



**RUSHCLIFFE**  
SPENCER ACADEMY



# **Rushcliffe Post**

**Easter 2025**

**“Everyone at Rushcliffe  
will be given the chance  
to shine brightly”**



# Flood Risk Investigations - Geography

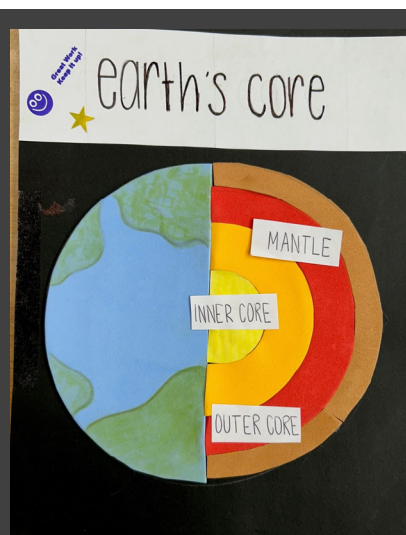
Year 7 Geography students have been studying the water cycle and flood risk this term. After learning about the 2020 flood event which caused significant damage to B Block, students were tasked with investigating the current flood risk around the school site. They did this by completing a fieldwork investigation from the planning and data collection stages, through to the analysis, conclusion and evaluation stages, to help prove or disprove their hypothesis about which surface had the slowest infiltration rate and therefore the greatest flood risk.

Students visited 5 locations around the school site with differing surfaces: concrete, sand, bare soil, grass and

grassy slopes. Through working as a team, they used their infiltration equipment to time how long it took for a set amount of water to infiltrate into the ground. They carried this out three times to take an average before plotting their data on graphs back in the classroom.

Whilst analysing their data they were able to consider factors that may have affected the accuracy and reliability of their data, before coming to conclusions about which site had the greatest likelihood of flooding.

Students showed great enthusiasm, patience and precision when carrying out their fieldwork and developed their graph, math and report writing skills.



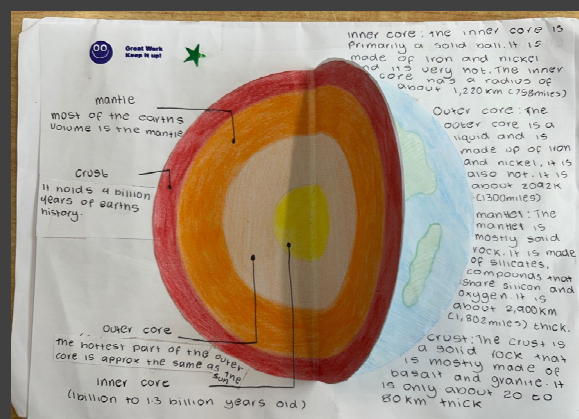
Year 9 students have been exploring Earth's structure and the processes leading to the formation of earthquakes and volcanoes.

Following this, they were tasked with creating a cross section of the Earth in a creative format for homework. Students have really gone above and beyond with fabulous submissions including collages, 3D printed models, leaflets, spinning models and beautiful detailed drawings.



A huge well done to Year 9 for the effort and passion put into this homework!

## Explosive Earth!



# Media Studies Department Reports...

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, our year 12 Media Studies students joined BBC Young Reporter for an online Media Masterclass. The morning taught students about the importance of checking news sources and how to avoid falling for misinformation, whilst the second session was an insightful Q&A with an Instagram influencer on her rise to fame: the peaks and troughs of being 'instafamous'.

Both sessions allowed students to reflect on their own use of the media as well as ask questions to the panel. A couple of hours well spent being reminded of how we can better use the media (and maybe make some money).



## **BBC Young Reporter: How Can We Trust the News?**

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, BBC Young Reporter hosted a talk at Bradford University, focusing on the validity and verification of news sources. Presenters Amy Hollis and Martin Dougan started by discussing which types of media people trust most for their news, comparing traditional broadcasters and newspapers with social media platforms.

It's no surprise that TV news outlets like the BBC and Channel 4, alongside newspapers such as The Guardian and The Times, were considered the top most trusted sources, whilst social media platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and X (formerly Twitter) are seen as the least reliable. But why is this the case? According to Hollis, this distrust comes from the large amount of fake news and misinformation circulating online. As social media influencers are often motivated by profit, they upload sensationalised stories, using over the top language to attract attention. Alongside this, worryingly, companies like Meta and

X have removed their fact-checking features in the name of promoting free speech, making it even harder to separate fact from fiction.

Later on, Hollis also highlighted the BBC's commitment to accuracy as a key reason why it remains one of the most trusted news outlets in the UK. According to recent statistics, the BBC is the UK's number one most trusted news service, with 45% of the 75% of adults who watch it weekly saying they trust it the most. Their dedication to spreading reliable information can be presented through their new verification process which shows when facts are uncertain or unclear, and builds a trust with it's audiences.

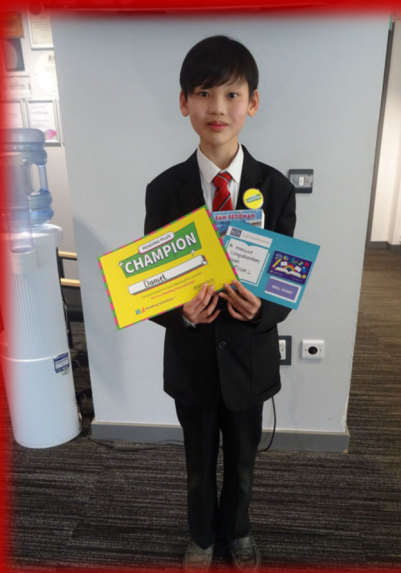
Martin Dougan later took questions from the audience about his role at Newsround and how he verifies information before broadcasting it. He first stressed that journalists should prioritise accuracy over speed, even if a source seems trustworthy at first glance. First-hand evidence is always most ideal. Secondly, journalists should never let their own personal political beliefs

influence their reporting due to strict editorial guidelines. Impartiality is key to a well informative news story.

The talk also gave some advice on how to avoid falling for misinformation. Dougan and Hollis emphasised the importance of checking who created a story, comparing multiple sources, and looking for reliable evidence. Not only does this ensure the information people get is correct, but it can also help prevent people from getting stuck in "echo chambers" (situations where the algorithm keeps showing them the same type of content, for example right-wing politics, over and over again) where their views can become one-sided, reinforcing their existing beliefs and blocking out alternative perspectives. This can help make a less prejudice society, as a people stay up to dates with multiple, accurate points of view.

In today's world, knowing how to spot and verify information is more important than ever. Talks like this remind us why trusted journalism matters and how we can protect ourselves from falling for fake news.

# Daniel is a Reading Plus Champion!



Rushcliffe, like hundreds of other schools, uses the Reading Plus computer programme to help students made progress in their reading comprehension and vocabulary.

Daniel has been chosen to be one of 15 Reading Plus Champions (across the whole country!). He has worked so hard at school and at home, and made his way through increasingly complex texts on the programme.

The people that run the organisation were so impressed, they've sent Daniel a £25 book voucher, a certificate, a notebook, badge and pen. Daniel will be reviewing books and helping to interview authors with other Reading Plus Champions across the country. Well done Daniel!



## Intermediate Maths Challenge for Year 10



The students in the Year 10 top sets took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. The maths challenges encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems are designed to make students think.

Four students did amazingly well in the challenge and made it through to the Pink Kangaroo follow on round. Matthew received a certificate for being the "Best in School" and Aarav, Isabella and Leonid received gold certificates. They completed the Pink Kangaroo on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March and we are looking forward to receiving their results.

## Year 11 Royal Society Project

A small group of triple biologists began a project funded by the Royal Society in the Summer of year 10.

The project involved studying the rate of decay in a selection of different foods and this was in partnership with the University of Nottingham. They tested the food samples over a 4-week period and recorded the moisture content and water activity.

To complete the project the students visited the university to complete some microbiology experiments in the super lab and tour the food sciences department. An academic poster summarising their work will be submitted to the Royal Society after Easter.

Mrs Stacey



THE  
ROYAL  
SOCIETY



# Romeo and Juliet - A Director's Note



It has been over 10 years since we have performed a play for our school show here at Rushcliffe Spencer Academy, and what better way to start this again, by performing William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Directing my first school show here, I have been blown away by the talent across all year groups throughout our rehearsals and it's great that we have been able to showcase this talent through two different casts with some of our students playing multiple roles across all three nights.

*Romeo and Juliet* has also been able to become the foundation for multiple new skills for our cast as well. Overcoming Shakespearean language has a learning curve for most students, but we have also enjoyed learning stage combat, both unarmed and armed, for the first time and coming together to create lifts and fly across the space.



At a time where dispute is at the forefront of most news stories, exploring a play that focuses on all characters 'picking a side' has been poignant throughout rehearsals. Our students' mature attitude towards both physical and mental conflict has been a joy to watch and lead.

The production was a huge success with the cast and show team crew working at exceptionally high standards to deliver a very professional performance. For those who came to support us, thank you so much. Please enjoy some of the photographs from the production. The video upload will follow soon.

Mr Gray and Mr Pitts



Six Springtime tips to

## Improve Your Wellbeing

01

### Get Outside and Soak Up the Sun

Spending time outside can boost your mood, help you get some vitamin D, and improve your mental clarity. Whether it's a walk in the park or just sitting on your balcony, bask in the fresh air!

02

### Reconnect with Nature

Take advantage of the season's beautiful blooms and green spaces. Gardening, hiking, or simply enjoying nature can reduce stress, increase feelings of happiness, and promote mindfulness.

03

### Practice Mindfulness Outdoors

Take a moment to sit quietly in a park or garden, focusing on the sounds, smells, and sights around you. It's a simple way to ground yourself and reduce stress.

04

### Prioritise Sleep

Longer days can sometimes mess with your sleep cycle, but spring is the perfect opportunity to reset your bedtime routine. Establish a consistent sleep schedule to help improve your energy levels, mood, and cognitive function.

05

### Stay Hydrated

As the weather warms up, it's easy to forget to drink enough water. Staying hydrated is essential for energy, skin health, and overall wellbeing. Try infusing your water with fresh herbs or fruits like mint and lemon for a refreshing twist.

06

### Cultivate Positive Relationships

Spring is a wonderful time to spend quality time with friends and loved ones. Go for walks, have picnics, or attend local events together. Strong social connections are vital for mental and emotional wellbeing.

## Support for the Easter Holidays

If you're finding things tough during the Christmas break, here are some options for places where you can find support.



Online support 24hrs  
a day, 7 days a week

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

**YOUNGMINDS**

YoungMinds provides lots of online guides and resources for all types of wellbeing and mental health concerns.



Childline is a free, private and confidential service that you can access online and on the phone.

Call 0800 1111



24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help.

Text 85258

**SAMARITANS**

You can access confidential emotional support at any time from Samaritans either by calling 116 123 or emailing [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

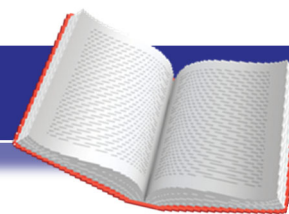


Be U Notts is a free mental health and emotional wellbeing support service for people between 0-25 years of age, and their parents and carers.

[www.beusupport.co.uk](http://www.beusupport.co.uk)



# News from the Rushcliffe Library



## LRC Brilliant Book Award Trip 2025

Thirteen students from Book Club recently enjoyed a fantastic day out at the Squire Performing Arts Centre in Nottingham to celebrate the 2025 Brilliant Book Award, organised by Inspire Education Library Service and supported by The Bookcase at Lowdham. The Brilliant Book Award gives KS3 students across Nottinghamshire, Nottingham and Derbyshire the chance to choose their favourite books from a shortlist of six books every Autumn.

Book Club students were able to hear a short talk from all six shortlisted authors brought together for a day-long event. They were also able to submit questions to the authors and Rushcliffe students won a free book for the LRC by submitting the best question. Students were able to purchase books, meet the authors, and have their copies signed.

The shortlisted titles include *Finn Jones Was Here* by Simon James Green, *The Fights That Make Us* by Sarah Hagger-Holt, *The Witch Stone Ghosts* by Emily Randall-Jones, *Reggie Houser Has the Power* by Helen Rutter, *Echo Star Is Always Listening* by Melinda Salisbury, *Bite Risk* by S.J. Wills.

Students will cast their votes in March and will be announced on Wednesday 26 March

the winner 2025.



'The authors gave me some great book ideas'.

'I enjoyed that during the signings we could talk to the author.'

Here are some comments from year seven students who took part:

'I loved meeting all the authors- it was great to see the people behind the books.'

'It was magical to meet all the authors.'



## World Book Day 2025!

Once again, we celebrated World Book Day in the Library Resource Centre. This year's theme was 'Read Your Way' which is something that we could really get behind. Reading traditional books, magazines, comics, joke books are all positive ways to develop a love for literacy, so having the freedom to choose is essential. To broaden our offer, students can now access eBooks and e-audio via Eplatform both in school and at home. The app can be accessed on android and iOS or via the SharePoint.

Having the flexibility to read anywhere, not just at a desk, is extremely important. And with busy lives, the ability to dip into an eBook offers an extra opportunity to read. Audiobooks are a great means of escape into a different world and explore different themes and genres.

For World Book Day Year 7 students were invited to dress up and lunchtime saw a brilliant range of characters visiting the LRC. We had three little piggies pursued by a wolf, Katniss Everdeen and a whole bunch of mischievous Minions. A brilliant effort from the students but a special mention to the English department, who threw themselves into the celebrations too.

Year 7 book group members were invited to decorate potatoes in the theme of their favorite book characters too. £5 book vouchers were awarded to the five winners to redeem at the book fair that visited the LRC the following week.



## Student Voice - China Trip

In October 2024, 26 students across years 9-12 took part in the Mandarin trip to China, because of the school partnership with a school in Ningbo.

In Shanghai, before our journey to the Ningbo school, we did a lot of sightseeing, shopping and eating. For example, we went to the Yue Gardens, saw some amazing views and ate in several traditional restaurants where we tried lots of dishes every night, including a loaf of bread with ice cream on top for dessert! It was a lot nicer than it sounds.

In Ningbo, before heading to the school the next day, we spent quite a bit of time shopping in craft markets after dinner. We attempted to negotiate prices but most of us ended up buying fans, ornaments, chopsticks or traditional flavors of tea to bring home and try.

The school in Ningbo was quite different to Rushcliffe, particularly in its size. Built for a capacity of the same as Rushcliffe, the Ningbo school has a whole building for its history alone, as well as several auditoriums, an enormous running track and a lake right in the center,

for boat and water sports! Upon our arrival to the school, we were met by a welcoming presentation, where the Y12s got to have a go at giving a short speech in Mandarin – whilst most people spoke English there, it was a great learning experience for us all to improve our Mandarin speaking skills. We attended several lessons with Chinese students, which were done as more of a lecture style way of teaching, with little to no class participation in the majority. It was lovely to spend time with the students because we could get to know each other's general school day, life and likes and dislikes. And they kept wanting to take loads of selfies with us!

We ended the trip with a few more days in Shanghai, going on an evening river cruise to see the buildings of Shanghai all lit up, a museum and more unique markets.

This trip was an amazing experience to improve our knowledge of the Mandarin language, as well as learn more about daily life in China.  
Harriet - Year 12



## Creative Writing & Poetry Competition

*Open to all year groups*

Produce a piece of descriptive writing or poetry in no more than 400 words on the theme of : **SPRINGTIME**  
The image can be used for inspiration. Edible prizes for the winning entries!

**DEADLINE: Friday 2nd May.**

Hand in to your English teacher or to Mrs Johnston (in 423)



# Year 12 Work Experience 2025

From 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7th March, 204 year 12 pupils were out of school for our annual Work Experience week. They had a fantastic time getting involved in the world of work and we've had some amazing feedback! Here is just a very small snippet of the feedback students received from employers.

Well done to everyone, you should be very proud!



**George - Rolls Royce**

*"George covered a wide variety of roles in Rolls-Royce through tours and shadowing. He delivered a presentation at end of week. George was hugely engaged, listened and asked intelligent relevant questions."*

**Daisy - Cripps Health Centre**

*"Daisy worked within the admin team, the reception team and alongside our health and wellbeing team. Daisy embraced all the opportunities she was given and approached each task with enthusiasm. Daisy is fabulous and we would happily employ her in the future."*



**Kaya - Poppleston Allen**

*"Kaya assisted the team by checking licences and also submitting some actual licensing applications, for which we clearly charge clients. Her contribution was therefore valuable. She is very confident, particularly given her tender age."*

**Will - Copley Scientific**

*"Will was very comfortable dealing with a number of different people and confident when talking through the various roles. Will showed a good understanding of the various technical disciplines and how they contribute to the business."*

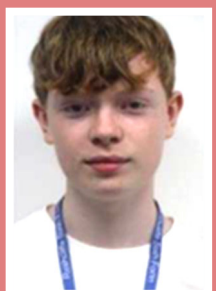


**Alice - Air Ambulance Charity Shop**

*"Alice showed her strongest skill in creativity & innovation by helping to create our window display and front 'feature table' to a 'Welcoming Spring' theme. She did this well with her peer and was able to address feedback well. She showed confidence and strength in most/if not all things."*

**Lewis - Nottinghamshire County Council**

*"Lewis conducted himself in a very impressive manner throughout the entire week, he was professional, committed, sociable and he would struggle to have made a better impression on myself and my colleagues. He was a credit to himself, his parents and to RSA."*





## Diary Dates April - May 2025

|                      |                                                  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 23rd April:          | Year 12 Lincoln Fieldwork                        |
| 26th/27th April:     | Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Training                |
| 1st May:             | Junior Maths Challenge –Year 7 & 8               |
| 1st May:             | Year 12 Sherwood Forest Fieldwork                |
| 5th May:             | Bank Holiday                                     |
| 7th May:             | Author Visit - Year 7                            |
| 7th May:             | A Level Theatre Visit: Curious Incident          |
| 8th May:             | Year 8 Parents' Evening (forms G to K)           |
| 9th May:             | Year 13 Leavers' Day Celebrations                |
| 11th - 14th May:     | Duke of Edinburgh - Gold Training and Expedition |
| 14th May:            | Vaccinations: Year 8 HPV Vaccinations            |
| 21st May:            | Football Trip Year 8-12                          |
| 26th May - 30th May: | Half Term                                        |



**Rushcliffe Spencer Academy**  
Boundary Road  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham, NG2 7BW

Tel: (0115) 9744050  
Email: [admin.office@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk](mailto:admin.office@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk](http://www.rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk)

Follow us on Twitter



@RushcliffeSCH