



Ringwood News

Ringwood School

SUMMER EDITION
2026

Welcome to Ringwood News

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy school year, I want to thank you all for your continued support and partnership.

This term has brought with it a great deal of hard work and hot weather but with this have been many proud moments – from academic successes to sporting achievements, performances, an action packed Activities Week and our best ever Sports Day (in my opinion).

A highlight of my job is watching our young people grow in confidence and maturity as the year moves on, and I'd like to commend them all for the courage and ambition they've shown throughout the year. This year so many of our students have reached our House Point milestones- 97% have achieved their Bronze Award (3% more than last year); 84% have reached Silver (9% more than last year) ; 64% have reached Gold (up 11% from last year) and a quarter of students have reached Platinum - which gives them an Amazon Voucher or a trip to the Water Park. This is the highest number ever on the rewards trip!

While the summer break is a well-earned chance to rest and recharge, it's also important that we look ahead to September. A strong start to the new academic year makes a big difference. The key to a strong start is being here, on time, and being properly equipped for the day. Please can we ask that all students return in September with a fully stocked pencil case – including black and purple pens, pencils, a ruler, eraser, and any other essential stationery they may need for lessons. Being equipped really matters. Research shows that students who arrive at lessons with the right equipment are more confident, more engaged, and better able to manage their learning independently. We really appreciate your support in helping students take responsibility for being well-prepared for learning. It's a small but important step in building good habits and pride in their work.

We return to school with our Smart Devices Ban in place for all Year 7-11 students. We hope that this will support our students in being able to learn without distraction and will be beneficial for their wellbeing. These are certainly the benefits that we have seen this year with our Year 7 Smart Device Ban.

We look forward to welcoming Year 7 and Year 12 students back to school on Thursday 3rd September. The rest of the school will return on Friday 4th September.

Until then, I wish you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer break.

Warm wishes,

Leanne Symonds

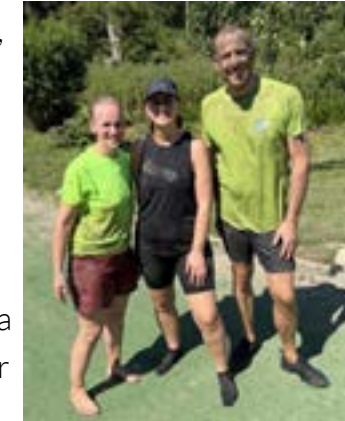
Headteacher



A rundown of Activities Week 2025-26

We wanted to take a moment to celebrate what has been an incredibly successful and memorable Activities Week for our students.

Throughout the week, students have taken part in 3 residential trips, 46 off-site visits and experiences, travelling a total of 4000 miles, involving a combined total of over 2,200 student places, alongside more than 30 different in-school activities and workshops designed to broaden horizons, develop new skills and create lasting memories.



Students have enjoyed a wide range of memorable experiences throughout the week, including visits to Oxford Science Museum, London Dungeons, Hengistbury Head, the Globe Theatre, Wicked, Hercules and Paulton's Park, as well as opportunities to take part in climbing, water sports and outdoor adventure activities.

Back at school, students immersed themselves in a diverse programme of activities such as Engineering Workshops, Forensics Day, Mission to Mars, Photography Workshops, Woodwork and cultural experiences including Hispanic Day and A Taste of Türkiye. Meanwhile, our Year 12 students benefited from dedicated subject sessions as well as UCAS Next Steps sessions to support their progression beyond sixth form. Our 'ology' subjects collaborated from an exciting CSI Workshop that provided insight into criminology and forensic investigation.

Most importantly, we would like to express how proud we are of our students. Whether

representing the school on visits across the country or participating in activities on site, they have demonstrated



excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, resilience and maturity throughout what has been a busy and exciting week. Staff repeatedly received positive feedback from venue staff, transport providers and members of the public regarding our students' conduct and engagement. One coach driving claiming they were the politest group he had ever had with students, having all thanked him as they departed without needing any prompt from staff.

Thank you for your continued support in making Activities Week such a success. We hope your children returned home with wonderful memories, new experiences and a renewed confidence in their abilities.

Uniform Changes for September 2026

A reminder that an email was sent to all parents and carers on Tuesday 14 July outlining the changes to our School Uniform Policy, which will come into effect from September 2026.

The changes have been made to comply with the government's Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, which limits the number of compulsory branded uniform items. The email contains full details of the revised uniform requirements, including compulsory and optional items, as well as information about our 'New to You' uniform shop. <https://ringwoodschool.square.site/>

If you have not yet had the opportunity to read the email, please take a few moments to do so before purchasing any new uniform for September.

House News



Once again the Heads of House are delighted to share with you news of some of the House

activities that have taken place over the Summer Term. As another fantastic year draws to a close, we are delighted to look back on the many House events, fundraising activities and competitions that have taken place throughout 2025/26. The enthusiasm, generosity, and school spirit shown by students have made this one of our most successful years yet.

House Charities

At the start of the year, each House selected a charity to support: Anning chose Football Beyond Borders, Brunel selected Friends of PICU, Hardy supported Stars Appeal, Nightingale chose STARF, and Thornhill selected Batten Fighters Forever. Throughout the year, students worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for these worthwhile causes.

House Events & Fundraising

House events have once again been a highlight of the school calendar. Students participated in fifteen fun lunchtime challenges ranging from quizzes to basketball competitions, alongside INKtober, the Poppy Appeal and three SPUD Day appeals. These events provided opportunities for friendly competition while raising valuable funds for charity.

One of the year's standout community events was the Tins Appeal on 4th December. Thanks to the incredible generosity of students, staff and families, a remarkable 2,438 items were collected for the Salvation Army.

The Christmas Fayre on 12th December featured a Candy Cane Station, festive activities and the hugely anticipated Krispy Kreme

doughnut sale. The event raised just over £570 and provided a fantastic start to the year's fundraising efforts.

The Summer Fayre on 7th May brought together students and staff once again with live music, a Sponge the Teacher station and the return of the Krispy Kreme sale. The phenomenal support shown by students helped raise a further £530.

Through the fayres and SPUD appeals, an incredible £5,025 was raised this year, enabling each charity to receive more than £1,000. This significant increase on last year is a testament to the generosity of everyone who took part.

Sports Day 2026

Despite the hot weather, Sports Day was a tremendous success.

Hardy retained their title and completed the double by winning both the Tug of War and the Sports Day Cup. There were several extremely close contests, and Hardy showed great determination to fight back from near losses.

The House Cup, awarded for the highest average number of house points per student, was won once again by Brunel. The final totals were incredibly close across the leading Houses.

1. Brunel - 326
2. Hardy - 323
3. Anning - 303
4. Thornhill - 275
5. Nightingale - 268

House News



House News



Thank You to Our Sixth Form House Captains

A huge thank you must go to our outstanding Sixth Form House Captains for all of their hard work throughout the year. Working together as a team, they have played a vital role in coordinating House events, supporting fundraising activities and helping to make each occasion a success. Their leadership, enthusiasm and commitment have been evident at every stage, particularly in the way they have led and encouraged lower school students during House competitions and events. We are incredibly grateful for the time and energy they have dedicated to the House system and for being such positive role models within the school community.

Anning: Freddie Serle, Delilah Bailey and Cresal Jose

Brunel: Jowan Holcroft, Poppy-Lou Scott and Pollyanna Hilton

Hardy: Archie Campbell, Katie Gyles and Martha Gobell

Nightingale: Rufus Milne, Lauren Nicholls and George Warde

Thornhill: Evie Gilbert, Eve Jordan and Joey Camp

Looking Ahead to September 2026

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we would like to congratulate and welcome the incoming House leadership team. Following the departure of Mr Matias and with Mrs Jones moving into her new role as Head of Chemistry, September 2026 marks the beginning of an

exciting new chapter for the House system.

We are delighted to announce:

- Mrs White (English) as Head of Anning
- Mr White (Mathematics) as Head of Nightingale
- Mrs Humphries as Head of House Coordinator

We wish them every success in their new roles and look forward to seeing the continued growth of House activities, charity fundraising and student leadership under their guidance.

Heads of Year for 2026/27

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we are pleased to share some exciting updates to our pastoral team.

In September, we will be welcoming Mr Adams to the school, who joins us as a new member of staff. We are also delighted that Mr Nicholson will be taking over from Mr Dadson as Head of Year 10.

Our dedicated Heads of Year play a vital role in supporting students' wellbeing, progress and personal development, and we are confident that our team will continue to provide excellent guidance and care throughout the year.

Our Heads of Year for the 2026/27 academic year are:

- Year 7 – Mr M Massimino
- Year 8 – Mr T Adams
- Year 9 – Mr K Sheppard
- Year 10 – Mr H Nicholson
- Year 11 – Mr N Roe

We look forward to another successful year.

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge 2026 (JMC)

At the end of April, some of our Year 8 students took part in a national competition – the Junior Maths Challenge. This was a one-hour paper that the students took under exam conditions. The questions were designed to challenge them to think logically and solve problems, while using their maths skills.



Well over half of our students received a bronze, silver or gold certificate. Four Ringwood students, Dylan, James, Gabby and Eva, received a gold certificate, and Dylan did so well that he qualified for the next round - 'The Kangaroo'. He sat the Kangaroo in June; a similar format but with harder questions and was awarded a Certificate of Qualification.

Well done to all of our Year 8 participants. We hope you found it a fun challenge!

Year 7 Mathematicians House Competition

Earlier this year, the Maths department asked their Year 7s to investigate famous mathematicians for a House Competition. To help them begin their research, the students received a list of renowned mathematicians, potential resources and ideas for presenting their case studies, but an impressive number used their initiative to come up with entirely their own ideas. Across every class, students produced some amazing and original entries, combining their research skills with creativity and attention to

detail. Students presented their findings using art and craft through illustrated pamphlets, massive posters, booklets, and even a model computer.

Students shared their findings in their Maths lessons, and we learnt about the lives and discoveries of mathematicians including Leonardo Pisano Bigollo (also known as Fibonacci), Albert Einstein, Archimedes, Sophie Germain, Katherine Johnston, Ada Lovelace, Isaac Newton, Emmy Noether, Pythagoras and Alan Turing.

In each class, certificates of achievement were awarded to the best projects. Congratulations to Nightingale, our overall house winner; Anning for second place, Thornhill in third place, with Hardy fourth, and Brunel fifth.

And for our individuals, this year, our overall winners were Eli, Anya and Isla. Eli's entry was on Alan Turing in which he created a cardboard computer that involved rotating through a fantastic series of informative slides by hand. Anya created an amazing A3 book on Katherine Johnson that incorporated great information with a strong design which involved plenty of colour to catch the eye. Isla created a wonderful board game with a plethora of information built in, all about Isaac Newton, creating an exciting and playful way to learn about this great mathematician. This game included its own rules, questions, and much more.

Congratulations to our 6 highly commended entries who were Lydia, Rubie, Shae, Sigrid, Tia and Lilly. Their work involved creating more boardgames, books and artwork, all packed with information on a variety of mathematicians including Marie Curie, Isaac Newton, Sophie Germain, Albert Einstein and many more.

Massive congratulations to all the Year 7s who took part. Your Maths teachers loved the enthusiasm you showed and how you shared your discoveries.



Curriculum Roundup

Governor News

Dear parents, carers & students,

Whilst our Year 11 and Year 13 students await their exam results, I thought it would be a great time to echo the sentiments by Mrs Symonds and Mrs Jones, on the commitment of our amazing staff and the enrichment opportunities they provide throughout the year.

My personal highlight was the Performing Arts Department's production of Annie. Starting from scratch on Monday staff, cast and production crew worked tirelessly over the week to provide a polished and professional show on Friday evening,

demonstrating remarkable talent, teamwork and determination. And even included a real life dog! A delightful way to end an exhausting but highly successful week for everyone!

As governors, we are immensely proud of the dedication shown by our staff. Their willingness to go above and beyond enriches the educational experience of every student and reflects the values at the heart of our School.

Our school thrives because of the dedication and support of the entire school community, including the governors. We are always keen to welcome new voices to our team. If you are

passionate about education and want to make a meaningful contribution, I encourage you to consider joining us.

If you would like to learn more about the role or how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Together, we can continue to support and enhance the educational experience for all our students.

Hugh Paton

chairofgovernors@ringwood.hants.sch.uk



Ringwood School's excellent reputation is well-deserved. It is a thriving, highly successful school and a fantastic place for young people to learn and develop between the ages of 11 and 18. We have high aspirations for every student, and we strive to ensure that all students achieve their full potential through a clear focus on learning and achievement in a supportive environment.

We are looking for volunteers to join our Governing Board to continue this journey.

Want to make a difference in your community, and develop your own professional skills? By volunteering as a School Governor, you can do both. We are always looking for people who want to take that step and contribute to the development of Ringwood School by bringing their own personal and/or professional experience while learning, utilising or improving their own skills.

What is the role of the governing body?

The governing body set the strategic vision and direction, oversee the finances of the school and hold the senior leadership team to account as critical friends of the school. That can seem a bit formal and even stuffy, but I assure you that the practical work we do to meet these statutory obligations is not! We work through committees and visit the school to see how things are happening, based on the decisions we make.

Why become a governor at Ringwood?

From my own experience the benefits of being a governor are immense. These benefits include:

- Developing your professional skills and experience such as strategic planning, chairing, financial planning, and team working, all of which are valued by employers and can assist your own career development.
- Building relationships and networks in your locality.
- Most importantly supporting children and young people in your community.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for people who have the passion, commitment and time to help us shape Ringwood School. The role of governor may be voluntary, requiring enthusiasm to do properly but I know it to be vital, valuable and rewarding. We have different roles that you can explore with us, based on what you are comfortable with.

If you would like to take that first step of joining us, please email clerktogb@ringwood.hants.sch.uk, telling us a bit about yourself and we will take it from there.

Hugh Paton,

Chair of Governors

Religious Studies Updates

The RS department has had a busy summer term. Year 7 have been learning about Hinduism, year 8 have been discovering what it means to belong to the Sikh faith. year 9 have been exploring the concept of love in Christianity.



and year 10 successfully demonstrated their learning in their end of Year 10 examination and have ended the term learning about Islam.

Key stage 3 has taken part in the NATRE Spirited Arts competition and we have been hugely impressed with some of the entries.



Year 12 Art, Textiles and Photography students visit to AUB in TheGallery

Year 12 Art, Textiles and Photography students recently visited the Foundation Summer Show at AUB in TheGallery, where they had the opportunity to experience an inspiring exhibition of Foundation Diploma students' work. The visit provided a valuable insight into the breadth of creative possibilities available beyond school and encouraged students to think outside the box as they develop their own artistic journeys and Personal Investigation projects.

As part of the visit, students took part in a drawing workshop inspired by the exhibited work. Using a range of materials, they explored pattern, texture and mark-making while moving through the exhibition space, recording observations and responding creatively to

what they saw. The workshop encouraged students to slow down, look more carefully and engage deeply with the artwork around them—an important skill when considering that research suggests visitors spend an average of just 11 seconds viewing a piece of art.



Students also enjoyed a tour of the Foundation Building and were given a glimpse of the Undergraduate Fine Art Show, helping them gain a greater understanding of progression routes within the creative

industries and higher education. The impact of the visit was immediate. Students described the exhibition as fascinating and inspiring, expressing genuine excitement about continuing their own projects. Many were in awe of the work on display and left eager to experiment with new techniques, materials and ideas in their own practice. Experiences such as this are invaluable in broadening creative horizons, raising aspirations and helping students develop the confidence to take risks and innovate within their work.



Curriculum Roundup



Update from Ringwood School Art Department

The Summer term has been as busy as ever in the Art department, culminating with our annual Summer Exhibition. This was followed quickly by Activities Week then brought with it lots of creative involvement for the department.

Summer Exhibition 2026 - This. Is . Us.

This year's exhibition demonstrated that art is a universal form of expression, allowing students to communicate their ideas, experiences and emotions in unique and personal ways. Walking through the exhibition, it was evident that every piece had its own voice.

One of this exhibition's greatest strengths was the remarkable diversity of work on display. Traditional drawing, painting and sculpture sat comfortably alongside photography, textiles and mixed-media pieces, creating a rich and engaging visual experience. Some works showcased exceptional technical skill and attention to detail, while others embraced experimentation, abstraction and personal interpretation. Together, they reflected the confidence of students to explore their own creative identities rather than simply produce technically accomplished outcomes.

The exhibition also highlighted the importance of creative risk-taking. Many of the pieces demonstrated a willingness to experiment with materials, processes and ideas, resulting in work that was both visually striking and conceptually engaging. This balance between technical ability and imaginative thinking created an exhibition that felt fresh, contemporary and authentic.

Perhaps the greatest success of the exhibition was its ability to showcase the individuality of every student. Rather than presenting a collection of similar pieces, it revealed a wide range of interests, influences and creative voices. This diversity reflected an environment in which students feel supported to develop their own ideas, challenge themselves and take pride in their achievements.

Activities Week

During Activity week the Art department were able to put on a range of a sessions, all of which were hugely popular and exciting for students from all year groups.

Our Year 7 students showcased their creativity and resilience through a fantastic Make Do and Mend project, designing and creating their own unique ugly dolls and monsters from recycled fabrics. Building on their textile skills, students explored appliqué, a range of hand-sewing techniques, and the sewing machine to bring their imaginative designs to life. The project encouraged sustainable thinking while developing confidence, problem-solving, and craftsmanship. Each student took home a one-of-a-kind creation that reflects both their growing skills and their individuality.

Emily Weston

02/10/77 – 12/06/26

As you will already know, the school community were deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of our dear friend and colleague Emily Weston who passed away in June. Emily was our Course Leader in Photography and had worked at Ringwood for 24 years, spending her entire teaching career in service of Ringwood's young people. This year's Art summer exhibition serves as testament to her passion for the creative arts. Alongside the exhibition, a performance by the school mass choir marked a suitable and deeply moving rendition of Louis Armstrong's "Wonderful World" in dedication to a wonderful friend and teacher.

Teachers rarely know the full scale of the impact that they have on the lives of their students. Emily was a life-changer. The Art department have been overwhelmed by the best wishes and kindness shown to her friends and family in the last month.

If you have any words, wishes or thoughts you would like to share with Emily's family, you are welcome to do so via email to Mr S Fielder, Head of Art sfielder@ringwood.hants.sch.uk.



Languages Round Up

A little message for our Yr 10 French and Spanish classes:

"You sat three full GCSE papers for your mocks and only one part of the speaking exam was missed out - WELL DONE!

This information that marking your work has provided is so valuable to understand what we need to work on in Year 11.

If we all pull together and 'lock in', the only way is up!

Don't forget your bridging work as you head into the summer holidays but do remember that French and Spanish are languages spoken by millions in this world.

Explore that and do something fun with languages too.

Have a lovely summer and we cannot wait to teach you in Year 11 and see what you produce!"

Activities week - Hispanic Day and the Türkiye mezze day

Miss Ibáñez enjoyed working with all students this week dancing, researching and making Pintxos and Mrs Altinkalp enjoyed watching you make a Turkish Mezze.

We hope you had lots of fun learning about other cultures.

Here are the winning Pintxos from the Hispanic Day



Duolingo

The number of subscribers to Mrs. Stevens' monthly Duolingo competition still keeps growing and she loves it when students tell her the words that they have learned and start using them in their production of the language.

Over this academic year, Mrs Stevens has awarded almost 500 house points for students participating each month and for those who are on the leaderboard.

The Duolingo app is free to use and Duolingo can be completed on a computer/laptop rather than a smartphone - please contact Mrs. Stevens in the Languages department if you'd like to join.

Spanish visiting students

Our Year 8 and 10 Spanish cohorts have been able to be buddied up with and spend their days with students who have come to visit our school for 3-4 days in both May and June from the North of Spain. It was a pleasure to have these students in our lessons sharing their Spanish and cultural background with our students. Mrs Stevens was very proud of those who volunteered to have buddies and it was so lovely to see some Year 8 students meeting their Spanish buddies for the first time and giving them a hug to make them feel welcome. Mrs Stevens hopes to continue to give you these experiences in the future.



Curriculum Roundup



Ringwood School Celebrates 800 Years of Ringwood's Market Charter with Community Art Installation

Students and staff at Ringwood School came together during Sports Day to celebrate not only sporting achievements but also an important milestone in the town's history – the 800th anniversary of Ringwood's Market Charter.



<https://ringwood.gov.uk/events/800th-anniversary-of-the-market-charter/>

Inspired by the town's '800 Gloves' community installation, students created their own piece of collaborative artwork by tying 800 colourful ribbons onto the school's iconic shield, representing each of the 5 houses. Every ribbon represented a contribution from members of the school community, symbolising unity, pride and the strong connection between the school and the town.



The installation was a great talking point during the day, reflecting the values of teamwork, participation and belonging that underpin both Ringwood School and the wider community. Alongside a day of healthy competition, determination and sporting success, the artwork provided students with an opportunity to pause and recognise the significance of this historic anniversary and the community in which they live.

Year 9 Trip to Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre

Over 30 year 9 students enjoyed a fun-packed and exhilarating day at Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre in Ringwood.

Before visiting the centre, Science staff lead an owl pellet dissection activity with the year 9's at school. After initial uncertainty, they all participated brilliantly and discovered many bones belonging to the owl's prey.

Highlights included fused vertebrae from the backbone, many individual bones and complete skulls.

Once at Liberty's, the students were lucky to watch 2 bird of prey displays including: Harris harrier, vultures, kookaburra a misbehaving golden Eagle -who decided to perch on next doors garage- and a great grey owl who swooped close to several familiar heads! All very impressive birds.

Jason gave us expert insight into their hunting and feeding habits and how the centre trains the birds to how they would hunt and kill prey in the wild- great enrichment practices. Other notable birds were the striated Karakara -the most intelligent of its species and endemic to the Falkland Islands- and finished with the impressive Stellars Sea Eagle which is one of the largest Eagles in the World.

The students also had a reptile display which included a royal python, corn snakes, stick insects, cockroaches, Iguana, and the star of the show, the chameleon. His tongue is as long as his body and tail combined!

I am currently assessing each group's collections of bones and will be awarding the winning group with a small prize- a few individual presents too for great specimen finds. Well done year 9 for a great day.

Brilliant Club-Scholars Programme Graduation Success

We are incredibly proud of a group of Year 9 and 10 students who recently graduated from The Scholars Programme, delivered by the education charity The Brilliant Club.

Throughout the programme, students took part in seven tutorials led by a subject expert PhD researcher from the University of Southampton. Working independently and developing their academic skills, they produced challenging university-style essays exploring the topic 'How Mathematics Helps Predict the Oceans'.

The Scholars Programme is a national university access initiative designed to give students a taste of higher education while developing valuable skills for the future. Through the project, students enhanced their critical thinking, research and independent learning skills, as well as gaining a greater understanding of university life.

To celebrate their achievement, students attended a graduation ceremony at the University of Surrey, where they met current undergraduates, learned more about student life and enjoyed a tour of the campus.

Congratulations to all of our graduates on their hard work, commitment and outstanding achievement. We look forward to seeing what they accomplish next.



Bournemouth University

This term, a group of Year 7 students enjoyed an exciting and inspiring visit to Bournemouth University. During the day, students learned about what university life is like and gained an insight into the wide range of opportunities available in higher education.

The group took part in a guided tour of the campus, exploring the university facilities and finding out more about student life. They also had the opportunity to meet and talk with current undergraduates, asking questions about their courses, accommodation and experiences of university.

One of the highlights of the visit was a robotics challenge, where students worked together to build and programme their own LEGO robots. The activity encouraged teamwork, problem-solving and creativity, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved.

The visit was a fantastic experience, helping students to broaden their horizons and consider their future aspirations while developing valuable STEM skills.



Curriculum Roundup

Health Professions Taster Day -Southampton University

Year 10 and Year 12 students considering a future career in healthcare enjoyed an exciting and interactive Taster Day at the University's Highfield Campus.

The day began with an introduction to the wide range of healthcare professions, highlighting the key skills, qualities and competencies needed to succeed in these rewarding careers. Students also received valuable advice on the university application process and interview preparation.

Students then took part in four engaging workshops in Audiology, Midwifery, Nursing and Occupational Therapy, giving them a hands-on insight into different healthcare pathways.

A particular highlight was the opportunity to use the University's simulation wards, where students experienced a variety of practical healthcare activities. These included practising CPR, assisting with a simulated childbirth using specialist training equipment, carrying out neonatal health checks, and taking patient observations from one another.

The group also visited the Occupational Therapy sensory room, where they learned how sensory environments can be used to support health, wellbeing and rehabilitation.

The day provided a fantastic opportunity for students to explore careers in healthcare, develop their understanding of the profession, and gain first-hand experience in a university learning environment.

Bright Ideas- yr10 -Broadening Horizons Beyond the Curriculum

Every Monday after school, a group of Year 10 students has enjoyed the opportunity to explore a range of fascinating subjects beyond the standard curriculum. Sessions have covered topics as diverse as philosophy, the relationship between humans and artificial intelligence, how language shapes our identity, and even a mock trial experience.

These enriching opportunities have been made possible thanks to the dedication and generosity of staff who have volunteered their time to plan and lead the sessions. Their enthusiasm and expertise have helped students develop new interests, broaden their perspectives, and engage with ideas they may not otherwise encounter in the classroom.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the staff involved for making this valuable programme such a success.





July 2026

ENDPAPERS



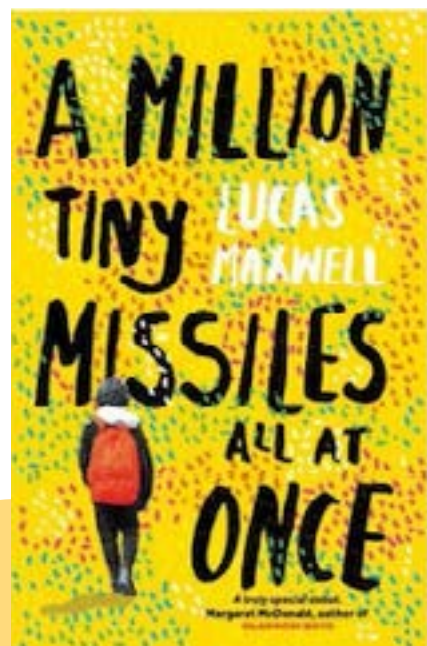
LUCAS MAXWELL AUTHOR VISIT

We were incredibly fortunate to have a visit from Lucas Maxwell last week.

Live author events are a great way to breathe life into books and inspire a lifelong love of reading and writing, so we were absolutely thrilled when Lucas agreed to come down from London for the morning to speak to our students.

Students that topped the Sparx leaderboards in May for both years 7 and 8 were chosen to attend 2 sessions as a reward and were given the opportunity to buy a book and have Lucas sign it at the end of the event.

The students were enthralled by Lucas' tales of growing up in Nova Scotia in the 80s - how his passions and experiences as a neurodiverse child shaped his storytelling and plot for his book.



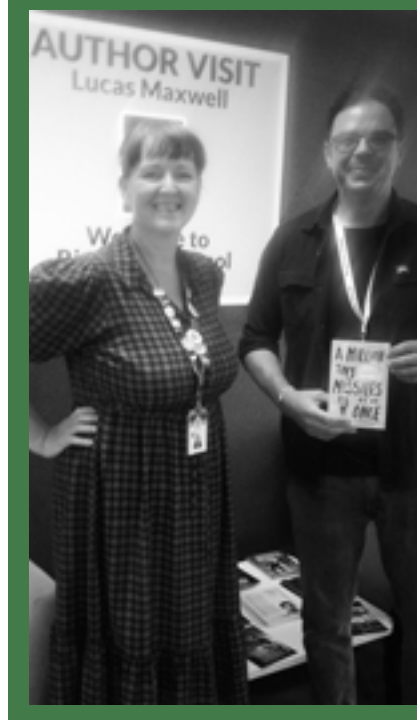
LIBRARY AND LITERACY NEWS

"It is beautiful and brilliant and made my heart ache. Elias's story is one I think everyone should read - his hopes and fears and those of his family are so compelling and will linger in your heart longer after you've finished reading."
- Jennifer Killick

"I'll be thinking about it for a long time. A story that hurts ... but is woven through with love, friendship, kindness and hope."
- Patrice Lawrence (children's laureate)

"An emotional gut punch, beautiful setting, and HD real characters, that goes down a road of real jeopardy."
- Nathanael Ilesore

"I read it in pretty much one sitting...flawless."
- Jasbinder Bilan



HAMPSHIRE BOOK AWARDS 2026

Our group of year 8 judges attended the culmination of the annual Hampshire Book Award recently.

The Hampshire Book Award is an annual award run by the School Library Service for the best paperback fiction title published in the previous year for the 11-14 age group. Participating schools select up to 15 judges from Year 8 to take part.

Our judges set to work immediately after the launch - busily reading up until the morning of the event to get them all finished (one was finished on the journey there!)

The judges had regular catch-ups in the library leading up to the voting to swap over any books, eat biscuits and attempt to discuss the books without any spoilers for those that hadn't finished them yet (a surprisingly tricky task)

The event itself required the students to join with judges from a selection of schools from across the county to discuss their thoughts as a group. It was great to see them confidently discussing their opinions with students that they had never met before, many with very different opinions to their own.

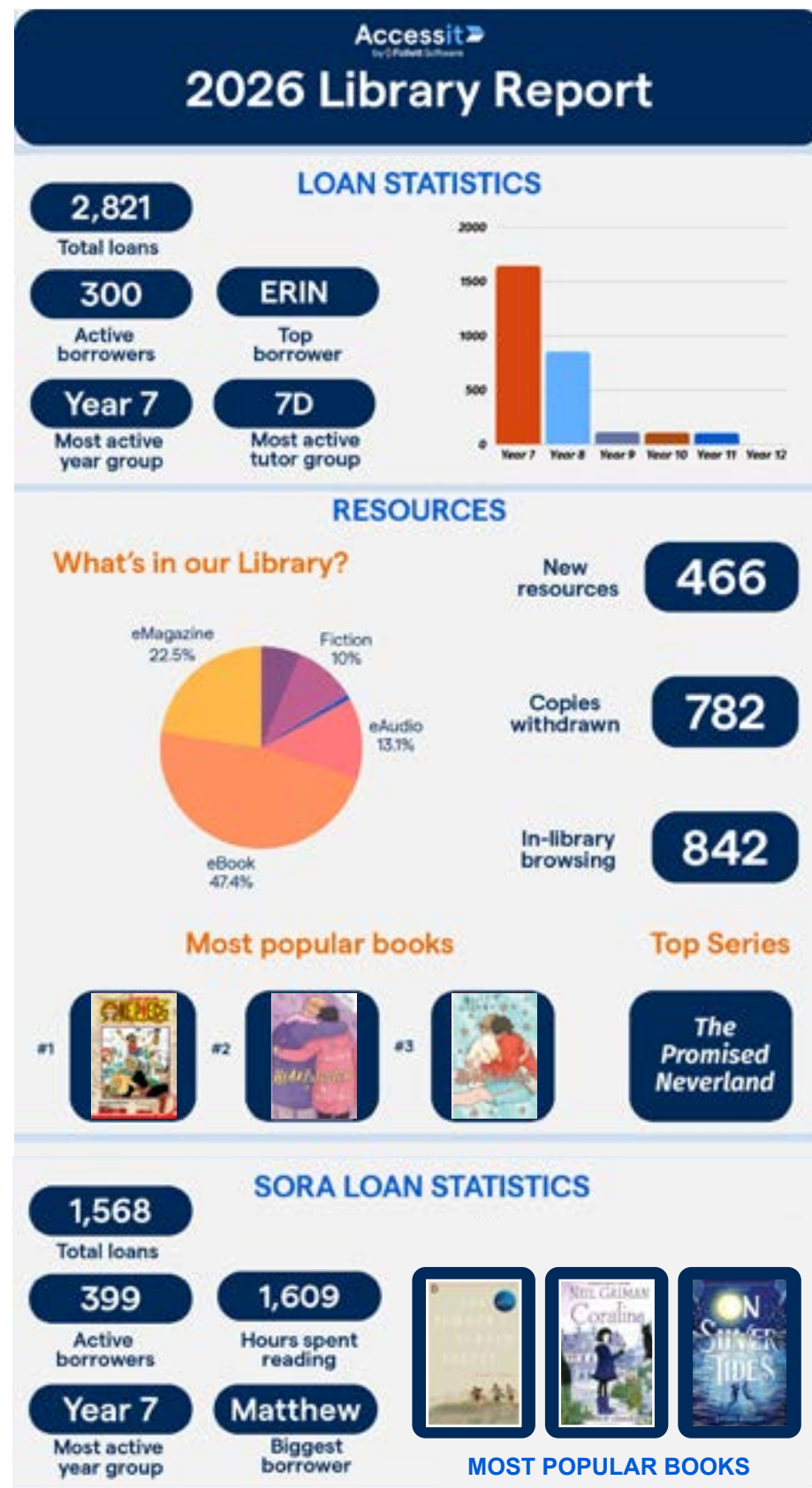
Only the student judges get a vote which makes the award all the more special for the authors.



2026 WINNER



LIBRARY AND LITERACY NEWS | Endpapers



READ WITH PRIDE RELAY 2026

Our library took part in the Read With Pride relay this year on Instagram.

This is a relay of schools posting about book recommendations throughout Pride month.

All recommendations can be found at @readwithprideuk

YEAR 6 ZINES

The library had some year 6 students visit in Activities Week to take part in an additional transition day.

One of the activities was a collaborative zine making session. Students found interesting facts from a selection of our fiction and non-fiction books and made some fantastic zines using a range of collage techniques. Some of the students this year are big Lottie Brooks fans so celebrated this by producing zines about why Lottie Brooks is so great and why they love them so much.



DISPLAYS IN THE LIBRARY



BOOKTOK

RECOMMENDS

JOY (AND HEARTBREAK) FOR HEARTSTOPPER FANS!

2nd July was a big day for fans of the Heartstopper series as the very last installment finally hit the shelves.

3 copies came and went within the space of an hour! We had some very happy readers indeed. All of the Heartstopper graphic novels are available in the library as well as other novels by Alice Oseman.



FACE August 2026 Timetable	
All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long	
£24 each or FREE with School Membership	
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk	
Recordings available for 48 hours	
School Anxiety	3 Aug 10am
Anxiety Explained	3 Aug 7pm
Facing Defiance	4 Aug 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	4 Aug 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	10 Aug 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	10 Aug 7pm
Introduction to OCD	11 Aug 10am
Decreasing Depression	11 Aug 7pm
What is ACT?	17 Aug 10am
Improving Family Communication	17 Aug 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	18 Aug 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	18 Aug 7pm
FREE - Raising Self-Esteem	20 Aug 7-9pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 Aug 10am
Understanding Anger	24 Aug 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	25 Aug 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	25 Aug 7pm

FACE September Timetable	
All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long	
£24 each or FREE with School Membership	
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk	
Recordings available for 48 hours	
Facing Defiance	1 Sep 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	1 Sep 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	7 Sep 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	7 Sep 7pm
Introduction to OCD	8 Sep 10am
Decreasing Depression	8 Sep 7pm
What is ACT?	14 Sep 10am
Improving Family Communication	14 Sep 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	15 Sep 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	15 Sep 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 Sep 10am
Understanding Anger	21 Sep 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	22 Sep 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	22 Sep 7pm
FREE - Masking Awareness	24 Sep 7-8pm
Anxiety Explained	28 Sep 10am
School Anxiety	28 Sep 7pm

Support to help Young People with their Mental Wellbeing during the summer holidays

Guidance, tools, and tips

For tips on supporting young people's mental wellbeing with local offers click [here](#)

For a young person experiencing self-harm or suicidal thoughts click [here](#) and [here](#)

For support for parents click [here](#) and [here](#)

For specific support for autistic individuals click [here](#) and [here](#)

For a great app to support young people's mental wellbeing click [here](#)

Support services

For local crisis support lines and in-person safe havens click [here](#)

There is a dedicated 24/7 telephone support line for young people offered by Papyrus. Find out more [here](#)

Local 24/7 text service is available [here](#)

[Project Iris](#) is a structured 6-week course, using green therapies to provide whole-person mental health support in a safe, judgement free environment.

A local service that can support with loss and bereavement can be found [here](#)

For a local suicide related bereavement service click [here](#)

To chat to a trained local nurse click [here](#)

For a helpline specifically for parents supporting young people click [here](#)

Winchester has a free [wellbeing drop-in centre](#) with the opportunity to talk to fully trained counsellors.

Events (in person)

Information and advice sessions from CAMHS: [Events - CAMHS](#)

Embrace autism and ADHD: [Events - CAMHS](#)

Local online and in person events: [Local Support Groups and Events for Parents/Carers - Winchester](#)



Fundraising event for

**Stronger
Together
Across
Ringwood &
Fordingbridge**

SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES OUT OF HARDSHIP

11th September 2026
Trinity United Church
Ringwood
7.00pm

MAID FOR STARS

an evening of music with

Chamber Maids

Musical Director: Ivy Tan

Lili Tyler

Mezzo-soprano



Tickets: £20 from
www.trybooking.com/uk/GKDM
or on the door



