

Science Department Bulletin – February 2026

Welcome to this week's Science Newsletter!

We have had a busy week in the Science department with a big increase in attendance at our extracurricular activities and great attendance (up to 26 learners!) at each of our revision sessions which is fantastic to see.

As the days get longer, we are starting to see the emergence of the early bulbs. These plants have evolved an ingenious method to compete for sunlight with the bigger trees that usually surround them. By flowering early, they have the chance to get pollinated and complete their reproductive cycle before the trees develop a canopy of leaves above, blocking out the sunlight that they need for photosynthesis.

This adaptation to their environment gives them the upper hand. Our Year 11s have recently learned that this has evolved through natural selection. Plants that flowered early got more sunlight, produced more glucose through photosynthesis, so had more energy and were more likely to survive and reproduce. When they did, the gene encoding the early flowering behaviour was passed on to their offspring and, over many generations, became more frequent until it was the norm.

So, enjoy the coming display of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils over the next few weeks and reflect on the fact that it is all down to photosynthesis and natural selection!

Have a great week.

Mr Cox

Y11 Revision Sessions

Monday **Chemistry** after school with Mr Pollock (E28)

Wednesday **Physics** at lunchtime with Mr Johnson (E68)

Friday **Biology** after school with Mr Cox (E32)

We encourage all Y11s to attend if possible and try to share resources where we can via Satchel. Also, please check the weekly revision email for Y11 students!



Extracurricular Activities

KS3 Science Club Tuesdays after school, Ms Hubbard in E63

Our intrepid investigators delved into the microscopic world this week, studying plant cells and their own cheek cells! They had a great time studying these tiny structures.



Roll Models Games Club Thursday lunchtime & Afterschool (E30)

We had a great turnout this week, with a new **Dungeons and Dragons** quest starting, a growing number of **Jenga** and **Uno** players and some great painting going on as we develop our **Warhammer 40k** and **Age of Sigmar** armies.

Everyone is welcome at games club every Thursday lunchtime and after school in E30.



Science in the News

Sunday 1st Feb is the **Snow Moon**, the last full moon of the meteorological winter. Weather permitting it can be viewed in the skies over the next couple of days. Winter full moons are higher than at other times of year because the moon does the opposite of the sun as we go through the seasons. You can read more about it here: <https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/news/snow-moon-2026>

Have a great week, we hope to see as many students as possible engaging with all the activities offered by the Science Department, Best wishes, The Science Team

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