



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Spring Term has been busy with a great deal of purposeful activity. Following on from our excellent inspection outcome we have been busy working on the recommendation around EHCP tracking. After looking at a number of different systems, we are now trialing one and confident we will be in a position to put this into practice soon. This is an exciting development which will help us to share with you more detailed information about how your child is progressing towards their EHCP outcomes. The children have been busy with lots of things including World Book Day, British Science Week, International Day of Happiness and A Taste of Woodlands.

I hope you enjoy reading about the projects the children have been engaged in and I wish you all a lovely Easter break.

### Nottingham Forest Links

Pupils from Woodlands Academy, Ambleside Academy, Westbury Academy, and Denewood Academy were recently rewarded for their strong attendance and significant improvements with an exciting visit to Nottingham Forest's City Ground! This opportunity was made possible through our current partnership working with Nottingham Forest Community Trust. It was fantastic to see such great engagement from pupils during the tour, and we'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone involved in making this experience happen.

A real team effort, with contributions from leaders across the Raleigh Education Trust schools, our attendance and welfare team, and NFCT coming together to celebrate our pupils' achievements. Well done to all!



Last week, the Forest media team visited Woodlands to surprise one of our students with a personalised video message from star striker Chris Wood. Adam, from Birch Class, is a huge fan and has been accessing mentoring sessions with Oscar from Nottingham Forest Community Trust. Through this link, Adam had sent Chris letters and pictures of a model stadium he built. Chris Wood's message revealed that he was inviting Adam to watch the Forest v Everton game and meet him. A huge thanks to NFCT and NFFC for making this possible!



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK IS AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM), ENGAGING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UK. IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSIVITY IN STEM EDUCATION, THE RALEIGH SCIENCE NETWORK PLANNED AND DELIVERED EVENTS FOR

CHILDREN FROM RALEIGH SCHOOLS ALONG WITH CHILDREN FROM LOCAL SEND SCHOOLS, TO PROVIDE AN ACCESSIBLE, ENJOYABLE, AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN LINE WITH THE WEEK'S THEME; 'CHANGE AND ADAPT'. THIS YEAR, THE RALEIGH STEM EVENT WAS EXPANDED TO A WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION WITH WOODLANDS HOSTING FOR 3 DAYS.

**Bird on the Hand:** On Monday 10th March, Woodlands hosted the 'Bird on the Hand' falconry experience. Children learned about birds of prey including owls and falcons by observing and interacting with them. Children from Woodlands, Ambleside, Westbury and Denwood attended.



**Interactive STEM activities:** Woodlands hosted a carousel of STEM activities on Tuesday 11th March and Thursday 13th March.

Children attended from Woodlands, Ambleside, Denewood, Westbury, Ash Lea, Brackenfield, Nethergate, Oakfield, Rosehill and Sutherland House attended over two days.

Children engaged in 6 hands-on activities.

A scaled down version was held on Friday 7th March specifically for children on the Woodlands yellow pathway, to ensure all children were included and able to access the activities. In addition to this, some pupils were able to take part in a **Captivating Creatures Workshop** and **Underwater Virtual Reality Experience**, both hosted at Ambleside academy. Feedback from staff and pupils was extremely positive. The children enjoyed taking part in the science experiments and workshops and learning while having fun! The event also highlighted the power of collaboration with pupils and staff from across Nottingham City and County coming together to celebrate STEM.



## World Book Day

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of reading across the school. Pupils embraced the occasion, dressing up as a variety of characters, while staff joined in the fun as characters from The Wizard of Oz. The highlight of the day was a special reading coffee afternoon, where parents were invited to learn about phonics and our approach to teaching reading. This provided a valuable opportunity for families to engage with their child's reading journey and share books together in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

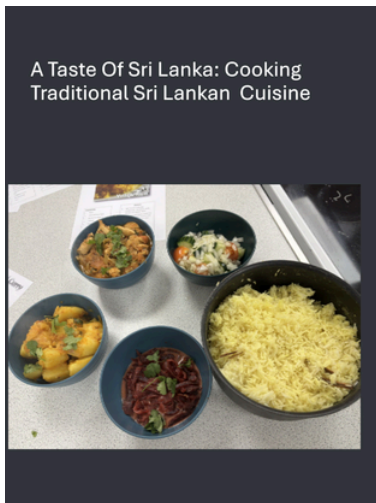
As part of the celebrations, we also launched our new initiative to send books home, encouraging reading for pleasure and supporting phonics development. This initiative aims to foster a love of reading at home and strengthen the link between school and family learning.



# The International day of happiness



The International day of happiness was on Thursday March 20th. In school we celebrated the day by selecting different countries and learning about the wider world. We had fun themed learning activities about the countries to promote happiness in school. The activities ranged from Sri Lankan cooking with Pine, Beech learnt a song and the Makaton signs for a Bob Marley's three little birds, and Chestnut had a British tea Party! All the students had the chance to take part in fun activities in their classes followed by a whole school quiz. Each class chose a different country and had their own activities to celebrate the day. We also had some ideas and input from our international partner schools in Sri Lanka and Poland.

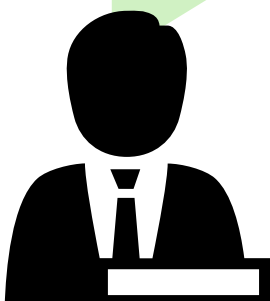


Children playing traditional Japanese games

## Supported Internships

Four students have been working alongside Atkins Réalis on a Pre-Supported Internship, tackling a fascinating challenge: designing sustainable plans for a brand new Derby Train Station. To bring their visions to life, they've been busy exploring the ins and outs of rail travel, visiting stations in Nottingham and Derby, as well as spending time at Atkins' offices. This Friday, they'll take their research further with a trip to London's St Pancras and Kings Cross. There, they will look at the logistics of operating a busy train station as well the amenities that are on offer.

Throughout this project, the students have shown remarkable growth in confidence, and have developed some truly impressive sustainable plans for the future of Derby's railway. We're excited to see what they come up with!



## A Taste Of Woodlands

At the time of writing, the Academy is busy preparing for A Taste of Woodlands. Our celebration of our pupils' creative work is now in its second year and will showcase our pupils' talents through drama, music, singing, food and displays of artwork.



# RAISE YOUR VOICE

In November 2024, we sent out our parent/carer, employee, and pupil engagement surveys as part of 'Raise Your Voice' across Raleigh Education Trust. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete this. Your feedback, from across our school community - parents, carers, employees, and pupils - has been invaluable. We've carefully reviewed each response to celebrate what's working well and identify areas for further improvement.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR FEEDBACK

*I'd like to let my school know...*  
I like to come to school and get more knowledge.



Pupils

The best thing is....

Reading in the morning and the trips we go on.

*I'd like to let the school know...*  
All staff members are wonderful!



Parents/ Carers

One thing the school does really well is...

Manage my child's behaviour with professionalism, respect and kindness.

*My contribution is valued [as]...*  
They implement suggestions.



Employees

I have improved my practice by...

Putting into practice all the training I have received.

## YOU SAID... WE LISTENED

Here's how your feedback has already shaped real improvements across Woodland's Academy:

- Increased access to Drama lessons throughout the school.
- A continued broad and varied Educational Visit offer across all learning pathways.
- Enhancing sensory spaces across the school.