

Autumn 2025



What we've been up to...

- ✓ 8 students completed their practice Silver Award expedition in DofE.
- ✓ We virtually cycled 535km to Calais to raise an impressive £580 for Children in Need.
- ✓ All students completed a week of GCSE mock exams.
- ✓ We visited a variety of colleges and careers fairs.
- ✓ Students completed the first assessment task in BTEC qualification PSAs.



Coming up...

- JAN 7 Whole School Theme Day - Respect
- FEB 9 Children's Mental Health Week
- FEB 23 Careers Week
- MAR 5 World Book Day
- MAR 9 British Science Week
- MAR 16 Neurodiversity Celebration Week

A Message from our Headteacher

This term, our focus is Resilience - the ability to bounce back from setbacks, learn from challenges, and keep trying. Students have been building resilience through growth mindset challenges, problem-solving tasks, and discussions on handling setbacks.

These activities help them gain confidence and strategies to tackle new challenges. You can support their learning at home by praising effort and persistence, not just results!



ADAPTABILITY



COMMUNICATION



INDEPENDENCE



MOTIVATION



PROBLEM SOLVING



TEAMWORK



Trip Review - Romeo and Juliet

On Wednesday, 17th September, the literature group (excluding Lottie) went to the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool to watch Romeo and Juliet. Zoe West and Alicia Forde played Romeo and Juliet brilliantly, while Elliot Broadfoot (Mercutio) and Kelise Gordon-Harrison (Benvolio) provided excellent comic relief.

The stage was minimalist but lively, with actors and props always in the right place. The performance brought the play to life and really helped me understand the plot, making it easier to study and appreciate Shakespeare's work.

William - Year 10

“The performance brought the play to life in a way that was both exciting and unforgettable, and seeing it on stage really deepened the students' understanding of the characters and themes.”
Kate - English Lead

Celebrating our neurodiversity

Molly's acrostic poem reflecting her own ASD.

Artistic

Unique

Thoughtful

Interested in story writing

Silly

Mischievous

Q&A Rosie asks Dylan...

◆ How long have you worked at Utopia?

3 yrs

◆ What is your job title and what are your responsibilities?

Teaching assistant-helping students in lessons and teaching PE and cooking.

◆ What key skills do you show in your job?
Communication, motivation and adaptability.

◆ What is your favourite part of your job?
Seeing the students progress.

◆ What is your least favourite part of your job?
Can't think of anything.

◆ What were you like when you were in school?
A chatterbox! I was always sporty, confident and was always laughing with my friends.

◆ Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?
I lived in Spain for 4 years when I was younger.

◆ If you won the lottery what would you do with £1m?
Buy a house and travel the world.



Essential Skills

This term, we focused on adaptability and communication.



Adaptability: I've learned to handle unexpected changes more easily. For example, if a friend cancels plans, I don't get upset anymore; I adapt and find something else to do.



Communication: I've become more confident socially and can keep conversations going in person. I used to only do this over messages, but now I can engage in small talk face-to-face with ease.



Joke of the term

"I'm really afraid for the calendar...."

It's days are numbered!

Molly, year 10

Essential skills in action...



Problem Solving

Adaptability: I've learned to handle unexpected changes more easily. For example, if a friend cancels plans, I don't get upset anymore; I adapt and find something else to do.

Communication I've become more confident socially and can keep conversations going in person. I used to only do this over messages, but now I can engage in small talk face-to-face with ease.

Logan
Year 10



Independence

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Communication I've become more confident socially and can keep conversations going in person. I used to only do this over messages, but now I can engage in small talk face-to-face with ease.

Logan
Year 10



“I look forward to completing the silver award with them all.”
Michelle - Vocational & DofE Lead

SMSC

The old veteran stood at the bus stop, the cold November air on his wrinkled face. As he sat, a boy asked, "What happened to your hand?" His mother apologised, and he murmured, "I wish losing my ring and little finger was the worst thing I left behind."

His mind drifted to Dunkirk—sand, smoke, and roaring engines. A scruffy kid handed him a silver chocolate bar, smiling. Then the sirens screamed. He grabbed the boy, but he slipped away. Only the charred chocolate remained. He didn't notice his missing fingers until he picked up the wrapper.

Tao - Year 11



“Remembrance Day is an important part of our SMSC calendar and it was nice to see our students paying their respects to those who have fought for their country.”

Danny - Deputy Head

School values in action...



Kindness

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Respect

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Responsibility

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Resilience

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