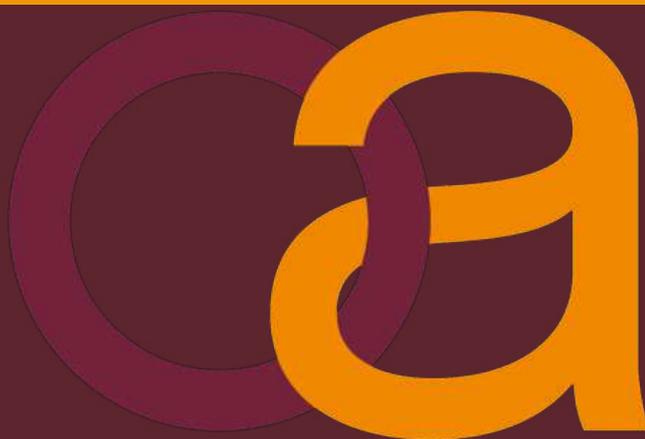


OA-SUFFOLK NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2025/26
Edition No. 2



Update from the Head of Academy

Dear Families,

It has been a short but wonderfully productive Spring term, filled with many exciting *firsts* for both pupils and staff.

We began the term on a real high with our very first Careers Fair. It was a pleasure to welcome a wide range of employers and colleges to OA-Suffolk, and equally lovely to see so many of our current and former families attend. The event has already led to several positive outcomes, including employer visits and new college course applications, and we are delighted with the opportunities it has opened up for our pupils.

Beach Class have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm and progress in swimming. Not only have they been developing vital swimming and lifesaving skills, but they have also been making new friends among pupils from other schools taking part.

Meanwhile, River Class embraced the start of Outdoor Education with raft building and kayaking—helped along by some welcome spring sunshine warming up the waters at Sutton Hoo. Their teamwork, energy, and sense of adventure have been fantastic to see.

Our Year 10's Ocean and Daffodil, have been out and about visiting Military Colleges and work-places as part of their careers curriculum from which, we have received positive feedback from both the pupils and those they visited.



A special mention must go to our Year 11 pupils, who are working incredibly hard as they prepare for their GCSEs. This is never an easy time of year, but their commitment during mock exams and to their BTEC coursework has made us all extremely proud.

There have been many highlights this term, but two stand out. Our football match against OA Cambridge—complete with our smart new kit—was a brilliant occasion for pupils, staff, and families alike. And the stunning murals created by Mr Millerchip and our pupils have brought colour and creativity to our academy spaces; they will remain here as a lasting legacy long after they move on to new adventures.

As always, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our amazing staff, who give 150% every single day, to our families for your continued involvement—whether through attending our family consultation days or cheering us on at the football match. And of course, thank you to all of our pupils for their hard work, enthusiasm, and positivity throughout the term.

I wish you all a very happy, restful Spring break, and let's hope the sunshine stays out for us.

Kelly Emms
Head of Academy



Reminder of Summer Term Dates

Summer Term 2026

TERM TIME	Monday 13 th April to Friday 17 th July 2026
FAMILY CONSULTATION DAY	Monday 13 th April 2026
FIRST DAY IN THE ACADEMY FOR PUPILS	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
INSET DAY	Monday 20 th July 2026
HALF TERM	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026
FAMILY CONSULTATION DAY	Monday 1 st June 2026
LAST DAY FOR PUPILS AND STAFF	Friday 17 th July 2026

Please note that our **Family Consultation Day** is taking place on Monday 13th April 2026 - **pupils will therefore return to the Academy after the Easter Break on Tuesday 14th April 2026.**

BEACH Class News

Spring Term in Beach

Swimming this term has been amazing and the class have enjoyed the whole experience joining another school at Stowmarket Leisure Centre. The pupils have developed their skills and learnt new games to play. The swimming teachers have been really impressed with their listening skills and the effort they have put into every session.



Welcome to Beach!

During the spring term, our class welcomed two new pupils – one arriving just after Christmas.



Drumming with WEDRUM continues to be a great lesson for working together, using the app to remix music to share for others to drum along to.

The Koala app is used to record sounds to help link emotions and meaning towards the sounds they create.

Science over the first half term included making shadow puppets, using mirrors to follow a line drawn on the ground, guessing what is in the bag and sewing bags for reflection.



BEACH Class News cont.

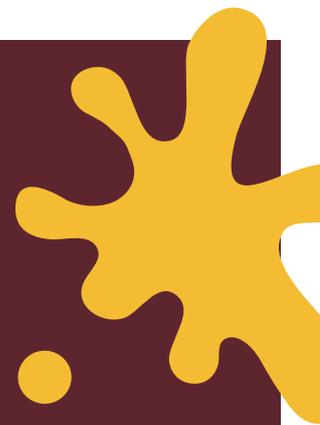
Learning About Electricity

This half term, the class has been learning about electricity, including how to build basic circuits. They began by creating simple circuits themselves. Over the next few weeks, after looking through the PowerPoint together, they had fun experimenting and adding new parts to their circuits, like motors, buzzers, and lightbulbs. The class worked really well as a team and used great words to explain what they were doing.



In Olive Way we covered different subjects each week including Lego week - Pupils took on the roles of builder, supplier and engineers!

'Inspire your Heart with Art Day' gave the class the opportunity to look at new artists including Henry Moore. They also worked with Mr Millerchip to make super heroes.



BEACH Class News cont.

World Book Day

The pupils were set a challenge to find a range of different books – for example, one featuring a witch, one with a bear, one with a happy ending, something with delicious food, and one that included a plane – altogether more than twenty different types. Some challenges asked for a page number which wasn't always easy.



The group also had fun with an activity where they tried to match DVDs to the books they came from. We've got loads of books and DVDs, but not every book has a movie version. And for some stories we knew had films, we just didn't have the DVD to go with them!



BEACH Class News cont.

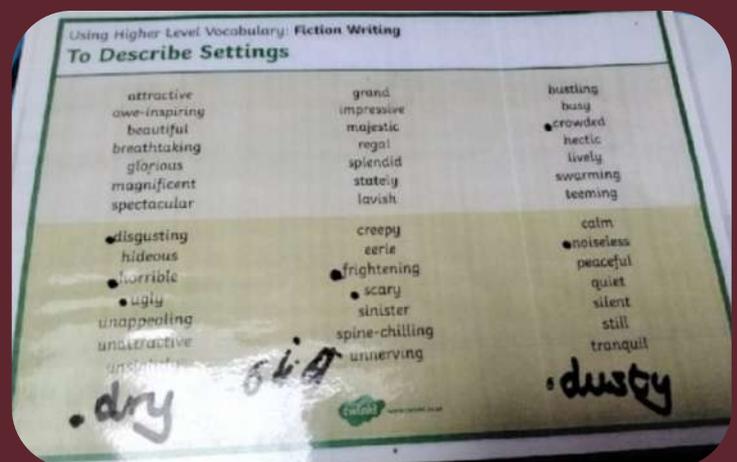
World Book Day Cont.

On World Book Day – Ms Bensley adapted her English lesson. As an introduction to the lesson, the class completed a word search, looking for key vocabulary such as fiction, non-fiction, setting, characters, poetry, adventure, mystery, horror and fantasy.

As part of the English lesson, we discussed our favourite book and books which have been made into a film. We discussed our favourite book characters. Ms Bensley modelled the activity using Greg from The Diary of a Wimpy Kid first and then they completed their own book character review, one pupil chose Greg from The Diary of a Wimpy Kid, explaining why he liked him, he wrote five adjectives to describe him and then explained why the character is important to the story.

We finished the lesson with a book quiz, based on the plot of different Traditional Tales, which they engaged well with.

Wonder Woman , Willy Wonka, a Surgeon, a penguin, a Mandalorian and a school boy from Dairy of a Wimpy Kid made up our class on World Book Day.



Once the four pupils were together in English lessons we started a new text - 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. The focus of this text is to support writing using compound sentences and using adjectives, so the first task was to write a description of Camp Green Lake.

OCEAN Class News



Outdoor Education

This term, Ocean class has thrown themselves into an exciting mix of outdoor education activities, building confidence and practical skills along the way. Pupils have enjoyed outdoor cooking, practiced their map-reading abilities, and tackled team-building challenges that strengthened communication and cooperation. They've also enjoyed activities such as mountain biking and kayaking, explored bushcraft techniques, and learned essential first aid skills.



Cooking

In the kitchen this term, Ocean pupils have been busy developing both their practical and theory skills as they work towards their BTEC cooking qualifications.

They've explored a range of recipes, practised essential techniques and learned how to plan and prepare a balanced two-course meal.



KEY STAGE 4 News

Cooking

This term, our Key Stage 4 pupils have truly risen to the challenge in their BTEC Cooking course, they chose a 2-course meal of their choice to make for two people. From mastering essential kitchen skills that they have practiced in previous cooking lessons to experimenting with new flavours and techniques, they've shown impressive confidence and curiosity.

It has been inspiring to watch them develop not only their culinary abilities but also the independence and resilience that comes with cooking in the kitchen, we're excited to share some of their highlights and achievements with you.



Outdoor Education

Our Key Stage 4 pupils have embraced the great outdoors this term, participating in East Coast adventures at Sutton Hoo, throwing themselves into an exciting mix of bushcraft, mountain biking, kayaking, and paddle boarding.

Whether they've been learning to build fires and cook on them in the woods, tackling challenging trails on two wheels, or developing confidence on the water, each activity has pushed them to grow in resilience, teamwork, and independence. Their enthusiasm has been infectious, and it's been fantastic to see them discover new strengths while enjoying the natural world around them. This newsletter highlights some of their standout moments and achievements.

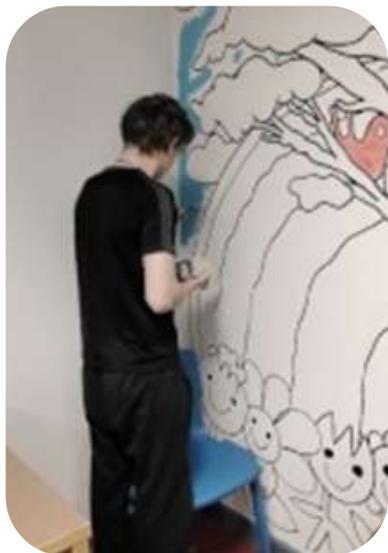


DAFFODIL Class News

Spring Term News

This term we have welcomed some new faces to Daffodil Class. It has been wonderful getting to know you all.

Daffodil class pupils have been particularly creative and artistic this term, creating a Rainbow Bridge mural with Mr Millerchip, adding colour to the dining area common room.



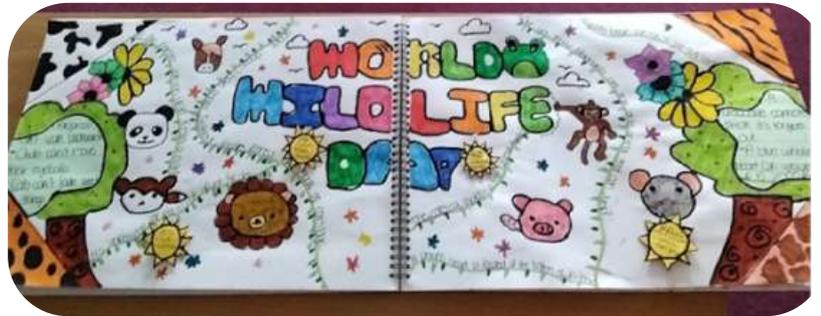
DAFFODIL Class News cont.

We have explored free art and used our creative skills outside too, to create a Daffodil Class collage, using a variety of paints, brushes and chalks.



One pupil has shown artistic flair designing our weekly Olive Way Floorbook page, highlighting different Olive Way themes, such as World Wildlife Day, Safer Internet Day, International Women's and Girls in Science Day and World Book Day.

As part of her design she incorporated Daffodil class ideas, peers' artwork and activities.



In Art, pupils have created a designs ranging from a canvas "Live the Best Life," a super sculpy polymerclay, sculpture of "Peter" and a freestyle canvas as part of our entries to **Royal College of Arts** 'Young Artist's Summer Show competition.

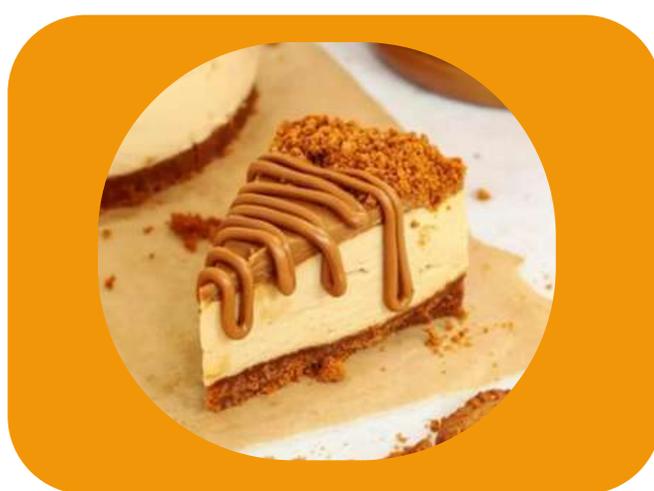
Good luck Daffodil Class!



DAFFODIL Class News cont.

As part of our 'Preparation For Adulthood' challenge, Daffodil class enjoyed a day of varied activities such as Camping Skills, putting up a tent, unpacking different rucksack items and finding out why they were needed. We enjoyed trying the survival art of Paracording too and created our own cords to take home. Daffodil class enjoyed different cookery activities such as creating Biscoff cheesecake and iced coffee – definitely needed in adulthood!

Also, Daffodil class pupils visited an outdoor gym and participated in different activities there. We also looked at vital wellbeing activities and self care such as First Aid and engaging in Nail Art activities. It was a fun day but pupils also identified vital skills we wanted to learn in the future such as how to budget, household maintenance, learning to drive and how to put out a fire.



Biscoff recipe as requested by students and staff!!

<https://www.tamingtwins.com/biscoff-cheesecake/#wprm-recipe-container-21628>



OA-Suffolk v OA-Cambridge Football Match

The atmosphere was electric as OA-Suffolk and OA-Cambridge took to the pitch, but it was clear from the first whistle that we were in for a tough afternoon!

In a match defined by determination and relentless pressure, OA-Cambridge delivered a commanding performance, securing a decisive 10-0 victory against OA-Suffolk.

Despite the scoreline, our players showed heart and resilience throughout, giving the crowd plenty to cheer for as they battled to the final minute.



Post-16 Event / Careers Fair

On 6th January, OA-Suffolk held their very first Post 16 event. We were joined by several further education provisions, such as West Suffolk College, Suffolk New College and MCPT.

With the support of Norfolk & Suffolk Careers hub we were also able to showcase several employers that offer apprenticeships such as British Sugar, Kier Construction and M Group, Suffolk Highways.

The event was a huge success with many families, both past and present attending. It was a fantastic opportunity to show all of our pupils just a sample of what is available to them, when they leave OA-Suffolk.

Many of our Year 11 pupils have since gone on to apply for their post 16 destinations and several visits to provisions have been arranged.

We hope to make this an annual event, welcoming an increasing number of employers and education providers each year, to give our pupils access to a wider range of opportunities for their future careers.



Preparation for Adulthood

On 18th March, Care Development East came to highlight Dementia and the negative connotations that people often think of. Dementia is a progressive condition and its symptoms vary according to the areas of the brain affected.

We looked at the bookshelf analogy. The weaker bookshelf which is dementia, if it were shaken, the top shelf might come off and so the top 20 memories might be lost. Instead of being 80, they think they are now 60. The more it is shaken, the more memories are lost.

Sunflower class watched a video clip showing the confusion and anxiety of someone living with dementia.

We looked at being a Dementia Friend and the 5 key messages.

