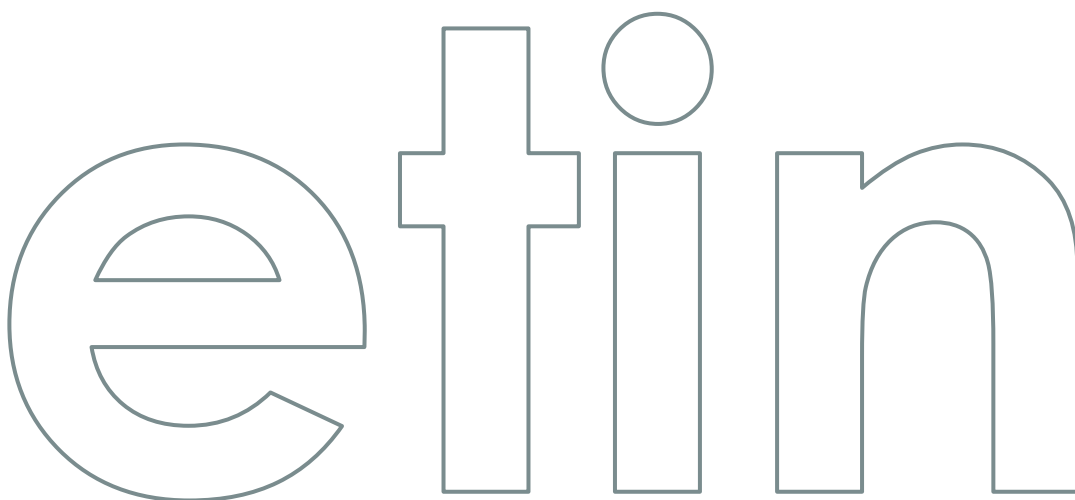




eBulletin

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Grey Court School | 23 May 2025

"...a school where all pupils flourish" - Ofsted 2024



Cover photo: taken during the recent DofE Bronze practice expedition

#KeepInTouch

24-25 Term Dates

School Events

Sports TT

Sport SOCS

Extracurricular TT

Education Fund

ScoPay

Weekly Menus



Grey Court JustGiving QR Code

The Uniform Shop

Thursdays 3:15-4pm

**Contact:
sniss@greycourt.org.uk**



Doffe

Bronze Expedition

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition

It's that time of the year again when the bravest of the brave in Year 9 risk not life and limb, but 2 days without their phones, while hiking 18 miles with an ascent of 1155 ft and everything they need for the weekend on their backs. It is also that time of year when the bravest of the brave from our teaching and support staff risk their patience and general mental equilibrium to take the current Bronze cohort of 100 13-14 year olds away to do it... twice! It is also 100% my favourite bit of the year.

Towards the end of last academic year we welcomed the absolutely smashing Ms Farrugia, from IT, as a permanent member of the Grey Court DofE staff team, after first volunteering on our 2024 Bronze Practise Expedition. Since so many of last year's Bronze cohort of 90+ students continued and progressed to Silver this year, we now have the largest number of students participating in both Bronze and Silver DofE at Grey Court since the school began offering the experience to students, by a long shot, and Ms Farrugia has been totally indispensable in making this possible.

Along with our committed Silver DofE leader Mr Nair, who I should emphasise has not missed one Silver or Bronze expedition at all since I started doing this, we were also very privileged to have a whole slew of adventurous and enthusiastic staff members volunteer their own time and experience two weekends ago, making this the best expedition myself and Ms Mannion have been able to provide so far.

So, a massive thank you to:

- **Ms Farrugia**, our backbone, our ground control, and our calm word of reason.
- **Mr Nair**, our chef, our chauffeur (and our chSouth African).
- **Ms Gibbons**, consistent, considerate and most of all, really great fun.
- **Mr Villano**, a really helpful and supportive team member who just got stuck in all weekend from the very moment he joined us at the campsite.
- **Mr Hibbitt**, a man of many hidden talents and a joy to finally get to know properly and spend time with.
- **Mr McCormick**, our tour de force and Tour de France, who travelled to, from and around the Surrey Hills on his bicycle for us.
- **Mr Kempton, Ms Kellett, and Ms Katoka**, who all walked the entire route supporting groups of students (and enjoyed doing it).

What a great bunch of staff we have!

Seeing the students laugh and cheer throughout the video I made of the weekend, which I showed in the first session back, and seeing how proud of themselves they were, is exactly why we do this. These expeditions are one of the few things that *all of them* will never forget from their time here at Grey Court.

They pushed through physical exhaustion, moments of mental weakness and doubts, intragroup politics and dynamics, tears of pain, tears of frustration, tears of joy, me shouting at some of them, then me apologising for shouting at some of them and after all of that (and very likely the most insufferable moment of all), me singing and playing a song about a giraffe on the ukulele.

His name is Nigel btw.

The beauty and importance of this first expedition cannot be overstated, so I'll pass you over to those who can state it the best: the marvellous, tenacious and strong people, who deserve to be just as proud of themselves as they made myself and Ms Mannion proud of them all on their expedition.

- Mr Allchurch - Bronze DofE Leader

A huge well done from me to everyone who participated in the practice expedition, what a delightful and entertaining weekend we all had. A massive thank you to our brilliant volunteers, you all made the weekend wonderful and created a sense of teamwork that I haven't seen before (apart from Ms Moran's epic ski trips where team work makes the dream work).

The students clearly learnt a lot from the experience and will have taken on valuable lessons to help equip them well for the assessed expedition at the end of June.

The resilience and determination, the team work and the positive attitude of everyone was impressive and a testament to our school ethos and the hard work put in by all.

Each group had a fantastic time, with different experiences had by all, one memorable moment for one being chased by cows across a field that apparently seemed endless to run across (according to the person in question).

The talent show was phenomenal with the students all becoming sheep and performing their own renditions of the Pyramid Act. We also got a student teacher duet, but the singing was so beautiful that I have forgotten what they sang! Sorry! Next expedition we will be entertaining ourselves with a bonfire and marshmallow toasting in a forest which always reminds me of Winnie the Pooh and puts a little smile on my face.

Overall the weekend was great with the sun shining, happy faces and a positive vibe - perfect for a weekend in the countryside.

- Ms Mannion

This was my first Duke of Edinburgh trip at Grey Court and I was very impressed with the amount of energy our Year 9s had. They walked for 6 hours on Saturday before playing football for 4 hours. Most people would be shattered after that. But not our Year 9s, they were up bright and early at 5am on Sunday morning screaming and shouting ready to go again. If they can manage to get up on a Sunday morning that early, it's amazing anyone is ever late to school.

- **Mr McCormick**

Attending Duke of Edinburgh with this current cohort of Year 9's was such a memorable and enjoyable experience. Since joining the school this year, I've been looking forward to attending this practice expedition and it didn't let me down as it brought back my own sweet memories of completing Duke of Edinburgh (I completed Gold 😊)! I remember when I was doing my Bronze expeditions and being so jealous of the teachers with the BBQ's and the air mattresses - I must say I revelled with the roles now being reversed.

All pupils were in great form and it was such a delight to get to know them in a different manner. While their enthusiasm might've faltered at times, their energy or their teamwork did not and for that I commend them.

I shan't name names but to the person whose rucksack I carried - you owe me one!

- **Ms Kellett**

From the perspective of a parent

Research shows that even just 15 minutes a day in nature is enough to boost your mood, concentration and physical health. So I was delighted when the kids told me they wanted to do the Duke of Edinburgh award which involves two days and one night in the great outdoors!

When I dropped them off one sunny Saturday morning (after an evening of packing and unpacking their huge rucksacks in order to try and get in more sweets) I wondered how on earth they would survive on their own, out in the wild. They seemed so grown up heading off into the horizon with their huge rucksacks on their backs. The kids had always loved Michael Rosen's *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* when they were little and now, aged 14, they were about to participate in a big adventure of their very own! Thankfully it was a lovely warm weekend so there would be no (squelch, squerch) mud to deal with and I wondered if they would see any bears!

[Note from Mr Allchurch - they did!]



The following afternoon, as I waited anxiously with all the other D of E parents at Dorking Station, I could see groups of teenage backpackers arrive at the meeting point. Many were limping but everyone had smiles on their faces. Finally, my two appeared and after checking in and collecting their phones I bundled them into the car for the drive home.

"How was it?," I asked when we set off.

"Mum, I'm never doing that again!"

Both kids looked weary and exhausted (and were complaining about sore feet and sore muscles) but after a packed lunch in the car (which I brought along suspecting they would be hungry) they started to come round and the stories began to unfold...

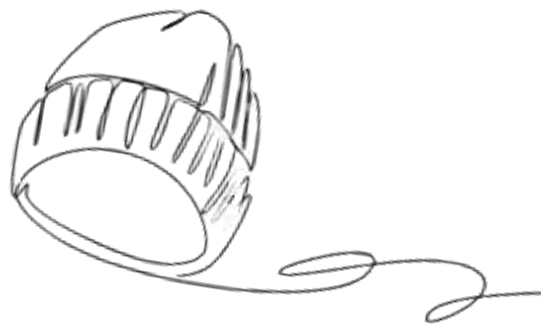
The highlights of the trip included meeting lots of friendly dogs on Box Hill, being accompanied by a helpful teacher for part of the route, singing various songs to get them through the long walk (the Mandalorian theme tune came in useful here), seeing little baby lambs frolicking in the fields, walking alongside some really tall trees at the edge of a big dark forest (stumble, trip, stumble trip!) wading through a huge meadow with long wavy grass (swishy, swashy!) and then... One shiny wet nose, two big furry ears... it was – a herd of cows, who curiously followed the group's progress across a field with their big googly eyes!

Once we got home (and after a big meal and some rest) more stories were shared about the challenges of making camp and setting up their tents. The best way to get comfortable in a sleeping bag was discussed at length (an inflatable mattress would have helped, apparently). The joy of an impromptu football match before dinner was recounted. The trials and tribulations of cooking breakfast and dinner outdoors were relayed. Thank goodness for good old porridge (with lashings of honey!).

After a proper night's rest the discussions continued the next morning on the way to school. Now they were planning ahead for next time. They would bring more food, woolly hats and warmer PJs for the cold night outdoors. Inflatable sleeping mats. Sandals to wear at camp (a chance to take off the walking boots). And finally, believe it or not, less sweets because 'if you have too many sweets it is always followed by a crash!'

So the D of E has taught my kids resilience, an array of planning skills, an appreciation for the simplicity of porridge and the shrewd knowledge that too many sweets leads to a crash.

- Ms Duffy



From the perspective of a year 9 DofE student

To anyone in year 7 or 8, DofE is probably the most fun thing you and your friends can do together.

You set off on a long 6 hour journey, which may seem like a lot, but trust me if you find a way to occupy your time you feel like you will be at the campsite in like 2 minutes.

At the campsite it's extremely fun as well. If someone brings a tiny football for example, then everyone just plays a massive match which is extremely funny, even the teachers join in as well. Of course there has to be one negative to the trip, and that is the second day as you can barely get any sleep, it's so cold in the night. However the best feeling is when you finish day 2 and you're finally done with the expedition.



Calling all of our Year 8 Intrepid Explorers

Mr Allchurch and Ms Mannion, your fearless Bronze DofE leaders, will be delivering an assembly to your year group on **Wednesday 2 July**. We will share the link to the application form with you then.

Places are limited and get taken fast - even with over 100 students this year, there were still quite a few on the waiting list that we weren't able to accommodate.

You will need to be detailed with your application and as places are limited you may want to start considering:

- Why do you want to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?
- What makes you a good candidate for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?
- What clubs/extracurricular activities, volunteering or responsibilities do you currently take part in within and outside school?
- What activities **might** you want to do for your volunteering, skills (it has to be a new skill) and physical activities?
- Some ideas can be found here: <https://www.dofe.org/do/sections/>

Parents and carers: for students to be able to get past the first page of the application form, you will need to download, print, complete and then upload a scan or quality photo of the medical form. It needs to be in this format so we can print and fit it in the trip packs for the expeditions. We will have some blank forms printed ready for anyone who cannot print it at home easily.





DOFE

The Teams

Team Chadaamp



Team Grimace



Paw Patrol



Quality Chicken



Seven Man Tent



The Al-Rawi Land



Twinkle Toes



The Brits



The Five Musketeers



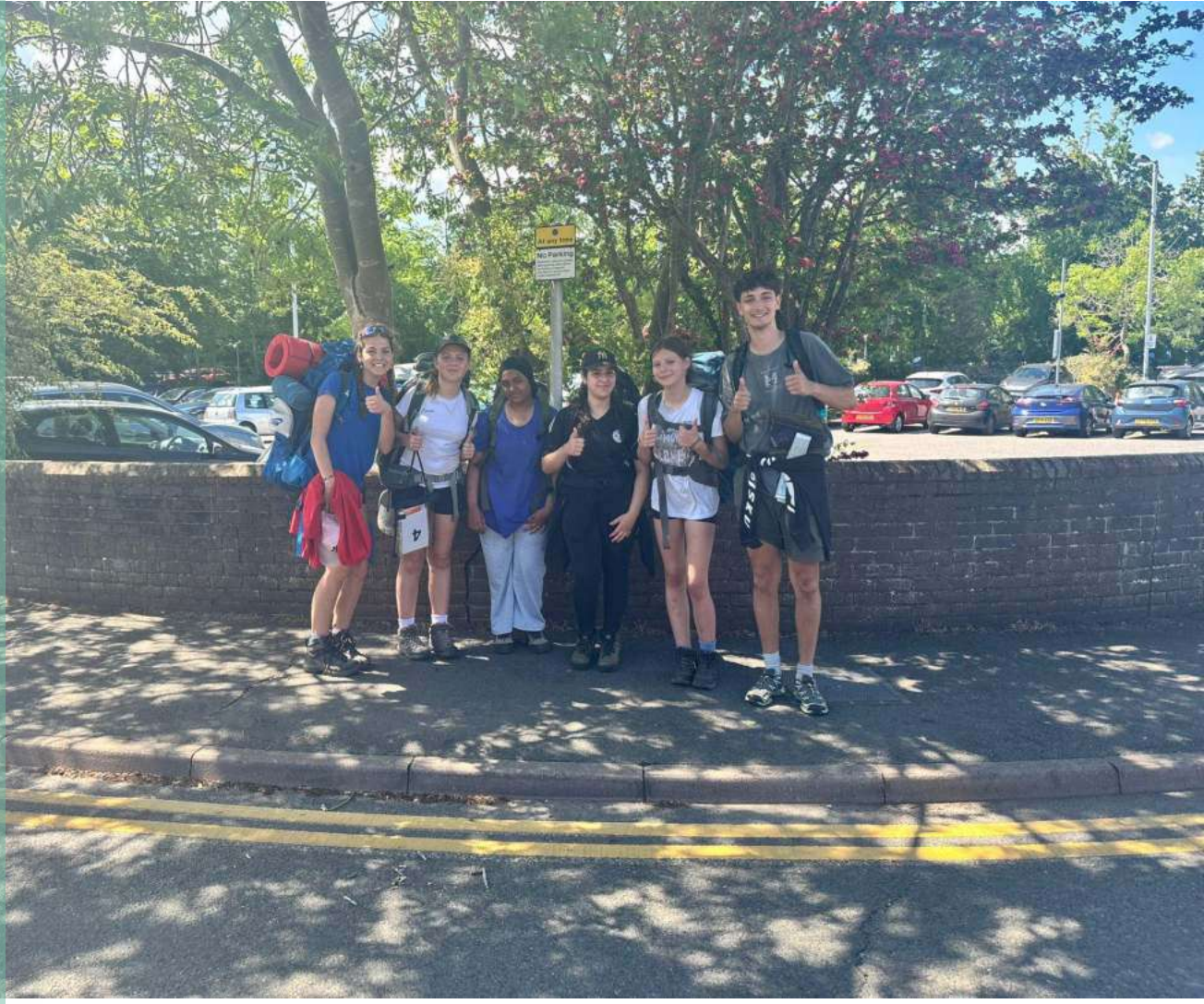
The Four Puppeteers



The Kool Kiwis



The Monkeys



The Punchy Paprika Pirates





DofE

Campsite









Checkpoints











DEFE
Q&A

Q&A with the kids

What was the hardest thing?

"The uphill and bag weight were the two hardest things"

"It was really difficult cooking on a trangea because the heat isn't high enough"

"Getting back on track after getting lost"

"Leaving my parents at the station"

"Carrying the bag"

"The hardest thing was hiking on the second day"

"The hardest things was probably the compass directions"

"Probably standing up with the bags after sitting down for a while, and getting out of the woods after being lost for multiple hours"

"Finding the correct route after getting lost"

"Trying not to shout at my group"

"The second day and my feet hurting"

"The hardest thing was waking up early"

"When we went in a big loop all the way back to a checkpoint we had already been at twenty minutes before, or when we say mountain bikers to past because I just wanted to get on their bikes and make them carry my bag"

"Sleeping"

What was the easiest thing?

"Walking"

"Carrying my backpack"

"Making food and putting up the tents"

"The journey"

"Working with my friends and team mates"

"The easiest thing to was setting up the tent and cooking"

"Eating all the food me and my group brought, there was no shortage of wanting snacks"

"The last checkpoint – day 2"

"Singing the whole time and running when we saw checkpoints, and the first 5k"

"Cooking dinner"

What made you laugh the most?

"Campsite"

"Dayan. He was very funny"

"The talent show and being with my friends"

"When we were playing football with everyone"

"Singing while walking up hill"

"The talent show made me laugh the most"

"The talent show made me laugh the most and us being the first group there and laughing when Miss Mannion was on the phone talking to the people who got lost"

"My group's kazoo orchestra, we actually got pretty good at it!"

"Isaac"

"My friends and the memories we made"

"When we nearly got chased by cows"



What surprised you the most?

"Actually making it to the campsite and back"

"How helpful total strangers were"

"It was really nice to be able to go without my phone and have a good times with my friends"

"How it wasn't as hard and tiring as I thought"

"How pretty the walk was"

"I was surprised by how cold and uncomfortable it was at night"

"The thing that surprised me the most was actually teachers are funny people, they actually hilarious, not just strict teachers who give you detentions or call backs"

"How many bugs there were! I saw tons of them that I had never seen before"

"How teamwork makes everything easier"

"Mr Hibbitt playing football"

"How hard it actually was"

"That I could carry my backpack all the way"

"How cold it was at night"

What did you learn about yourself?

"I can do long walks and don't like uphill"

"I don't like hiking"

"I like hiking"

"I am more capable than I once thought"

"I learnt that I need to improve my map reading skills"

"I learnt how to camp in real life and how to manage a day without my phone"

"I learnt that I can actually keep going, even when I am absolutely exhausted"

"Great at map reading"

"I can walk pretty far in a decent time"

"That I am stronger than I thought"

"I am actually not too bad at map reading"

"I can walk through pain and still have fun"

"I can walk more than three hours!"

What was something that made you keep going?

"The destination"

"Knowing that I could go home after day two"

"My team have good spirit"

"Secretly calling my mum with the phone they gave me"

"Knowing how much I would regret it"

"I kept going because I knew I would hopefully eventually get home and sleep"

"The singing of me and my group keep me going because we were singing so loud and it was so fun"

"The thought of running water, beds, and a home-cooked meal"

"Friends"

"Getting home and having a bath"

"My friends resilience"

"Food"

"The fact that we didn't want to be the last group"

"The thought of going home"



What was the nicest thing someone did for you?

"Gave me slides"

"Pavlos giving me a breakfast pancake"

"Local people being friendly in general"

"Someone helped carry some of my stuff"

"Letting me have on of their protein bars"

"Someone helped me read the map"

"When the teachers tightened my rucksack to make it much better and the water they provided"

"Mila really helped me when I was giving up on the first day, I really appreciated her enthusiasm"

"Sharing snacks"

"My group didn't take breaks often, only once a checkpoint"

"My group slowed down and stayed with me when I struggled"

"The nicest thing that somebody did for me was when Ruzgar made my group breakfast"

"We went past an elderly couple and they were very kind, they said good morning and asked us what we were doing."

What do you wish you brought with you?

"Brought slides"

"Rights size walking boots"

"More clothes"

"More water"

"More food"

"A more comfortable sleeping mat and an extra pair of shorts"

"My water gun with me because it was so hot"

"Thicker pyjamas, it gets really cold at night!"

"A pillow"

"Another water bottle"

"More blister plasters"

"Another pair of shorts"

"I wish I had a hoverboard2"

"Crocs"

What do you wish you had left at home?

"Tent"

"Waterproof trousers and jacket"

"Nothing"

"A portable charger"

"Coat and extra trousers"

"Waterproof bag and maybe some clothing"

"Some food – we had too much"

"Trousers, fleece, and coat – it was boiling"



How was two days without your phone?

"Actually not too bad with all the things to look at and talk about and the campsite was really fun"

"Boring"

"Fun"

"Stress-free"

"I barely even noticed"

"Two days without my phone really wasn't that bad to be honest"

"It was actually not that bad without my phone for two days"

"Actually not that bad, I barely even thought about it, the only thing I missed was how easy Google maps is to use!"

"I had more time to notice things around me"

"It was good, I really didn't care"

"Fine. I wasn't too affected"

"Two days without my phone was fine, I didn't miss it"

"Easier than I thought. I forgot it existed and I didn't miss it. The Nokia was cool"

"Easy!"

What will you remember in 20 years?

"The campsite and getting lost for three hours"

"Everything hurting"

"The nature being nice and being there with my friends"

"The fun we had"

"The talent show"

"Singing for pretty much the whole hike"

"The sprinting race we did when we saw another group walking towards us because it was like the show on BBC 'Race across the World' – lol.

"Probably all the laughs I had with my group"

"How the locals are so nice"

"My group walking and having a chat"

"When we stopped after 10 minutes of walking and we went on the zipwire as our first break"

"The portaloos"

"Pain"

What do you love about Miss Mannion

"Her ability to do a hand stand"

"She is super-energetic and she is also really understanding and nice"

"Funny and amazing"

"Her enthusiasm for the talent show"

"I love when Miss Mannion waved at all of us when we arrived at the campsite, and her hilarious jokes"

"Her positivity, especially after we were calling her for the sixth time"

"Giving us two wrong directions 😊"

"Her normal voice – 129 decibels (would hate to hear her shout!)"

"She was so supportive when we got to the camp site"



Mr Kempton and Ms Mannion



Ms Gibbons, Ms Kellett, Mr Kempton

What do you love about Mr Allchurch?

"Personality"

"He's always upbeat"

"He wore a cool hat and was funny"

"Kind and fun to be with"

"His choice in hats"

"I loved when Mr Allchurch played the ukulele before we set off to our first checkpoint"

"His helpfulness"

"Shouting at people for walking inside a shooting range zone"

"His jokes"

"He was fun at the talent show"

"His cool bus thing where he sleeps on top, and the song he sung us when we left on the second day"

Why do you now think Mr Nair is cooler than you thought before?

"He gave me some water"

"He was already cool before the expedition"

"He drove a cool van"

"Because he is the GOAT – when he isn't in school"

"Apparently he has a great car radio – even though we didn't get to hear it"

"Mr Nair was cool before – as always"

"He was pretty supportive at the checkpoints"

"He chased after us because our tracker was off and we didn't realise until we had walked quite far away. And although he had a huge minibus, he didn't take our rubbish 😊"

What was the best thing about having Mr Kempton walk with you?

"He helped a lot with our team spirit and was fun to talk to"

"He didn't walk with me, but playing football with him at camp was so fun"

"He didn't walk with me, but is a good football player!"

"He was funny and would talk to us!"

"We didn't get lost!"

What was the best thing about having Ms Kellett walk with you?

"She helped our group a lot and was really considerate and nice"

"I loved having Ms Kellett walking with us on the second day. We were singing along to her favourite Taylor Swift songs and she told us about her travel around the world experience which was ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!"

"She encouraged us at the last checkpoint"

"She was supportive and taught us things"

"Our great chats"

What was the best thing about having Ms Katoka walk with you?

"She helped our group get really determined to get to the next checkpoint"

"She was really good at keeping our spirits up"

"She was really funny and nice, and really helped with the map"

"She would make jokes"



Mr Nair



Mr Kempton and Ms Kellett

What was the best thing about having Mr Hibbitt walk with you?

"He was helpful when our map was outdated"

"He was great! We love Mr Hibbitt"

"He was really friendly and told us lots of cool facts"

"He played football – he's really good, and was funny"

"He gave us grapes at a checkpoint"

What was the best thing about having Ms Gibbons there last weekend?

"Giving me sun cream and telling us we went completely the wrong way"

"She was very nice and gave our group lots of water"

"She could always find the hammer"

"The best thing about having Miss Gibbons with us, was getting to know her. It was actually really nice to talk to her. And me and my friends made up a song about her calling her Miss G"

"We had a good chat at checkpoint 3 on Sunday"

"She's so ironic and funny. She should be a comedian"

What was the best thing about having Mr Villano there last weekend?

"He was really positive"

"He is cool"

"He kept us in line"

What was the best thing about having Mr McCormick there last weekend?

"He helped me set up the tent"

"He tried his best to give us the right directions"

"Helping us to know where we were going"

"He was so funny because he kept arguing with one of my friends..."

"He taught us how to use the map properly"

"He rode his bike to the toilets... and told us how an ice pack worked"

Which teacher surprised you the most?

"Ms Mannion doing a handstand"

"Mr Hibbitt – we didn't think he'd go on a DofE expedition"

"Miss Mannion"

"I think Miss Gibbons surprised me the most probably because I don't really know her, but she is such a funny person"

"Ms Katoka"

"Mr Hibbitt"

"Me Kempton"

"Miss Gibbons"

"Mr Hibbitt – I thought he'd be good at this sort of thing but he got like 4 groups lost"



Mr Villano at the campsite



Ms Katoka

Which people (or person) do you want to thank the most and why?

"Sean for the sandals, Dhruv for holding my water, Mr Allchurch and Ms Mannion for setting up DofE and Ms Gibbons for helping me with the backpack"

"My group. I would not have finished without them"

"Ms Mannion because by doing the little things she helped our group's spirit a lot and was really fun to be around"

"Mr Allchurch for comforting me when I was extremely stressed out the people in our group getting angry with each other"

"My group – for making it fun"

"I want to thank all the teachers who came and supported us"

"I would like to thank all the teachers that waited at the checkpoints and provided water for me because without you guys, I wouldn't have been able to complete my expedition."

"My group – thanks for doing it with me, guys!"

"Our group because they brought us all joy"

"Layla because she really helped me when I was hurt, and Eliza because she took over the map and lead us the right way – every time"

"I want to thank Miss Kellett the most for walking when Josie sprained her ankle"

"My mum for helping me prepare and the teachers for helping me do it"

What are you looking forward to the most about the next expedition?

"Campsite"

"I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the campsite and being with friends"

"More fun memories that I am going to create"

"Being more prepared for the challenge"

"I'm looking forward to the next expedition because It's going to be really hot and I know what I can do better next time"

"I look forward to more fun with my group and teachers and maybe we should have a karaoke at night instead of a talent show"

"Having fun with my friends"

"Making more memories with my friends"

"Looking forward to hanging out with my friends at the campsite"

"Being finished with DofE, and proud that I did it"

What should the current year 8s do for DofE next year?

"Prepare well for it"

"It's a really fun experience and they'll surprise themselves with how capable they are and how they achieve things"

"For the memories, the experience. It's the most fun thing you can do in year 9"

"If you want to step out of your comfort zone and make your next few years of school – you will never forget DofE"

"The current year 8s should do DofE because it's a really good experience and it's lot of fun to do with your friends"

"The current year 8s should do Bronze DofE because it is an incredible time to spend with your friends and to get to know the teachers more. And, also, it's a skill that people need to know because being able to read a map is vitally important"

"Because it's quite literally a life changing experience. It opens u your world to so many new things you have never done before or thought of doing. It introduces you to new people and gives you an amazing sense of achievement when you are completing it"

"It's a nice experience!"

What should the current year 8s do to prepare for DofE next year? (cntd)

"It's a great time. You have a break from your phone and it proves that you are not lazy"

"Because it's such an amazing thing to do with your friends"

"The current year 8s should do Bronze DofE because you get a real sense of achievement and do things that you have never done before"

"Because you realise how strong your body is and how, with friends, you can literally walk forever"

"If they like walking and blisters, and sleeping on the floor – that's good!"



Mr McCormick



Anglo-German cultural festival

Saturday 7 June 2025, 12pm-4pm

Grey Court School, Ham TW10 7HN

via Sandy Lane entrance

Grey Court School & Deutsche Schule London
celebrate the re-affirmation of the twinning of
Richmond with Konstanz.

live music, entertainment, sport, food & drink



Alotment Club

Plant Sale

Students Flourish at their Sell-Out Allotment Club plant sale



The Ham United Group's annual Plant Sale brought Ham Library Gardens to life on Saturday 17 May, with an array of stalls offering a wide variety of greenery and gardening delights to the local community. For the first time, students from our Tuesday lunchtime Allotment Club were invited to take part, running their very own stall alongside experienced growers and community volunteers.

Allotment Club students sold a vibrant and varied selection of plants, all grown, potted, and nurtured themselves over recent months. From fragrant mint and burgeoning raspberry canes to primroses and sun loving strawberry plants, their carefully cultivated offerings drew plenty of attention and in less than two hours, every single one had been snapped up. Every plant on sale was a product of patience, persistence, and care, grown from seed or cutting by students who have committed their Tuesday lunchtimes to learning and gardening through every season. On the day of the sale, they brought those efforts full circle: setting up their stall, welcoming customers, sharing stories of their growing journey, and answering questions with impressive knowledge and enthusiasm.

As **Alexander Engelbrecht Year 9** explained, "Patience is important when selling and to keep persevering until everything is bought." That perseverance clearly paid off.

Amity Reader Year 7 discovered that communication was key to connecting with customers. "My best tip for selling was to ask customers what they were looking for and to explain what the plant would look like when planted with advice on the right growing conditions" she shared an approach that helped spark curiosity among visitors to the stall.

Malachi Stevens Year 7 particularly valued the chance to connect with new people. "I enjoyed talking to people I don't usually talk to about the plants we grow and the activities I like doing on the allotment," he said. "I learnt that good prices are important and making sure the plants are useful for people." A very big congratulations to **Malachi Stevens, Alexander Engelbrecht, Charlie Douglas, Amity Reader, Talya Farid, Herbie Hutton, Toni Lois Arts, Adrian Chan, Ezra Chapman, Asier Coa Meneses, and Lucas Mitache** for all their impressive selling efforts.

Their hard work paid off. Not only did the stall sell out in record time, but it also raised an impressive **£330** – all of which will go straight back into the allotment, funding seeds, tools, and future projects. We are especially grateful for the dedicated support of Ham United Group volunteers **Helen Erhardt, Irene Hughes, Richard Newman, Anne Marie Catterall, and Burcu Polat**, whose guidance and encouragement make this initiative possible.

We were also delighted to welcome the Mayor of Richmond, **Penny Frost**, who spoke with students to hear first-hand how the allotment has become a space not just for growing plants, but for building teamwork, calm, and a sense of pride during the busy school week.



Thank you to everyone who visited the stall and bought a plant. Your support helps Allotment Club students cultivate not only thriving plants to enhance the school grounds, but also their curiosity, resilience, and community spirit.

- Miss Munday









NEWS

KS3+KS4





Young Makers Market

Wallis McKinley

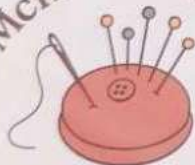
Congratulations to Wallis McKinley in 7 Maple, who had her own stall at the Young Makers Market at Morden Hall Park on Sunday. She made and sold her own products, including bags, pin cushions, toy rabbits and purses. The Textiles department is extremely impressed with her effort and the quality of her products.

Well done, Wallis!

Year 7



McKinley Makes



SEWING & PINCUSHIONS



Year 8

Ms Saccheri

This week, Mr Lunniss led our assembly with a focus on Sparx Maths, encouraging students to stay consistent with their independent learning.

He also celebrated those who achieved Gold in the UK Maths Challenge, giving special recognition to the students who have progressed to the next round- an outstanding accomplishment that the whole year group can be proud of! Congratulations to Emma G, who topped the achievement points leader board this week - fantastic effort and well deserved.

We hope Year 8 have a safe, restful half term, and we're looking forward to all the exciting plans in store for our final term of the year.

Year 9

Ms Sutcliffe

As we approach the well-earned half term break, I want to take a moment to congratulate the hard working students of Year 9 on a fantastic half term. A special mention goes to our incredible Duke of Edinburgh participants who showed great determination and teamwork on their expedition - well done!

Congratulations also to our Sparx winners for their outstanding effort and consistency. I'd like to give a particular shoutout to Athena (31 conduct points), Paloma (29), and Ella L (28) for their exceptional behaviour and contribution to our school community.

Have a restful and enjoyable half term - you've earned it!



Mandarin Trip

28 Mandarin students from Year 9 and 10 got the chance to show off their Chinese-language prowess, and (slightly rosey) chopsticks skills, with a trip to Chinatown on Wednesday. After working up an appetite with a guided walking tour of Gerrard Street and surrounding lanes, via one or two bubble tea shops en route, our hungry learners dived into a family-style Chinese banquet at Golden Phoenix restaurant. Roast duck, pork belly, dry-fried green beans and numerous other sumptuous southern Chinese dishes were washed down with bottomless cups of fragrant jasmine tea. 太好吃了！

Big thanks to the volunteers at [Chinatown Collective](#), and to Miss Zhu and Mr Johnson, for helping make the trip happen.

Mr McCrohan

Year 10

Ms Woods

This week, students attended a comprehensive assembly all about careers, which offered valuable insights into the wide range of opportunities available after the age of 16. From traditional academic pathways to vocational training, apprenticeships, and emerging career sectors, the session aimed to help students start thinking seriously about their future options and the steps they can take now to prepare. It was an inspiring and informative event that encouraged students to consider their individual strengths and aspirations when planning their next move. A big thank you to Miss Corrighan and the Year 12 panel.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who are generously giving their time to support our upcoming Record of Achievement event. This celebration is a significant milestone in our school calendar, and it simply wouldn't be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers.

As we head into the break, we encourage students to take some time to rest and recharge—but don't forget to make use of the revision booklet, available via email and Google Classroom, to help prepare for the upcoming Year 10 end-of-year exams. A balanced approach to rest and revision will ensure you return confident and ready for the challenges ahead.

Year 11

Mr Khan

Well done to all of Year 11 for completing another week of examinations.

Please take some time over the half-term break to rest and recharge. In addition, we encourage you to make use of the revision techniques you have been taught to create a structured plan, ensuring that you are able to balance rest with effective preparation.

In the first week back after half-term, the following exams are scheduled:

- Italian
- Urdu
- Statistics
- Arabic
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Polish
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- History
- French
- Graphics
- English Language
- Geography

We wish you a restful break and continued success in your upcoming exams.



This week in
Science



Digging Deeper

Why Metal Extraction Really Matters

Mr Gundry

This is the first in a new weekly series of texts on the point of learning the chemistry curriculum. Chemistry isn't just for exams, but has underpinned many of our great discoveries and advances as a species.

When you study metal extraction at KS3 and GCSE, it can feel like a set of rules to memorise: which metals are found in their 'native state', which are extracted using carbon, which need electrolysis, and how to remember the reactivity series. But this topic goes far beyond exam questions. It is one of the most important parts of chemistry in the real world; from the past, to the present, and into your future.

Metals are rarely found in their pure form in the Earth, only a handful of metals can be found this way (e.g. gold). Most metals are usually part of rocks called **ores**, where the metal is in a chemical compound with other elements, often oxygen or sulphur. To extract the useful metal, we need to break these chemical bonds. Whether this is done with heat, carbon, or electricity depends on how reactive the metal is.

Less reactive metals, such as iron, can be extracted by **chemical reduction**. This means heating the metal ore with carbon, which removes the oxygen. But for more reactive metals, like aluminium, this method does not work because the metal's bond to oxygen is too stable. So we have to use **electrolysis**, a process that uses electricity to split the compound apart. This is much more expensive and energy-intensive.

In the past, these methods shaped entire eras. The **Bronze Age** was named after bronze, a mixture of copper and tin. This is called an **alloy**, which is a blend of a metal with other elements to improve its properties. Bronze was tough and resistant to corrosion. Later came the **Iron Age**, when people began heating iron ore with charcoal to make a form of crude steel. Initially bronze tools and weapons were superior, but it was much easier and cheaper to make iron in large amounts, which made it incredibly useful for tools, weapons and construction.

Today, metal extraction still underpins modern life. Aluminium is used in aircraft, lithium in batteries, and rare metals in mobile phones and green technologies. But it comes at a cost. To be worth extracting, ores must be **economically viable** — that means there needs to be enough metal in the rock to make it worth the energy and expense. These are called **high-grade ores**.

The problem is, we are starting to run out of them.

To keep up with demand and protect the planet, scientists are developing new, greener extraction methods. **Bioleaching** uses bacteria to extract metals from low-grade ores (ores with little worthwhile metal), while **phytoextraction** uses plants to absorb metals through their roots. These can be burned to collect the metals from their ash. Both methods are slower but much more sustainable and less damaging to the environment.

So when you learn about ore extraction, remember: this is not just about how to get metal out of rock. It is about how we balance science, economics, and ethics. Understanding these processes helps us think about the kind of future we want — one where chemistry can power progress without costing the Earth.



KS3 - 5

Open to All Students!

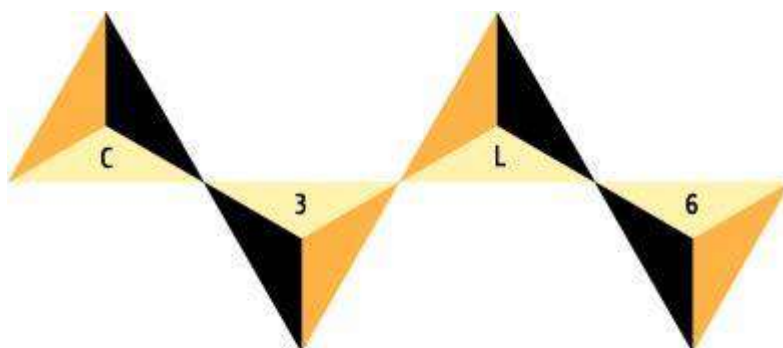
We're excited to announce that our **Year 12 A level chemistry students will be sitting the prestigious Cambridge Chemistry Challenge this June** – a national competition created by the **University of Cambridge** to stretch and inspire the most curious young chemists.

To support this, we're encouraging *all students* – from Key Stage 3 through to Key Stage 5 – to try the **optional Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Pack**. It's packed with tough, research-based puzzles designed to test your thinking and deepen your understanding of chemistry.

While some of the questions are very challenging (even for older students), everyone is welcome to have a go. It's a great opportunity to:

- Save your progress by signing up
- Earn a certificate from the University of Cambridge team
- Strengthen your chemistry knowledge, independent thinking, and academic curiosity

This is ideal preparation for those in Year 12 preparing for the formal challenge in June, but also a brilliant enrichment activity for anyone interested in chemistry, science degrees, or competitive STEM pathways.



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th



Explore Chemistry in Space – Join the Salters' Chemistry Club!

Curious about what stars are made of? How rockets work? Or where the elements in your body came from?

This **May**, the Salters' Chemistry Club is all about **SPACE**:

- Week 1: Stars
- Week 2: Moons
- Week 3: Rocket Propulsion
- Week 4: Elements in Space

Each challenge will stretch your thinking, build your research skills, and open your eyes to how chemistry shapes the universe. You don't need to be an expert – just bring your curiosity.

You can also explore **previous themes** like:

- **Space Exploration** and Nebulae (April)
- **Medicine** – from genetic editing to imaging techniques (March)

Every task helps you:

- Learn real science beyond the classroom
- Strengthen your understanding of key chemistry ideas
- See how chemistry links to the world around you

We're currently ranked 7th in the entire UK out of **over 900 schools** thanks to you! That's out of nearly **8,000 students** nationwide. This is a huge achievement, and it's powered by students who are choosing to learn more, challenge themselves, and explore the world through science.

Let's keep learning, exploring, and showing the country what our students are capable of.

Log in, pick a challenge, and dive into something new today. <https://www.salterschemistryclub.co.uk/>



A Place in the Bend of a River - *A Secret History of Ham*

Did you know that the river Thames didn't always flow through Ham?
Do you know who were the first people to settle here and how they got here?
Do you know how Ham got its name ?

The students at our school have been collaborating with many local partners to create "A Place in the bend of a River, (A Secret History of Ham), a multi-media promenade storytelling show which seeks to answer these questions and tells the story of how our unique community evolved. We are participating in Richmond Arts and Ideas festival and are the only school to have been selected.

To explore the festival's theme, 'cultural reforestation', our EAL and VPA students have been exploring how our community has evolved, listening to stories, documenting student responses, interviewing lifetime residents and local plant, bird, bat and animal experts, writing poems, creating sound pieces, recording migration stories of students and teachers and weaving connections between past and present to create a show which asks What can we learn from the past ? And how can we connect with our community?

We have uncovered a treasure trove of fascinating local stories. Here's a taste:

The Dysart family, which owned Ham House and the bulk of the local land in 1626, leased it to farmers who grew fruit and vegetables. Ham then became a centre for market gardening, even supplying Covent Garden market.

What is now Ham Lands was originally a dumping ground for rubble after WWII, but with the rubble came many rare and unusual plants, creating a habitat for many migrating birds and butterflies, some of which come each year from as far away as Africa.

In the 1950's, when new housing was built for East Enders whose homes had been bombed, their migration created a new influx of people. This led to the building of Grey Court in 1956. In the late 1970's, local conservationists fought to prevent Ham Lands being built on and we now have Ham Lands, a 182-acre nature reserve.

It took the collective energy of many people to shape our verdant little corner of the world. Grey Court students have collaborated with local historians, Jill Lamb and Gordon Elsdon, local residents and conservationists, the Russell school, Ham House, Friends of Ham Lands, Ham Youth Club, Let's go Outside and Learn and the Green School Project , to understand and celebrate this history.

Ham House and Ham Youth club worked with students from the school on a project called 'Blossom 'where our students created poems which will be included in the show.

The story of Ham and how it has evolved is a story about the ebb and flow of migrating people, plants and animals. In our little microcosm, we have some answers to how we can connect with nature. Come join us on a walk as we travel back in time to excavate and reclaim the past to ask: How can we help our children cherish and connect with what we have here? And how can we ensure future generations grow and thrive?

Preeya Nair

EAL Coordinator

A Place in the Bend of a River: A Secret History of Ham

Venue: Sandy Lane Entrance Grey Court school

Date: Wednesday 25 June

Time: 6.30pm

Book: click the [link](#)

Stars

of the week

Year	Name	Subject	Reason
7C	Xenia Papadopoulou	Computing	Excellent progress in the subject
8A	Nina Fowlie	Computing	Excellent engagement in class
9A	Paloma Cajigao	Computing	Excellent engagement in class
10E	James Houlding	Computer Science	Excellent progress in the subject
11R	Ned Lipton	Computer Science	Excellent engagement in class
12B	Saajan Ball	Computer Science	Excellent progress in the subject
13G	Zineb Ait Ziane	Computer Science	Excellent progress in the subject
7A	Millicent McGuire	Food & Nutrition	Excellent classwork
8C	Natalia Olszewska	Food & Nutrition	Excellent classwork
9C	Scarlett-Rose Holmes	Food & Nutrition	Excellent engagement in class
10R	Casper Vaz	Food & Nutrition	Excellent progress in the subject
8M	Hayley-Rae Butler	KS3 DT	Outstanding achievement
9R	Natalia Borowiecka	KS3 DT	Outstanding achievement
10C	Kamsi Ogbu	Graphics VCERT	Excellent engagement in class
11O	Carla D'Offay	Graphics VCERT	Excellent assessment grade
12D	Monty Lowe	Enterprise & Entrepreneurship	Excellent progress in the subject
13G	Lexie Arzul	Enterprise & Entrepreneurship	Excellent progress in the subject

12 May to 16 May

matters

"Small steps towards
big dreams start today"

Year Group	Attendance %
Year 7	96.7%
Year 8	96.7%
Year 9	96.7%
Year 10	94%
Year 11	95%

Tutor Group	Attendance %
7 Cedar	99.4%
8 Rowan	99.4%
9 Ash	99.4%
10 Beech	98.1%
11 Oak	97.2%



Grey Court School and Sixth Form presents...

The KS4 and KS5 Visual Arts Exhibition 2025

Join us for an evening of celebration in the Atrium Gallery and Sixth Form between 5 and 7pm on Thursday 19th June. Refreshments will be provided.



JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION - HAM FAIR SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025

An opportunity for keen young photographers to demonstrate their creativity and skill.
Open to young people in Richmond Borough up to the age of 16.
Photos will be displayed in the Art Marquee at Ham Fair on Saturday 14th June 2025.

We're looking for photos that are interesting and artistic, which highlight creative skills in choosing and composing pictures, as well as technical skills in using camera or smartphone settings.

TO ENTER, HAND IN TO YOUR ART TEACHER BEFORE FRIDAY 6TH JUNE

RULES

Young people, up to 16 years old, can submit up to 2 photographs that they have taken in the last 12 months. There is no theme to follow.
Photographs can be in colour or black and white, and have a gloss or matt finish.

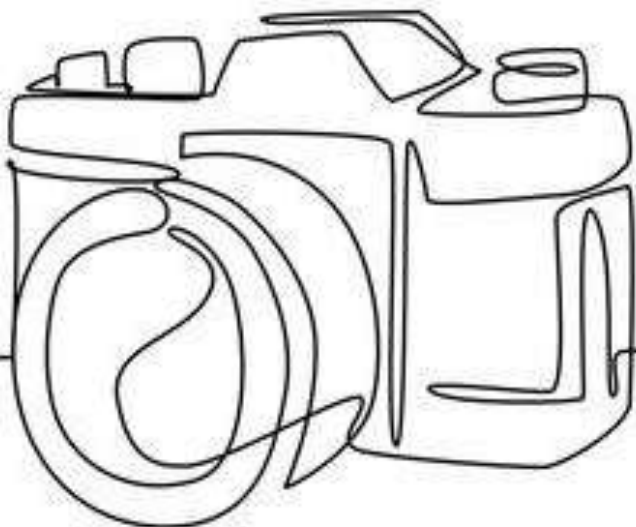
Prints should be mounted on card or stiff paper – maximum size of entry, including mount, is A4.
For example, a 6 x 9 inch print mounted on an A4 card gives your photo a good frame.



The photographs must be entirely your own work and not lifted from any source.
Winning entries will be checked for originality. Images will be grouped according to age/year group and judged by the members of Kingston Camera Club.

Details **on the back** must include:
Name of author
School attending
Year group
Contact details, either 'phone or email address.
Title of image

PLEASE NOTE: To maintain anonymity during judging, **NO INFORMATION MUST APPEAR ON THE FRONT OF THE IMAGE.**



Wellbeing



2025

Meaningful May 2025

MONDAY



5 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why

12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you

19 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful

26 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful

TUESDAY



6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful

13 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture

20 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable

27 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others

WEDNESDAY



7 Make a list of what matters most to you and why

14 Get outside and notice the beauty in nature

21 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger

28 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight

THURSDAY

1 Do something kind for someone you really care about

8 Set yourself a kindness mission to help others today

15 Do something to contribute to your local community

22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about

29 Today do something to care for the natural world

FRIDAY

2 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do

9 What values are important to you? Find ways to use them today

16 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better

23 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of

30 Share a quote you find inspiring to give others a boost

SATURDAY

3 Take a step towards an important goal, however small

10 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times

17 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful

24 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today

31 Find three reasons to be hopeful about the future

SUNDAY

4 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together

11 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder

18 Send a hand-written note to someone you care about

25 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



'Helping teens with...' series

Achieving for Children's mental health support teams are delivering a series of webinars for parents of secondary-aged children and young people. The 'Helping teens with...' series of webinars covers a range of common difficulties experienced by children and will aim to share evidence-based strategies to help parents and carers with these difficulties. In the third and fourth columns of the table, you will find the sign-up links.

Support for Parents 'Helping teens' series



Heatham House and No Straight Answer present

PRIDE EVENT

FRIDAY
30 MAY
1PM TO 5PM

NO
STRAIGHT
ANSWER

Come along and help us celebrate the diversity
of the LGBTQ+ community

The event will host a range of fun and exciting activities
such as rodeo, arts and crafts, festival makeup, music and
much much more

This event is free to LGBTQ+ young people aged 11 to 19

For more information, contact **Alexandra Quenell**,
or **Dwayne Leid**

T: 020 8288 0950

E: heathamhouse@achievingforchildren.org.uk



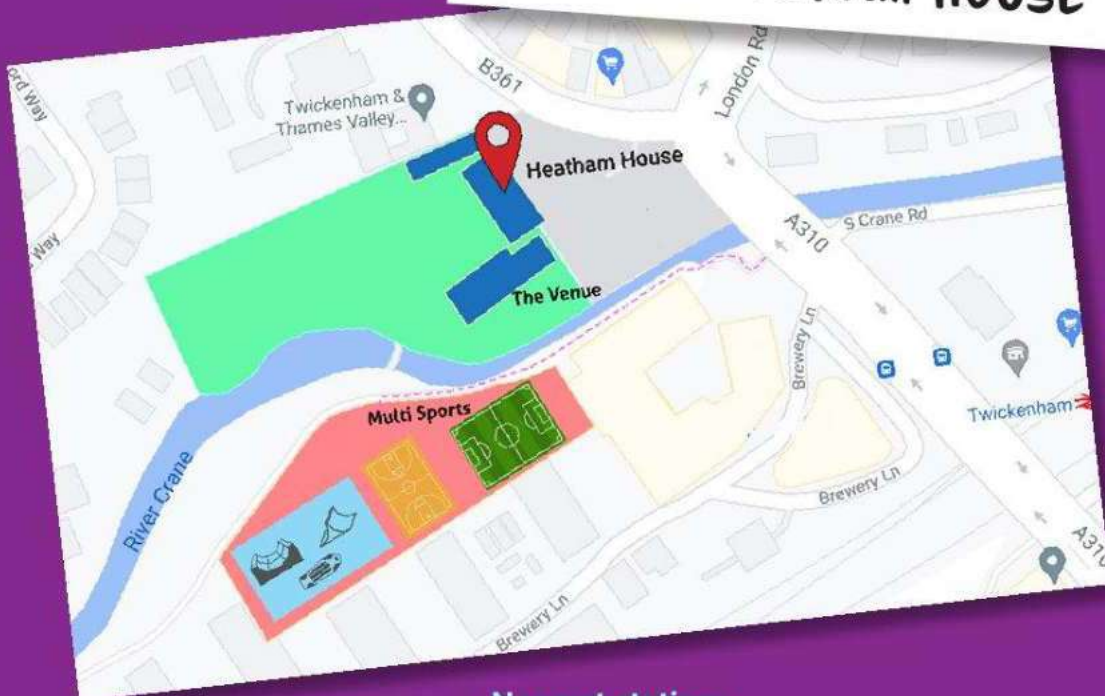
**achieving
for children**

How to find us....

Heatham House Youth Centre, Whitton Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BH



HEATHAM HOUSE



Nearest station:

Twickenham (2 minute walk)

Nearest bus stops:

Whitton Road (Stop S) 267 & H22 (2 minute walk)

Whitton Road (Stop N) 267 & H22 (2 minute walk)

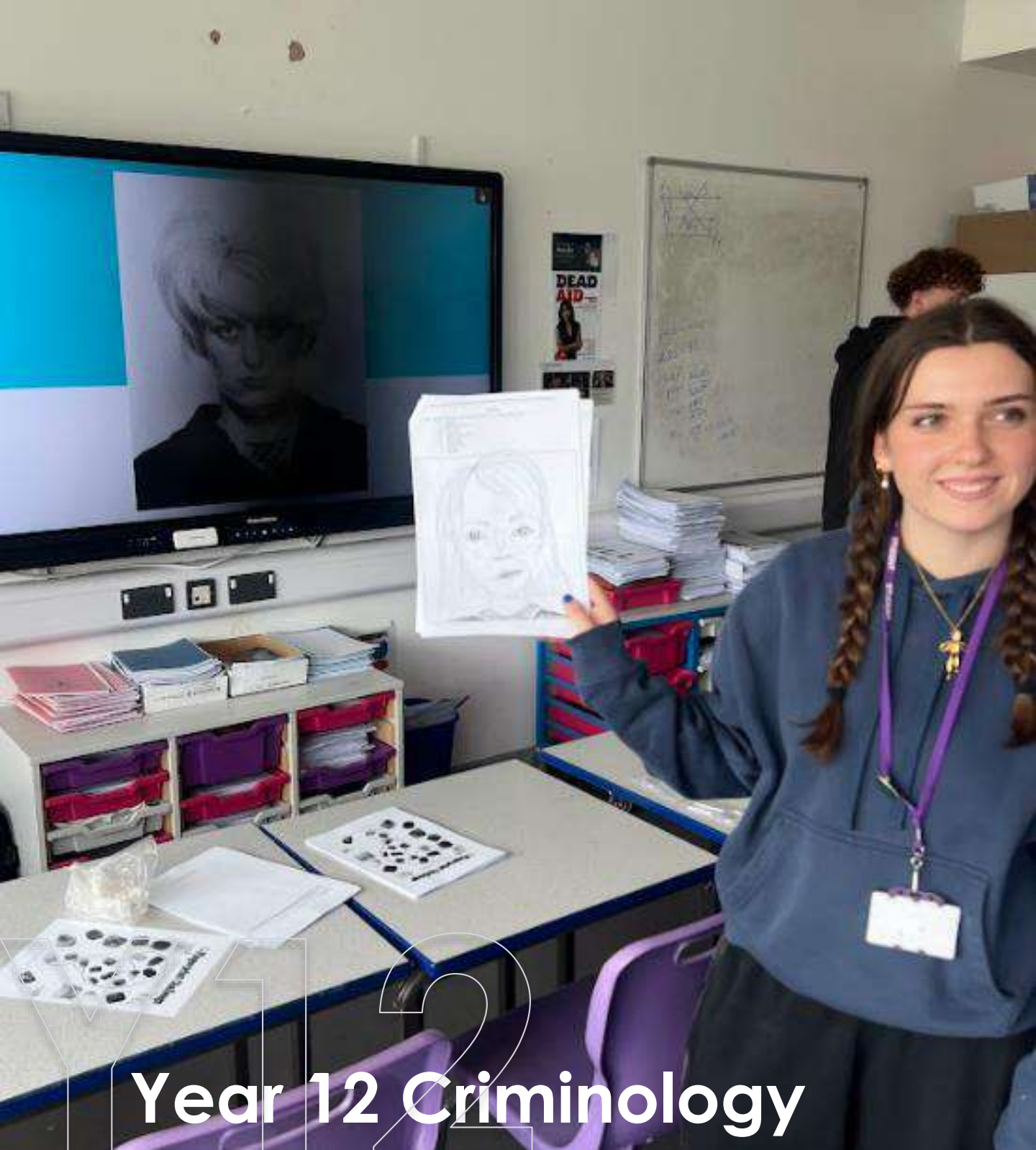
Twickenham Station (Stop B) 267, 281, 681, H22 (2 minute walk)

Twickenham Station (Stop C) 267, 281, H22 (2 minute walk)

Heatham House (Stop L) 281 681 (1 minutewalk)



Sixth News Form



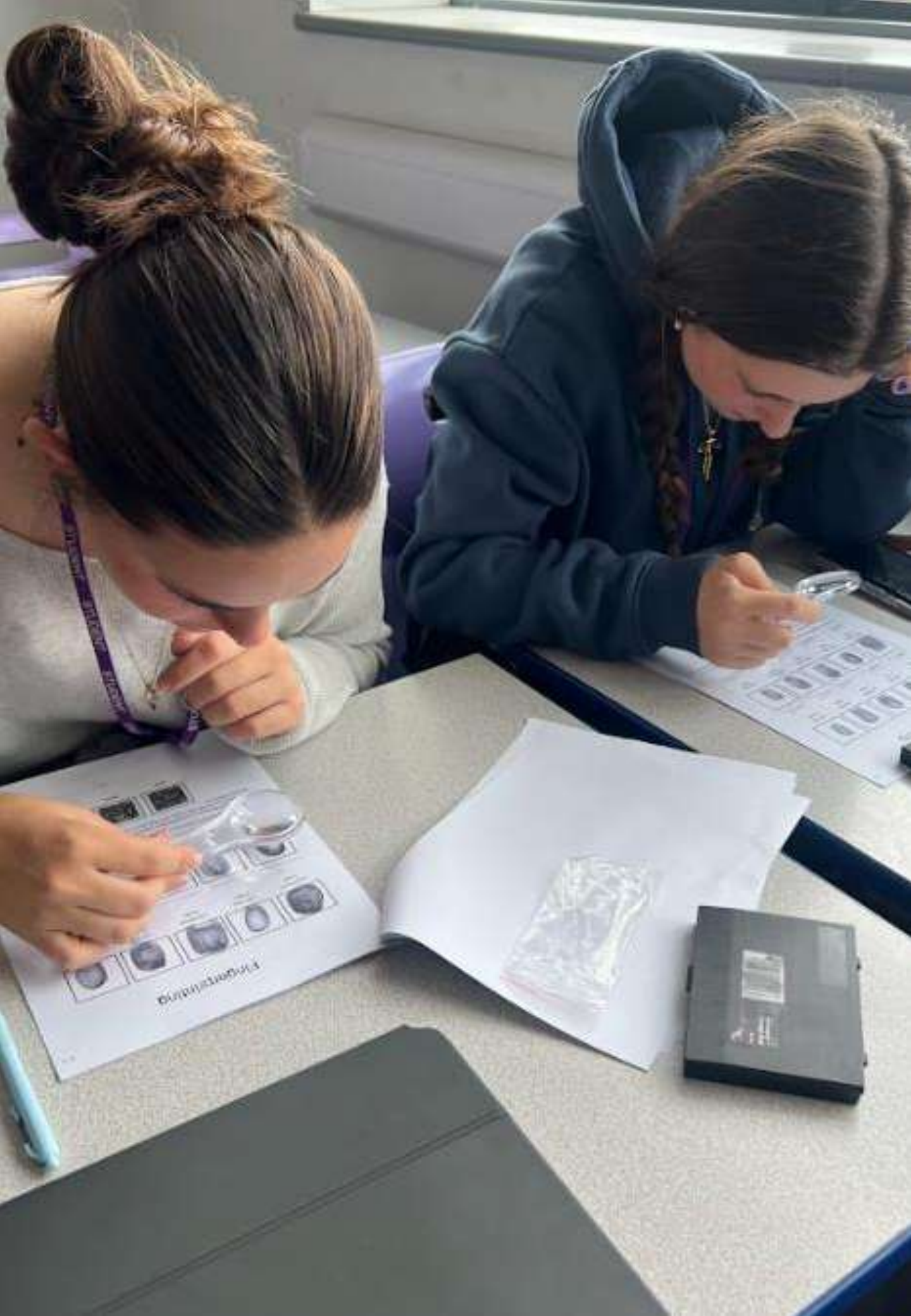
Year 12 Criminology Students Dive into Real World Investigative Techniques

Y12

Year 12 Criminology students recently took part in a hands-on lesson of investigative techniques used in criminal cases. As part of their studies, students gained practical experience by taking and analysing their own fingerprints, identifying the unique patterns and learning how these can be used in criminal investigations. The lesson also delved into the complex world of offender profiling. Students were presented with a set of psychological and behavioural characteristics and asked to draw a suspect based on the profile, only to later discover that the profile matched Myra Hindley, one of the UK's most infamous serial offenders. This thought provoking activity led to insightful discussions on the subjectivity of profiling and its potential weaknesses. To deepen their understanding, students compared various profiling methods, including FBI profiling and Circle Theory, gaining a comprehensive view of how different models are used to support criminal investigations. The experience not only enhanced their theoretical knowledge but also sparked a deeper appreciation for the challenges and intricacies of criminal investigation.







Year 12

TRIAL EXAMS

18 June - 27 June

These trial exams are crucial as the **results will be used to determine predicted grades** for UCAS applications.

All Year 12 students have been working on a **revision plan** this week and have now started the **50 Hour Challenge**.

Each student must complete **at least 50 hours of revision** between now and the start of the trial exams. This revision must be **clearly evidenced**, so students are encouraged to keep detailed logs or use their revision planners.

If you have any questions or need support with planning your revision, please speak to your subject teachers or the Sixth Form team.

[Year 12 Trial exam booklet Summer 2025](#)

Y12 Year 12 Exam TT

DAY	Session 1	Session 2
Start	8.30am	1pm
Monday 16 June	NO STUDY LEAVE. YEAR 12s MUST ATTEND LESSONS AS NORMAL.	NO STUDY LEAVE. YEAR 12s MUST ATTEND LESSONS AS NORMAL.
Tuesday 17 June	NO STUDY LEAVE. YEAR 12s MUST ATTEND LESSONS AS NORMAL.	NO STUDY LEAVE. YEAR 12s MUST ATTEND LESSONS AS NORMAL.
Wednesday 18 June		Mathematics paper 1 (Pure) - 2 hrs - In Sports Hall
Thursday 19 June	English Literature - 2 hrs 30 m Physics paper 1 - 1h 30 m Sociology paper 1 - 2hrs	
Monday 23 June	Biology paper 1 - 1 hrs 30m Philosophy paper 1 - 3hrs Economics paper 1 - 2hrs	Psychology paper 1 - 2hrs French Paper 1 - 1h:45m Listening, Reading & Writing Spanish Paper 1 - 1h:45m Listening, Reading & Writing
Tuesday 24 June	Physics paper 2 - 1h 30m Politics - 2hrs	History Paper 1 2h 30m Geography paper 1 - 1h 55m
Wednesday 25 June	Mathematics paper 2 (Statistics & Mechanics) - 1hr 15m	Chemistry Paper 1 1h 30m
Thursday 26 June	French Paper 2 Writing - 1h:30 Spanish Paper 2 Writing - 1h:30	Psychology paper 2 - 2hrs Computer Science - 2hr 30 m
Friday 27 June	Geography paper 2 - 1h:55m History paper 2 - 2h:30m Chemistry paper 2 - 1h:30m	Economics paper 2 - 2hrs Biology paper 2 - 1h:30

PRACTICAL EXAMS

ART: two full days (10 hours total mock exam) on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 June

DRAMA: Performance of Abigail's Party (after school, date to be confirmed)

UCAS Discovery Day

Wednesday 4 June 2025

We are taking year 12s to a UCAS Discovery Exhibition on 4 June at The University of East London (UEL). This is an excellent opportunity for students to meet with representatives from over 100 universities (UK and some overseas institutions), employers, apprenticeships and other post-18 opportunities. This is also in line with the Government's Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Careers provision, by offering students a range of opportunities to explore their post 18 options.

All year 12s have been sent an email titled **You've been invited to a UCAS exhibition**. Please click on the link in the email to pre-register and to get your entry QR code. If you don't pre-register you will have to do it when you arrive which will mean joining a boring queue instead of using the VIP lane!

Students will leave at breaktime to travel to The University of East London (UEL).

A letter outlining the trip has been emailed to Parents/Careers & Students. [You can access the trip letter here as well.](#)

Stars of the week



Thank you to **Xavi, Shiven, Burney and Mia K** for volunteering their time to speak to younger students in assembly. They offered advice to year 10s on their post 16 options and what to consider, including what they wish they had known in year 10. They spoke very well and we want to thank them for their time and energy.



Work Experience

30 June - 4 July

Well done to all the students who have secured placements. You have done amazingly well and the last few students are now getting confirmations and getting organised.

After half term, we will expect students to contact their employers for a pre meeting either virtually or in person to make the necessary arrangements for that week.

Just a reminder to the last few students and parents, to confirm the placement, **students** must input the information on the **Unifrog Placements** tool.

This will confirm with the employer the placement. See this step by step guide of how to add on your placement: [Unifrog - adding a placement .pdf](#)

Please speak to Miss Corrighan bcorrighan@greycourt.org.uk if you have any questions at all.

EPQ

Students have been signed up to the EPQ Google classroom. They have an initial assignment to complete. This is to prepare them for the EPQ drop down day that will take place when they return from work experience.

Students are continuing their one to one meetings on the draft of their UCAS statement. They need to make initial changes based on the feedback they receive. Further work on their application will take place on the UCAS day as part of Activity week.

Oxbridge

Y12



Netball Trip, London Pulse vs Loughborough Lightning

On Sunday, Ms Duncan and Ms Parr took 29 students to the iconic Copper Box Arena to watch an electrifying netball match between Pulse London and Loughborough Lightning. It was a fantastic opportunity for students from Years 8 to 12 to come together, share in the excitement, and experience elite level sport first hand.

The atmosphere was buzzing as Pulse London staged a determined comeback in the final minutes, narrowing the score gap in a nail-biting finish. Despite their efforts, the game concluded with a hard-fought 53–58 win for Loughborough Lightning. A big thank you to Ms Wild for joining and supporting the trip!

WE NEED YOU !

Sixth Form Participation in Grey Court's Anglo-German Festival on Saturday 7 June 2025

We need the following volunteers for the afternoon:

- Sixth formers to act as stewards and helpers
- Sixth Formers to bake English/German cakes and sell them on stalls
- Sixth Formers to do Anglo-German face painting and to make Anglo-German friendship bracelets
- Art students to help supervise year 7-8 students create an Anglo-German mural
- Sports students to organise/supervise/referee the Year 7-8 rounders and football competition
- Musician to perform

Please complete this Google form



Anglo-German cultural festival

Saturday 7 June 2025, 12pm-4pm

Grey Court School, Ham TW10 7HN

via Sandy Lane entrance

Grey Court School & Deutsche Schule London
celebrate the re-affirmation of the twinning of
Richmond with Konstanz.

live music, entertainment, sport, food & drink

Y13

Year 13

UCAS: What Comes Next?

All students have heard from all of their five choices. It is vital that firm and insurance choices are made before the deadline on June 5th. If a student does not accept their choices then all offers are rescinded.

When you are making your choices you should base your decision for your firm choice of the course you most want to study. When choosing an insurance choice it should be a course with a lower offer (but you are still happy to study). This will mean that if you miss your grades for your firm choice you will still be given a place on your insurance course and won't have to go through the Clearing process in August.

Please see this [UCAS guide](#) to accepting offers.

Student Finance

All students should have applied for student finance to ensure funding is in place for the start of the course. Use this link to start your application [Student Finance England](#).

If you have a disability, including ASD, ADHD, dyslexia etc you should also apply for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) as you may be eligible for extra funding for equipment and adaptations.

If you have any questions about student finance look at the UCAS pages [Student Finance - Everything you need to know](#).

Opportunities Bulletin

Check out the Sixth form opportunities bulletin. It includes work experience, university tasters, careers talks, apprenticeships and more: [23/05/2025 Sixth Form Careers opportunities](#)

SPORTS

News



Congratulations to both Tia and Ruby who participated in the London/Middlesex and Kent Pentathlon at Lee Valley on Wednesday.

Ruby finished 13th overall in the u15 competition but was 1st place out of the Middlesex athletes. Tia finished 3rd overall in the U17 competition and was 2nd in Middlesex.

Well done, girls!





Tuesday 20 May: Congratulations to Thomas B who won the year 10 Inter House 800m

Inter House Results

800m

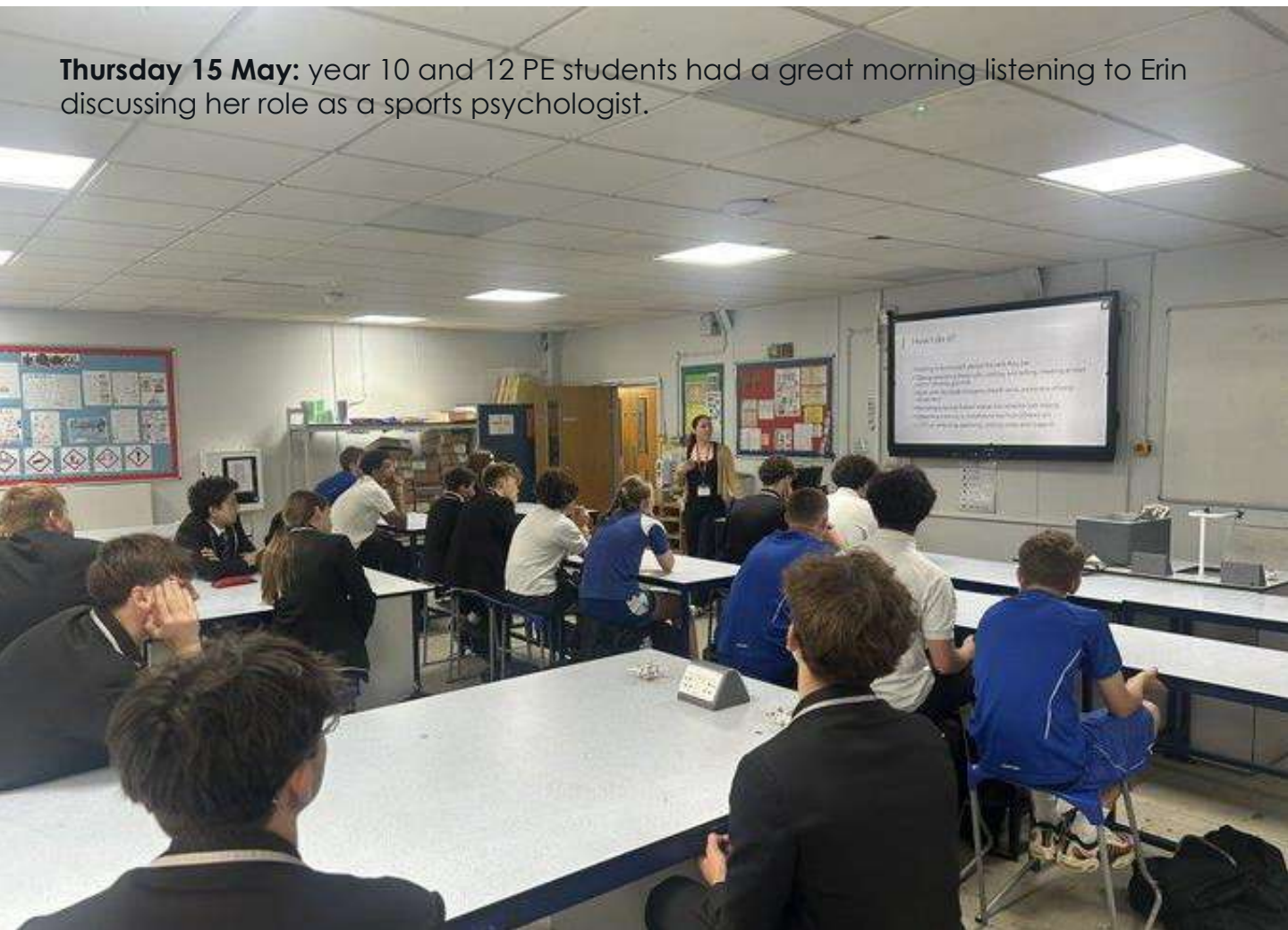
Inter House High Jump Results

Tuesday 20 May: excellent 1st place for Samuel F in the year 10 Inter House High Jump clearing 1.55m





Monday 19 May: we hosted the Play Your Way to Wimbledon u14 singles competition and witnessed some fantastic tennis on display. Huge congratulations to Ed and Wai Sze for winning the tournament and moving to the next stage of the competition
[#PYWTW](#) [#TennisChampions](#)



Thursday 15 May: year 10 and 12 PE students had a great morning listening to Erin discussing her role as a sports psychologist.

Olivia Green has earned this month's player of the month title for her outstanding achievements in athletics.

A dedicated hammer thrower and hurdler, Olivia continues to impress with her strength, speed, and unwavering commitment. At the English Schools Track and Field Cup Round 1, she delivered an excellent performance—throwing an impressive 34 meters in the hammer throw and clocking a swift 12.9 seconds in the hurdles.

Olivia also performed well at the Essex's Cup in the Hurdles and Shot. Her hard work and determination shine through in every training session and competition, and we're excited to see how she continues to progress throughout the season.

Well done, Olivia!



Wai Sze Shum Scholar of the Month

Congratulations to **Wai Sze Shum** who is our Scholar of the Month for May.

Wai Sze is a fantastic example of what our Scholarship programme is all about; she's dedicated, a true leader, and of course, talented. Her sporting talents spread across many different sports - most notably her aptitude for long distance running where she has performed for the school in many Cross Country and Athletics events across the year.

Wai Sze also has a talent for tennis and she is currently our #1 seed in our Year 7 Squad and produces good performances consistently in her matches.

Most of all, Wai Sze has a fantastic work ethic and is always a joy to teach. Her engagement with teachers and her collaboration with other students is something she should be very proud of.

Well done Wai Sze!



U19 Mixed Floor & Vault Regional Champions Team of the Month

The U19 Mixed Floor and Vault Regional Champions travelled to Stoke-on-Trent to compete in the National Finals against schools from across the country. On Sunday morning, we headed over to Fenton Manor to watch the early session and support our competitors. The U19 team competed in the afternoon. James, Will, Lily, and Frankie took to the floor, performing outstanding routines. James, Will, Lily, Frankie, and Max all competed on the vault, each scoring over 14.9 out of 16. Lily and Shakur were fantastic cheerleaders and photographers throughout the weekend. Unfortunately, Lily C was unable to compete on the day due to an ongoing injury.

The team placed **3rd in the country** in the U19 Mixed category. It has been fantastic to get our Sixth Formers involved with the elite gymnastics teams and competitions this year—we hope this continues.



Mazhar Yahsi's Month

Since returning from the Easter break, **Mazhar Yahsi** has truly hit the ground running with his achievements in athletics. Identified in the first week as a very able athlete, he has embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, energy, and a willingness to push himself to try new athletics events and get better at every opportunity.

Mazhar has shown exceptional promise in the field events, launching the discus a long way before moving on to what has proved to be his best event so far, the javelin, where he continues to shine in training and competition. Mazhar even asked if he could have a go at HJ at training and flew over 1.30m with ease with his first ever jump - that proves he is a talented all-rounder and has great potential to one day be a multi-event athlete.

Mazhar threw a fantastic 24.96m in the Javelin and ran a brilliant leg in the relay at the first round of the ESAA at Lee Valley, to build on his 21.10m in Chelmsford and 14.08 in the 100m at the St Benedict's event. Despite being given the afternoon off training the following day after the ESAA competition, Mazhar chose to be back out on the field, spikes on and javelin in hand, working to better his personal best. His commitment to improve and excellent work ethic will serve him well in future competitions. Well done so far, Mazhar - keep working hard, you're just getting started!



Alex Vermeulen Scholar of the Month

Alex Vermeulen has had an impressive month, showcasing his athletic abilities in both cricket and football. His dedication and consistent performance have made him a valuable player in multiple sports.

In cricket, Alex has represented both the U13s and U15s teams, demonstrating his versatility and skill. He has consistently contributed by scoring runs and taking wickets, playing a crucial role in the team's success. A highlight of his month was achieving a hat trick against St James Senior Boys School, an outstanding achievement that reflects his hard work and talent.

Alex has also excelled in football, particularly during the Butlins Football Tour. In the final match of the tournament, he scored a remarkable half-volley goal from the edge of the box, finishing the tournament on a high note for his team.

In addition to his sporting success, Alex has maintained a positive attitude and strong work ethic in his Scholar lessons. His commitment to both academics and athletics sets an excellent example for his peers.

Well done, Alex, on being named this month's Scholar of the Month! Your achievements are truly commendable.



TESA Junior + Intermediate Teams

The team of the month for May is awarded to both our **Junior and Intermediate ESAA athletics teams.**

They were both victorious in the Middlesex first round at Lee Valley On Tuesday 13 May.

The Junior team finished with 418 points with Zach S winning his 100m and long jump. Lucas S won his 300m in 41.4 seconds and Liam E Hagger won his 1500m in 4:49.4.

The Inter boys team scored 491 points and were 108 points clear of 2nd place. Some of the outstanding performers were: Grindan 22.1, for the 200m, James B, 37.5 for the 300m, Robert C, 41.28m in the hammer and Ifan M, 2m 50 in the pole vault.

Both teams have now qualified for the Regional Finals in June.

Well done!



What's happening ...

What's happening ...



BRENTFORD COMMUNITY
BOAT HOUSE

HELP TO PROTECT OUR RIVERS

**Grab a paddle, pick up a litter picker,
and join our volunteer-led clean-up
on the River Thames & Brent.**

Whether you're on the water in a canoe, kayak or SUP, or walking along the towpath and riverbank—everyone can play a part in caring for our local environment.

Date: Saturday 24/05/25,

Time: 90min sessions available throughout the day

Address: Brentford Community Boat House, Ferry Wharf

No experience needed—just bring your energy and community spirit!

We'll provide all the equipment and a safety briefing.
Open to all ages (under 14s must be accompanied by an adult).

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or email info@bcbh.org.uk for more information.



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BRENTFORD COMMUNITY BOAT HOUSE

2025 SUMMER EVENTS JOIN US ON THE WATER



24th May – Big Paddle Clean Up

Join us for a volunteer-led event with London Kayak School to clean up our rivers and riverbanks. Open to all ages – a great way to help protect the environment and this beautiful blue space!



21st June – Brentford Canal Festival

Celebrate with a free opportunity to try boating and paddling on the river Thames and the River Brent!



28th June – Brentford Sprints Regatta

Come and enjoy this fun racing event for local children on the River Thames with a BBQ and stalls!



5th July – Cornish Gig Open Day

Come down and try rowing a traditional Cornish gig boat! Hosted by West London Gig Club.



23rd August – Sponsored Row

Join in with our sponsored row to Kingston to raise funds for our new Community Boat House!



20th September – The Great River Race & Open Season Celebration

Support our teams in the Great River Race and celebrate the start of the 2025/26 boating season at Ferry Wharf

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TOWAYS GET INVOLVED
VISIT

<https://bcbh.org.uk/>

JUNIOR HOLIDAY ROWING CAMPS

2025

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MAY HALF-TERM CAMP

AGES 7 - 16

09:00 - 13:00PM

TUESDAY 27TH

WEDNESDAY 28TH

THURSDAY 29TH

FRIDAY 30TH

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May half term
BASKETBALL
4-DAY CAMP

TUES 27TH - FRI 30TH MAY

FOR BOYS + GIRLS IN SCHOOL YEARS 4-11



9.30AM - 3.30PM

GREY COURT SCHOOL, TW107HN

book online at: spartansbasketballacademy.com/book-now

PLEASE EMAIL US IN ADVANCE IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT A SPARTAN:

hello@spartansbasketballacademy.com



RICHMOND NETBALL CAMP



*Open to players
of all abilities*



*Qualified
coaches*



*Fun and
friendly*



*Outdoor
venue*

MAY HALF TERM CAMP

THURSDAY 29TH & FRIDAY 30TH MAY

GREY COURT SCHOOL
RICHMOND UPON THAMES,
TW10 7HN

9.00AM - 12NOON

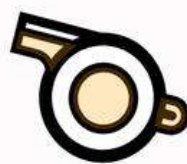
SCHOOL YEARS 3-10



RICHMOND NETBALL CAMP



*Open to players
of all abilities*



*Qualified
coaches*



*Fun and
friendly*



*Outdoor
venue*

MAY HALF TERM

THURSDAY 29TH & FRIDAY 30TH MAY

SUMMER CAMP

24TH, 25TH, 28TH, 29TH, 30TH JULY

PRE-SEASON CAMP

MONDAY 26TH & TUESDAY 27TH AUGUST

GREY COURT SCHOOL, TW10 7HN

9.00AM - 12NOON

SCHOOL YEARS 3-10



Walton Firs Activity Centre

Convent Lane, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1HB



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And more...

Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May

9.00am - 5.00pm each day

£180 for 5 days, or £40 per individual day

For more information please contact Walton Firs Activity Centre on:
Tel: 01932 863243 E: info@waltonfirs.co.uk W: www.waltonfirs.co.uk

The Money Course

Our free, practical workshops help you make sense of your finances, even on a tight budget.

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- **Join a community:** share ideas with each other about what really works in our welcoming group sessions
- **Get personalised support:** our friendly coaches will guide you every step of the way as you put your plan into action



Upcoming workshops:

Thu 12, 19 and 26 June 2025,
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM,
St James's Church, Hampton
Hill, TW12 1DQ

Thu 26 June, 3 and 10 July 2025,
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM,
St Richards Church,
Ashburnham Road, Ham,
Richmond, TW10 7NL

Sign up today:

themoneycourse.org/join



Crosslight Advice is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1163306) and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (715066)

Come and Row

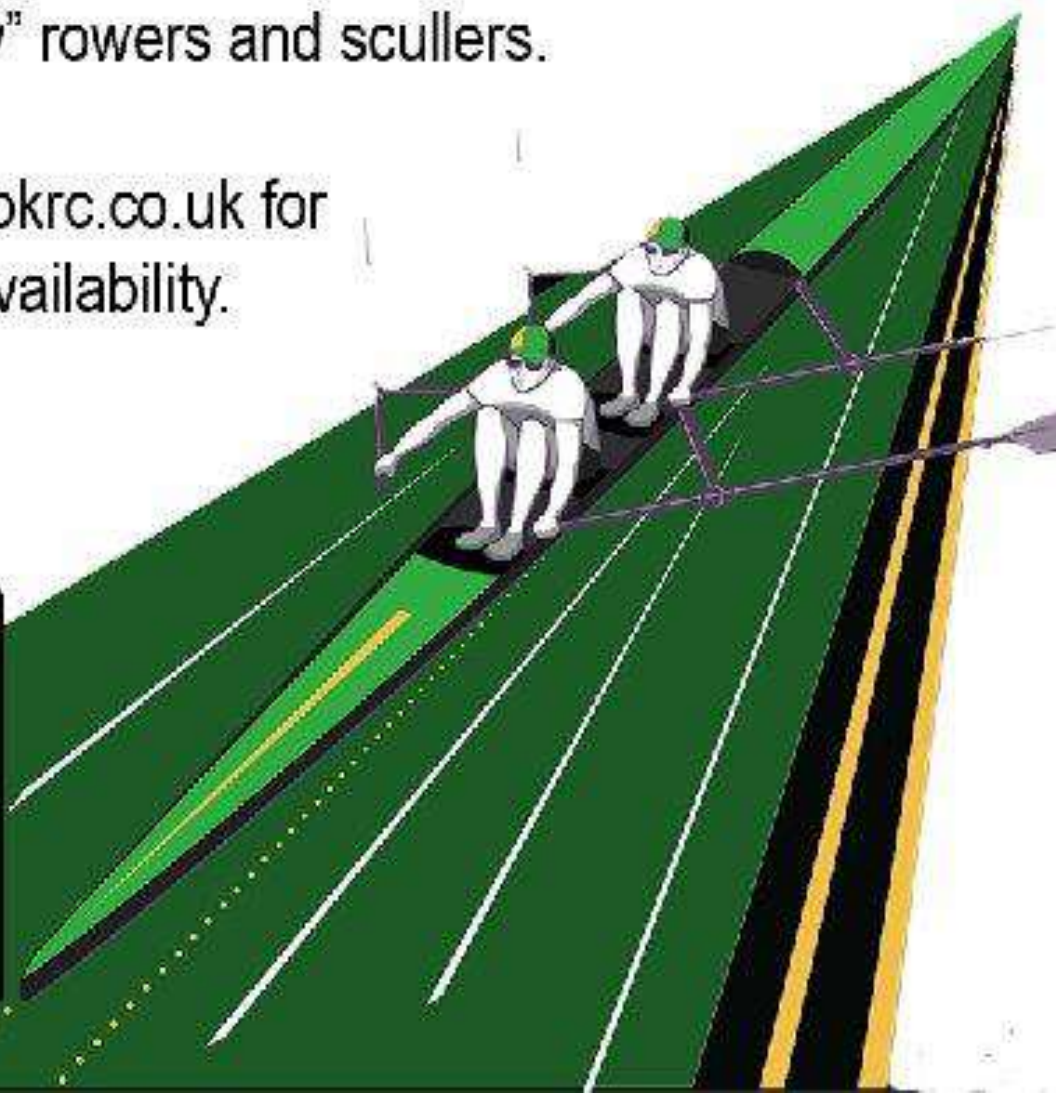
Walbrook Rowing Club Teddington

Come and join our successful junior squad.
Places available in all age groups for experienced
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Summer holiday sculling courses run weekly for
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Adults - we are recruiting experienced and
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details and availability.



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9.30AM - 11AM.

- Improve speech, performance and confidence skills
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Celine (parent)



Visit www.elizabethsamuelsdrama.com/grey-court-richmond or
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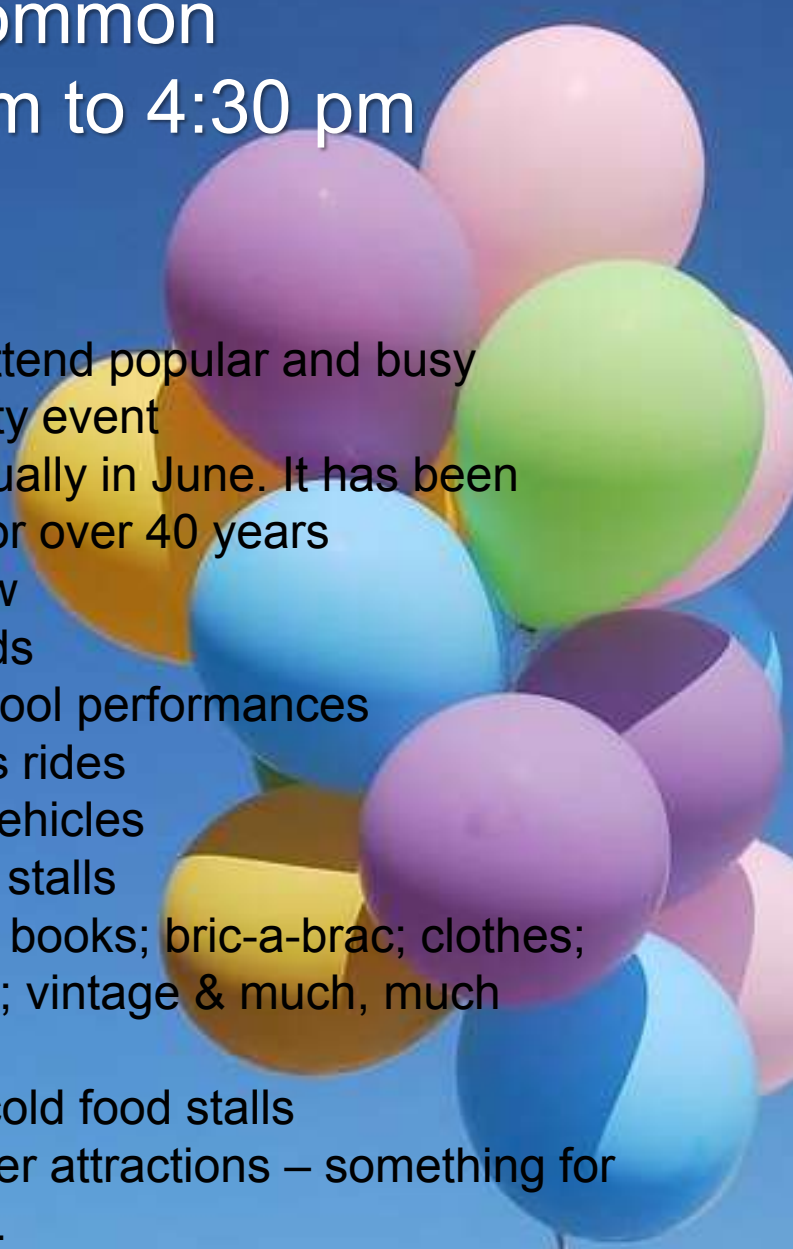
Save the Date

Save the Date

Save the Date

HAM FAIR SATURDAY 14 JUNE 2025 Ham Common 11:00 am to 4:30 pm

- Free to attend popular and busy community event
- Held annually in June. It has been running for over 40 years
- Dog Show
- Live Bands
- Local school performances
- Children's rides
- Vintage vehicles
- Over 140 stalls
- Antiques; books; bric-a-brac; clothes; gifts; toys; vintage & much, much more!
- Hot and cold food stalls
- Many other attractions – something for everyone.



Royal Botanic Gardens Kew



Earthwise summer youth programme

A **free** week-long programme exploring the importance of our planet's precious biodiversity and what can be done to protect it.

If you're aged **14–17**, join young people from across London for a unique opportunity to **conduct your own research** using the 'living laboratories' of Kew Gardens, **be inspired** by our world-leading experts, and learn what is being done to **prevent extinction**.

Dates for Earthwise 2025

4–8 August

11–15 August

For more information, visit [kew.org/earthwise](https://www.kew.org/earthwise) or contact youth@kew.org.

The deadline for applications is **2 June 2025**.



We are thrilled to announce the launch of our open trials to form our teams for the **2025–2026 season**! If you could please help by forwarding the below message plus attachment to **your aspiring basketball students who you feel should be playing outside of their school programme**.

At Knights Basketball we pride ourselves on a welcoming, **inclusive environment** for players of *all* abilities. Our coaches are here to help them develop their game, make new friends, and feel like part of the Knights family from day one.

Who Can Attend?

The try-out sessions are open to all students in the London Borough of Richmond, and beyond!

Trial Schedule

Trials will be held over a three-week period across w/c June 2nd, 9th & 16th, giving everyone multiple opportunities to participate:

W/c June 2nd, 9th & 16th

BOYS/MEN

West Venue:
Waldegrave School,
Twickenham, TW1 2LH

Next Season's Age Group	Current year group	Day	Time
Under-9 Boys	2&3	Tuesday	5.00-6.30pm
Under-10 Boys	4	Tuesday	5.00-6.30pm
Under-12 Boys	5 or 6	Tuesday	6.30-8.00pm
Under-14 Boys	7 or 8	Friday	5.00-6.30pm
Under-16 Boys	9 or 10	Friday	6.30-8.00pm
Under-18 Men	11 or 12	Friday	8.00-9.30pm
Senior Men (Local League)	13+	Sunday	5.00-7.00pm
Senior Men (NBL)	To be held in July		

BOYS

East Venue: Christ's
School, Richmond,
TW10 6HW

Next Season's Age Group	Current year group	Day	Time
Under-9 Boys	3	Thursday	5.00-6.30pm

Under-10 Boys	4	Thursday	5.00-6:30pm
Under-12 Boys	5 or 6	Wednesday	5.00-6:30pm
Under-14 Boys	7 or 8	Wednesday	6.30-8pm
Under-16 Boys	9 or 10	Wednesday	8.00-9.30pm

GIRLS/WOMEN

West Venue:

Waldegrave School,

Twickenham, TW1 2LH

Next Season's Age Group	Current year group	Day	Time
Under-10/11	3 to 5	Monday	6.15-7.45pm
Under-12/13	5 to 7	Thursday	5.00-6:30pm
Under-14	7 or 8	Thursday	6:30-8pm
Under-16	9 or 10	Thursday	8.00-9.30pm
Women (TBC)	11+	Sunday	3.00-5.00pm

Each child should attend at least two trial sessions across these weeks so our coaches can properly evaluate their skills. (Attending multiple sessions allows us to see them play in different situations and ensures everyone gets a fair chance to shine.)

How to Register

Registration is required to take part in the trials. Please have them sign up in advance via the following links depending on your most convenient location:

Waldegrave School, Twickenham (West Venue): <https://richmond-knights-teams.classforkids.io/term/197>

Christ's School, Richmond (East Venue): <https://richmond-knights-teams.classforkids.io/term/194>

What to Expect at the Trials

Fun and Skills: Each trial session will include fun drills, scrimmage games, and skill-building exercises led by our friendly coaches.

Team Spirit: They'll get a feel for our team culture – **positive, supportive, and team-oriented**. Come with a good attitude and ready to cheer on fellow players!

Selection Process: Players will be invited to join one of our Richmond Knights teams, or selected for our community open sessions and/or basketball league.

Our goal is to make these trials enjoyable and stress-free and give players the opportunity to train and compete at the level that suits their development. They

should just show up ready to **do their best and have fun**. Even if they're new to basketball, this is a great opportunity to try the sport in a supportive setting.

Don't Miss Out!

Joining the Knights means becoming part of a basketball family that values growth, effort, and sportsmanship. **Don't miss this chance** to represent your school and community on the court! We are excited to discover new talent and welcome returning players for the upcoming season.

We can't wait to see them at the trials. So, grab your trainers, bring your energy, and come show us what you've got!

We look forward to seeing you on the court!

Will Wise

Community Coordinator | Knights Basketball Ltd

Coach and NBL Coordinator | Knights Basketball Academy CIC

T: 07888459670 | E: willw@knightsbasketball.co.uk |

Twitter: [@KnightsBball09](https://twitter.com/KnightsBball09) | W: [KnightsBasketball.co.uk](https://www.KnightsBasketball.co.uk)

Instagram: [@knightsbball09](https://www.instagram.com/knightsbball09)

TikTok: [@knightsbball09](https://www.tiktok.com/@knightsbball09)

Main Booking & Information Link:

[Knights Basketball | Linktree](#)

EXCHANGE WITH NATURE

**RICHMOND ARTS & IDEAS
FESTIVAL 2025
13-29 JUNE**



Immerse yourself in an art installation that uses film and sound to explore our connection to nature. Celebrating collaboration with local landscapes

June 2025



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THE EXCHANGE



LONDON BOROUGH OF
RICHMOND UPON THAMES

Where: The Exchange - Twickenham 75 London Road
Twickenham TW1 1BE

When: Sat 28th & Sun 29th June - 10 - 4pm

Venue Website: <https://www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk>

How to book:

This is a **FREE** event and to book your timed experience with us please use the following link:

<https://ExchangewithNature.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you have any other questions please contact Stuart at: wwstuartsimler@mac.com



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SCAN ME



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