



# ISSUE 4 – Friday 20 December 2024

# THE SKA SPOTLIGHT



'Putting Every Student on the Path to a Happy, Successful, and Fulfilling Life'

## Excellence

Miss Brazier was extremely impressed during the recent **Kenyan Curriculum Enhancement Days** with the support she received from two of our art leaders **Marcus** and **Broghan**. Both students supported students with the art activity planned for the days, demonstrating and upholding the academies high expectations.

**Year 13 Applied Law** students showed excellence this term in how they responded to legislative content being delivered by Mr Pagliano.

A huge well done to **Roxi** in Year 7 who recently won the Skegness Academy **Christmas Card Competition**. Her design has been made into the academies Christmas card for this academic year and won her a gift voucher to spend.



In **Mathematics** we have pupils that are starting to approach the first Home Learning award. This is demonstrating excellence by taking pride in their learning and wanting to deepen their understanding of mathematics. KS3 students have revised extremely well for their end of Term 1 assessments, with many students achieving high scores again.

## Respect

As we come to the end of the first key stage rotation for **Food, Technology and Textiles** we would like to celebrate the fantastic efforts and achievements of students across years 7, 8 and 9 in these subjects. We would also like to remind students that after Christmas you will begin the second rotation phase and have the opportunity to explore a different subject.



The **Colourful Minds** colouring club have had a successful term. The club takes place every Tuesday Lunchtime and allows students a place to unwind and relax while taking part in colouring activities. Thank you to all students who have attended.

The **Maths Team** wish to thank students for continuing to treat staff, classrooms and resources with respect. Please make the best out of every opportunity to learn and be the best you can be.

## Diary Dates

Monday 6 January 2025 – All students' return to SKA.

Tuesday 7 January 2025 – Mathematics Assessments for all Year 10 students begin.

Tuesday 14 January 2025 – Year 11 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 21 January 2025 – Sixth Form Parents' Evening.

Wednesday 29 January 2025 – LPPA Community Champions Evening.

**Every Student**

**Every Lesson**

**Every Day**

**Be present - Be engaged - Be excellent**

# Personal Responsibility

It was great to be involved in **Christmas Cooks** with year 11 this term as a reward for their recent efforts in their Unit 2 assessment. Students had a choice between creating a Yule Log or a Gingerbread creation and we were blown away with their achievements.

Well, done to **Jaydon** and **Kara** for taking to the stage and delivering the interval and end of show speeches during our recent Pantomime.

Year 11 students have completed a **Question Level Analysis (QLA)** following their first PPE exam in Mathematics. This will enable students to take personal responsibility for their learning and tailor their revision to areas that they are not yet successful in. In addition to this it will give them the confidence to see all the areas where they have had successes. The mathematics faculty would also like to congratulate the students that are doing home learning to make accelerated progress.

## Wet Weather Update

We are aware that some of our students do not have the appropriate wet weather attire and would therefore like to offer a **free Poncho** or **Umbrella** for any student who may require it as we move through Autumn and Winter.

Click here to complete a form to request a free **umbrella** or **poncho** for your child –

<https://forms.office.com/e/8SBcPLrUVW>

## Breakfast Club at SKA

**When...** from 8.00am daily.  
**Where...** The Bistro. Enter via Student Reception at the front of school.  
**Cost...** £1.20 for breakfast and a drink. Free for children eligible for Free School Meals.

Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast ranging from toast, crumpets, muffins and bagels to cereal, yoghurts and fruit. Some days there will also be bacon, sausage and egg rolls. No need to book, just ensure that your child has sufficient funds on their ParentPay account.



## Gratitude

As a thank you for all their hard work since September the **pantomime cast** were treated to watching a performance of Dick Whittington at the **Embassy Centre Skegness**. We would like to thank the Embassy for gifting the tickets to us as part of their community outreach.

**Art, Dance** and **Food** recently participated in the Kenyan Curriculum Enhancement days. Students had the opportunity to explore African themed lessons in these subjects. Thank you to Miss Brazier, Mrs McGarry and **Macauley Howitt** for delivering these sessions and encouraging our students to explore other cultures.

Thank you to **Mr Webster**, who has led the Mathematics faculty whilst Mrs Bird has been on Maternity leave. He has worked tirelessly to support the faculty and make affective changes to continue the faculties progress in supporting all students at the academy.

## Safeguarding and Contacting the Academy

Anyone can and should report a safeguarding concern if they believe a child or adult may be a victim of neglect, abuse or cruelty. To report a safeguarding concern within school hours please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs C Pilkington Smith via the school office. Click here to access the Safeguarding page on the Academy's website - [Skegness Academy – Safeguarding](#). Academy Office: 01754 879122 or [SKA-admin@skegnessacademy.org](mailto:SKA-admin@skegnessacademy.org)

To find out what your child will be learning in Term 3, click the link below.

<https://www.skegnessacademy.org/attachments/download.asp?file=1546&type=pdf>

Follow SKA on **Facebook** to see more updates, important information and student successes.

<https://www.facebook.com/SkegnessAcademyGAT>

# Sport Updates

Over the past couple of weeks, the PE Department has been busy with **Sports Hall Athletics**. As well as hosting an event for some of the local Primary Schools, we have also hosted and competed in the Superzone (District) event for Year 8 as well as the Greenwood Academies Trust event for Year 7.

We entered December with a **day of trials** to select our teams for the upcoming competitions. 50 students from years 7 and 8 took part in the trials which then allowed the teams to be selected for the events. The students put their all in and we have two fantastic teams to take forwards into competitions. Well done to all the students who were selected to take part in the trial days!



## Superzone Sports Hall Athletics – Year 8

We hosted **6 secondary schools** from the local area to compete in Sports Hall Athletics for Year 8. There were some fantastic performances from the students. It was a close competition with the lead changing several times throughout the event. We are pleased to announce that Skegness Academy finished second overall. Congratulations to all the students who competed in the event!



## Year 7 and 9 Friendlies at Skegness Grammar

In preparation for the leagues starting after February Half Term, we have competed in some **friendly matches** against the Skegness Grammar. This was a great chance for us to try out different formations and work out what we need to focus on in training in the lead up to the leagues. Just a reminder that team training for the Netball and Football teams take place Monday after school.



# Sport Updates

## Greenwood Academies Trust (GAT) Sports Hall Athletics - Year 7

We hosted 7 of the **GAT Secondary Schools** for the annual Year 7 **Sports Hall Athletics competition**. The GAT Trust is made up of schools from Nottingham, Mansfield, Corby, Northampton and Peterborough. There was huge pressure and expectations on SKA as we have been champions for the past two years.

We are pleased to report that the Girls came first and the Boys came second! With the points total from both teams combined, we are delighted to announce that **Skegness Academy** are the **Champions for the third year running**. Congratulations to all the students who competed, they were outstanding!



## Sports Leaders

With all of the Sports Hall Athletics events taking place our wonderful **Sports Leaders** have been working hard scoring, timing, measuring and organising to support the PE Department in running the events. They have done an excellent job to ensure the events have run smoothly. We look forward to working with them to facilitate the events we have planned in the New Year.



# Primary Engagement Programme

Over **100 students** competed in a range of events ran by Academy PE staff and young leaders. We were so impressed with the performances, effort and ability of all the young athletes during the competition. Our Principal, Mr Gissendorf presented the top three teams with their awards.

Congratulations to:

Girls competition:

1st - Skegness Junior Academy (purple team)

2nd - Burgh Primary School

3rd - Beacon Primary Academy

Boys competition:

1st - Skegness Junior Academy

2nd - Beacon Primary Academy

3rd - Burgh Primary School



We were delighted to **welcome 48 primary school students** to our **Art and Textile classrooms** for our latest Primary Engagement event. Students in year 4 and 5 created their own sculptures and textile designs in our subject specific classrooms. We were really impressed with the students creativity and design ideas! The sessions were delivered by our textiles teacher **Mrs Lewis** and Art teacher **Miss Brazier**. Thank you to **Marcus** and **Brogan** in year 8 for being Art and Culture Ambassadors and supporting the sessions.



We are looking forward to our Primary Engagement events in 2025. Starting in term 3 with a Sports Hall Athletics competition for year 1 and 2 students. Then a Dance festival for year 3 and 4 students.

# LPPA



The Skegness Academy has recently embarked on the **Leading Parent Participation Award** which will support us to deliver outstanding engagement with all our parents and carers.

Coming up in **Term 3** we have our Community Champion celebration evening whereby we will invite all those who were identified in the recent community champions nominations. This will be an evening to come together as a local community and celebrate the individuals who work tirelessly to promote and engage our community in events, festivals and celebrations.

We would like to thank all those parents and carers who recently completed the Principal survey. It was great to receive so many replies and read about your experience as an SKA parent.

Throughout the academic year, we will be participating in a range of activities and carrying out surveys with parents and carers about their experience of the Skegness Academy and asking them to recommend ways that we can improve.

If you would be interested in joining our working group as a parent ambassador, please contact Mrs Ferrier on [sferrier@skegnessacademy.org](mailto:sferrier@skegnessacademy.org)

## Attendance Updates

Attendance is **5% higher** than last year. This is a fantastic increase and ensures students are accessing more learning opportunities to be able to reach their full potential.

The '**Twelve Days of Christmas**' has been well received by students and has created a very positive attitude around attending school.

In addition, we have the **Christmas Advent** which has recognised students who have had 100% attendance the previous week.

**Year 11** have also been well supported, not only academically but also through the voucher initiative which has given them that extra bit of support and incentive as they approach their GCSE's.

The attendance team would like to say a big **thank you** to all students, as they strive to achieve and maintain good attendance.

We would also like to **thank all parents** as they are working together with us to keep improving student attendance.

# UNICEF Update

Another busy term for the **UNICEF steering group**! This term we have celebrated our partnership with our Kenyan School by recognising Kenya Day on 12 December and celebrating Kenyan culture with the year 7s.

Year 7s took part in a **Kenyan Cultural Enhancement Day**, taking part in dance, food, poetry, Swahili and art. As you can see by the pictures, we had a great day!

We are looking forward to hopefully getting our silver award next term, watch this space!



# Year 11 Update

Year 11 have had a fantastic first term of the 2024-25 academic year at Skegness Academy.

**Mock exams** saw some fantastic results across the board with Year 11's enjoying some donuts for 3 consecutive Friday's as a reward for their hard work.

Year 11 are very fortunate to have received a budget to celebrate the continued growth of attendance at the academy. Those who have 100% attendance from the previous week will be entered into a draw to win a £25 Amazon voucher the following Monday. After 4 rounds now, students have said that this is a huge incentive for them to continue attending school.

Our **Prefect Committee** hosted a **Prom Fundraiser** in the form of a bake sale. Between the student bake sale and the staff cake draw, the Year 11 team have currently raised **£260.00** during their first event.

Thank you,

Mr Fenwick-Rogers

Head of Year 11



# Sixth Form Updates

**It's not too late to apply to Sixth Form!**

If you're looking to take the next step in your education, we still have places available. Visit our website to find the application form and more information:  
<https://www.skegnessacademy.org/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=220>

Sixth Form exams are scheduled to begin in January, and students have received their individual exam timetables.

Diary Dates for Sixth Form Events:

- Thursday 9 January 2025 - Maths and English Resit results.
- Tuesday 21 January 2025 – Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening.
- Thursday 6 February 2025 - Year 13 University Finance talk for students and parents.

# Pantomime

This year's Pantomime of **Alice in Wonderland** was a huge success and we would like to thank everyone who was part of our audience on each night of the performance.

This year we had the pleasure of welcoming the Derbyshire Children's home and the Skegness Brownies to our audience, tickets gifted for free as a Christmas treat. Both groups were incredible at encouraging our young actors and made the second evening of our show really memorable.

A small selection of our cast were also lucky enough to perform in the local community for Syne Hill's residential home and students at Eresby Special School. We would like to extend our thanks for allowing our students the opportunity to perform for you as part of their on going assessments.

A lot goes into planning and organising performances at Skegness Academy and Miss Thompson would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Wattam, Miss Scott, Mr Woodthorpe, Mr Latimer-Russell, Mrs Lewis, Miss Langdale and Miss Brazier for their efforts. She would also like to extend her thanks to Jake who operates sound and supports with the technical side of the performances, Raihain who filmed each evening's performances and the Art Club who created many of the props used on stage.

Most importantly we should take some time to recognise our students who prepared, auditioned, rehearsed relentlessly and despite their nerves took to the stage on each evening to perform to their very best. Many of the students involved were performing for the first time and the standard of acting and dancing was incredible.

If you missed it, do not fear we have lots more lined up for you this academic year, so keep a look out on our social media pages for more information.



# Science Updates

## Pretty Interesting Science Matters

Have you ever wondered what makes up the atmosphere and what would happen if you travel to the bottom of the ocean? If you can really tell the weather by listening to the chirp of a cricket? Or why our joints make popping sounds? These questions deal with everyday phenomena that we often take for granted, but each can be explained scientifically.

Mr Smith challenges you to think about the world and the science that explains it all in PrISM Club.

They meet every Thursday lunchtime to investigate with interesting experiments that will blow your mind!

When: Thursday Lunch

Where: B2

See Mr Smith for a lunch pass



As part of their Applied Science course our Year 13s went on a fact finding trip to Batemans Brewery. Based at Salem Bridge in Wainfleet since 1874, they have a long reputation in the local community for brewing beers that are distributed nationwide.

The Head Brewer led them on a tour through the facilities and explained the fermentation process, the science behind brewing enzymes, hops and grains and the logistics of the brewing industry. A really interesting tour of a scientific industry on our doorstep!

They are recruiting for an apprentice brewer next year - anyone interested please speak to Mr Freeman for information.



# Careers Fair

What an incredible day we had for the SKA Careers Fair 2024!

We were delighted to welcome the following and would like to thank them for coming - Anglia Ruskin University, Army, BGU, Boston College, Boston United, Butlins, Creative Access, DWP Gainsborough, Dyson Farming, Fantasy Island, Haven, LINCHhigher, Lincolnshire Police, McDonalds, Micronclean, Navy, NHS Talent Agency, Riseholme College, Skegness TEC, South and East LCP, University of Hull, University of Lincoln and Walnut Care.

A massive thank you to our Enhanced Careers Lead, Miss Tyler for putting on such a fabulous event for our students!



# English Updates

## Author Reading

In November, we were lucky enough to have a live reading by **David Baddiel** from his new book 'Small Fry'. In this unique event, offered by the **Book Trust**, schools from across the UK were given the amazing opportunity to be included in an author event. After he read an extract to Year 8, students were invited to ask questions about not only his writing career, but his career as a comedian too.

It was a lovely morning, and students found him really engaging. Furthermore, they were entirely captivated and impeccably behaved; they really enjoyed their experience.



## Book Buzz

Our year 7 and 8 students were given a **book for Christmas**. The scheme, which is run by **The Book Trust**, meant that every student was entitled to a free book from a list of fifteen titles. Students were thrilled with their early Christmas presents.



## Assessment News

Firstly, we would all like to **thank all our students** for all their hard work this year. They have worked extensively on their assessments, and we expect them to continue to do so in 2025.

From our Year 7's, who have written about heroes and villains; to our Year 8's, who have written about character perspective; to our Year 9's, who have looked at symbolism in A Christmas Carol – they have all put themselves on a pathway to excellence in KS4.

Moreover, our Year 10's have successfully written their first exam-style essays; with our Year 11's nervously taking their mock examinations this November. Our team of expert English teachers have been there to guide them every step of the way. They have all been working diligently towards their shared goal of GCSE success. Our collective work will continue towards the summer and exam season.

With this in mind, the days may be becoming shorter, and the mock exams having exhausted our year eleven students over recent weeks – but our work has continued. We have consistently had students come to after school intervention on a Wednesday; where we have eaten pizza and debated our texts for the exam.

Sessions will continue in the new year. Along with a plethora of resources which the English faculty can share with students. Please encourage your child to ask for revision help and guidance.

# Sixth Form Fundraising

## Sixth Form Leadership Fundraising Week Success!

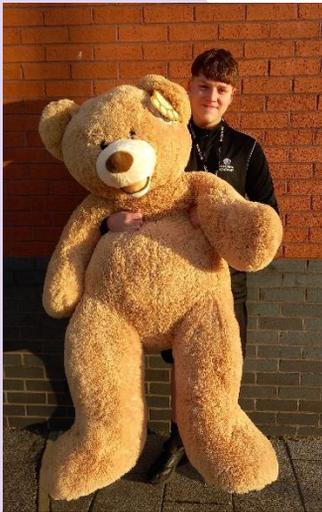
We are thrilled to share the incredible success of the **Sixth Form Leadership Fundraising Week**, which took place from **Monday 9 December to Sunday 15 December 2024**. With an array of fun and engaging activities planned by our Sixth Form Leadership Team, the week brought together students, staff, and the local community to support a great cause. The total amount raised was an astonishing **£1,585!**

All funds will go towards the **Storehouse Food Bank** and the **Restore Centre**, organisations that play a vital role in supporting the community. This initiative highlights how our collective efforts can make a meaningful difference in the lives of many individuals and families during the festive season.

### Highlights of the Week:

#### Monday: Guess How Many Sweets & Hugfun Bear's Middle Name

Students and staff alike enjoyed guessing games, with prizes awarded to our lucky winners. The sweet jar challenge was won by Y8 **Chloe E**, while Y12 **Connor B** correctly guessed that Hugfun Bear's middle name was Axel.



#### Tuesday: Cake Bake and Sweet Sale

The bistro transformed into a bakery, with a stunning selection of cakes and sweets prepared by our talented students. This delicious event raised substantial funds for our cause.



# Sixth Form Fundraising

## Wednesday: Teachers' Got Talent

A show-stopping afternoon in the auditorium saw our talented teachers taking center stage. From musical performances to comedy acts, it was an unforgettable event! A huge congratulations to our winners:

1st Place: PE Department

2nd Place: Miss Mitchell

3rd Place: Mrs Whelbourn



## Thursday: Christmas Day at SKA

The festive spirit was in full swing as students wore Christmas jumpers and accessories. The day was a joyful celebration with Christmas Day at SKA.

## Friday: Year 7 Christmas Ball

Year 7 students danced the evening away at their Christmas Ball, a perfect finale to the week's festivities.



## Sunday: Food Bank Promotion at Tesco Skegness

To wrap up the week, the Sixth Form Leadership Team brought Christmas cheer to Tesco's Skegness with singing, dancing. This event spread Christmas joy throughout the community.



# Sixth Form Fundraising

## A Learning Experience with Lasting Impact

Once the fundraising week concluded, the Sixth Form Leadership Team purchased essential items for the food bank and personally delivered them. This hands-on experience allowed our students to develop key skills such as leadership, teamwork, planning, and self-confidence, while also supporting a strong sense of community involvement.



## Thank You!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and supported this fundraising week. Your generosity and enthusiasm have made a significant impact, and we look forward to organising more events like this in the future. Together, we continue to show the strength of our school community and the difference we can make when we come together for a shared purpose.

