



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

WELCOME

As we approach the Easter break and the conclusion of another remarkable term, I am filled with immense pride reflecting on the journey our pupils have taken.

This term, we have seen our students embody our core values—nurture, inspire, achieve—in ways that continue to move and motivate us all.

From the incredible resilience shown by pupils, who have braved their anxieties to improve their attendance to school day, to the creative potential flourishing in kitchen projects and the determined focus to prepare for their final exams. Each pupil brings a unique light to Foundry College, and it is a privilege to witness their growth.

A Fond Farewell to Nicky Rees

However, this Easter brings a bittersweet milestone for our community. After twenty years of unwavering dedication, our Deputy Headteacher, Nicky Rees, will be retiring.

It is difficult to put into words the impact Nicky has had on Foundry College. She has been far more than an "asset"; she has been the heart of our school for two decades. Over those years, hundreds—if not thousands—of young people across the borough have been the beneficiaries of her endless care and advocacy. Nicky has a rare gift for seeing the potential in every child, often before they can see it in themselves.

Nicky, your legacy is woven into the very fabric of this college and into the successful futures of the many students you have championed. We thank you for your twenty years of service, your wisdom, and your kindness. You will be deeply missed, but we wish you a retirement filled with the same joy and peace you have brought to so many others.



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WELCOME

Looking Ahead

As we look toward the final term of the academic year, I encourage all our pupils to take this time to rest and recharge. To our Year 11s, use this break to find a balance between preparation and relaxation. To all our other pupils, return with the curiosity and determination that has made this term so successful.

Finally to the parents, we are actively searching for a parent to join us on the Foundry College management committee to give a parent perspective on the provision that we are able to offer and support us going forwards. If you are interested in finding out more then please do come and speak to me or send me an email.

I wish you all a peaceful and happy Easter break.

Iain Thomas





NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

PRIMARY

This term, our topic has been Space, and the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different planets and imagining what it might be like to live beyond Earth. They have taken part in a variety of engaging and creative activities, including designing and making their own rockets, packing suitcases for a journey into space, and writing postcards home to their families as if they were astronauts on an adventure.

In Maths, we have explored a range of topics such as halving numbers and quantities, capacity, measurement, and time. The children have benefited from hands-on learning experiences to deepen their understanding, including making their own “potions,” measuring objects around the classroom, and weighing ingredients during cooking activities.

In English, the focus has been on developing key language skills. Pupils have worked on understanding and using prepositions, improving their reading comprehension, and building full, structured sentences. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow in both spoken and written work.

Overall, it has been a busy and exciting term filled with creativity, curiosity, and fantastic learning across all subjects.





HAPPY EASTER

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PRIMARY

As part of Character Curriculum Week, the children visited the Oakwood Climbing Centre where they took part in a range of indoor climbing activities, including bouldering, top-rope climbing, and belaying. The session helped develop their coordination, confidence, and problem-solving skills while navigating different climbing routes.

They were also shown how to maintain the climbing environment, including keeping the bouldering walls and handholds clean, highlighting the importance of safety and equipment care.



The children have enjoyed weekly visits to the Thames Valley Adventure Playground. As the weather has improved, they have particularly enjoyed making use of the outdoor facilities, engaging in a range of activities that encourage physical play, exploration, and social interaction.





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PRIMARY

The children enjoyed taking part in a pancake activity where they practised their spreading skills by adding a variety of toppings. Many were keen to try new foods and flavours, building confidence with different tastes and textures. The activity also provided a good opportunity to reinforce hygiene routines, with the children washing their hands, keeping surfaces clean, and learning about safe food preparation.



The children have been learning about kitchen safety and hygiene, and put their knowledge into practice by making rice crispie cakes. This activity allowed them to follow safety rules while enjoying a hands-on cooking experience.



In the second half of the Spring term, our focus has been on animals, and the children were thrilled to meet a variety of creatures that visited the school, including an African snail, a snake, and a cockroach. The experience brought their learning to life and sparked curiosity about different species.





HAPPY EASTER

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PRIMARY

At the start of the year, the children enjoyed exploring the snow, experiencing the textures and changes that come with the winter season. These activities helped them connect with the natural world while encouraging curiosity, physical movement, and playful learning.



The children have enjoyed Cosmic Kids Yoga, combining storytelling with movement and simple yoga poses. The sessions help develop coordination, focus, and mindfulness in a fun and engaging way





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PRIMARY

Primary Computing - Building Online Resilience

It has been an action-packed term for our primary students, who have been diving deep into the world of technology and how to use it wisely. We've focused heavily on staying safe, being kind, and understanding that computing is about much more than just staring at a screen.

This term, students have used Natterhub as a digital training ground to build their online resilience. Through interactive lessons that simulate a safe social media environment, they have practiced being kind, identifying "fake news," and keeping their personal information private. By learning how to balance screen time and handle uncomfortable online situations, our students are gaining the confidence to make safe, responsible choices.

In February, we also celebrated Safer Internet Day 2026. This year's theme, "Smart tech, safe choices," focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI). From voice assistants to chatbots, our students explored how to use these tools responsibly. We even joined the BBC Safer Internet Day Live Lesson, learning how to spot AI-generated content and the importance of fact-checking what we see online.

Finally, we have been busy with "unplugged" lessons using Barefoot Computing resources. By using physical games and puzzles, students have been mastering concepts like algorithms (step-by-step instructions) and debugging (fixing mistakes)—all without using a computer! These sessions show that computing is really about logic and problem-solving, skills they can use in every part of their lives





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ENGLISH

This term has been a busy one! We are proud of all our KS4 pupils who sat their Functional Skills and mock exams this term – and a big well done to our KS3 pupil who also entered the Functional Skills exam. This was an opportunity for pupils to practise under exam conditions and, following the mocks, to receive feedback that can be used to hone exam technique in the final few weeks of preparation before the exams. For our Year 11s who have been completing coursework, their hard work has paid off now that all three pieces for their portfolio have been completed, ready for submission to the exam board.

Meanwhile, in GCSE Literature, pupils have been studying poetry, exploring classics by Lord Byron and Robert Browning as well as modern classics by Poet Laureates Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage. This has allowed pupils to form critical, personal responses to a wide range of texts, exploring how language and structure are used to craft meaning and effect. As part of this, pupils have also had the opportunity to revise their essay writing skills.

For some pupils in KS3, they too have been delving into poetry; exploring love and relationship poetry and considering love in all its various forms: the love between parent and child; romantic love, loss and grief at the death of a loved one and the difference between love and infatuation. For others in KS3, they have been working on the more functional side of English and learning how to identify key information from texts based on pirate treasure and hobbies and pastimes.

Finally, several pupils have got involved with the weekly word puzzle challenge and we would like to challenge parents and carers too. Can you work out the two Easter themed puzzles below?

Mon	Dislike
Tues	Dislike
Weds	Dislike
Thurs	Dislike
Fri	Like
Sat	Dislike
Sun	Dislike





HAPPY EASTER

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MATHS

It has been a short but jam-packed term!

Our KS4 students have been working hard on the following topics:

- Quadratic equations and graphs
- Similarity and congruence
- Inequalities
- Indices rules
- Standard form
- Calculating averages and range



They also demonstrated great resilience and effort when they sat their mock exams in February. We are pleased with the results so many of them achieved and hope it will help provide a solid base for them to build upon as the summer exams approach.

Our KS3 students are also focusing on revisiting core number and geometry skills whilst interspersing a few maths-based games to break up the lessons into achievable chunks.

We continue to encourage our young people to consolidate learning at home – please remember to use IXL (check with your teacher if you have forgotten your login details).

The following websites may also prove useful:

- 1stclassmaths.com
- corbettmaths.com
- Dr. Austin
- mathsgenie.co.uk
- [bbc bitesize](http://bbc.com/bitesize)



Wishing you all a sunny break from the Maths team!



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ART

In January, our students were asked what New Year's Resolutions they had made for the forthcoming year. They responded that they wanted to be more motivated to revise for their exams, sing more and to learn how to play their instruments and use a telescope more efficiently. They were then asked to create a piece of art to include a mosaic element to represent their resolutions.



As part of Dignity month (February) students looked at decorating ceramics using different mark making styles, under the theme of Respect. For example; Scumbling, pointillism, stippling and cross hatching. They thought about the respect that football teams pay to the families of The Hillsborough Disaster by playing the Liverpool football anthem in memory of the 97 victims, and also Remembrance Sunday where we also pay respect to those who fought for our freedom.

The students also had the opportunity to participate in a Sculpture Workshop which was taught by an artist from London, at South Hill Park Art Centre in March. The sculpture session will be linked to the theme of Earthworks, making art straight from natural materials.



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ART

Thoughts & Reflections Photography Exhibition

For two weeks in February, the students showcased their best photography moments onsite, that linked to the theme of Thoughts & Reflections. The standard was certainly very high and it was incredible to think that the quality of the shots were achieved by just using a iPhone. The three winners were chosen not only based upon the quality, but also if the pieces had caused the judges to feel some emotion to the subject through their thought-provoking storytelling.



This event is free and has 22 pieces of art & photography for you to view.

Is it Cake Competition

Inspired by the Netflix show, some of the students have already been busy making clay & craft foam decoys for this competition, where two judges will decide which is the best made decoy, best made cake, and overall best in show. The cake baking will also start very soon.





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SPORTS

PE at Foundry College has continued to be successful with pupils becoming more competitive with each other during badminton lessons. Pupils have been keen to learn different types of shots and serves in order to get the upper hand against their classmates. The levels of communication between pairs have also improved with pupils now offering constructive criticism and feedback to one another on both sides of the net.

Pupils have also been attending The Oakwood Challenge Climbing centre where their consistent and sustained efforts are starting to show great improvement in the skills they are demonstrating and the routes they are completing.

For the pupils who take part in on site PE, engagement has been high with pupils keen to use the equipment available to improve their physical attributes.





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CHARACTER CURRICULUM

This term has shown a great variety in some aspects of Character Curriculum with pupils attending a wide range of on-site and off-site activities. Pupils have experienced cooking traditional Chinese food to celebrate the year of the Horse and also been on aspirational trips to Reading University to experience what it might be like should pupils attend in the future. Pupils who were present on the week of Curiosity got to see some strange and wonderful animals on site led by the most knowledgeable and engaging presenter. The pupils were even allowed to handle some of the creepy crawlies (Yuk - well out of my comfort zone!). The pupils who were off-site showed their curiosity by visiting the Living Rainforest in Newbury.

As part of the ongoing preparation of pupils leaving Foundry College, Vix organised a very successful mock interview morning with many pupils getting 'hired' for their jobs due to how well they performed on the day.

There have been many trips and to list and write about all the success the pupils have achieved would take up the whole newsletter but well done to all that have organised and attended the different provisions, without your engagement and support, it just would not happen.





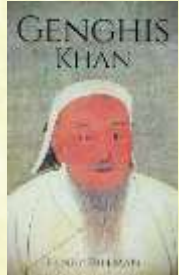
HAPPY EASTER

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HUMANITIES

It seems just a short time ago since I wrote this report for the end of Autumn Term and here we are, in the run up to GCSE examinations, with just a short time to go. Hard work has continued with pupils studying the first half of Elizabeth 1's reign. There is a lot of interest in this one. It's the Golden Age of Exploration with people such as Drake, Raleigh, Grenville and Hawkins making an appearance. War with the French, war with the Spanish, war in the North, war in the Americas and we think we are living in 'interesting times'.

Yet again History helps explain the present and gives pupils a much wider perspective on modern life. We have one student who is studying Genghis Kahn and the Mongols. We could ask 'What is the relevance of that?' A quick run through Polish and Hungarian History would provide answers and the Mongol invasions are deep in the psyche of Russia. Stalin, who died within living memory, used his tyrannical powers to persecute the descendants of the Mongols in Russia and the Crimea. Today our world lives with the consequences.



Our young geographers continue to work hard on the Physical Geography units. In the classroom we have travelled much of the world. Both Arctic and Antarctic have been examined. We considered the threats to rainforests, life in ponds, the desert environments and the strange islands of Svalbard, its mines and polar bears. We even asked why polar bears don't eat penguins. * Recently we have begun to study the UK landscape in some detail. We move from the grandeur of the mountains of Scotland to the wonders of the Jurassic coast. Caves, arches, stacks and stumps, Durdle Door and Bwa Gwyn become subjects of our reading and conversation. We all become experts on the landscape of Swanage and coastal landscapes.....to say nothing of maps...

*"Because they can't get the wrappers off"





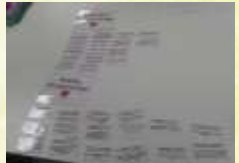
HAPPY EASTER

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LIFE

Our life programme continues to help pupils deepen their understanding of themselves, the world around them, and how to stay safe, confident, and well as they grow and eventually move on from the college.

We began the term with a visit from the school nursing team, who delivered an informative sexual health workshop. This provided pupils with valuable knowledge about keeping themselves safe and healthy as they navigate increasing independence. Alongside this, we also delivered a healthy relationships workshop, where pupils engaged with the content thoughtfully and maturely.



A real highlight of the term was welcoming Peer Productions, who performed their powerful piece 'Man Up'. This production helped open important conversations around how gender expectations affect everyone, how social media can shape what we see and believe, why it's important to question online information, the importance of supporting mental health and how sexual harassment harms people, particularly women and girls.





HAPPY EASTER

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LIFE

In the classroom, pupils have continued to broaden their learning across a range of essential topics, including the dangers of drugs and alcohol, relationship risks, the dangers of gambling, budgeting and finance, consent, contraception, gaslighting and emotional abuse as well as managing anxiety around exams. Their growing confidence in discussing these issues shows just how far they have come in developing crucial skills for adulthood.

Although pupils sometimes find the content challenging due to the sensitive topics we explore, it is moments like when a pupil recently shared that they go home after Life lessons and talk through what they've learnt with their younger sister that remind us why this subject matters so deeply and the impact it can have.



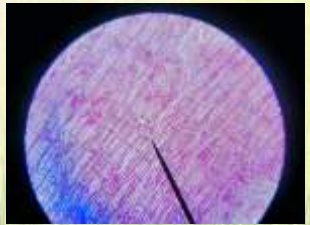
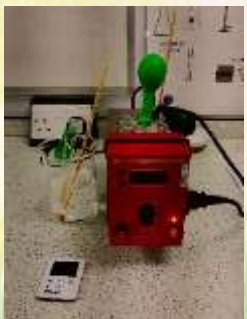


HAPPY EASTER

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SCIENCE

In Biology, students explored the fascinating process of respiration through memorable demonstrations such as the “sugar snake” and the “screaming jelly baby.” They also investigated how temperature affects the rate of respiration in yeast, linking to their understanding of enzyme activity. Students successfully extracted DNA from kiwi and mango, learning how natural enzymes help break down proteins within chromosomes. The study of the cell cycle and mitosis was brought to life through the preparation of garlic meristem specimens, which were observed under the microscope. Additionally, students immobilised algae to explore the relationship between photosynthesis and respiration.





HAPPY EASTER

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SCIENCE

The Spring term has been a busy and engaging period for students across the Science Department, with a wide range of practical investigations and hands-on learning experiences in Biology, Physics, and Chemistry.

In Chemistry, students examined the factors affecting the rates of reaction, gaining insight into how different variables influence chemical processes. They also explored electrolysis and studied the reactivity series, strengthening their understanding of chemical behaviour and practical laboratory techniques.





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SCIENCE

In Physics, students investigated potential difference, current, and resistance using electrical circuits, building both practical skills and theoretical understanding. They also calculated wave speed through experiments involving standing waves on a string and the use of ripple tanks. Year 11 students designed and carried out their own experiments to investigate the effect of insulation on heat loss, as well as a creative investigation demonstrating the benefits of penguin huddling. Investigations into forces included calculating acceleration and determining if strawberry laces sweets obey Hooke's law (FYI they don't!)



Overall, it has been a productive and exciting term, with students demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity, and strong practical skills across all areas of science.



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OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

With Easter almost upon us, I'm pleased to say that most of the Year 11 pupils are within sight of completing their chosen Level 1 or Level 2 qualification, with one pupil completing their level 2 award just this week. Finishing the qualification before Easter is a first for Foundry College and is a real testament to the level of commitment and hard work shown throughout the year by the pupil in question. Four of our year 10 and 11 pupils have now opted to complete the very challenging Level 2 Electrical Installation unit, despite the difficult content and large volume of written work required to support the practical learning. A few years ago, we would have felt that this unit was too demanding for our pupils and it is great to see that with higher expectations some of them can rise to the challenge of this complex and difficult work. Hand Carpentry, Plumbing and Brickwork operations also continue to be popular and the wide breadth of available units offers pupils the opportunity learn and develop some new vocational skills that will be very much in if our government is going to have any chance of hitting their targets for building new homes!





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OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

Some of our KS3 pupils are positively engaged in working towards the formal Occupational Studies awards whilst others are not quite ready and are having fun and learning new practical skills designing and building craft projects. There is a diverse range of projects underway including the making of fully operational Bluetooth speakers and the construction of a timber highland cow. The OS Craft lunchtime club mentioned in the Christmas newsletter is now up and running and is proving to be a popular diversion for some pupils who want to make progress with their projects or to try something new.





HAPPY EASTER

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FOOD

It's been a busy and exciting Spring term for pupils in the kitchen, with plenty of creativity, cultural learning, and hands on practical work. We began the term by celebrating Chinese New Year, and were lucky enough to welcome the Healthy Chinese Kitchen Ambassadors who ran two fantastic workshops. Pupils explored Chinese traditions, food culture, and festive customs before rolling up their sleeves to cook a delicious Chicken Kung Po from scratch. The enthusiasm, teamwork, and curiosity shown during these sessions made them a real highlight of the term.



Our Year 11 pupils have continued to work with great focus as they complete units towards their Level 2 Food and Cookery qualification. Some pupils have been busy planning and preparing their final assessment dishes, while others have been working hard on units about healthy eating, seasonal foods, adapting recipes, food diaries, and understanding food labels. Their commitment and independence in both theory work and practical lessons in the kitchen have been fantastic to see.





NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

FOOD

Meanwhile, KS3 pupils have certainly risen to the challenge this term, taking on a wide range of practical skills. From making sausage rolls entirely from scratch, to mastering puff pastry, and even giving homemade croissants a go. The classroom has been buzzing with activity. Pupils also had great fun creating healthier versions of Nando's-style meals and a KFC-style chicken burgers.



It has been a term full of learning, laughter, and delicious food. We're incredibly proud of the progress pupils are making and look forward to an equally exciting summer term ahead.

As our Year 11 pupils move into their final weeks with us, I want to wish them the very best of luck in their upcoming exams; I will truly miss teaching them, but I know they have bright futures ahead and I wish them every success





NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

CAREERS

Despite it being a short term, it has been an incredibly busy and productive period for careers support at Foundry College. A wide range of activities have taken place, offering valuable experiences to many of our pupils. This term, we have:

- Visited University of Reading to help raise aspirations and increase awareness of higher education opportunities.
- Welcomed virtual speakers who delivered engaging sessions on myth-busting digital career pathways. These sessions were provided by Berkshire Careers Hub and the Career Friendly Programme.
- Offered pupils the opportunity to complete a job application form, selecting from a variety of roles to better understand the recruitment process.
- Supported KS4 pupils in participating in mock interviews delivered by employers from Berkshire Careers Hub. We were delighted to have a record number of 11 pupils take part, all gaining valuable interview experience and receiving constructive feedback.
- Enabled 5 pupils to attend Wellington Country Park, where they explored careers within the tourism industry and completed practical job-based tasks supported by staff.
- Continued work experience placements, including:
 - 1 pupil at Oakingham Belle
 - 1 pupil completing a placement at Muddy Ducks Nursery
 - 1 pupil undertaking work experience at Beale Park
 - 1 pupil participating in a job shadowing opportunity with Ford Wokingham
- Supported another pupil attending a pre-work experience visit at Muddy Ducks Nursery, with plans to begin their placement after the Easter break.
- Seen multiple pupils complete virtual work experience programmes through Springpod. These covered a wide range of industries including engineering, architecture, science and space, veterinary science, and accountancy. Many more pupils are continuing their experiences in areas such as graphic design, agriculture, mechanics, game development, energy and sustainability, and construction.



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CAREERS

Acknowledgements

A big thank you goes to the following organisations. Without their continued support, we would not be able to deliver these valuable opportunities as part of the careers programme at Foundry College:

- Berkshire Careers Hub
- University of Reading
- Ford Wokingham
- Oakingham Belle
- Muddy Ducks Nursery
- Wellington Country Park
- Ductu
- Careers Pilot
- Springpod
- Career Friendly Programme





NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

INFO

Invitation to Support the Development of Wokingham's Kinship Care Local Offer

Wokingham Borough Council is creating a new **Kinship Care Local Offer**, and we would love to hear from families in our community.

Kinship care is when a child lives with a relative or a close family friend because their parents are unable to care for them.

We would really like to hear from:

- Kinship carers (grandparents, aunts/uncles, siblings, family friends, etc.)
- Children and young people who live in kinship care
- Professionals who support kinship families

The survey only takes a few minutes and is open until 24 February 2026. Take the survey here:

Take the survey

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email us at:

Kinshipcare@wokingham.gov.uk

