



# Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

## Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026



**Ethos statement:** We believe that through individual commitment, self-discipline, integrity and respect for others, we inspire everyone to learn.

### Year 10 – Mr Lamboi

As we begin a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Year 10 back and thank you for your ongoing and unwavering support. This is a crucial point in your child's GCSE journey and the months ahead will be busy, challenging, and incredibly important.

Year 10 is where habits, attitudes, and work ethic truly begin to shape final GCSE outcomes. While we remain committed to motivating and supporting students, this part of the academic year is packed with assessments and preparation. As such, a high level of seriousness, commitment, and hard work is required from all students.

Please continue to reinforce high expectations at home, particularly around revision routines, organisation, Home Learning and independent study. Alongside the work done in school, the learning your child completes at home will play an important role in their final GCSE outcomes.

### Upcoming events

#### Mock Examinations

Mock examinations will take place from Friday 2nd February to Thursday 13th February. These will be the second of three formal GCSE-style examination series that students will sit during Year 10 and Year 11.

These mock exams are designed to:

- Assess students' current progress
- Identify strengths and gaps in knowledge
- Replicate real GCSE exam conditions

It is essential that these exams are taken very seriously, as they provide valuable preparation for the final examinations. All students have been explicitly taught revision techniques, including:

- Creating and using flashcards
- Revising effectively with past papers
- Designing Revision Timetables (TTs) to organise their study time

These revision timetables were created to support students in managing their workload and to allow parents to hold them to account for their independent revision at home.

Further communication regarding the mock exam timetable will be sent out in due course so that you are fully informed and can support your child effectively.

### Work Experience – July 2026

Work Experience will take place from Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July, lasting one week. The deadline for students to secure a work experience placement is Friday 22nd May. I strongly advise students to begin arranging placements as early as possible to avoid unnecessary pressure closer to the deadline.

### Highlights of the Term So Far

A huge shout-out must go to our Year 10 Options Ambassadors, who have represented the year group brilliantly during registration periods. They have been visiting all Year 9 tutor groups to support and explain the GCSE options process demonstrating leadership and passion for contributing to the wider school community.

I am extremely proud of the following students:

- Safa
- Sumbal
- Nahila
- Kiarna
- Tyler H
- Gigi
- Jessica
- Alisha
- Karmella
- Mina
- Jeanne
- Alimatou





## Thought for the Week

I have made my limitations tools of learning and true joy.” — Helen Keller

Their confidence, maturity, and willingness to support younger students has been outstanding and a real credit to the year group.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. Together, I am confident that we can ensure that Year 10 students approach this important stage with focus, ambition, and determination.

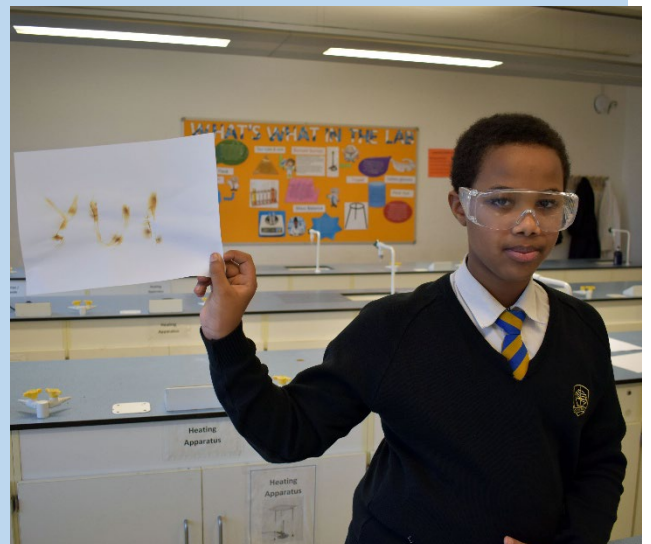
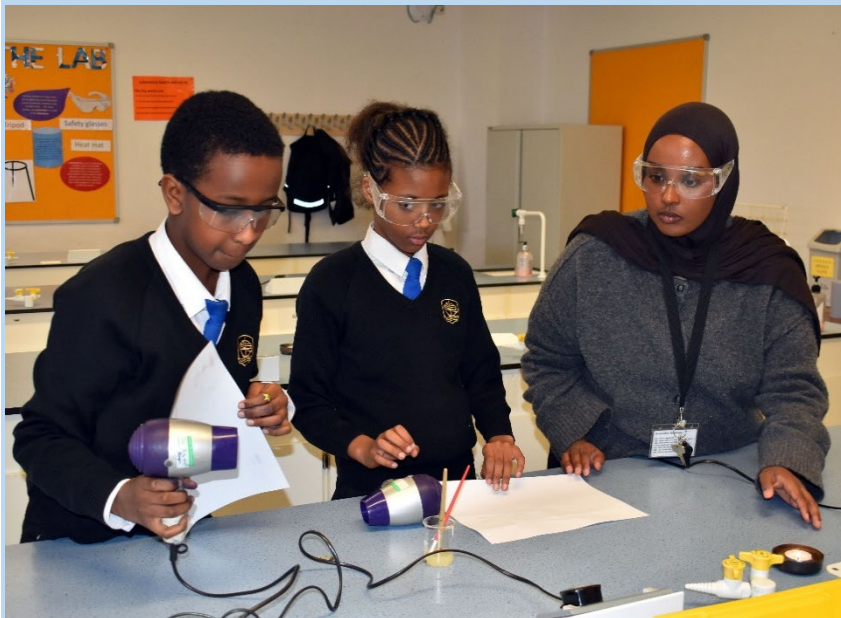


### Science Club – Ms Omar

This week in science club, students took part in an exciting fire-writing experiment using a lemon juice solution. They wrote messages and designs on paper and watched them disappear as the liquid dried, setting the stage for the most exciting part of the activity.

Using candles, the papers were gently heated. As the flame passed underneath, the writing slowly appeared. There were plenty of excited reactions as students watched their invisible messages come to life. By the end of the session, everyone had produced their own piece of fire-writing and enjoyed seeing how a simple experiment could create such a dramatic result through chemical reactions.

Next week’s edition will see the students try another hands-on experiment, so stay tuned!



## GCSE Options Week – Year 9

Students fully engaged with a range of events this week, including the GCSE Options Fair. This fair proved to be a highlight, offering students the opportunity to explore the diverse subjects available to them in Years 10 and 11. It was heartening to see the level of enthusiasm and engagement, as students took the time to learn and ask questions about subjects they were interested in.

The students took full advantage of the opportunity to interview subject teachers and research their options, demonstrating independence, curiosity and a thirst for knowledge

These choices are an important step in shaping their academic path, and we are confident that with the information gained this week, they will be able to make choices that align with their strengths and interests.



## Creative Writing – English Department

*For this week's English Department entry, we have a submission from Alimatou Ceesay (10QTY) which discusses the meaning of Christmas. In this piece, she works through a persuasive argument, convincing the reader step-by-step that, even while celebrations in the Christmas-time may have changed, the spirit of the season still remains. She makes her case clearly, rebuts possible counter points, and concludes by reviewing her position confidently.*

*Good work, Alimatou!*

### Has Christmas Lost Its Meaning?

Every December, the same debate resurfaces: has Christmas lost its true meaning? As shop windows glow brighter and adverts arrive earlier each year, it is tempting to argue that Christmas has been reduced to nothing more than a commercial spectacle. However, while Christmas has undeniably changed, this does not mean its meaning has disappeared altogether.

Those who argue that Christmas has lost its meaning often point to the overwhelming influence of consumerism. Long before December arrives, businesses flood us with festive music, glittering decorations and carefully crafted advertisements designed to encourage spending. The emphasis on expensive gifts and material excess has replaced the original message of generosity and goodwill. For many, Christmas has become stressful rather than joyful, dominated by expectations and endless shopping lists.

Furthermore, the religious roots of Christmas have undeniably weakened. In an increasingly secular society, fewer people attend church or reflect on the Christian story of the Nativity. For some, Christmas no longer represents faith or spiritual reflection, but simply a public holiday filled with food and presents. From this perspective, it is easy to claim that Christmas has lost its soul.

However, Christmas has evolved to reflect the society in which it exists. While it may no longer centre solely on religion, its core values remain remarkably intact. Kindness, generosity and togetherness are still at the heart of many people who celebrate. Families reunite, friendships are strengthened, and acts of charity increase dramatically during December. If meaning lies in human connection, then Christmas still thrives.

Additionally, the modern inclusivity of Christmas could be seen as a strength rather than a weakness. No longer reserved for one religion, Christmas is celebrated by people from all backgrounds. This shared experience brings communities together and encourages compassion on a wider scale. Surely a celebration that inspires people to be kinder, more generous and more thoughtful cannot be dismissed as meaningless.

In conclusion, while Christmas may have shifted away from its religious origins and become entangled with commercial interests, its meaning has not vanished. Instead, it has transformed. Christmas is no longer defined by tradition alone, but by how people choose to express care for one another. Rather than abandoning it, perhaps we should reclaim it — not through spending, but through kindness.

### Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – International Group Parents' Evening

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – INSET Day

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Half Term Starts

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – Academy resumes

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Year 9 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – INSET Day



**Newsletter:**  
Please click to access [13<sup>th</sup> edition of the School Careers Newsletter](#): For Years 7 – 9 and Years 10 – 13 we have Google Careers Challenges, and there is a session to help parents and carers feel confident supporting the young people in their lives as they explore [Apprenticeships](#)

**Work Experience Help:**  
Our **Year 12** students have their **Work Experience Week 2026** in **February: 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026** and some of them are still looking for placements. Please let the [Careers Team](#) know if you have any opportunities

**Thames Skills Academy** – great website with info about [apprenticeships](#) & [careers](#) such as Engineer, Boatmaster/Captain, Tug Crew, Hospitality, Finance, Sales, Marketing, Welder, Hydrographer (surveys and maps underwater terrain); Water Quality Technician and lots more. They are holding a [#CareersOnTheThames](#) event **5pm, Weds 25<sup>th</sup> March** – [Book a free place now](#)

## Games Club – Ms Nearn

On Tuesdays and Thursdays during break 2, Ms Nearn hosts the Games Club - board and card games only - no screens!

Thanks to a generous grant from Tesco, she was able to purchase many new games before the Christmas break. The new stock included newer versions of popular favourites such as Uno, Skipbo, and Guess Who, as well as new discoveries like Hues & Cues, Exploding Kittens, and Triolet. There is even a big box of Lego and tubs of PlayDoh!

The club is very popular with Years 7 to 9. In fact, a student recently asked, "Ms Nearn, can you please run Games Club every day?" It is wonderful to see how students cooperate, learn new games, and have fun with their friends away from computers and phones.

If your child would like to try Games Club, remind them that it on Tuesdays and Thursday, break 2, in room D184.



## Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents Spring Term 2026

### Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

We also provide free 1:1 early help support programmes for young people to support with anxiety or low mood. Speak to your school to find out more.

**12TH JAN 26  
1 PM - 2 PM**

Screen Time, Social  
Media and gaming -  
what parents need  
to know

**14TH JAN 26  
7 PM - 8 PM**

**9TH FEB 26  
7 PM - 8.30 PM**

Supporting Siblings  
of Children with  
SEND

**10TH FEB 26  
1.30 PM - 3 PM**

To view further event details and descriptions, and to book on to any of the webinars, please scan the QR Code or follow the link to our Eventbrite collection.

[Click here](#)



**Making Life  
Better Together**

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### Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

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**16TH FEB 26**  
**7 PM - 8 PM**

Supporting your  
teenager with Exam  
Stress (Years 11-13)

**17TH FEB 26**  
**1 PM - 2 PM**

**9TH MAR 26**  
**1 PM - 2 PM**

Conflict,  
Communication  
and Compromise -  
the teen years

**12TH MAR 26**  
**7 PM - 8 PM**

To view further event details and descriptions, and to book on to any of the webinars, please scan the QR Code or follow the link to our Eventbrite collection.

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