



Friday 19 December 2025

THE SKA SPOTLIGHT



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

We are thrilled to report that we have received the **Best Practice with Teaching Assistants Award (BPTAA)**.

The reward provides a straightforward, practical resource to support whole academy improvement through leading the management and support of teaching assistants.

With a focus on the leadership and work of all teaching assistants, the BPTAA is an exciting initiative that provides a process and framework for self-evaluation, planning and development, sharing of good practice and a celebration of success for the work of teaching assistants in all phases and types of schools and academies.

Look out for our photo when the certificate arrives!



Earlier in the term, the GCSE Spanish students swapped their exercise books for tapas and embarked on a vibrant cultural journey to Olé Olé Tapas Restaurant in Lincoln to celebrate the European Day of Languages. And what a day it was – bursting with flavour, laughter, and linguistic flair.

From the moment we arrived, the warm welcome from Amador, Amador Jr., Anna and the rest of the team set the tone for an unforgettable experience. Their hospitality was second to none – friendly, engaging, and full of passion for sharing Spanish culture. Our students were immersed in the language from the get-go, with opportunities to hear, read, and speak Spanish in a lively, authentic setting that brought their classroom learning to life.

The food? Simply spectacular. Compliments to the kitchen team for a lunchtime spread that had everyone smiling. Highlights included the patatas bravas, croquetas de jamón, pollo al ajillo, and the ever-popular churros con chocolate – all served with flair and flavour that transported us straight to Andalucía. The refreshing (non alcoholic) sangria and paella were also a hit, adding a touch of sunshine to a Lincoln afternoon.



Diary Dates

Monday 5 January 2026 – All students return to school.

Monday 5 January 2026 – WWI workshop for GCSE History students.

Tuesday 13 January 2026 – Year 11 Parents' Evening.

Tuesday 10 February 2026 – Sixth Form Open Evening.

Every Student

Every Lesson

Every Day

Be present - Be engaged - Be excellent

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.

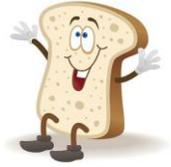
Click here to complete a form to request a free **umbrella** or **poncho** for your child –

<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.



UNICEF Update

This term has been all about recruiting new members! Assemblies were delivered on Human Rights and the work of UNICEF, we are hoping that following this, year 7s will join us after Christmas.

Mrs Coates-Metheringham continues to share resources with staff including an article a week to focus on during lesson time.

Fairtrade Update

Our Friday Fairtrade cafe has gone from strength to strength this term! Lots of students join us in the library to try a range of Fairtrade drinks.

We are making great steps towards making our academy Fairtrade by ensuring that events held within the academy use Fairtrade products where possible.

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

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

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



Art & Culture Updates

What an Autumn term it has been across the Arts and Culture Faculty.

In September as the term started we saw the beginning of our Performing Arts clubs including Dance club taking place every Friday after school as well as our SKA Starz and Pantomime auditions. All have been well attended since returning for the new academic year.



Students in years 10 and 12 started their new qualifications and made a tremendous start to the academic year. This year we are offering the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art and Design giving students the opportunity to achieve 3 A-Level equivalent grades by the end of the course. A fantastic opportunity if you are looking for a career in the Creative Arts industry.



Our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students started the year exceptionally smart in their new uniforms.



We welcomed Mr Lowndes into the faculty during this term. Mr Lowndes is keen to develop the Music curriculum at SKA to support with offering a wide-variety of opportunities for students. He has already wowed students with his performances as part of staff band and in Teacher's Got Talent.



As a focus this academic year students will be learning more about Command Words in Arts and Culture faculty lessons. Command words are the “bossy” words often used in exam questions or assessment scenarios and understanding these is incredibly useful for being able to apply knowledge. To support all students, every subject in the faculty has pledged to explicitly teach the meaning of the terms ‘Evaluate’ and ‘Analyse’ across key stage three. In key stages four and five, command words are now an integral part of learning in every lesson.

We are excited to be developing an area outside of the school building to support with our Technology and Textiles curriculum. The area situated at the back of main school building, will be cultivated as a small eco-system called the Ark, where students will have the opportunity to apply what they learn in lessons to support maintaining the area.

We were immensely proud of host the Royal Shakespeare Company's First Encounters performance of King Lear this term. The performance which saw our auditorium space turned into a Shakespearean theatre, was observed by around 500 students from local primary schools and Skegness Academy. Students in year 7 got the opportunity to take part in a question and answer session with the cast and crew where they learned about the plot of the play as well as career opportunities in the industry.

We are also part of the National Theatre's Connections Performance this year too. Students are given the opportunity to perform a play with the local area in mind that often explore complex themes. These plays are great opportunity for students to develop their acting and performance skills further with support from the National Theatre directly.



We are proud of the Arts and Culture curriculum at the Skegness Academy. The curriculum offers a broad range of different subjects which provide invaluable transferable skills that all students will benefit from. In key stage three all students get the opportunity to study Art, Music and IT all year round, while Food, Textiles and Technology; and Performing Arts and Dance are studied on a rotation basis. In key stages four and five we offer a range of qualifications linked to these subjects as well as a range of qualifications that students may find useful for working locally.



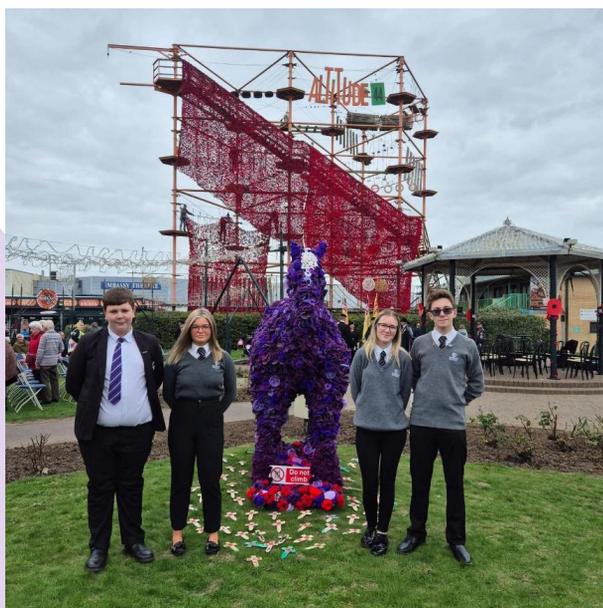
Back in October we opened our doors for open evening to showcase the amazing work we do here at the Skegness Academy every day.

One of our Level 3 Performing Arts students has been seeing first-hand what it is like working in the industry. Thomas got the opportunity to work as an extra in a World War I production being filmed in Lincolnshire recently.



As well as a range of opportunities outside of the academy, students who study our Level 3 qualification are also introduced to the industry through question-and-answer sessions during lessons. These opportunities provide key insights into what working in the industry is like, developing the ambitions of our students and supporting their next steps.

Our links with the Skegness Branch of the Royal British Legion continued this year as we planned an ambitious project with our Level 3 Art and Design students to place on display as part of the Skegness Poppy Appeal 2025. Hetty the War Horse was created with help from the local community, our Art department and Site Team. The response to Hetty was quite remarkable with coverage on social media as well as local news. She even got the opportunity to remain on display in the Hildred's Centre for the local community to enjoy.



This year we are part of the Bite Back campaign 2025. This campaign empowers young people to become activists standing up against a food system which is rigged against us. So far students in year 8 have heard from Miss Thompson, who introduced the campaign during an assembly, as well as starting to learn more about the food industry and how advertising works. Next term students will be invited to start taking part in a club that will look at improving the food system in school and support students in leading healthy lifestyles.

You may have seen that we were recently visited by the Department for Education. Our Art and Dance departments had the opportunity to showcase the incredible work our students create on a day-to-day basis with a pop-up art exhibition and dance performances as part of the event.



Dates for the Diary

Level 3 examinations take place in January for Performing Arts, Applied Law and Travel and Tourism students.

Any year 10 student who studies a qualification within the Arts and Culture faculty will have already started or is due to start assessments that count towards their final grade. Attendance to these lessons is incredibly important as it provides students with the maximum opportunity to achieve what they are capable of. There are also some assessments still taking place in year 11.

Connections performance- Thursday 12 February 2026.

Attendance Updates

Term 2 Attendance Summary

Term 2 has been another successful term for attendance, with rates remaining higher than last year. We would like to thank our parents for supporting us by ensuring their children attend school regularly and arrive on time. A big thank you also goes to our students for valuing their attendance, including those who overcome challenges to be in school.

This term, we introduced our *12 Days of Christmas* initiative, celebrating students who attended each day. Looking ahead to Term 3, we are excited to relaunch our popular *Pupil Passports* from Term 1.

We would like to remind you of the many benefits of daily school attendance such as:

- Consistent learning and academic progress
- Building strong friendships and social skills
- Developing good habits and routines for life

We look forward to another positive term and can't wait to see everyone in January!

Dance Captains

Please congratulate our new Dance Captain, Mia and Deputy Dance Captain, Lily!



Sixth Form Updates

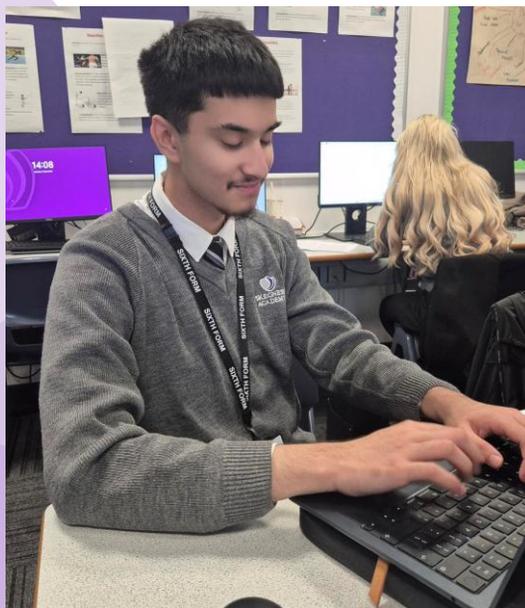
What a term fantastic term it has been!

- Year 12 have settled in brilliantly and are already making a positive impact on our school community.
- Year 13 are busy planning their next steps as they prepare for life beyond the Academy.

We also had some fun along the way, Mr Dyers took the crown in the Tutor Selfie Competition, with Mr Pagliano coming a close second!



We were thrilled to welcome the University of Lincoln at the start of the academic year to support students with their UCAS Personal Statements. This marks an exciting new chapter for our Year 13s as they prepare for their future pathways. We are proud to be part of this journey and look forward to continuing to support them every step of the way!



Sixth Form Updates

We are excited to announce the appointment of our new Presidents for this academic year!

Congratulations to Alyssa, Lacie, Zia, and Thomas, who impressed us with their leadership, motivation, and ambition during their interviews for the position. This is a fantastic achievement, and we can't wait to see the positive impact they will make!



Sixth Form Updates

Congratulations to Mia B for taking the position of Chair, Kieria as Deputy Chair, Leia as Senior Ambassador, and Jessica and Ralph as our new Ambassadors. These students have shown incredible commitment and leadership qualities, and we are excited to see the positive impact they will have on our school community!

Our Sixth Form students have stepped up this term, taking on the responsibility of daytime duties, supporting staff members during on-call and lunchtime supervision. Their commitment and teamwork are making a real difference across the Academy—well done to everyone involved!

Our Sixth Form students have taken on an important role this term by mentoring Year 7 and Year 8 students. Through guidance and support, they are helping younger students settle into Academy life, build confidence, and develop positive habits. This initiative not only strengthens our school community but also showcases the leadership and responsibility of our Sixth Form students.

Our Sixth Form President proudly supported the unveiling of the Poppy Display at Altitude 44 for the Skegness Royal British Legion Branch. They represented the Academy with pride, and Thomas delivered a moving poem that he wrote especially for the service. We are incredibly proud of our students for taking part in the wider community and showing true leadership and respect during this important event.



Sixth Form Updates

A huge thank you to Zia for proudly representing the Academy during Remembrance Sunday and serving as a positive role model for our younger students. Their involvement reflects the values of respect and leadership that we strive to uphold at Skegness Academy.



Students recently participated in an engaging presentation from 2Fast2Soon, focusing on the importance of road safety for young drivers and passengers. The session highlighted key issues such as:

- Speed Awareness – Understanding how excessive speed increases risk.
- Consequences of Risky Driving – Real-life stories and statistics on accidents involving young drivers.
- Making Safe Choices – Practical tips for staying safe on the road, whether driving or as a passenger.

The interactive format encouraged discussion and reflection, helping students recognise the impact of their decisions behind the wheel. This initiative aims to promote responsible driving habits and reduce road traffic incidents among young people.



Sixth Form Updates

Year 13 students enjoyed their final Christmas dinner at the Skegness Academy, marking a special moment in their last academic year. To celebrate, a dedicated Christmas meal was arranged, as well as Secret Santa. It was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to come together, share festive cheer, and create lasting memories.



Sixth Form Updates

Throughout the year, our students and tutor groups have been celebrated for their attendance, positive attitude, and outstanding behaviour. We are incredibly proud of their commitment and the example they set across the Academy.



This term has been full of achievements, celebrations, and opportunities for our Sixth Form students, from leadership appointments and community involvement to exciting steps toward their future. We are proud of the dedication and enthusiasm shown by every student and look forward to an even more successful term ahead.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at the Skegness Academy Sixth Form!

Pantomime

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

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.

This popular club will return in the New Year.

Pretty Interesting Science Matters



PrISM Club

Exploring scientific phenomena
using real life examples through
discussion and practical
investigations

With Mr Freeman
B20
Wednesday Lunchtimes



English Updates

Primary Visit

Primary school children visited us in October to celebrate Autumn. They enjoyed an immersive experience where they used an array of creative resources to write poetry about the changing seasons, Halloween and bonfire night.



Book Buzz

Staff have been really busy wrapping books for our year 7 and 8 students. Every year, we take part in the Book Buzz scheme, part of the Book Trust initiative where we give every child a book for Christmas. This wonderful opportunity enables all our children to have their own book. Furthermore, we also encourage them to swap their books and read a variety of titles.

Thank you to Mrs Whelbourn for organizing this event!

Year 11

Our year 11 students have been working really hard towards their exams. Many of them made good progress in their recent mock exams and we have had rising numbers at our intervention classes.

At intervention we look at revision skills, how to actively read and develop student resilience when approaching writing. We also provide lots of resources for revision. Please encourage your child to attend. Our sessions are well thought out and valuable to their GCSE journey.

Welcome back Mrs Pepper

We are so pleased to have Mrs Pepper back from maternity leave, after having her little boy, George. Mrs Pepper is an integral part of our team and a fantastic teacher. We are very happy to welcome her back in the English faculty!

Sixth Form Fundraising

Fundraising Week – What an Incredible Success!

What an amazing week we had! Our fundraising events brought the whole school together, and the energy was simply unforgettable.

This year, our chosen charity was Papyrus, an incredible organisation dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. Their mission is to provide hope, support, and practical resources to young people and those who care for them. By raising funds for Papyrus, we're helping to spread awareness and ensure that vital support is available to those who need it most. Every pound raised brings us closer to saving lives and creating a future filled with hope.

Monday 8 December – Coast-to-Coast Challenge

We kicked off with an ambitious 137-mile Coast-to-Coast cycle. Our students were determined to complete it in just six hours—and they gave it everything they had! Huge congratulations to Blake, Alex, William, Oliver, Kieran, Harley, Sam, Alfie, and Taylan for their incredible effort and perseverance. You truly inspired us all!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported, encouraged, and donated on the day. Your generosity made a real difference.



Sixth Form Fundraising

Tuesday 9 December – Cake Bake Extravaganza

Sweet treats and warm smiles filled the day as we sold delicious donuts, hot chocolate, tea, and coffee. This event was a huge hit! Special thanks to Jazmine, Alyssa, and Lacie for their fantastic customer service and ensuring every student left with a smile.



Sixth Form Fundraising

Thursday 11 December – Teacher Got Talent

What can we say? Our teachers were phenomenal! From singing to performing, they truly showcased their hidden talents. Thank you to Mr Lowndes, Mrs Coates-Metheringham, Mr Thompson, Miss Mitchell and PE for stepping up and making the event unforgettable. In our eyes you are all winners!



This year's crown went to Miss Mitchell, who sang her heart out and left us all in awe. Congratulations on being our 2025 Teacher Got Talent Winner!



Sixth Form Fundraising

Christmas Jumper Day

The festive spirit was alive and well as students donned their Christmas jumpers and accessories. The smiles were priceless—thank you for spreading the cheer!

Year 7 Christmas Disco

We wrapped up the week with a fantastic disco for Year 7! Balloons, music, dancing, and games like musical statues and musical chairs kept the fun going all night. And of course, the classics—Macarena and YMCA—had everyone on the dance floor!

A massive well done to Keira and her team for making the Y7 Christmas Disco a fantastic Night for all. A massive thank you to Jazmine and Alysse for their fantastic service and ensuring every Year 7 student was served with a smile!



Sixth Form Fundraising

Thank you to Taya and Mia for the wonderful Christmas decorations!

They handmade beautiful pieces so students could design their own Christmas tree baubles. Everyone loved the creativity, and now they have unique decorations to treasure and use year after year—creating special memories that will last a lifetime.



In total, we raised an incredible £1591.50! Thank you to every student, staff member, and the public who made this week such a success. Together, we've shown the power of community and generosity.

