



MOAT

Newsletter



Introduction

Inside this December edition you will find highlights from recent events, student accomplishments, departmental updates, and information on our ongoing school initiatives.

December also brings with it a variety of special activities—including winter performances and end-of-term celebrations—which showcase the spirit and values that make Moat Community College such a vibrant place to learn and grow.

We hope this newsletter provides you with a useful source of information and a valuable insight into school life here at Moat as we look forward to a well-deserved break.



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<https://moat.leicester.sch.uk>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

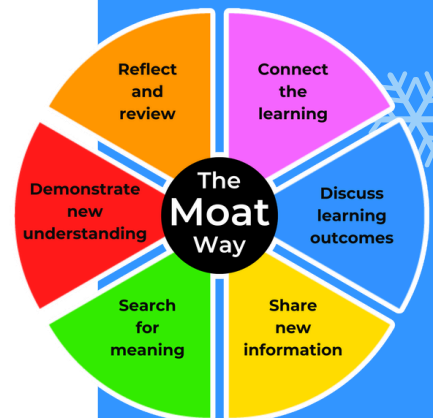
As we approach the end of a very busy but successful term, I want to thank you for the incredible support you give to our staff and students. Your partnership makes a real difference. I'm delighted to welcome you to our new newsletter, which will share some of the wonderful things happening in our school and keep you informed about important updates.

It has been a fantastic term. Our students have shown excellent attitudes and behaviour, and the effort they put into their learning is a real credit to you and our wider community. Our dedicated staff continue to set high expectations and challenge every student to achieve their very best.

Year 11 have recently completed their mock exams, and we are very pleased with their progress. We look forward to building on this success as we head towards the summer. We are also proud of our Year 7 students, who have settled in brilliantly and are already making a big contribution to school life.

As we move towards the end of term, everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved break. On the last day, we have something special planned: a non-uniform day to raise funds for a local charity, and a staff pantomime for our students—always a highlight!

Before the holiday, we will remind students about staying safe, including online safety, as we always do before a break. I wish you and your families a peaceful, relaxing holiday. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

The Safeguarding Team 2025-2026

DSL: Jo Higham (Vice Principal)

Deputy DSLs:

- Brian Killeen (Principal)
- Jez Holdsworth (Assistant Principal KS4)
- Nick Anderson (Assistant Principal KS3)
- Hetal Sharma (HOD for PDE and Careers)
- Merriam Ayari/Shenice Mundy (Year 7 AYACs)
- Iqbal Khalifa (Year 8 YAC)
- Nilzam Sattar (Year 9 YAC)
- Farzana Sayeed (Year 10 YAC)
- Muhammed Faruk (Year 11 YAC)



Prevent Duty & Risk Assessment

At Moat College student safety is always our top priority.

Prevent Duty

Schools, colleges and universities must help protect young people from being drawn into extremism. This means:

- Assessing risks in our community and online
- Training staff to spot concerns early
- Promoting respect, tolerance, and British Values
- [Read the official Prevent Duty guidance \[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/prevent-duty)

Prevent Risk Assessment

All schools must produce a Prevent Risk Assessment

It is a review of potential risks in our school and local community that could make young people vulnerable to radicalisation.

- We look at factors such as online influences, local issues, and school environment.
- The assessment helps us plan practical steps to keep children safe.
- This is part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities—similar to protecting children from other harms.

What does it involve?

- Staff training so teachers can spot early signs of concern.
- Policies and procedures for reporting and supporting vulnerable students.
- Partnership working with local authorities and safeguarding teams.
- Promoting British Values such as respect, tolerance, and democracy.

Does this mean the school expects an attack?

- No. The risk assessment is precautionary, not predictive. It's about being prepared and ensuring every child feels safe and supported.

The Importance of Belonging

This year we are looking closely at the student experience in our school, to ensure that every young person feels like they belong here. When students feel like they belong, they are happier, feel safe and valued and thrive. More information about this will be shared throughout the year with parents and carers.

What Belonging Means for Students in School

- **Feeling Accepted and Valued:** Students feel that they are seen, heard, and appreciated for who they are. Their unique backgrounds, identities, and perspectives are respected.
- **Being Included:** Students are actively included in classroom activities, social groups, and extracurricular opportunities. They don't feel left out or isolated.
- **Supportive Relationships:** Positive connections with teachers and peers are central. Support from adults and friendships with classmates help students feel safe and cared for.
- **Contributing to the Community:** Students feel they have something meaningful to offer and that their contributions matter to the group.
- **Positive School Climate:** A sense of belonging is fostered by a welcoming, inclusive, and safe school culture where diversity is celebrated, and everyone is encouraged to participate.
- **Impact on Well-being and Learning:** Belonging is linked to better academic engagement, higher motivation, improved mental health, and overall happiness at school.



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

A Letter from The Vice Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Moat Community College, we know that excellent attendance and punctuality are essential for every student's success. Research from the Department for Education shows:

- *Students with 95%+ attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to those attending 90–95%.*
- *Missing just 10 school days in Year 11 can halve the chances of achieving these grades.*
- *Persistent absence doesn't just affect exam results – it can impact future earnings. Pupils who are regularly absent could earn £10,000 less by age 28, and each missed day between Years 7–11 could cost **£750 in lifetime earnings.***
[\[schoolsweek.co.uk\]](https://schoolsweek.co.uk)

We ask for your support in ensuring your child:

- Arrives at school by 8:30am ready to learn.
- Attends every day unless there is a genuine reason for absence.

If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please contact the school office promptly. Together, we can help every student reach their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Higham

Vice Principal



CAREERS NEWS

Latest Update

Year 11 have had a very busy term, balancing mock exams with preparations for life beyond school. We began the year with a series of virtual talks from Beauchamp City, Gateway, Leicester College, and WQE, alongside a session on Apprenticeships. To further support students, we organised a Post-16 Options event, giving them the opportunity to speak directly with these providers and gather valuable insights to guide their future choices. During the Year 11 Parents' Evening, we hosted a similar event to ensure parents were equally well informed about the pathways available.



Students are now making excellent progress with their college applications and are well equipped to make thoughtful, informed decisions about their next steps. Staying connected with our alumni is a vital part of our careers programme. What could be more motivating for current Moat students than hearing directly from those who were once part of our community and have since gone on to thrive at top universities, secure outstanding apprenticeships, and build rewarding careers? If you'd like to share your journey and inspire the next generation, please contact Hetal Sharma at hsharma@moat.leicester.sch.uk to learn how you can get involved.



DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

English Department

The Muse of Poetry took up temporary residence in the Reading Room on November 6th for the inaugural Moat Poetry Day.

As this year's theme was 'Play', three groups of Year 7 students took part in the 'Poetry Card Game'. Each student was given a theme, two words and two poetic devices and their challenge was to write a poem incorporating all of them.

Behind the Mask

I wander through my emotions,
Day by day,
I watch the horizon with a smile,
While tears fall from my eyes.
Is it a mask of lies I wear?
Will it ever change?
I watch as people show their truth,
As if they are birds in the sky.
That's who I wish to be.
I can and I will.
The mask of lies will break
Revealing my truth.

Ismial 7.6



Daydream

Rising clouds and shining stars.
The reflection of the sea
Was a mirror gazing at me.
The sun glared down
Like a dream.
A promise made to me
Never fulfilled
And never could be.
The sky darkened, the clouds rose
The sun sank as the moon rose.
A dream.

Eesaa 7.4



The resulting poems, written in a very short time, were of an excellent standard as you can see from the examples.

All students also had the opportunity to make poetic keyrings, take part in the Missing Words Poetry Competition - well done to our winners Andrei (7.1) and Abubacar (9.7)- and some students and staff were lucky recipients of Ismail's handmade Poetic Tulips.

PE Department

Last term was outstanding term for PE department, marked by commitment, teamwork, and competitive success.

Across a range of sports, many of our teams advanced to the next rounds of their respective tournaments, reflecting not only individual talent but also demonstrating team work, cohesion and positive spirit.

A particular highlight of the term was our exceptional performance in athletics at Key Stage 3. Both the boys' and girls' teams delivered some excellent results. Their achievements showcased the depth of ability within the school. From sprint events to middle-distance races our KS3 athletes consistently performed at a high level, earning recognition and securing places on the podium.

Beyond medals and progression, the term was also defined by the positive attitudes and sportsmanship shown by all students. Whether representing the school or supporting peers, the enthusiasm across year groups helped to create a vibrant and inclusive sporting environment which pushed our teams towards success.

Overall, last term was one of growth, achievement, and pride for our PE department, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the months ahead.

Learning Support Department

As part of Moat's ongoing commitment to improve literacy skills, a group of enthusiastic Year 7 and Year 8 students headed to the Phoenix Cinema for a special Into Film Festival screening. They enjoyed Christmas Karma — a musical twist on Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol.

Now inspired, they're hard at work crafting their own film reviews... and crossing their fingers for the chance to win cinema vouchers for the school!



History Department

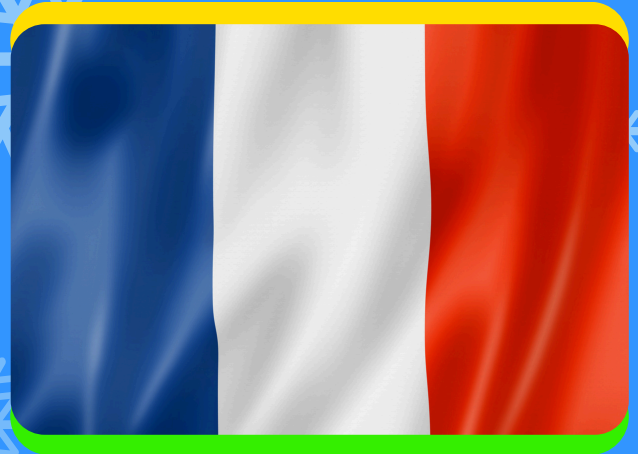
This term Year 9 History students were visited by the HitchHiking Historian who shared his knowledge of World War One Medicine with the students. The speaker explained how treatment and prevention of wounds and illness changed over the four-year period. Students engaged by trying on medical webbing and gas masks to see what soldiers went through in World War One. At the end of the talk, the speaker spoke about careers as a "living historian" and sparked discussion about the artefacts they had brought along. Overall, the talk gave students a different perspective of medicine in World War One and helped understand the war's significance



MFL Department

Year 11 French and Spanish students had their first experience of a Speaking GCSE exam, completing their mocks in November. They went very well, with the vast majority of students being on time and overall it was an excellent first practice.

Students from all year groups have been continuing to earn points on LanguageNut during the national competition.



This week French and Spanish classes have been going head-to-head in a 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?'-style quiz. We have been competing in the Theatre for class bragging rights. Eventually there will be one class in each year group who will be the winners!

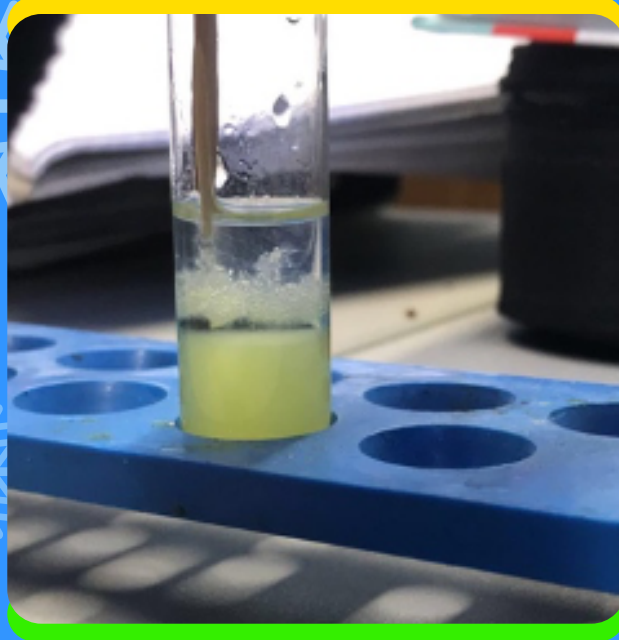


Science Department

Year 9 Embrace New GCSE Syllabus with Hands-On Learning

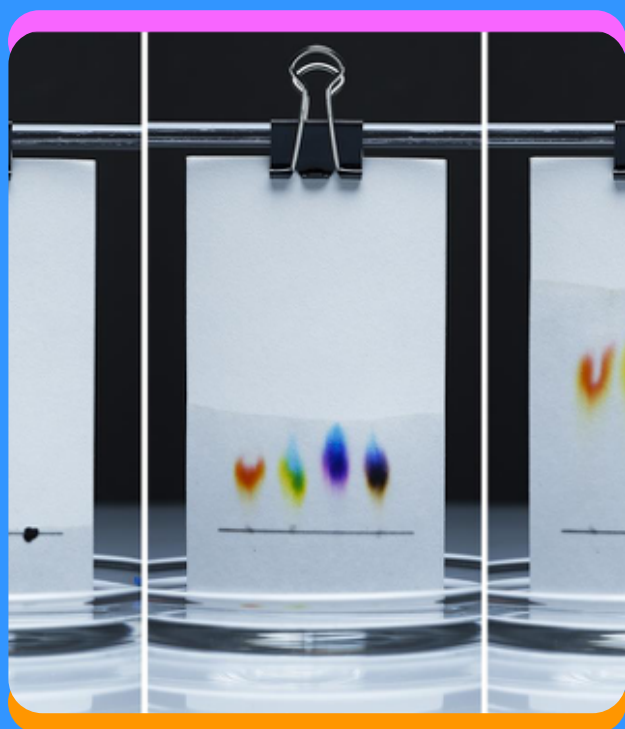
Year 9 students have settled in well with the new GCSE syllabus, which places a strong emphasis on developing practical skills. This ensures that learners are fully prepared for the demands of their final exams, where all core practical's will be assessed.

In Biology, students have explored the fascinating process of DNA extraction using everyday materials such as kiwi fruit, washing-up liquid, and ethanol.



Physics lessons have focused on investigations into acceleration, utilising light gates to measure and analyse motion with precision.

Meanwhile, Chemistry has highlighted key separation techniques, including chromatography and distillation, giving students a solid foundation in essential laboratory methods. These practical experiences not only reinforce scientific concepts but also build confidence and curiosity in the classroom.



Geography / Design & Technology Departments

Joint trip to LCB Depot

In October, 30 pupils walked to the LCB depot in Leicester for a morning event about urban planning and creative industries.

This was an informative day with professionals from a variety of areas such as town planning, archaeology, architecture and ecological protection.

The pupils learnt a lot, asked some excellent questions and represented the school brilliantly.



It was also inspiring for our pupils that the architect, currently working on the Leicester market refurbishment, was an ex-Moat student who talked to our pupils about his time at Moat and his educational journey towards his current career.

Computer Science Department

Students have been working on a creative project that highlights the importance of healthy eating. Each student selected a fruit of their choice and designed a short animation featuring a slogan to promote positive eating habits.

This cross-curricular activity combined Nutrition and Computer Science, helping students understand not only how to make healthy choices, but also how to communicate these ideas effectively through digital media. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to connect wellbeing with technology in a fun and meaningful way.



CLIMATE ACTION

Moat Community College is committed to becoming a more sustainable site and to educate the next generation about sustainability and green career opportunities. Each newsletter we will share with you how our school is committing to our sustainability action plan. Did you know that Moat has invested in placing a total of 244 solar panels on our roof?



This renewable source of energy goes towards powering our school site in a green and sustainable way. Our panels can produce over 3000 units monthly towards renewably powering the building and reducing the school's energy bill. Thanks to this we can do our bit towards reducing the impacts of climate change and the reliance on fossil fuel based electricity.



STAYING CONNECTED

Stay Connected with Your Child's Learning via GO 4 Schools

We're pleased to offer parents access to GO 4 Schools, an online platform that provides real-time updates on your child's progress, attendance, behaviour, and more.

What You Can See on GO 4 Schools:

- **Assessment Information:** View marks and target grades for all subjects throughout the year.
- **Attendance:** See your child's attendance from the start of the academic year.
- **Timetable:** Access your child's daily and weekly schedule.
- **Progress Reports:** Read full written reports published three times a year for Key Stage 3 and four times a year for Key Stage 4.
- **Behaviour Summary:** Track positive and negative behaviour events.

Your child's page is updated continuously, so you'll always have the latest information at your fingertips.

How to Log In:

1. Visit <http://www.go4schools.com/>
2. Click the Parents icon at the top of the page.
3. Use the email address registered with the school to log in.
4. If it's your first time, enter your email in the "First-time User" field and request a password.
5. Check your inbox (and Spam folders) for the login email.

If you need to update your registered email address, please contact the Main Office.

Key Features Once Logged In:

- **Overview Page:** Quick access to behaviour alerts, messages, detentions, and reports.
- **Attendance:** View weekly attendance summaries and heat maps to spot patterns.



- Behaviour: See detailed breakdowns of behaviour events by subject and group.
- Inbox: Review all school communications, including behaviour alerts and progress reports.
- Progress: Monitor academic progress with detailed subject-level data.
- Timetable & Documents: Access your child's full timetable and any shared school documents.

We encourage all parents to make use of this valuable tool to stay informed and engaged with their child's education.

Weduc

Stay up to date with everything that is happening in school. Download the Weduc App.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Parents' Evening Dates

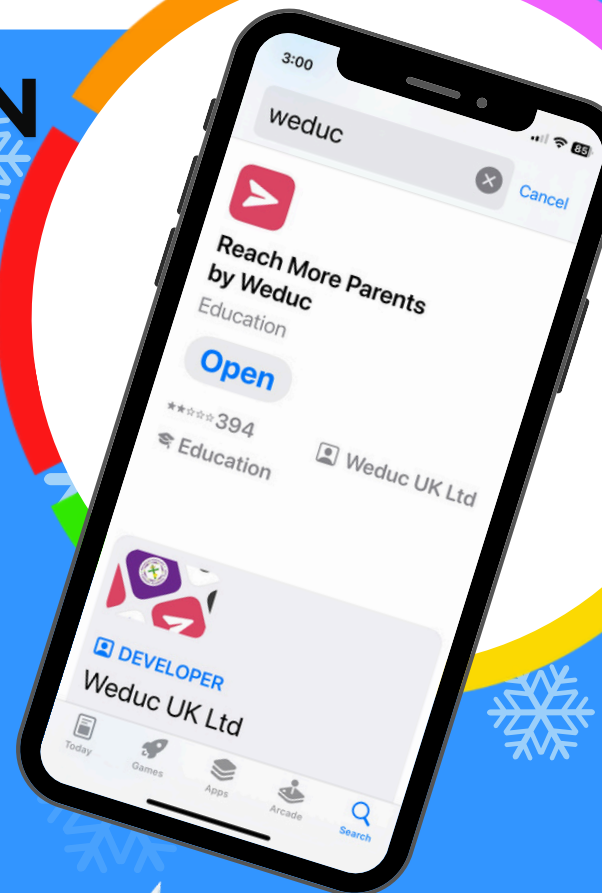
1. Year 8 – 27th Nov
2. Year 11 – 4th Dec
3. Year 10 – 15th Jan
4. Year 7 – 5th Feb
5. Year 9 – 26th March

School Closure Dates

- 1st December
- 19th or 20th March (This closure day will coincide with EID and will be confirmed the evening before)

Useful Links

- **Uniform link** - <https://moat.leicester.sch.uk/parents-and-students/student-uniform>
- **Parent pay** - <https://www.parentpay.com/>



Pastoral Staff Contact Details

- **Year 7** – AYAC/S. Mundy - smundy@moat.leicester.sch.uk & YAC/Mr. Daine - sdaine@moat.leicester.sch.uk
- **Year 8** – YAC/I. Khalifa - ikhalifa@moat.leicester.sch.uk
- **Year 9** – YAC/N. Sattar - nsattar@moat.leicester.sch.uk
- **Year 10** – YAC/F. Sayeed - fsayeed@moat.leicester.sch.uk
- **Year 11** – AYAC/K. Adam - KAdam@moat.leicester.sch.uk and YAC/M. Faruk - mfaruk@moat.leicester.sch.uk
- **KS3** – Mr Anderson - anderson@moat.leicester.sch.uk
- **KS4** – Mr Holdsworth - jholdsworth@moat.leicester.sch.uk

Other Contacts

- **Office contact** - office@moat.leicester.sch.uk
- **Wellbeing contact** - mentalhealth@moat.leicester.sch.uk



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Website <https://moat.leicester.sch.uk>