



Tudor Grange Samworth Academy

TUDOR TIMES



2024-25 Term: Summer | Issue 5 | Date: July 2025

Principal's Message – End of Year 2025

Dear Lord,

As we come to the close of another school year, we give thanks for the growth, learning, and shared moments that have shaped our journey together.

May the summer bring rest, renewal, and joy to every family.

May our children return refreshed, ready to embrace new challenges with courage and hope.

And may our school community continue to be guided by kindness, wisdom, and unity.

Amen.



As we close another fantastic academic year, I want to thank all our staff and pupils for their hard work, dedication, and energy. This year has been packed with lots of enriching experiences from science and poetry trips to Twycross Zoo and maths trips to Bletchley Park. We wouldn't have it any other way – our school is ambitious for every pupil. That ambition is reflected not only in the classroom but also in the wide range of extracurricular opportunities we offer. From sports teams and music ensembles to STEM workshops, and creative arts, our pupils have embraced every chance to grow, lead, and shine. These experiences help build confidence, character, and a love of learning that lasts far beyond school.

One of the standout moments this year was our Culture Day, a vibrant celebration of the diverse backgrounds, languages, and traditions that make up our school community. Pupils and staff came together to share food, music, dance, and stories from around the world highlighting the strength and beauty of our city. It was a powerful reminder that our diversity is one of our greatest assets.

Other highlights included Year 10 Work Experience and a memorable Year 11 Prom. Our Year 6 pupils also had a taste of secondary life, and we look forward to welcoming them and others into the secondary phase this August.

Year 7 Transition and Primary places

This year's Year 7 transition has been another incredibly busy period, with 47 pupils currently on our waiting list and 22 appeals submitted for a place. It's always disappointing not to be able to offer every child a place at our school especially when we know we are a school of choice for so many families.

However, we would like to encourage parents to consider opportunities within our Primary phase. We currently have places available in Year 2 and Year 3, and we welcome families to arrange a meeting with Mrs. Cooper, our New Primary Principal, to discuss these options further.

Our all-through school vision is closely aligned with our core values and the values of the families we serve. For parents who are interested in joining us at the Primary level, there is also a strong chance of receiving a uniform package as part of the transition.



Start-of-Term Arrangements

As we begin to plan for the end of the academic year, we are also looking ahead to the start of the new term in August. One important update for parents to note is the staggered return to school.

Tuesday 26th August:

Year 7 and Year 11 pupils will return to school at the times listed below (please refer to the school website or communication from your child's Associate College Leader for specific timings).

Wednesday 27th August:

Year 8, Year 9, and Year 10 pupils will return on a staggered schedule.

This staggered start is designed to support a smooth transition into the new academic year and ensure that each year group receives a focused and welcoming return.

Tuesday 26th August – Year 7 & Year 11 Only

8:20 – Year 7 arrive (main hall, sit in colleges)
8:30 – Year 7 Assembly (AIB)
8:45 – Year 7 to tutor groups
9:00 – Year 11 arrive (main hall, sit in colleges)
9:05 – Year 11 Assembly (AIB)
9:25 – Year 11 to tutor groups
11:15 – Break (Y11 form captains support Y7)
11:35 – Period 3
12:30 – Year 7 Early Lunch
12:35 – Year 11 Lunch

Wednesday 27th August – All Year Groups Return

8:20 – Year 7 & 11: Tutor time
8:20 – Year 8 arrive (main hall, sit in colleges)
8:30 – Year 8 Assembly (AIB)
8:45 – Year 8 to tutor groups
9:00 – Year 9 arrive (main hall, sit in colleges)
9:05 – Year 9 Assembly (AIB)
9:25 – Year 9 to tutor groups
10:00 – Year 10 arrive (main hall, sit in colleges)
10:05 – Year 10 Assembly (AIB)
10:25 – Year 10 to tutor groups
11:15 – Break and normal lessons resume

Farewells

We say goodbye to several valued colleagues:

- Miss White, Miss Dinh, and Miss Donnelly – thank you and best wishes for the future.
- Ms Crane and Mr Pawley – your support has been appreciated. Mr Pawley, the heart of the staff band, will be missed by pupils and staff alike.
- Mr Cranmer who is a key figure in the Maths Department for many years, we wish him well in his next chapter.
- Mrs Pancholi – with us since 2009, she has been an inspirational phase leader. Her outstanding teaching and leadership have inspired so many, and we wish her every success in her new leadership role.

A very special farewell goes to Mrs Collins, who has been with us since 2007 and has led our Primary Phase with passion, care, and vision. Her leadership has shaped the inclusive culture we are proud of today. She played a pivotal role in securing our 'Good' Ofsted judgement and has been a constant source of support and inspiration to pupils, staff, and families alike. Known and loved across both phases, Mrs Collins has always put children at the heart of every decision. As she moves on to her second headship, we thank her sincerely for her years of service, her unwavering commitment, and the legacy she leaves behind. This school will not be the same without her.

Final Thanks

To our parents and carers – thank you for your continued support. The strong partnership we share is built on mutual respect, and it plays a vital role in our pupils' success.

We want to wish you and your families a restful and joyful summer break. We look forward to seeing everyone in August. Details about summer school are available on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Bannon

Principal

Head of Primary's Message – End of Summer Term



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a vibrant and successful summer term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many highlights that have made this term so special for our school community.

Our pupils have had a term full of exciting experiences and joyful learning. From the adventurous Year 2 sleepover at school, where children showed great independence and teamwork, to the Year 1 beach trip, which was filled with sunshine, sandcastles, and smiles, it's been a term to remember.

We also celebrated our school's diversity and unity during Culture Day, a wonderful occasion where pupils and staff came together to share food, music, and traditions from around the world. Our Sports Days were another highlight – full of energy, encouragement, and healthy competition. It was fantastic to see so many families cheering on the children and celebrating their efforts.

A special mention must go to our Year 6 pupils, who have led the way with maturity and enthusiasm. Their end-of-year disco was a fitting celebration of their time with us, and we wish them all the very best as they move on to secondary school. You've made us proud!

This term also brings a fond farewell to Mrs. Pancholi, our amazing Key Stage 1 Leader. Her dedication, warmth, and passion for teaching have made a lasting impact on our school and on the many children and families she has supported over the years. She will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike, and we wish her every happiness and success in her next chapter.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff for their tireless work and to you, our parents and carers, for your continued support. Together, we've created a nurturing and inspiring environment where children can thrive.

As we head into the summer break, I hope you all find time to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with loved ones.

Wishing you a safe and happy summer.

Kind regards,

Anika Collins

Head of Primary

Young Carers



A young carer is a child under 18 who regularly looks after someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled or has a mental health problem or an addiction.

Children may engage in:

- Shopping, cleaning, cooking
- Managing medicines or money
- Providing personal care
- Helping get people out of the house
- Keeping an eye on someone
- Providing emotional support



TGSA can support young carers. If you, or a family member, needs support please contact Rohina Dassu at office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk.

All contact will be treated in the strictest confidence. For more information about Young Carers in Schools, follow this link: [Young Carers in Schools](#)

Farewell Message from Mrs Collins



As I prepare to say goodbye, I find myself reflecting on an incredible journey that began 18 years ago – right here at Tudor Grange Samworth Academy. Fresh out of training, I started my teaching career in this very school. It was a new beginning, a new chapter, and a leap into the unknown. Little did I know then just how much this place would shape my life, both professionally and personally.

For eight years, I had the joy of being in the classroom, learning alongside our pupils and growing as an educator. Then, stepping into the role of Head of Primary marked the start of a new journey – one filled with challenges, growth, and immense pride in what we've achieved together.

To our incredible staff – thank you for your dedication, passion, and support. You are the heartbeat of this school. To our parents and carers – your trust and partnership have meant the world. And to our pupils – you are the reason we do what we do. Your energy, curiosity, and kindness have inspired me every single day.

Though I am moving on to new opportunities, I leave with a heart full of gratitude and confidence in the continued success of our Primary phase.

Thank you for the memories, the laughter, and the learning. I will miss you all dearly.

Tudor Grange Samworth Academy will always hold a special place in my heart.

With warmest wishes,

Anika Collins

Head of Primary



Pre-School



Pre-School children have been learning about mini beasts this term; we went on a walk to see what we could find. The children were very gentle around the insects and were bursting with joy when they found some.



Nursery



As the weather has improved the Nursery children have been spending as much time outside as possible, developing their gross motor skills and practicing for our sports day. Throughout this term the Nursery children have been learning all about animals. We were extremely lucky to have chicken eggs in our class and we were able to watch them hatch and start to grow. All children had the opportunity to hold the chicks and we learnt how to look after them and what their life would be like back on the farm. We have had some wonderful stories all about animals and as we start to come to the end of term, we are learning about minibeasts. We have been on a bug hunt and found some interesting creatures. In maths we have been learning about 3D shapes and investigating capacity. We have had the parents into school to celebrate Father's Day. Fridays have become very exciting for us as we now go on an adventure every Friday morning to the forest.



Reception

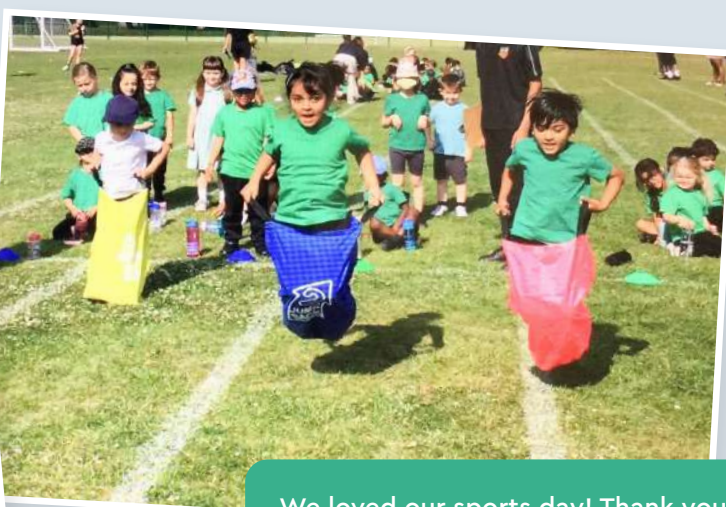


The Reception classes have loved watching the chicks hatch and grow this term while learning about the life cycle of a hen. They have been so gentle while handling them and amazed at how quickly they have grown!





We had a fantastic morning with some of the team from HSBC learning about money and the value of coins. It was a fantastic experience to do some practical activities with our visitors who even planned a dance routine for us too. Thank you HSBC!



We loved our sports day! Thank you to all of the year 10 children who did a fantastic job of supporting us during the session as a part of their PE subject development. We had a fantastic time cheering each other on. We were so grateful to all of our parents and carers that could make it and show their support.





We had the opportunity to attend our last few forest school sessions with Ms Derbyshire and the children were able to explore, investigate, play music and show off their balance and climbing skills. They have learnt so much over the year in the forest and the children were very grateful for all the effort Ms Derbyshire put into this area of the school – thanking her particularly for the tree house, outdoor music area and binoculars to go bug hunting!



Fab Friday is always such a fun morning for us. The children love sharing their classroom and doing activities with their adults. This time we focused on fathers and special people in our lives. We did activities like portrait drawing and card making.



Year 2



Our year 2 children had an end of Key Stage 1 celebration this week by bravely sleeping over at school! We went to the park and played sports, then had a disco at school and a chip supper, before a pyjama movie night and "camping" in the Primary Hall! The children behaved brilliantly and we look forward to seeing them become good role models in Key Stage 2.



Year 3

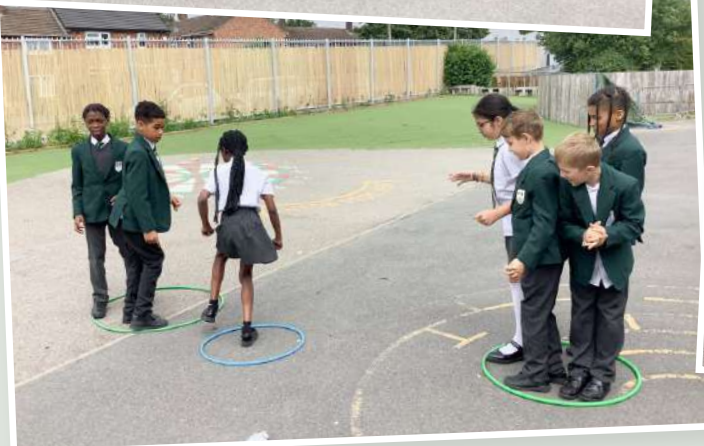


Year 3 went to Bradgate Park to understand the local history of Leicestershire. We ventured to the top of Old John and enjoyed the fantastic view. The children enjoyed a tour around the Bradgate House ruins and had experts give us information about the famous Lady Jane Grey. We all had a great day in the fresh air!

During June, Year 4 went to Knighton Park on a Geography field trip. The children all learnt about what was man made and what was natural about the river and also how they have managed the river flooding. We all had a lovely time finding out about the different features and the sunshine even came out.



In PSHE this term, Year 4 were working on being a team and listening to each other. We all had great fun trying to cross the imaginary river whilst working on our communication skills and decided that working together was much more fun than working individually.





Last term some of our school council delivered an assembly to KS1 and KS2. They spoke about their trip to parliament and discussed the British and Tudor values. They were all very confident and enjoyed answering all the questions that they were asked. Well done school council for delivering such a lovely assembly. It was great to see all your hard work come together!

During June KS2 pupils from our school council went to Lancaster to review the year and discuss what they have implemented in school and what challenges they have faced. They took part in different activities that involved team work and thought about what they would like to achieve next year. They were all very proud when telling everyone of the great work they have achieved so far and how hard they have worked to help the school become a kindness school.



Culture Day



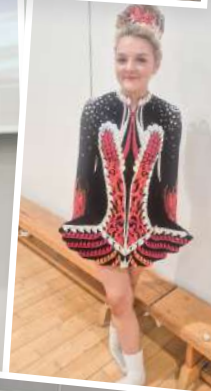
We had a wonderful celebration for our annual Culture Day of 2025 where the values of our school were demonstrated in action. Students from across both schools participated in a day of celebration as students dressed to represent their heritage and culture. The school was alive with music, song and dance from the moment that pupils entered the building with drumming on entry by Mr. Mann. There was a red-carpet entrance and art students created a range of masks which were displayed throughout the school building.

A programme of celebration assemblies was presented by pupils across all year groups as they told stories of heritage and identity through song, poetry, drama and dance. The theme of the day was 'We are One' and this was reflected through the many activities throughout the day.

Subject teachers created bespoke lessons based on culture; for example in Geography pupils explored the history and meaning of flags and then had opportunities to create their own flags based on identity. The students spoke about the importance of understanding the culture of others and pupil voice commented on how wonderful it was to watch other pupils perform and create assemblies for students to learn from.

We are very proud of all of our pupils and the shared values that were demonstrated on Culture Day. I look forward to planning the next Culture Day which is now an annual event on our school calendar.

~ Mrs. Hawthorne



"My Wild Summer" Activity Guide



Summer's here! Will it rain? Will it shine? Does it matter? Whatever the weather, there's loads to see and do in the great outdoors. Your Wild Summer booklet is packed with ideas and information from The Wildlife Trusts to help you explore nature and wild places, either at home, on days out, or on holiday. We're on a mission to keep families wild and connected with nature!

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a copy of the activity guide.



Axiom Maths Club



This year our Maths Department have been really excited to add to the offer of extra-curricular opportunities for our students. As such, we have partnered with a Maths charity called Axiom Maths and have run a club every Thursday for a small group of pupils. We have enjoyed solving problems and becoming more Adventurous, Articulate and Accepting. We have enjoyed visits from the regional organiser Gwen Tressider who was impressed with the way our pupils grappled with tricky problems and supported each other to a solution. At the end of each block of puzzles we have rewarded ourselves with a Pizza Party!

2 of our students are also going to be staying at Cambridge University over the summer on a residential exploring these opportunities further – what a great experience that will be!

This term we took our club on a visit to Nottingham to attend the Rising Mathematicians Festival hosted by Axiom Maths in partnership with Capital One. The event brought together young mathematicians from across the East Midlands for an immersive mathematical experience. Our students fitted in perfectly with other gifted students.

During the day, pupils discovered exciting careers that mathematics can lead to, connected with like-minded mathematicians from schools across the country and took part in fun problem-solving challenges.

The festival was a celebration of the commitment and dedication our pupils have shown during maths circles. **Congratulations** to all the young mathematicians who attended.

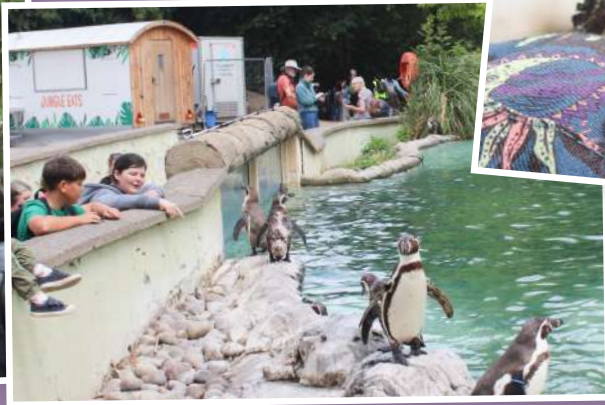
We look forward to expanding this offer next year to our new Year 7's as our existing group goes into its second year!



Hive Zoo Trip



The Hive recently visited Twycross Zoo as part of their current Biology topic. We were able to see the animals we've been studying in real life and compared the enclosures they live in with the ones we've designed for them in school.



County Championships



We are thrilled to share the amazing news from the County Athletics Championships!

All of our students gave it their absolute best and represented the school with pride, determination, and sportsmanship. Just qualifying for the county level is a huge accomplishment, and every one of them should be incredibly proud.

A special congratulations to Sha'vontte Cunningham, MJ (Jamahjae Samuel- Dubidad), and Abdurrahman Soaga for making it through to the finals in their races, and Peter Ezeukwu, who came an impressive second place in the shot put!

It was a long and demanding day, and they gave it everything. Well done to all involved – what an achievement!



Silver Success: A Journey of Grit, Growth, and a Very Good Dog



After months of preparation, determination, and a fair bit of unpredictable British weather, our Year group has successfully completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition – and what a journey it was!

The final expedition took place across various areas of the stunning Peak District, under blistering hot skies – a stark contrast to the practice expedition, which was defined by relentless rain and biting cold. This dramatic shift in weather taught our pupils a valuable lesson: the elements can make or break morale. From soggy socks to sunburnt shoulders, they now truly understand how much the weather can shape an experience.

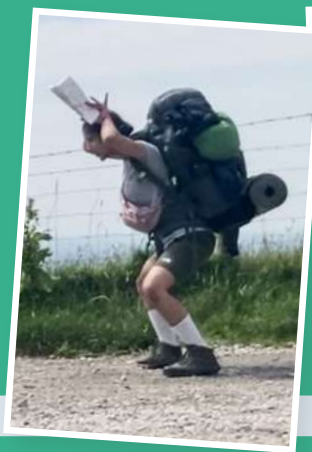
Despite the heat, spirits remained high – mostly. There were tears, there was laughter, and there was way too much singing for Mr Bell, who now knows far more modern pop lyrics than any one person should.

Pupils navigated over open countryside and overgrown tracks, working together to overcome every challenge. The phrase "we are lost" was quickly replaced with the more optimistic "we are navigationally embarrassed" as they retraced their steps, solved problems, and found the right path using teamwork, a map, and a compass... unlike Mr Cook, who relied on modern tech!

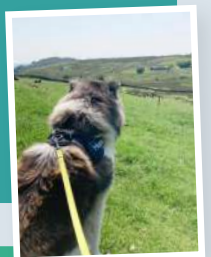
Their resilience was nothing short of inspiring. Even with large blisters, pupils looked after one another – carrying each other's kit, cooking meals together, and offering constant encouragement.



One particularly unforgettable moment came when the group had to navigate through a field containing a single bull. Tensions were understandably high – until one brave pupil decided to imitate a bull in the hope it wouldn't react! (See photo below for evidence of this bold and slightly bizarre strategy.) Thankfully, the bull remained calm, and the group passed through safely, adding another legendary tale to their DofE journey.



Day two brought a surprise visitor to camp: Hunter, Mr Bell's dog, who quickly became the expedition's unofficial mascot. For some pupils, this was a personal challenge, as they faced their fear of dogs head-on. Hunter, ever the professional, was more than happy to help – especially when sausages were involved. In fact, he made such an impression that pupils even requested his presence at the Academy prom!



This expedition wasn't just about ticking boxes. It was about growth, courage, and camaraderie. Our pupils pushed themselves physically and mentally, supported one another through highs and lows, and came out stronger for it.

On behalf of the pupils, we give heartfelt thanks to the staff who supported each stage of their DofE journey: Mrs O'Rourke, Miss Mushtaq, Miss Wooley, Miss Donnelly, Miss Oakley, Miss Halfpenny, Mr Cook, and Mr Bell. Your guidance, encouragement, and good humour made all the difference.

And on behalf of the staff, we would like to thank the pupils for their unwavering resilience and determination to be successful – and for allowing us to be part of their journey. It has been a privilege to witness your growth and teamwork in action.



Big Bang Trip



On Thursday 19th June 75 year 8 pupils attended the Big Bang Science Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. We had a great time learning about all different aspects of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) and investigating a variety of potential careers in these areas.



Saffron Lane Athletics



Our students were an absolute credit to the school at the Saffron Lane Athletics. The students really supported each other throughout the competition; we had some amazing performances and their behaviour and attitude were top class.



Year 10 Work Experience Week: A Glimpse Into the Future



During a week of June, our entire Year 10 cohort stepped out of the classroom and into the world of work, taking on placements across a wide range of industries. From early years education to landscaping, dance schools to equestrian centres, retail shops to care homes – our pupils embraced the opportunity to explore potential career paths and gain invaluable real-world experience.

Staff from across the Academy had the privilege of visiting pupils at their placements, witnessing first-hand the professionalism, enthusiasm, and maturity they brought to their roles. It was a joy to see our students thriving in new environments, building confidence, and making meaningful contributions to their host organisations.

Work experience offers more than just a snapshot of working life – it allows pupils to trial industries they may one day pursue, helping them set clearer goals for the future. Whether they were leading activities with young children, assisting customers in busy shops, or supporting vulnerable individuals in care settings, our pupils demonstrated the values and skills we strive to instil every day.

A personal highlight for me was visiting Leishaa, who was placed with the dance company Moving Together. After my visit, I received this incredible message from the company's Director, Emily Jackson:

"Leishaa has been amazing as a team member of Moving Together as part of her work experience! She assisted with over 55s classes in Loughborough, a Primary School after-school club at Willowbrook Academy, a full Bollywood-themed Discover Arts Award in a Day at Latimer Primary, and is helping project manage our School Collective show at De Montfort University today for 15 schools and 230 pupils!"

This is just one example of the impact our pupils have made this week. Their dedication, adaptability, and enthusiasm have been nothing short of inspiring.

A huge well done to all our Year 10 pupils for representing the Academy so brilliantly, and a heartfelt thank you to the staff and employers who made this week possible.



MORE
BRILLIANT
FEEDBACK

"Hello TGAcademy, I am Iyaaz the Senior IT Technician. I just wanted to thank you for sending Tobi on his work placement with us at WQE IT Services. He helped a lot with removing Software Centre on staff devices and updating machines to the latest Windows 11, as well as overseeing how us at WQE handle customer service and emergency P1 callouts. I recall Tobi had also updated and cleaned the Principal Paul Wilson's laptop which is a great accomplishment working with us for 3 days. Many thanks Tobi for your support."

Oliver Jr Production



Our secondary production of Oliver Jr took place this term and what a show it was! The students worked tirelessly for most of the school year to learn lines, songs and dances for the performance. It was a huge success and the students loved being a part of it. Watch this space for next year's show!



Bletchley Park Trip



On 20th May, a group of year 7 students visited Bletchley Park to learn about code breaking in the Second World War. Students were able to learn and explore the mathematics behind the original Enigma machines and how mathematical thinking was key in deciphering messages sent during the War. Students were able to see how maths is still used today to protect data online through encryption and problem solving. It was a fun and inspiring day, and we were very proud to see our students being so enthusiastic and demonstrating their teamwork skills throughout the day!

