

Cockshut Hill School
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

Weekly Bulletin

Edition: 19

W/C 9th
February
2026



Read our latest...



Principal's Message



Personal Development



Literacy



Learner Praise



Enrichment Activities



#NothingButTheBest



Principal's Message

This half term has been full of success, opportunities, and celebration across our school community.

Our focus on excellent attendance continues, and I want to thank families for your ongoing support. Every day in school truly makes a difference.

Miss Larkin's LGBT+ assemblies last week have helped learners reflect on inclusion, respect, and the importance of being an ally. Mr O'Malley also helped learners to focus on resilience and what it means to be resilient.

Year 7 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Symphony Hall, led by Mr Willett. Learners represented the school brilliantly and gained a rich cultural experience.

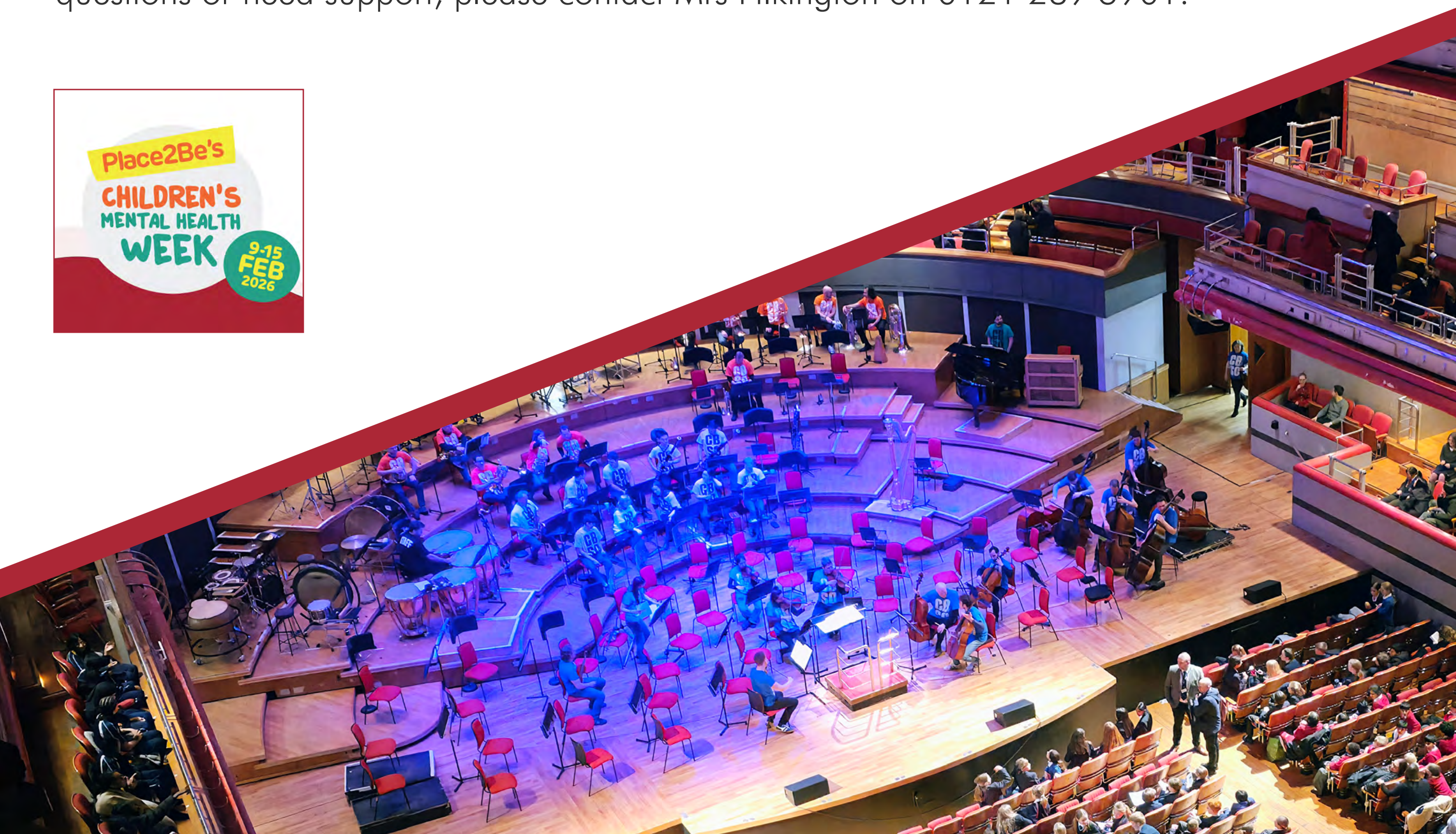
Year 8 learners all attended the Black Country Living Museum - the visit was entirely funded by the school as part of our Cultural Capital Offer. More details on this trip will follow in the bulletin after half term.

Year 9 Progress Evening this week was extremely positive, with strong engagement from families. Please look out for our feedback link — your views really do shape our next steps. A huge thank you to Miss Sheerman and the Year 9 Team for their excellent organisation.

Year 10 learners also learned about an exciting opportunity following their recent University of Birmingham visit. Applications are now open (from 2nd February) for a five-day summer school for Year 10 students — a fantastic chance to explore university life and build academic confidence. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/schools-and-colleges/pre-16/year-10-summer-school>

Year 11 learners have been invited to attend English and Mathematics revision classes during the half term break. Please look out for emails from my Personal Assistant, Mrs Pilkington, and confirm your child's attendance if they have been invited. If you have any questions or need support, please contact Mrs Pilkington on 0121 289 5901.



Principal's Message

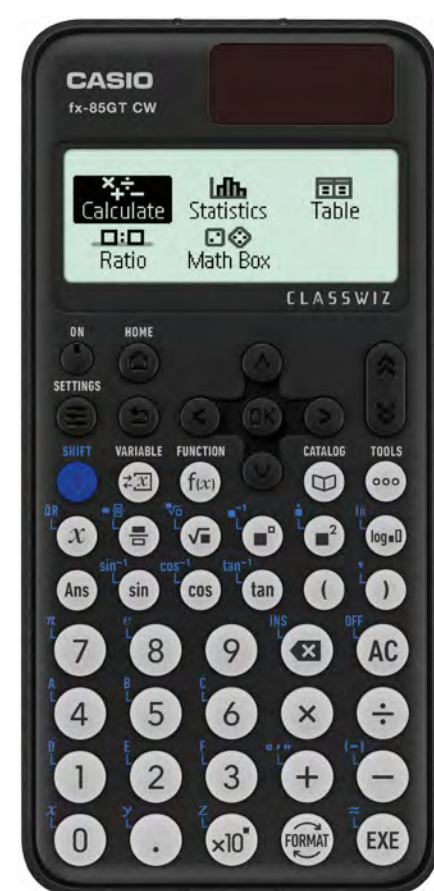
Calculators

All essential equipment is included in our Base Camp offer, including a calculator. If a calculator is lost, it will need to be replaced. Student Services sells the correct model for £10.00, which is a significant saving compared to the £17.00 price on Amazon, as such, we encourage you to purchase replacement from us.

The model we use in all lessons and examinations is the Casio FX-83GT CW.

It is important that this exact model is purchased, as teachers use its specific functions when supporting students in their maths learning.

Please encourage your child to look after this valuable piece of equipment.



Across Twitter/X, you will find a brilliant showcase of our curriculum and extracurricular activities — please do take a look at what our learners have been achieving.

This week we held our Rewards Assemblies, recognising learners for their effort, progress, and character. We were also delighted to unveil our new book vending machine, which will support our drive to promote reading for pleasure. This week, a learner from each house has been selected to receive the Principal's Golden Coin, which they can use in the new vending machine. After the break, we look forward to using it fully alongside our newly installed food pre-ordering machines, helping to make lunchtimes even more efficient for students

Finally, I wish all learners, families, and staff a happy and safe half term holiday. If you have a concern about a child during the break, please refer to the safeguarding guidance on our school website or contact relevant local services for support.

<https://cockshuthill.org.uk/safeguarding/>

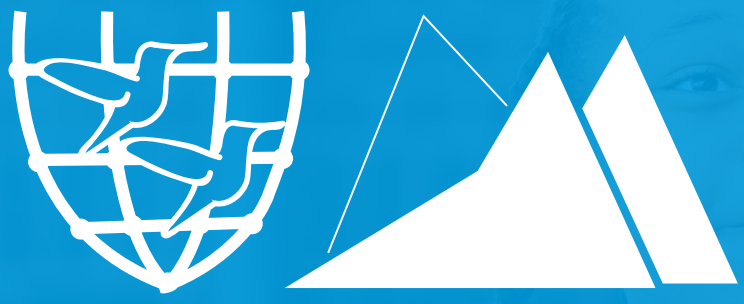
Finally, we say a fond farewell to one of our long-serving Catering assistants, Sandra at the end of this week. Sandra has been here for over 37 years serving food to the children & we wish her a long and happy retirement.

Looking forward to welcoming all learners back into school on Monday 23 February from 8.00am.

Thank you, as always,
for your continued support.

Mr J Clarke – Principal





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Learner Wellbeing

time to talk day
05/02/26



#SHARE

Our campaign to encourage open conversations about mental health and emotional wellbeing



S STARTING THE CONVERSATION



- We all have mental health, this is part of what makes us human.
- Sharing our emotions with someone else is an act of courage, not weakness.
- You don't need to be an expert or have all the answers to be a good listener.

A TRY TO AVOID



- Assuming that you already know or understand how the other person is feeling.
- Comparing, interrupting and asking too many questions all at once.
- Clichés and unhelpful phrases **e.g.** 'Don't be so dramatic'

H HOW TO HELP

- Approach conversations with encouragement, empathy and kindness.
- Try to ask open questions **e.g.** 'How are you feeling?'
- Listen attentively and without judgement.
- Be mindful that other peoples experiences, emotions and perspectives may differ from your own.



R ALWAYS SHOW RESPECT

- For the trust someone is showing by sharing something personal with you.
- That the person may want the contents of your conversation to remain private.
- By being open and honest if there is a need to share information with others to help keep that person safe.



E CONSIDER YOUR ENVIRONMENT



- Think carefully about where to hold the conversation.
- Aim for somewhere that feels calm, quiet and free from distractions.
- Check that the other person feels comfortable in the environment too.

FURTHER INFO & SUPPORT

Samaritans:

call **116 123** or email jo@samaritans.org (24/7)

Childline:

call **0800 1111** or website www.childline.org.uk (24/7)

Mind:

website www.mind.org.uk

Young Minds:

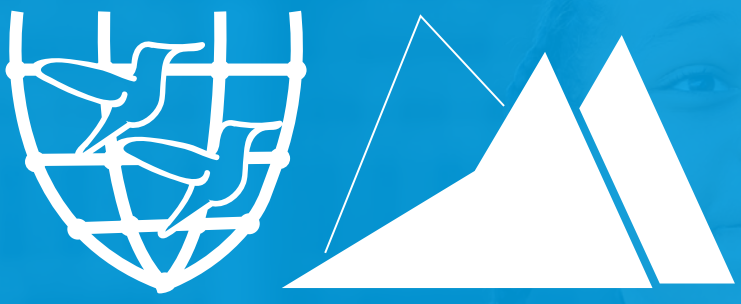
website www.youngminds.org.uk



#SHARE



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Careers Food Tech.



Cockshut Hill School was pleased to welcome Head Chef Alisha and Sous Chef Fiona from Forest of Arden Country Club and Hotel, who delivered an engaging, hands-on cooking session for our Year 10 learners. Students prepared a two-course meal while developing practical kitchen skills, including chopping and food preparation.

The session was highly informative and provided valuable insight into career pathways, roles and progression opportunities within the hospitality and catering industry, supporting their GCSE outcomes and our CEIAG provision.








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Professional Chef

Lunch Menu

Autumn & Winter menu 2025

Week 3

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option one	Vegetarian Thai Noodles	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with spaghetti	The Classic Roast Dinner with all the trimmings	Chicken Korma with 50/50 rice	Battered fillet of fish with chips & tartare sauce
Option two	 Vegan Meatball Pasta Bake	Vegetable Biryani 	Roast Quorn with all the trimmings	 Sweet potato, chickpea & spinach tikka with 50/50 rice	The Big Plant Burger with chips 
On the side..	Vegetables Of The Day	Vegetables of The Day	Vegetables of The Day	Vegetables of The Day	Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert of the day	Home Bakes & Cookies	Home Bakes & Cookies	Jam Sponge With custard	 Home Bakes & Cookies	Home Bakes & Cookies

Personal Development



GOLD - RIGHTS RESPECTING

Article of the Month

Article 13 Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

We have chosen this article as we need to ensure we celebrate each person for their own identity. Everyone must ensure that people in CHS are valued and respected, no matter their context or path in life.

UPCOMING DATES

Half Term: 16th February – 20th February

Monday 23rd February 8am: Return to school

Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March: Careers Week

Monday 2nd March: Year 7 and Year 8 Solihull Sixth Form Workshops

Tuesday 17th March: Year 7 Careers Experience



ChildLine

0800 1111



Compass Birmingham
Mental Health Support Teams



Mental health support for children, young people, and their families



*up to 25 years old for care leavers with special education needs or disability

@CompassBMHST @CompassBMHST @CompassBirminghamMHST



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Literacy

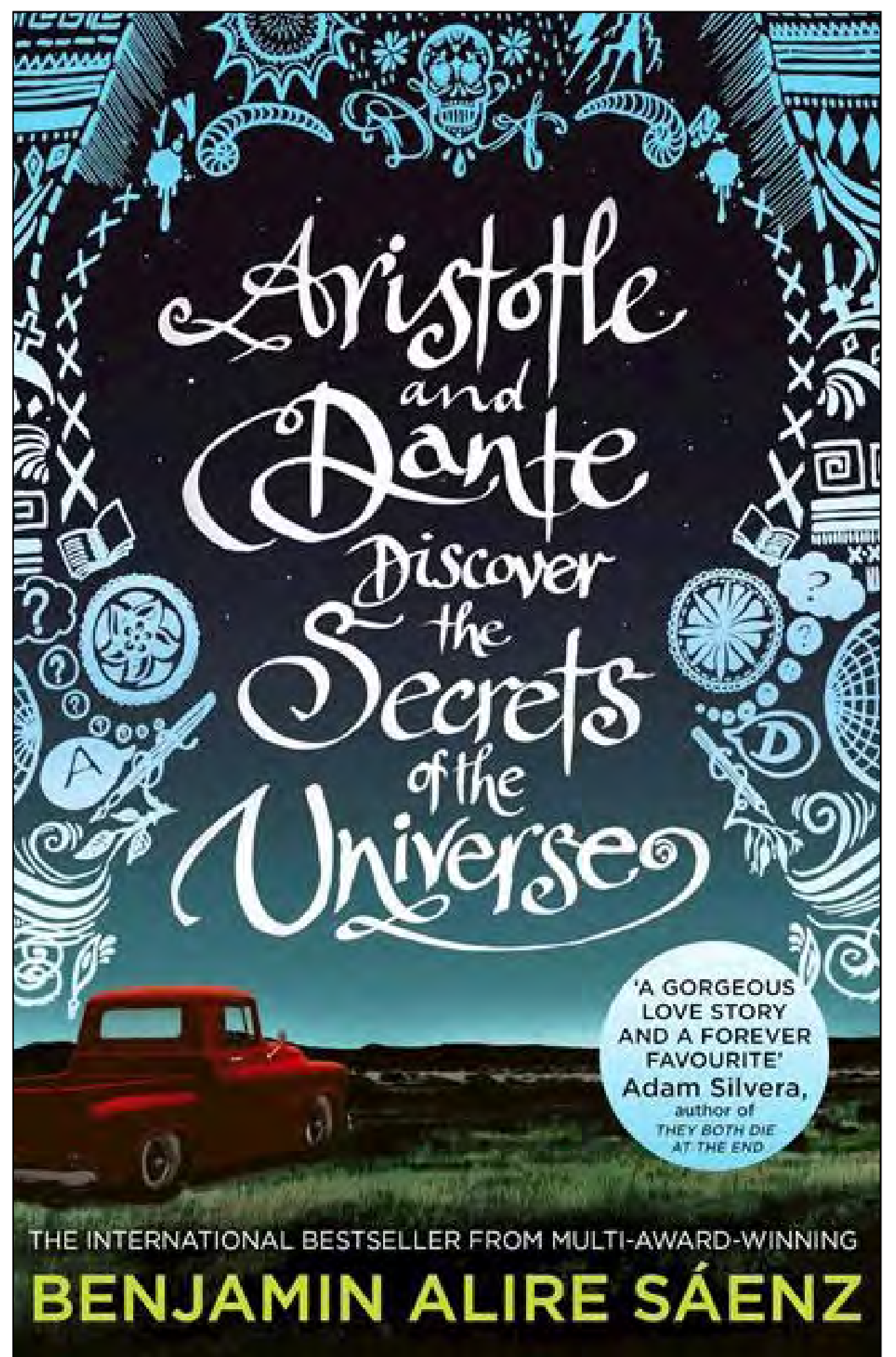
Love to Read

DIGITAL BOOK OF THE WEEK

Aristotle and Dante Discover
the Secrets of the Universe by
Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Dante can swim. Ari can't. Dante is articulate and self-assured. Ari has a hard time with words and suffers from self-doubt. Dante gets lost in poetry and art. Ari gets lost in thoughts of his older brother who is in prison. Dante is fair skinned. Ari's features are much darker. It seems that a boy like Dante, with his open and unique perspective on life, would be the last person to break down the walls that Ari has built around himself.

But against all odds, when Ari and Dante meet, they develop a special bond that will teach them the most important truths of their lives, and help define the people they want to be. But there are big hurdles in their way, and only by believing in each other—and the power of their friendship—can Ari and Dante emerge stronger on the other side.



[Click to Read](#)

Literacy Tip

While it is often useful to try to decipher authorial intent in literary analysis, a good reader is also able to 'read against the grain' - to read the text in a way that resists the dominant interpretation of it and challenges the author's views. Finding alternative readings of a text, examining an author's stance for biases and assumptions, pushing back against the writer's points - these are all ways of 'reading against the grain'.

Literacy Learner of the Week

Robert David, Y10



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Learner Praise

House Stars of the Week



Alder House
Balqis Selliez



Oak House
Emanuella Odebunmi



Maple House
Finley McAdam



Yew House
Kelvin Anene

Principal's Commendation

Golden Coin winners:

- Esther Giles (Alder)
- Yusuf Ali (Maple)
- Charlie Breakwell (Oak)
- Rukia Ibrahim (Yew)

All were nominated in assemblies by their House Leaders for excellence and given a golden coin to spend in the new book vending machine.



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Learner Enrichment

MONDAY

Library Club

School Band & Choir - G64

Creative Writing Club - M16

WEDNESDAY

Library Club

Table Tennis - Boys Gym

Year 7 Football - Boys Gym

Year 8 Football - Boys Gym

Netball Club - Netball Courts

Craft Club - (Week B only) M23

THURSDAY

Geography Club - G45

Library Club

Pride Group - M17 Lunchtime

Girls Boxing Club - Fitness Suite

Year 9 Football - Boys Gym

Year 10 Football - Boys Gym

Drama Club - Drama studio

Card Games Club - G49/50

History Club - G50/49

Book Look Club - M14

Art Club - (week A only) W83

FRIDAY

Library Club

Volleyball Club - Boys Gym

Table Tennis (invite only) Boys Gym

Science Club -W69

Science Intervention - W75

HALF TERM 3
15:10 - 16:00

**Join one of
our clubs**

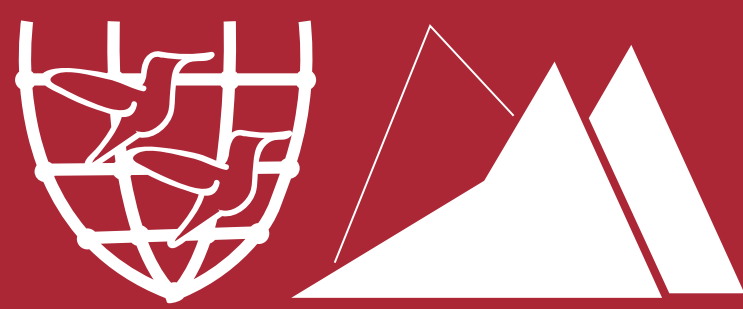
Science Intervention club: Every Friday 3-4pm in W75

- Talking careers in science
- Maths in science
- Literacy in science
- Talking further education
- More practical work
- Making science easier
- Gain higher grades

**Come
along**



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Cockshut Hill, Yardley, Birmingham B26 2HX



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