

Ellen Tinkham College Newsletter

Spring Term Highlights

It has been a lively and rewarding term across the college, filled with celebration, creativity, and meaningful opportunities for our students to learn, grow, and thrive. From engaging curriculum activities to whole-school events and enriching experiences beyond the classroom, students have demonstrated enthusiasm, resilience, and a real sense of community throughout.



We began the term by celebrating **Chinese New Year** with a wonderful carousel of activities, giving students the opportunity to explore traditions, culture, and creativity. This culminated in a lively and engaging whole-school assembly, bringing everyone together to mark the occasion.

World Book Day was another standout moment this term. Both staff and students embraced the occasion by dressing up as their favourite literary characters, decorating classroom doors, and sharing much-loved books during assembly. It was a joyful celebration of reading and the power of stories within our community.



Comic Relief provided a wonderful opportunity for fun and fundraising. Students thoroughly enjoyed a lively assembly, with the highlight being staff members bravely “volunteering” to be pied—creating lots of laughter and a strong sense of community while supporting a great cause.



Sonopera and Rocksteady workshops brought music to life across the college, giving students the opportunity to explore rhythm, performance, and creativity in a fun and inclusive way. Students showed great enthusiasm as they worked together, built confidence, and expressed themselves through singing, instruments, and group performances.



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Our Year 11 students took part in an unforgettable **residential visit to Calvert Devon**, where they embraced new challenges, developed confidence, and demonstrated excellent teamwork throughout their stay. We were delighted to share the experience with students from Bidwell Brook School, providing a fantastic opportunity to build new friendships, develop social skills, and work collaboratively in a supportive environment.

During the residential, students participated in a wide range of exciting and challenging activities, including climbing, rafting, bushcraft, orienteering, and archery. Each activity encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, build resilience, and celebrate their achievements—whether that was reaching the top of the climbing wall, navigating as a team, or mastering new outdoor skills.

It was a truly memorable experience, and we are incredibly proud of the way our students represented the college. Their positivity, determination, and willingness to try new things were evident throughout.

Following the success of this trip, we are very excited to be working towards making this a yearly opportunity for all Year 11 students moving forward.

Careers and Work Experience Spotlight



Students benefited from valuable workplace visits this term, including trips to **Stagecoach South West** and **Radio Exe** and a placement at **Brown's Restaurant and Brasserie**. These visits provided insight into different industries and helped students connect their learning to future career pathways.

Wishing all our students, families and staff a wonderful Easter break. We look forward to welcoming our students back on Tuesday 21st April, Kate Bromage, Head of Site.