



ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



A message from the Headteacher...

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please take a few minutes to read the spring term newsletter which reflects the range and quality of experiences and high standards achieved across a range of subjects and activities. Belvoir is such a vibrant school to work and learn in. It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated team of staff who work tirelessly to provide such rich experience and opportunities and I continue to be immensely proud of our students as they grow and develop as individuals during their time with us.

There have been many highlights over the past term. It was a joy to see our production of Wizard of Oz in February, a highly polished and professional production which gave pleasure to so many parents and students in the Belvoir Community. The quality of artwork being produced by students in recent months has been transformed under the leadership of our Head of Art Miss Sowter. Students continue to excel in sport with increasing participation and success in rugby. Individual achievements in maths and science events continue to challenge our more able students. There is so much to celebrate, please take a look!

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school and in your daily encouragement of your children. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in supporting our students to engage and thrive. Our Year 11 students are currently working hard and attending after school-revision sessions in preparation for their GCSE examinations. Please continue to reinforce the importance of these revision sessions alongside personal revision at home so that our students maximise their potential. We wish them every success in the examinations.

Finally, we wish the ski party of 85 students and 9 staff a fantastic week of ski-ing in Italy next week.

Have a good Easter,

Yours faithfully,

Mr L S Newton
Headteacher

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for up-to-date news and events!

Facebook: [Priory Belvoir Academy](#)



Careers

A busy term for careers...

January

Year 11 were put through their paces in their annual mock interviews. Thank you to all of our parent volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to interview the students. It is such a valuable event in preparing our students for their post 16 interviews as well as future job interviews. Feedback from all those involved was overwhelmingly positive, well done Year 11.



February

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, Year 10 & Year 11 had a visit from Inspire+ who specialise in a range of apprenticeships focused on PE, school sports and education in Grantham and surrounding areas. Students learnt about apprenticeships in general at post 16 as well as those higher level apprenticeships offered to those 18+.

March

Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 had a visit from Lucy Guest who is a GB Kayaker. Lucy spoke at length about her journey to becoming a GB kayaker, her training requirements, resilience, motivation and careers related to sports and nutrition. She brought along her many medals to show the students as well as her carbon paddle!

Work Experience

In preparation for their work experience placements, Year 10 took part in a Careers drop down day in March. Students took part in 5 sessions across the day including sessions run by the Army, MV16 and Lincoln University. Mrs Suschitzky ran a session on post 16 options and we had two 'guess the job' slots where students got to quiz the volunteers in an aim to guess what job they did.

In March, Year 10 went to work for their 3 days of work experience. Placements varied from agriculture and primary schools to architecture and hairdressing! All students came back positive and motivated by their experiences, some even came back with part time jobs! Thank you to all those involved in making these hugely impactful and monumental days happen – it is no mean feat!



Science

Twycross Zoo

60 Year 8 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Twycross Zoo, where they enjoyed a fantastic session led by zoo staff. During the workshop, students learned all about the evolution of monkeys and apes and some even got the chance to handle real skulls! While exploring the zoo, they also discovered the important conservation work being done to protect primates and learned about the challenges many species face as they become endangered. The group represented the school brilliantly, showing excellent attitudes and behaviour throughout the day.



Sciencelive at Disneyland Paris

We took a group of 30 higher ability Year 10 students to Paris to attend the annual Sciencelive conference in Disneyland Paris. Students heard from three engaging speakers with topics ranging from thrill engineering to the development of the astrazenica vaccine, during the 2020 pandemic. Students then had the opportunity to ask speakers questions about their work - a truly unique and rewarding experience.



STEM Challenge Day finals

In January, two Year 10 students represented Priory Belvoir at the finals of the National STEM challenge day. Kai Handley and William Short competed against fellow Higher ability students from across the UK at the University of Huddersfield. The day included competitive programming of robots to navigate an obstacle course and finished with a demonstration of the current robotics technology being developed by the University - Kung-Fu fighting robots were the highlight! While we may not have won overall, we are incredibly proud of them both for taking our school to the finals.



Geography

Year 7

This term, Year 7 students have been broadening their geographical understanding through two key units. They began by exploring the British Isles, learning about the physical landscapes, weather patterns and human features that shape the UK. More recently, they have moved on to our *Spotlight on Asia* module, discovering the diversity of environments, cultures and places found across this vast continent. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity grow as they connect what they've learned locally to locations across the globe.

Year 8

This term, our Year 8 geographers have been developing their global understanding through two contrasting units. In *Spotlight on Africa*, students explored the continent's incredible diversity, learning about its varied climates, landscapes and cultures while challenging common misconceptions. They then moved on to our Glaciation unit, using the Lake District to investigate how glaciers shape the land through erosion, transport and deposition. Students have enjoyed discovering how powerful natural processes create the dramatic landscapes we see today.

Year 11

This term, Year 11 geographers have been working hard to prepare for their upcoming exams. They are currently engaging with the exam board's recent pre-release material for the Paper 3 Issue Evaluation, developing their ability to analyse information, weigh up arguments and form well-supported conclusions. In lessons, pupils have been applying a range of effective revision strategies, and many have been attending targeted interventions and after-school revision sessions to strengthen their understanding. Students will continue their revision over the Easter holidays to maximise their potential, especially with Paper 1 scheduled for just three and a half weeks after the holiday ends.

Year 9

This term, Year 9 students have been strengthening their geographical knowledge through two key units. In their ecosystems work, they explored tropical rainforests, focusing on their unique biodiversity, nutrient cycles and the pressures these environments face. They then applied their decision making skills in our Tourism unit by evaluating a real-life proposal for a new cruise ship port in the Cayman Islands. Students examined the potential economic benefits alongside environmental and social impacts, developing balanced, evidence-based conclusions.

Year 10

This term, Year 10 students have been developing their understanding of coastal landscapes and processes, with a particular focus on the dynamic Holderness Coast. They have explored how erosion, transportation and deposition shape our coastlines, as well as the challenges faced by communities living along one of the fastest-eroding coastlines in Europe. This unit is especially exciting as it links directly to the physical fieldwork students will complete early in Year 11, giving them valuable real-world context for the concepts they are learning in class.

Art

Year 7 Art

Year 7 pupils have been working diligently to build a strong foundation in key artistic skills, with a particular focus on the formal elements. This has led to highly developed sketchbook work in which clear progress and growing confidence can be seen. Their studies have been enriched by exploring the work of Jasper Johns, providing an engaging introduction to colour theory, while mark making has been investigated through the expressive style of Van Gogh. In addition, pupils have successfully completed exercises in one-point perspective, further strengthening their technical understanding.



Year 8 Art

Year 8 pupils have made excellent progress in developing their observational drawing skills through a varied and engaging programme of work. They began with detailed studies of Venetian masks, carefully refining their attention to shape and pattern, before applying the grid method to produce highly detailed and accurate drawings of trainers. Building on these foundations, students explored mixed media monoprinting, a technique they greatly enjoyed, demonstrating both enthusiasm and creativity. Drawing inspiration from artists such as Guy McKinley and Banksy, pupils have gone on to create imaginative compositions that thoughtfully explore themes of personal value.

Art

Year 9 Art

Year 9 students have recently completed an impressive series of creative sculpture projects, demonstrating both skill and thoughtful engagement with artistic heritage. They began by exploring the rich tradition of British sculpture, drawing inspiration from renowned artists Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, and produced striking large-scale charcoal drawings that showcased expressive use of tone and texture. Building on this strong foundation, students then turned to the vibrant contemporary influence of PichiAvo, creating imaginative responses that blend Greek mythology with meaningful graffiti. Each piece thoughtfully narrates a story, reflecting both historical understanding and personal interpretation.



Food Technology

In February, Ladies in Pigs visited our Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students to teach them all about pig farming, food provenance and butchery. Students worked in groups to 'butcher' their pork belly joints, they then stuffed them, rolled and stringed them before dry spice rubbing the joints and roasting. We now have some aspiring butchers in Year 10!



In March, Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students completed their final NEA 2 practical – 3 dishes with accompaniments in 3 hours – a huge undertaking. Students created dishes that were either high in 5 a day or could be sold in a pop up restaurant. All staff agreed, students produced some outstanding restaurant quality food. Well done Year 11.

English & Library

The English Department and Library have enjoyed a vibrant and successful term, with students embracing a wide range of reading opportunities and achievements.

The library has welcomed an exciting £700 investment in new Science and Geography books, which have already become firm favourites among students.

Our readers shone in the National Reading Championships, where Team A placed an impressive 14th and Team B secured 21st.

Library Book Club members have been diving into *Pride and Prejudice*—their own enthusiastic choice—while nine talented students have been selected for publication in *The Young Writers Stranger Sagas* anthology.

World Book Day was a joyful celebration across the school, with every student in Years 7 and 8 receiving a World Book Day book, and staff showcasing their hobbies and interests through creative costumes, echoing the National Year of Reading's motto: *If you're into it, read into it.*



Maths

A combination of 45 year 9, 10 and 11 students were entered for the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, which is a national maths competition held in January.

The results from this competition were impressive. 12 bronze certificates, 5 silver certificates and 4 gold certificates.

From these results, three of our students qualified for the follow on rounds of the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. Edward E and Sam F finished within the top 7,000 students in the UK and qualified for the Pink Kangaroo. Elijah K-S qualified for the Maclaurin Olympiad by finishing in the top 500 Year 11 students in the UK and Overseas.

This is a fantastic achievement for all three students and we look forward to seeing how they all got on in these prestigious challenges.



French

Our language department has enjoyed an action-packed and inspiring term, filled with opportunities for students to bring French to life in creative and memorable ways. On 13 February, Year 9 students took part in an exciting workshop led by Sally from Business Language Champions, where they worked in teams to design a marketing plan to sell Jelly Babies to the French market. After exploring cultural differences and what makes a product appealing to French consumers, they produced eye-catching leaflets and lively promotional videos, all while practising their French in a real business context.



Later that day, the whole year group attended an assembly highlighting how French remains the most sought-after language in British businesses, with students discovering a wide range of careers that use languages beyond translation and teaching.

The fun continued on 24 February when Onatti Productions performed a bilingual French/English play for Years 7 and 8. Year 7 in particular shone with their enthusiastic participation on stage.



We ended the term with the Year 10 and 11 GCSE French play, performed entirely in French, giving students a brilliant chance to sharpen both their listening and speaking skills as they stepped into impromptu acting roles.



As we look ahead, the excitement isn't over as after Easter, Year 8 will set off on their immersive trip to Normandy, and we wish them all a heartfelt *bon voyage*.

Peacock Pride

The Student Council reconvened during this Spring Term, consulting on topics such as our reward and recognition system, house activities, our food offering, our toilet facilities and any other issues students raised.

Answers were collated and analysed and a meeting held between a selection of students and Mr Newton to discuss opinions held and requests for the future. More to come on this next term.

Over the first Spring half term we have used our reward assemblies to celebrate 97%+ attendance and attitude to learning. The latter is the score on a pupils school report for their '*attitude to learning*' i.e. meeting expectations, engaging in lessons and taking responsibility for their learning. Those with at all 'good', a combination of 'good' and 'outstanding' or in a few cases, all 'outstanding' had their names listed on the big screen in assembly and made it onto the random 'wheelspinner' to win a prize.

Following House quizzes in Drama, History, and Languages and the Year 7 & 8 Bake Off, the winning House in Year 7 at this point in the year was Creswell, in Year 8, 9 and 11 Dovedale, and in Year 10, Gibraltar. Prizes included a whole house or individual sweet treat and queue jumps for all. Since then, House events have been held by English for World Book Day and Science to coincide with National Science Week.

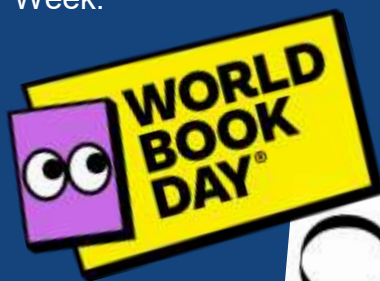
This second half of the Spring term is used to celebrate our 'good eggs'. That's pupils who do the right thing, day in, day out. These pupils have many achievement points and few if any behaviour points, their uniform is good, they are fully equipped for lessons and their homework record is



exemplary. Names will appear on the big screen once again in assemblies and from these, random names will be selected for Easter egg prizes.

In this last week we also held our annual Macmillan Cake Sale. This is a much looked forward to whole school event, with each year group getting their own timeslot to purchase a home baked goodie and enjoy it sitting with their friends. At the time of writing we are hoping to raise a similar amount to previous years – between £800-1000. Fingers crossed!

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Key stage 3

Year 7

A weekly tradition in Year 7 has been **Freddo Friday**, a light-hearted but motivating reward system that has quickly become a favourite part of the school week. It recognises students who have shown exceptional effort by earning the **highest number of achievement points** over the previous five days. More than **70 Freddos** have been handed out so far. Amazingly, 114 students have over 100 AP (Silver Award) and we also have 4 students who have over 200 AP (Gold Award).

In February, the Languages Department brought a real cultural highlight to the term by organising a **French theatre performance** for Year 7 and 8. The event blended language learning with live drama, giving students the chance to experience French in a lively, memorable way. Several students rose to the occasion and **volunteered to take part on stage**.

Pi-Day on **14 March 2026** gave students the chance to take on a classic mathematical feat: memorising as many digits of π as possible. The challenge drew **nine entries**, they recited digits of π from memory in front of their maths class. The top performance reached **115 digits**, an

outstanding achievement, well done Autumn.

The focus for this weeks, end of term assembly has been outstanding attendance. An impressive **77 students** achieved **97% attendance or higher** this term, demonstrating exceptional commitment, resilience, and dedication to their learning. Each of these students earned a place in our **Spin The Wheel** draw during the final assembly and five students won an egg. Those who have 100% attendance just for this half term will earn a cream egg on Thursday, amazingly we have 76 students.

Next term, Year 7 will start begin preparations for their **end of term fayre**, an exciting project that brings creativity, teamwork, and enterprise together. The event is scheduled for the **final week of term**, it will be for students and during the school day. Each tutor group will take responsibility for designing and running their own mini stalls. These will include a mixture of games, and items to sell, giving students the chance to explore planning, budgeting, and teamwork and of course, have fun.

Year 8

As we reach the end of a busy and vibrant spring term, Year 8 have certainly made the most of every opportunity at The Priory Belvoir Academy. Their hard work, enthusiasm and community spirit have been clear to see, and we're delighted to share some of the highlights from this term.

Celebrating Success and Attendance

Our focus on positive rewards has been a real hit with students. This term, those with "eggsalant" attendance enjoyed a special seasonal treat: **pancakes topped with Mini Eggs**—a perfect way to celebrate their commitment to being in school and ready to learn.

Each week we also continued our much-loved **Freddo Friday**, where the **top four students** in the year group for achievement points earned a well-deserved chocolatey reward. It has been fantastic to see the friendly competition and motivation this brings, with so many pupils striving to do their very best.

Trips, Adventures and New Experiences

Year 8s have certainly had a term full of enrichment opportunities. Some of our pupils were lucky enough to take part in exciting trips including:

- A **visit to France**, giving students a taste of culture, history and language in action.
- A **theatre trip**, inspiring creativity and offering a glimpse into the world of live performance.

A day out at **Twycross Zoo**, where students explored wildlife, conservation and global habitats. Looking ahead, excitement is already building for our **end-of-year Go Ape trip in Sherwood Forest**. Students will be taking part in team-building games and tackling the high ropes course—an unforgettable experience guaranteed to build confidence, teamwork and resilience.

Important Date for Diaries

A reminder to all families that **Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 21st May**. We look forward to welcoming you into school to discuss progress, achievements, and next steps for the summer term.

Key Stage 3

Year 9

Year 9 students have enjoyed a wide range of rewards this term, all linked to attendance and achievement points, and it has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved.

Freddo Fridays have been a big hit, with over 110 winners across the term. To qualify for the first weekly draw, students needed 100% attendance from Friday to Thursday the following week, with five winners selected each week.



A second weekly draw rewarded students who achieved five or more achievement points and received zero behaviour points again fives for this draw too.



Pancake Day was also a huge success, with over 120 students qualifying by achieving more than 97% attendance for the term. Students were treated to pancakes made, fried and flipped by Miss Clegg, Mrs Suschitzky, Mrs Ludlam and Mrs Goodbourne, before choosing their own toppings.



Our incentive for this term is 10 Days of Easter Surprises, where each day there is a new prize up for grabs. Students are automatically entered simply by being in school the previous day. We have over £100 worth of prizes to be won, so we are looking forward to another exciting and rewarding term for Year 9.

Key Stage 4

Year 10

Year 10 have also impressed us this term with their commitment and positive attitude. They have worked hard across all subjects, particularly within their option choices, and many have recently completed their work experience placements. The feedback we received from employers was exceptional; students demonstrated professionalism, enthusiasm and a strong work ethic throughout.

As a year group, Year 10 are currently focused on improving their attendance, aiming for 95%+. This target comes with an exciting incentive: a Year Group visit to Alton Towers in July. Their determination so far has been encouraging, and we hope to see this drive continue as we move towards the summer term.

We are also looking forward to celebrating the Year 10 “good eggs” in their own Rewards Assembly on the final day of term, recognising those who consistently display positive behaviour, strong character and a commitment to doing the right thing. Alongside this, Year 10 continue to engage enthusiastically with our weekly Freddo Friday initiative, rewarding the top achievers in terms of achievement points and helping to keep motivation high across both year groups.

Year 11

As we move into the final stretch of the year, Year 11 have had a truly fantastic term. It seems to have dawned on them, and on me, that their time at Belvoir is drawing to a close. In response, they have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into revision, intervention sessions, exam preparation and their post-16 applications. Their maturity, determination and willingness to make the most of every opportunity has been wonderful to see.

Last week, we were delighted to celebrate the Year 11 Rewards Assembly, recognising our “good eggs” and those students who consistently go above and beyond, always doing the right thing. Their achievements, attitude and resilience continue to set the standard for the school.

Miss Jones and Mr Quinn took 14 of our students to LSST Academy, earlier in March, to partake in an Oxbridge conference for students aspiring to attend Oxford or Cambridge. They were a credit to the school and spent the day attending workshops delivered by university students on applications, interview techniques and life at university.

Alongside their academic focus, Year 11 are also working towards their Passport to Prom, staying motivated and engaged as plans for our June event at Arena UK move full steam ahead. Excitement is definitely building! Each week we continue to highlight those achieving the highest number of achievement points through our Freddo Friday celebrations—another brilliant opportunity to reward the consistent effort so many students are showing. One last push now before exams, Leavers' Day and Prom 2026.

SEND

On Friday 27th of March ten students visited The Deep in Hull. This SEN trip location was chosen by one of our Year 11 students because of his love of marine life.

Miss Combes and Miss Jinks were lucky enough to accompany the students on this trip and loved it just as much as the students did!

The children saw lots of marine life ranging from Sharks, Tropical fish, Penguins, Jellyfish and Turtles and learnt all about them from their exhibit labels, and lots of pictures were taken!

Finally, a trip to the gift shop to pick up some souvenirs from The Deep and some sweets for the trip home.

All in all a very successful SEN trip!



YMCA trips

Throughout the month of January in conjunction with Newark YMCA we were able to offer multiple trips doing a wide range of activities.

These activities ranged from indoor rock climbing to mountain biking and even 'Weasling' on the Light Peaks in Derbyshire.

A total of 35 students were able to take part in these activities as part of the school's extra curriculum activities programme, such opportunities help to build individuals' self-confidence, resilience and personal development.

Impact project

After Easter, we look forward to launching the Impact Project work with two small groups of Year 9 students. This will develop their sense of belonging and communication skills. This is part of the wider Trust and national research project that focuses on helping young people become relational learners. Miss Kelly, teacher of History, is leading on the trailblazing project focussing on the work with girls, and Mrs Richards, Assistant Headteacher, will spearhead the work with the boys. The project will focus on team building and will allow students a safe space to discuss what it means to be a girl, or boy, at Belvoir and in today's society.

Performing Arts

The Wizard of Oz 2026

Back in February we had a fantastic show week for 'The Wizard of Oz'. Performers, backstage crew and front of house volunteers pulled together to deliver 4 fabulous sold out shows, including, for the first time two matinees to over 200 students from 8 local Primary Schools. A huge thank you to Louise Bolland cake design who donated 4 boxes of beautiful themed cupcakes which raised over £388 for the department! We can't wait to do it all over again next year!



Drama

Trips

In January, 65 students from years 7 and 8 saw a production of 'A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong' at Nottingham Theatre Royal. The play, by acclaimed Theatre Group 'Mischief Theatre', follows the fictional Cornley Drama Society attempt to stage a production of a Christmas Carol, with hilarious results. Students and staff enjoyed the masterful comedic performances, creative set design and even giant puppets!

In February, 45 students from years 9 and 11 travelled to Derby Playhouse to watch a performance of 'Noughts and Crosses'. This play is the set text for Eduqas GCSE Drama and this was a fantastic opportunity for students to see the play staged and appreciate both the performance and design elements. The play deals with some important themes around racism, power and friendship and the performance from 'Pilot Theatre Company' blended innovative set and staging to present these ideas.

Workshops

In March, 18 'Most Able' students from years 8 and 9 took part in a 'Play in a Day' workshops with Nic Harvey, theatre director and facilitator at Nottingham Playhouse. The students worked with Nic to create a performance of the GCSE script 'Blackout'. The hard hitting play follows a 15-year-old boy who wakes up in a prison cell with no memory of how he got there, only to discover he has been charged with attempted murder. As he tries to piece together the events, the narrative explores his life through flashbacks. The day concluded with a performance to 30 parents and carers in the studio. All the students involved were fabulous and highly praised by Nic for their commitment and impressive performances.



THE SPORTS PAGE

FEATURE OF THE TERM:

The Year 10 boys football -
Last 16 in schools national



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Tennis
- Athletics
- Cricket
- Softball
- Rounders

Football

The year 10 boys team continued to punch above their weight and had a great run in the small schools national cup. They managed to get to the last 16 of the competition, but unfortunately a whole host of injuries at the same time meant they narrowly lost at that stage.

The year 9 boys had an amazing run in the same competition. Remarkably the boys had hardly won a game in their first two years at Belvoir, however, some changes in position, growth spurts and a couple of new students had a huge impact. They managed to get all the way to the quarter finals where they came up against a hugely talented side and lost narrowly at the University of York Sports Grounds.

Rugby

We have been involved in the festivals run by Newark Rugby Club that are designed to help get more students involved in playing competitive rugby. All years have had teams and they have all won games and had some real success. A number of students have also joined local clubs as a result which is fantastic news.

Netball

The girls continue to be hugely invested in Netball with Miss Jones and Miss Ratcliffe. The turn up in huge numbers every Thursday and have teams, or multiple teams, in every year group. There have been some successes in the National Cup with the year 9 and KS4 teams travelling to Staffordshire, Cheshire and Greater Manchester this term. The teams in years 7 and 8 have had good opportunities to participate in local competitions at Ruskin against other local schools.

Volleyball

We really try to push volleyball as a sport at Belvoir. It's a great additional sport to use for GCSE PE and we have taken teams from 9, 10 and 11 to girls and boys festivals in the last term. Whilst we didn't quite win we played some excellent 3 touch volleyball and received some lovely compliments from other schools.

Badminton

Both key stage 3 and key stage 4 boys and girls teams were very competitive in the local central venue events. The boys key stage 4 team got to the Leicestershire finals and won a silver medal overall in a very high standard of badminton.

Boccia

Some of our SEND students who take GCSE PE use disability sports as part of their assessment. This year we took a KS4 boys group to the Leicestershire Boccia festival and they had a great time. The boys won 5 of their 6 games and won the gold medal overall.



KEY DIARY DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

20th April — New term begins

22nd — 26th April — Year 8 French residential trip

Week commencing 27th April — Year 8 exams

4th May — Bank Holiday

8th May — GCSE exams begin

7th May — Year 7 Parents evening

21st May — Year 8 Parents evening

Week commencing 25th May — Half Term

1st June — New term begins

17th July — End of academic year

