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ACADEMY

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Sixth Form College



Newsletter

20th April 2026

Another busy week with trips to RAF Marham and the Botanic Gardens taking place. I hope you enjoy reading about the students' experiences.

Best wishes,
Natalie



Upcoming events & Notices

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| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | PSHE focus |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| Y10 & Y12 Mock Exams | Y10 & Y12 Mock Exams | Y10 & Y12 Mock Exams | Y10 & Y12 Mock Exams | Y10 & Y12 Mock Exams | What is mental health and why is it important to our wellbeing? |
| | | | | Y11 Rewards Trip | |
| | | | | | |

Notices

Don't forget DMA is a **nut free school**; please ensure packed lunches don't contain any items containing nuts.

Work of the Week



A selection of
our fantastic
student work
from the second
half of last term



Art Auction - don't miss out!

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DMA is sending more than 25 signed, editioned prints and original paintings by professional artists to auction. The pieces were originally part of a generous donation, and while many are displayed around the Academy, a few have been selected to be auctioned. All the works are presented in quality bespoke frames.

The Art Department plans to use the money raised to buy two new sewing machines for Art students to use in lessons.

The pictures will be sold in batches, a few per auction. You can view all the items for sale prior to auction at www.barryhawkins.co.uk, or in person at the Barry L Hawkins Auction Room in Downham Market.

The auction sales are on Wednesdays, every alternate week, and our lots will be included in sales during April and May.

Please do take a look and place a bid if you find something you love!



DMA Uniform 2026-27

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In September 2026 we will be extending our uniform offer to include a navy DMA sweatshirt as an alternative to the DMA jumper/blazer as well as a white DMA polo shirt as an alternative to a plain white shirt. These items will go live in June through our supplier - total clothing.

All other uniform options remain the same and students can continue to wear their current DMA blazer or jumper.

Botanical Gardens

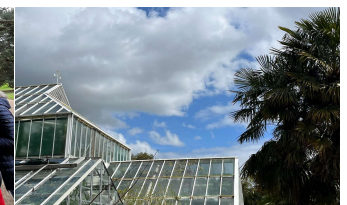
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On Thursday 16th April 34 students from Year 8 and 4 from Year 13, along with Mr Yare, Mr Rogers and Miss Cookson, went on a trip to Cambridge Botanic Gardens.

The purpose of the trip was to learn about plant adaptations and careers in botany. Pupils learned about the role of Botanic Expeditions and completed a plant quest to find out how different plants are adapted ranging from a giant redwood tree to a Venus fly trap.

The year 8s worked extremely hard and were enthusiastic throughout, learning lots in the process. Several staff members commented they're one of the best school groups they've ever had - well done!



Athena News



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Thank you to all who took an interest and came along to hear what Athena will do to support students who want to make an application to Oxbridge colleges. It was a real pleasure to meet you all. I look forward to taking this initiative forward.

For students in year 12 who might like to visit the Oxford Open day in July, we have secured free accommodation at Wadham College Oxford on the evening of 30th July so that we can take full advantage of all the events of the Open day on July 1st. The only expense will be the return train ticket to Oxford – and we can offer support with that if needed.

If you would like to join the group going, please email Mrs Middleton [mmiddleton@tela.org.uk]

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Congratulations to Evie Bohanan who has been awarded the Ryston Drama Award for 2026 – a prestigious award in recognition of her talents in Performing Arts and in particular, for her role as Belle in our recent school production “Beauty and the Beast”.

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Athena students studying A level Biology and Chemistry took part in this year's Olympiad, a national competition with over 15000 students participating in each Olympiad this year.

The **Biology Olympiad** challenges and stimulates students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents. Congratulations go to the following Biology students:

Xin Xue - Participation

Caitlin Hallet – Commended

Ellen Buckley - Highly Commended

Christina Fletcher – Highly Commended

Annabelle Greening – Bronze

Christian Baxter – Silver

The **Chemistry Olympiad** is designed to challenge and inspire. It is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Athena Students participated for the first time this year, congratulations go to:

Ashden Knott – Bronze

Xin Xue - Bronze

Isaac Cassidy – Bronze

Vitor Da Silva – Bronze

Celebrating success

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Year 7

Welcome back!

Year 7 have hit the ground running . House Points galore!

Year 8

A superb first week back for Year 8.

Our assembly focused on our high expectations for Year 8 and we celebrated the students who had achieved the highest number of house points.

Keep up the great work!

Year 9

A great start to the term for our Year 9 students. Last week's assembly focused on resilience and setting personal aspirations, helping students to reflect and set goals for the summer term.

We also enjoyed a highly successful and engaging History trip, where students created photo diaries on their iPads to capture their learning experiences.

Year 10

Best of luck to all Year 10 students as you complete your mock exams!

This is an opportunity to see your hard work and commitment reflected in your progress. Approach each exam with confidence, stay focused, and do your best.

We're all rooting for you!

!

Year 11

What an excellent start to the term. We are now in full revision mode. From next week there will be 2 Revision Café a week on Tuesday and Wednesday from 4.30- 5.30. Details will be emailed out and dates are attached. Finally a big Prom fundraising event on 1st May – A Colour Run. All students will receive a sponsor form on Tuesday and we are eager to raise over £1000

Local Community Info

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ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS
the next generation

Open Evening

Wednesday 29th
April 2026
7.30 – 9pm

Email us to register now
1018@rafac.mod.gov.uk
or scan the QR code to sign up!

SCAN ME

Cadet Training Centre, Bexwell Rd
Downham Market, PE38 9LX

Please use the QR code
to register if this sounds
like something you
would be interested in

Revision Café Dates



| Week Commencing | Tuesday 4.30 -5.30pm | Wednesday 4.30 -5.30pm | Venue |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| 13 th April | | English Literature - Context (GMN) | ATHENA |
| 20 th April | | History Paper 1 (JWS) | ATHENA |
| 27 th April | MFL (BLZ/BWE) | Biology (JBD) | ATHENA |
| 4 th May | Tues – Lit 1 (LOE/GMN) | Geography (MRS) | ATHENA |
| 11 th May | Maths 1 and 2 (WMN) | Chemistry (KNN) | ATHENA |
| 18 th May | English Lit 2 | English Language 1 | ATHENA |
| 27 th May | HALF TERM | HALF TERM | ATHENA |
| 1 st June | History 2 & 3 (OLY/BKY) | English Language 2 | ATHENA |
| 8 th June | Maths 3 (WMN) | Physics (AWD) | ATHENA |

Colour Run May 1st from 2.30 pm

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**BOOK THE DATE:
FRIDAY 1st May
from 1.30pm**

**Year 11 -
Sponsor forms
to go out
Wednesday 22nd
April**