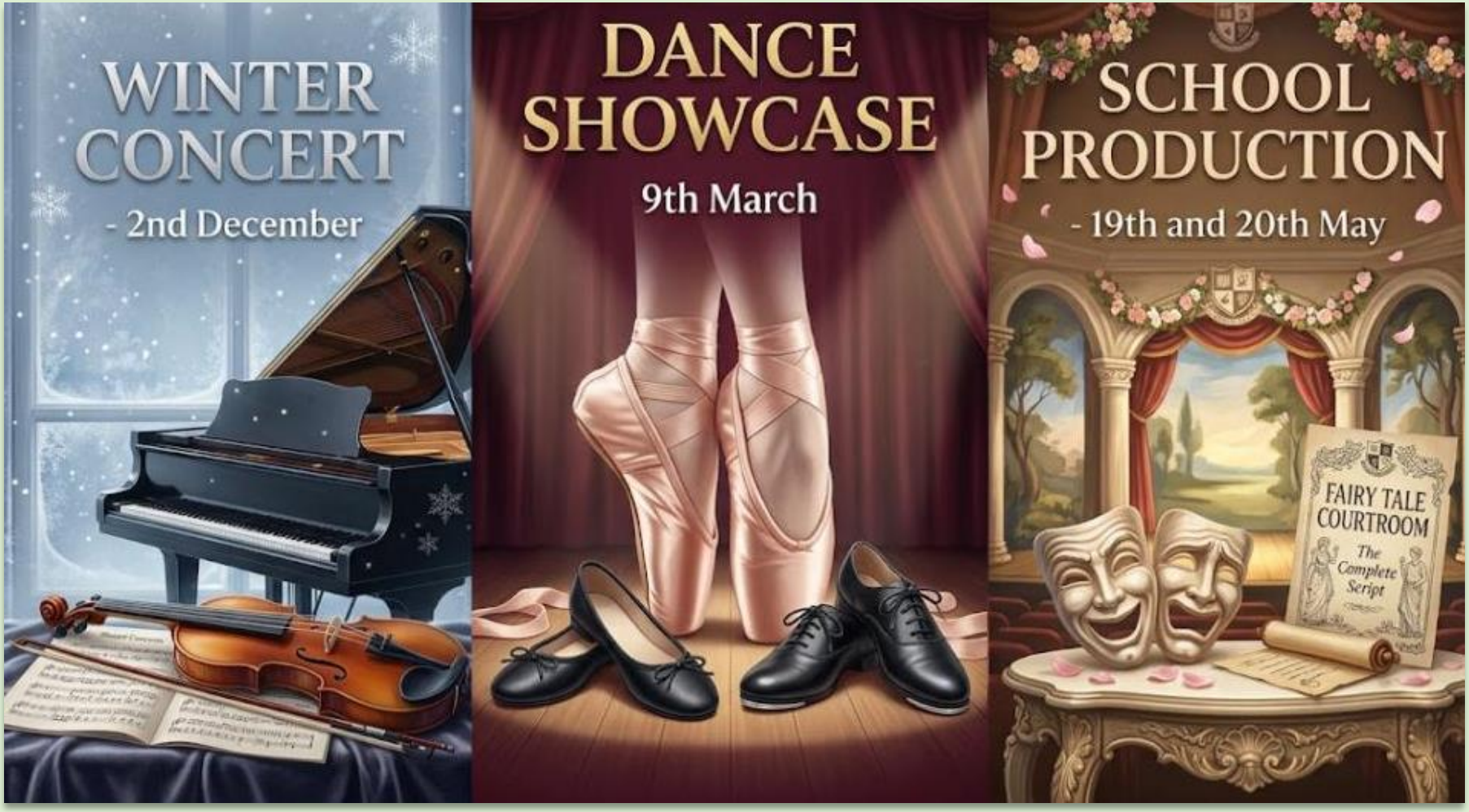
PERFORMING ARTS AT SOUTH CHARNWOOD

This year South Charnwood High School has lots of fantastic opportunities for the Performing Arts.

- In the Autumn Term we will be hosting a Winter Concert, showcasing the musical talents of the students and the choir. Rehearsals for the choir are every Monday lunch time in the music room.
- In the Spring Term we have our first ever Dance Showcase, presenting the fantastic expertise of our students from a range of different dance specialities.
- In the Summer Term we are looking forward to performing a comedy for our production and highlighting the wonderful acting skills of the students.

If any students have any questions about the shows, please speak to Mrs Parrott or Mrs Gregory.

We are very excited for these performances and look forward to seeing you in the audience!



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.

Leicester Young Carers

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

- 1st October, South Charnwood Open Evening
- 5th October, Year 7 Team Building Day
- 8th October, All Year Groups, Online Settling in Evening
- 12th – 16th October Brecon Beacons trip
- 14th October, Year 7 Information Evening
- 15th October, Year 8 Information Evening
- 19th – 23rd October, school closed for half term break