



eBulletin

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eitin

Grey Court School | 9 January 2026

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



Cover photo: Jet d'Eau, Lake Geneva, Switzerland (taken by Mr McCormick)

#KeepInTouch

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The Uniform Shop

Thursdays 3:15-4pm

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

Grey Court JustGiving QR Code





UK Physics with Mr McCormick Programme CERN, Genève

In December, I was invited to attend the UK physics teacher programme hosted by CERN in Geneva. Along with 28 other physics teachers from around the UK, we had lectures from working particle physics theorists, data scientists, and particle detector designers. While their jobs were incredibly varied and interesting, the common theme among them was how passionate they were to tell us about the work they do.

After arriving on the evening Tuesday the 2 December, we were introduced to CERN by our inimitable host Jeff. An Austrian with boundless energy, incredible knowledge of particle physics and a love for cheese fondue (more on this later). As part of the safety briefing, which CERN takes incredibly seriously, we were informed that we must wear our badge at all times for identification purposes and 10% off at the gift shop*.

**an asterisk denotes a quote from the aforementioned Jeff, our Austrian host. Please read this in your best Austro-English accent for the full effect. If you cannot manage an Austro-English accent, a German-English accent will passably suffice.*



CERN was originally founded in 1954 by a collection of 12 countries for the express purpose of research for the betterment of human knowledge and understanding. Many nuclear scientists had spent the Second World War developing nuclear weapons and wanted to create a peaceful use for their knowledge. Originally called the Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire, they later renamed to the Organisation européenne pour la recherche nucléaire to become more global but did not like the new acronym so CERN has stuck.



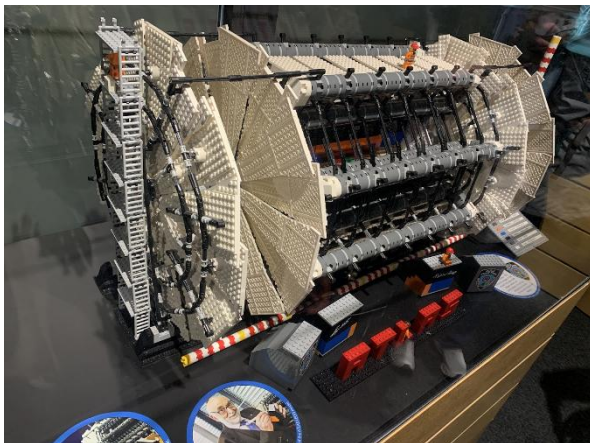
The history of CERN is littered with the inventions of now everyday technological solutions: the World Wide Web, touchscreens, and cloud computing were all designed to solve problems on the frontier of science. Because of their founding mission, all of these developments were shared with the world for free.

CERN is most famous for its Large Hadron Collider (LHC). The LHC is designed to collide particles (hadrons are a type of particle e.g. protons, neutrons and ions) and observe what is produced in the collision. In order to produce interesting outcomes, hadrons are accelerated to 99.999991% of the speed of light (the universe's speed limit). To accelerate these hadrons you need to move them around the 27km LHC and for these you need magnets, magnets, magnets, magnets*. (Did you remember to use your Austrian accent?)



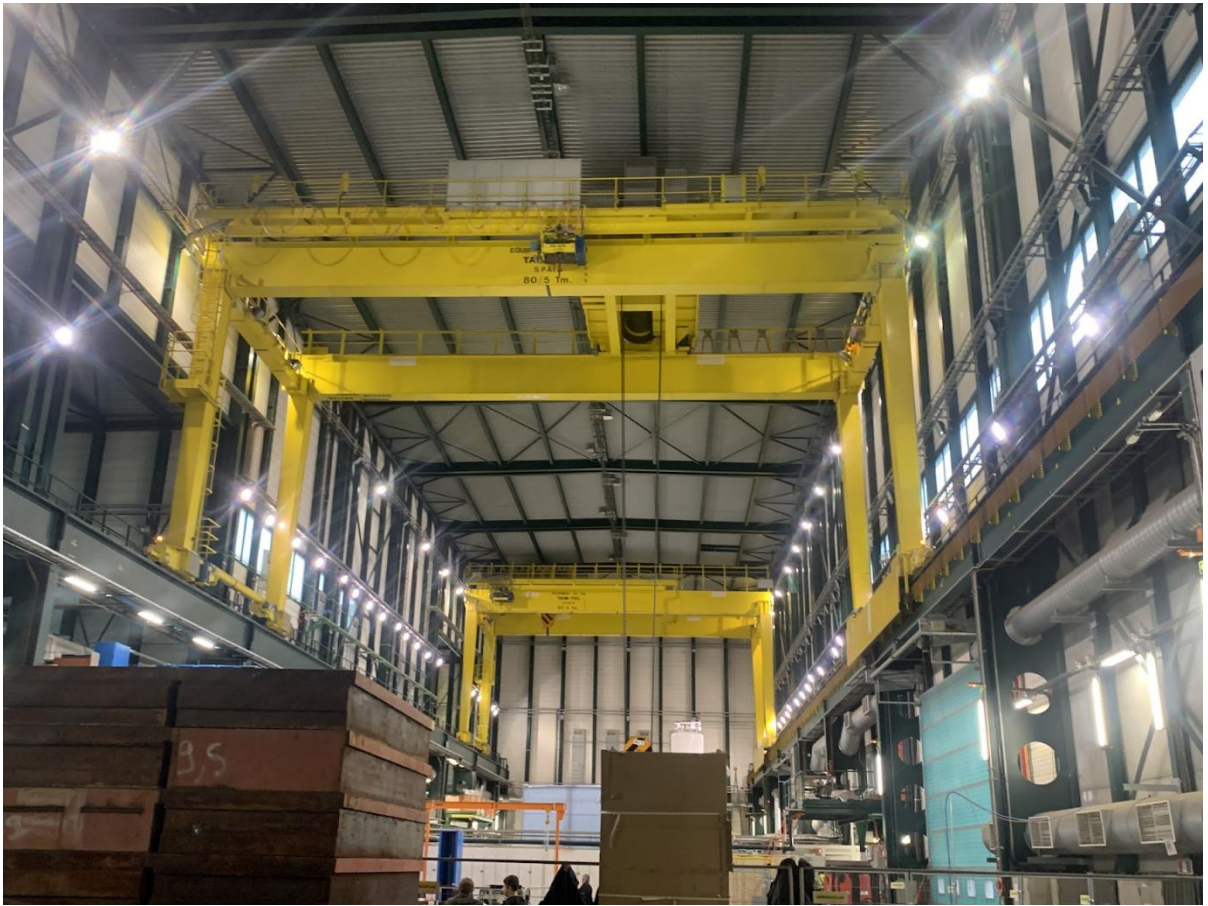
Producing a collision between particles is all well and good but you also need a method to observe the products of a collision. Individual particles are so small that no microscope could ever be used and even if they could, the products are often moving too fast.

To solve this, the scientists at CERN designed two totally different detectors: ATLAS and CMS. Both detectors are buried with the LHC 100m below the surface of the Franco-Swiss border. Because the LHC is the only particle collider of its kind in the world, having two entirely unique detectors is necessary to ensure that a new discovery is accurate and not a mistaken reading.

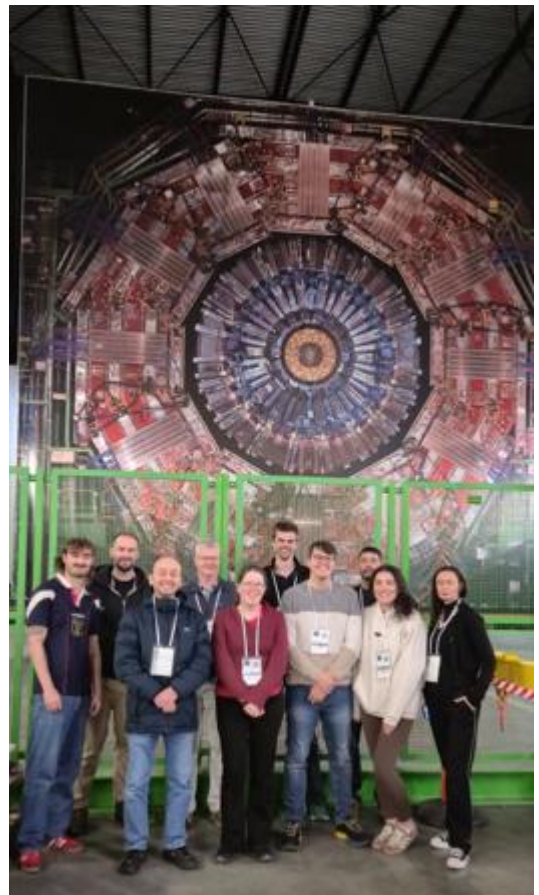


We had a talk and tour of the CMS from Dave Barney, group leader for CMS operations, head of CMS external communications, technical coordinator for CMS upgrades, chief of ATLAS mocking and purveyor of ducks. He explained the composite parts and functions of the CMS detector (which is vastly superior to the wholly mediocre ATLAS detector).

During the installation of the CMS, the detector was built in sections on the surface before being lowered 100m by four cranes that were manually coordinated over a 12 hour operation. The largest piece was 2,000 tons and had only 15cm of clearance either side but the level of expertise ensured it was successfully lowered and installed.



"I had 3 faces this week: deep concentration to understand something, jaw on the floor in awe, hysterical laughter at the absurdity of the scale"



As part of the visit, we descended to the LHC at the CMS detector. As the LHC was currently operating we were not able to enter the tunnel itself but we were 15m away on the other side of a concrete wall. Due to the CMS containing the largest magnet in the world, we could experience the magnetic field through paper clips hanging horizontally on a pipe! The engineers also told us that when they enter the LHC chamber, they are required to wear steel capped boots which pull their feet in the direction of the magnetic field!!



Dave also spoke to us about the key requirements to being a good scientist (although I think these are key requirements for many jobs and aspects in life):

- **Initiative:** e.g. the ability to see that something better can be done, or something is not being done but could be, and to follow through and act on it
- **Determination:** don't expect everything to work perfectly the first time! Learn from mistakes and always look to improve
- **Problem solving:** all jobs, particularly science-based, require problem-solving abilities. Learn how to approach a complex problem strategically and systematically, to break it down into manageable pieces and get through it
- **Never be afraid to ask for help!:** You cannot know everything – and that is fine! Learn who to ask, or which resources to use (not only AI!) and do so at the appropriate time (after making some effort yourself first)
- **Imagination:** sometimes creative but pragmatic novel solutions can take a project into a better direction.
- **Extrapolation:** Put all your previous learning to good use by extrapolating from a set of "knowns" to a new problem
- **Collaboration:** be someone you want others to work with! Show the capacity to listen, to learn, to contribute effectively and always look for the positives in people (they may sometimes be hidden, but they are there!)

The characteristic that stands out to me is initiative. Put yourself forward for interesting opportunities. Sometimes you will be rejected, sometimes you will be disappointed, but sometimes you will spend 4 days at a world class physics research centre eating cheese fondue*! (Insert your own dream scenario here)

Another fascinating lecture we had was from Manjit Dosanjh. She explained the impact of particle physics on medical uses demonstrating the importance of research for research's sake and how discoveries can then be used in life saving applications around the world.



Medical imaging technology has developed to astounding levels. 60 years ago, a single x-ray was all that was available to see inside of a person but this limited imaging to bones.

In the late 1960s PET scanners were developed which make use of anti-particles annihilating particles in your body creating light which can be detected! Don't worry, this happens all the time in life without you realising. PET scanners can be targeted to cancer tumours allowing for precise locating on tumours for treatment.

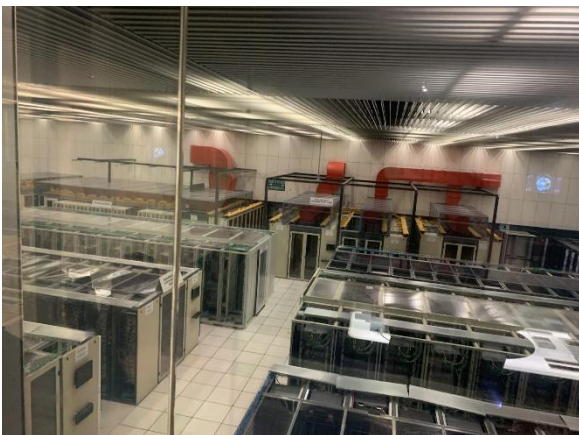
By 1971, CT scanning was developed which allowed layered x-ray scans to be taken and create a 3d image. However CT scans give the patient a large amount of radiation so usage has to be carefully decided by a doctor.

The latest developments are that CT scans can be combined with PET scanners for real time monitoring of tumours during radiotherapy treatment. This allows much more precise treatment increasing success rate and reducing the harm done on healthy cells in your body.

Other mind-blowing medical technologies now available are coloured, 3D x-ray scans and research on FLASH radiotherapy which only harms cancer tumours but does not harm healthy cells. Many of these medical technologies require the use of particle accelerators developed with CERN.

The scale of the experiments at CMS and ATLAS range from some of the smallest to the largest measurements. The size of a single proton is $1 \times 10^{-15} \text{m}$. A billion times smaller than a human hair. This means that during their experiments, 400 million protons collide every second! This produces 6 Petabytes of data per second. This amount of data would fill up the storage space on 5,000 high end PCs.

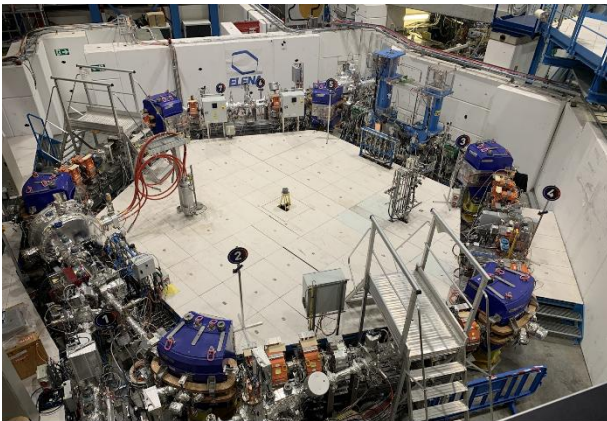
In order to deal with all the data, they have to filter out over 90% of the information collected in 1 millionth of a second and even then, they are recording 15GB per second. Over the history of the LHC, more than 1 exabyte of data has been stored and backed up around the world. (An exabyte is 1000 times bigger than a petabyte).



As previously mentioned, the world wide web and the concept of cloud computing was developed at CERN to solve problems in storing and retrieving data. To handle the vast amounts of data and store it for ever, the data is distributed digitally to 11 data centres around the world and also backed up on 40,000 rolls of magnetic tape storage. Each roll of tape storage is 1km long meaning that they have enough magnetic tape data to wrap around the Earth's equator.

Part of the research that happens at the LHC is trying to understand the universe. Everything that we interact with, matter, only makes up 5% of the universe. Scientists have observed phenomena in the universe which cannot be explained if there was only matter. Therefore to explain these phenomena, they have developed a theory that there is dark matter and dark energy which make up 25% and 70% of the universe. The only problem is, we cannot detect either. By accelerating particles faster and having better detectors, they hope to discover some signs of these illusive mysteries.

As well as dark matter and dark energy, there is also anti-matter but this is much better understood. I like to explain anti-matter as every type of particle we are familiar with has an evil twin. If these twins were to meet, they would annihilate each other and release all of their energy as light. At CERN, they have an anti-matter factory. This might just be the coolest statement ever written.



To top off the event, we were invited to celebrate physics in the most Swiss way possible: while eating cheese fondue*. Some say that getting 30 physicists in a room would result in dull or even no conversation. Some say that physicists' only nutrition is cups of coffee. All I know is that a free wheeling conversation ensued.

From questions on particle physics, to psychology discussions of inner monologues and aphantasia (lack of a mind's eye) to what the Higgs Boson looks like - according to Dave Barney, it looks like a hedgehog now known as a HiggsHog. On a side note, Dave now thinks I am the weirdest person in the world for having an inner monologue but not having a mind's eye.



To finish I will add some random personal learning moments from my trip:

1. Switzerland uses a different socket to the rest of Europe, check what the correct travel adapter is.
2. Trains are better than planes. You can stop in Paris on the way to Geneva and see the Christmas lights. Make the journey part of the trip and reduce your carbon emissions at the same time.
3. If you rely on your phone for your payment, maps and boarding cards then accidentally type your passcode wrong while it is in your pocket, make sure you have a Mr Lunniss around to help out.
4. Say yes to every opportunity that comes your way.
5. Love your job so much that you want to talk about it for 4 days straight.
6. I had 3 faces this week: deep concentration to understand something, jaw on the floor in awe, hysterical laughter at the absurdity of the scale.



Mr Lunniss and Mr McCormick

Thank you so much to CERN, Jeff and his brilliant team and my physics teaching colleagues it was the most amazing opportunity. . It was an incredible experience learning more about physics and sharing teaching practice with other experts.



I will leave you with some final Jeffisms:

- Taking photos is not only allowed, but mandatory.
- If you do not drink all of the wine, the PhDs will finish it for you.
- The rules have not changed, ask any questions either directly or at the end.
- I will dive in front of you to protect your lunch break.
- Please take all of your belongings with you, you will not see this room ever again.
- You will find more information at cern.ch/PER
- If you need to know anything, ask JeffGPT.
- Please be on time otherwise you will receive a JeffGIF

Grey Court PA presents:

COMEDY NIGHT



HOSTED BY

Erich McElroy

OF CRACK COMEDY

FEATURING



Esther Manito



Jenny Collier



Michael Fabbri

Tickets: £20

2-person Tapas platters: £15

Licensed bar.

Strictly over 18s only

FRIDAY 6TH FEB



2026

Show starts 20:00

Doors open 19:00

Tickets via:

www.pta-events.co.uk/greycourtschool

Stopping by Ham Pond on a Frosty Morning

- Mr Clements

I have to admit that Monday morning - definitely felt like the darkest dawn of the academic year as I traipsed into school in some of the coldest temperatures I have experienced in the dozen or so years I have worked in this downy quarter of England. Indeed, my own frosty mood was encapsulated in the freezing figure of a year 9 student in shirt sleeves who was perched on the low wall next to Mr Rhodes' defrosting Audi 3 GCS, reading "War and Peace" in shirt sleeves at 7.40 in the morning!

However, once I had passed across the threshold of our hallowed environment, my mood was cheered by both the warmth (Mr Rhodes has turned the radiators on at long last) and Ms Duncan's new radioactive ivy green scarf, which can best be described as "After Eight" chic. It was bequeathed to Grey Court's chief influencer by her great Aunt apparently.



"Come on, there are only so many times I can re-watch the "Amandaland Christmas special," I thought, it is time to get on with the New Year! I am sure a number of new challenges must lie ahead! Little did I realise that before the words had frosted on my chilly breath, the first challenge of the New Year had manifested faster than the pupils forming a snow angel on Ham Common. Could I warn pupils about the black ice on Richmond Road, advise students not to ride their bikes in icy conditions and could we patrol Ham Common because some idiots in school uniform had been reported to be throwing tree stumps onto the ice?

So in relation to the bike issue, since a number of students and an unfortunate staff member have experienced what Ms Moore, has defined as "negative friction" on their rides to school, when the temperature dips below freezing, I would advise students and staff to walk or use public transport. Riding in sub-zero temperatures is not advisable especially as the roads do not seem to have been gritted this year.

With regards to the pond on Ham Common, as tempting as it might be to stop by the pond on a snowy morning or afternoon, this presents a considerable hazard if stepped on, and so I would urge students to seek the sanctuary and warmth of home or school. Our reputation in the local community is very important and frozen lakes and ponds are highly dangerous. This view is endorsed by London fire brigade who have warned that "If you fall into icy water, the risk of hypothermia is very high and can prove fatal." They have already responded to 14 frozen pond/lake incidents in this cold snap and we do not want them to have to rescue (or be put at risk) by anyone from our school community.

However, the annoyance of student misadventures soon thawed when both Mr Rhodes and I had the pleasure of meeting, Bill Millard, the lead ecology volunteer warden from the Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group, who spotted us engaged in an afternoon ice patrol. Mr Mallard has been repurposing the tree stumps and branches that had been used to break the ice into sheltered habitats for stag beetle larvae and has proved to be our man on the ground when it comes to all things Pond life. We hope to encourage some Grey Court students to engage in volunteer work with this group when Spring arrives.

And a final thank you to the Grey Court students who remarked that the sight of Mr Rhodes and my good self patrolling the pond reminded them of Iceman Kristoff and his reindeer Sven, from the film "Frozen." And before readers start humming the "Let it go" tune they can decide which one of us was Iceman Kristoff and which one looked like the musky reindeer!



KS3 +
KS4
News

Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch during the last week of the term was a great event. Christmas songs and tables adorned with lights, decorations, candy canes, and chocolates created a wonderfully festive atmosphere. The canteen staff worked tirelessly to provide a lovely Christmas dinner. Thanks to all those who helped over the 5 sittings! Also, thank you to all the students who donated towards Crisis at Christmas. We were delighted to send a cheque for £800 to this very worthy cause.

- Ms Price



YEAR 7

It has been great to welcome the students back into school this week, hearing about their festive season and their favourite toys that Father Christmas brought them! We ended last term on a high with our Celebration assembly and we had so many certificates given out to worthy winners for such a wide variety of accomplishments and efforts.

The students have returned with renewed vigour and for many, have settled into new sets for Maths and English.

Mr Allchurch led our assembly on "Veganuary" and told us about his journey to becoming Vegan, after growing up on a small dairy farm. Students heard about the processes involved and how male dairy calves are taken from their mothers to be sold at market, leading to the mothers crying/mooing for up to 3 days; these are some of the hidden costs of cattle farming.

Year 8

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful Christmas break and is feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead. Year 8 have returned with great energy, and (mostly) working alarm clocks - a strong start all round.

A huge well done to our conduct champions this week: Jasper, Kalani, Almus, and Martha. Their positive attitudes, excellent behaviour, and consistent effort have really stood out. A brilliant way to kick off 2026 - keep leading by example!

As we settle back into routines, a quick reminder about representing the school in public. Whether on the journey to and from school or out in the community, students are ambassadors for us at all times. We ask that they continue to show the same respect, kindness, and good judgement they do in school. With the colder weather sticking around, please also remind students to dress appropriately - warm coats, sensible footwear, and layers make all the difference. And a safety note: frozen ponds and lakes may look tempting, but they are extremely dangerous. Please ensure students know not to walk on ice or put themselves at risk. Here's to a positive, productive term ahead for Year 8.

Year 9

It was fantastic to welcome back the Y9s after their Xmas Break and it's been a great start back.

Firstly I am sure you are all aware that Ms Saccheri left over the Xmas break as she embarks on a new adventure in Australia! We are very grateful for all the hard work that Ms Saccheri put in with the year group and she will be missed! The year team will continue to be looked after by Mr Jacob (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Taylor (Pastoral and Safeguarding officer), Mr Day (Phase Leader) and our fantastic team of form tutors.

This week in Assembly and PDW we were lucky enough to hear from Kingston College to learn about the range of qualifications available to them in the future and think about their skills and qualities. This is part of the options process and was a really interesting talk. The students all listened intently and hopefully it was valuable for them as we start building towards our options choices later this year. Parents can access the presentation [here](#).



Year 10

It has been great to welcome students back after the holidays, and the first week has been a really positive one. Students have returned well and their attitude and effort have been excellent.

A big well done to the winners of our Achievement Point Challenge from last half term. They enjoyed their Nando's reward today and were very pleased with it. We will be setting a new challenge for this term.

This half term is a very important one for coursework submissions across a number of subjects. Where concerns are raised by teachers, I will be keeping students back after school on Fridays to help them catch up and stay on track.

Please speak with your child about keeping on top of their coursework and encourage them to speak to their teachers if they need any support.

As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Jack Petchey

Speak out Challenge

Workshop



Y10

On Wednesday this week, 28 Year 10 students participated in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge workshop. They were provided sessions that allowed them to practise their oracy and improve their public speaking skills. Students showed great promise and it was lovely to see them grow in confidence throughout the day.

- Mr Bhumbra

Year 11

A big welcome back to our Year 11 students after what we hope has been a restful holiday. Students have returned to school with a positive and motivated attitude which is fantastic.

It is important for students to maintain focus over this term as they learn their last elements of content and progress with their coursework in many subjects.

Please note that intervention (before and after school) will begin again w/c 19 January. Students are required to attend these sessions and therefore we appreciate your support at home. These interventions are allocated to students to help them catch up and progress with their studies.

Following confirmation from the exam boards, the final date students need to be available for their GCSE examinations is Wednesday 24 June 2026. Letters will be sent in the next week regarding Y11 prom, this date is Thursday 25 June 2026.



WPA

Stars of the Week

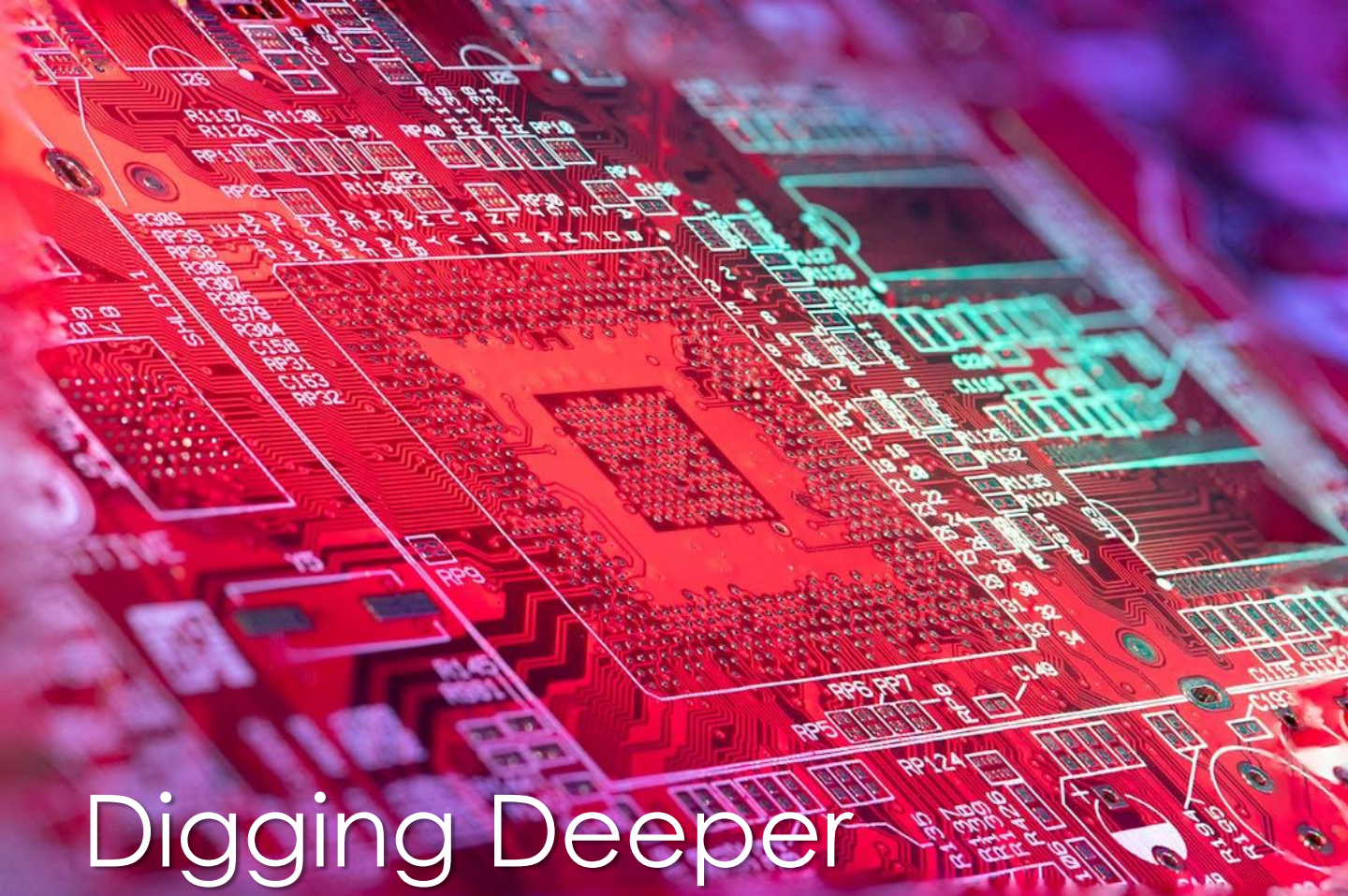


Year	Name	Subject	Reason
8B	Tabitha Elliott	Drama	Excellent homework
9M	Mabel Ireland	Drama	Excellent contributions
10E	Isaac Myhill	Drama	Excellent engagement in class
11B	Jennifer Velvindron	Drama	Excellent engagement in class
13C	Joseph Woodall	Drama	Excellent contributions
7W	Jack Winship	Music	Excellent contributions
8W	Sophie Walsh	Music	Outstanding achievement
11A	William Shaw	Music	Excellent progress in the subject
7M	Clio Saville 7	Art	Excellent classwork
8R	Gabrielle Ndanga-Cabral	Art	Excellent classwork
9W	Daisy McClune-Langdon	Art	Excellent engagement in class
10A	Shanzay Adnan	Art	Excellent progress in the subject
11R	Arianne Belfield	Art	Outstanding achievement
12A	Beth Caple	Art	Excellent engagement in class
13D	Leanna Hui	Art	Excellent progress in the subject
13D	Joshua Harwood-White	Photography	Excellent homework





This week in
Science



Digging Deeper

with Mr Gundry

Energy transfers (conduction, convection and radiation)

Chemistry is full of temperature changes: a reaction mixture warming up, a beaker being heated, or a gas cooling as it expands. In every case, the key idea is the same: energy moves from hotter places to cooler places. How that energy moves often decides how quickly a reaction happens, how reliable the result is, and how safe the practical is.

Conduction is energy spreading through a material by direct contact. In solids, nearby particles pass energy along; in metals this is especially effective, which is why a metal spatula or thermometer can become hot very quickly. This is also why some materials are chosen for safety: glass and many plastics are poorer conductors than metals, so they pass energy along more slowly.

Convection happens in liquids and gases when warmer fluid moves and carries energy with it. Warm fluid tends to rise and cooler fluid sinks, creating circulating currents. When you heat a beaker, energy first enters at the base (by conduction), then convection helps distribute that energy through the liquid. This is why stirring matters so much: it strengthens mixing and reduces hot spots.

There is also a third route: **radiation**. Hot objects emit infrared radiation, which can transfer energy without direct contact (you feel this when your hand is near, but not touching, a flame or a hot plate). Radiation is relevant in chemistry because heating is not always “through the container” (for example, warming from a hot surface nearby), and because it contributes to heat loss from warm glassware and reaction vessels.

If a mixture heats unevenly, parts of it can react at different speeds. That can shift yields, change observations, and make results less reliable. Uneven heating can also increase risk: localised hot regions can cause sudden boiling or splashing, and hot metal parts can transfer energy to skin quickly by conduction. Many standard routines are really energy management: gentle heating, using a water bath when appropriate, allowing time for temperatures to equalise, and handling equipment with the right tools.

Energy transfer also sits in the background of everyday choices. A metal door handle can feel colder than a wooden one in winter because it conducts energy away from your hand faster, even if both are at the same room temperature. Radiators rely on convection currents to warm a room efficiently. Insulation works largely by slowing conduction and limiting convection in trapped air.

Understanding conduction, convection and radiation helps students make sense of why chemistry behaves differently with temperature, why the same experiment can give different outcomes when heating is rushed, and why safe practice depends on controlling how energy moves



Small Screen, Big Science with Mr Gundry

I'm going to try a new mini-section in the eBulletin: each half term I'll try to share some shows or films I have recently watched that link to science (even if very loosely!). The aim is to show that science is not merely something we do in lessons; it appears everywhere (often in the background of the TV we watch, the news we scroll past, and the choices we make day to day).

This week: "The War Between Land and Sea" (BBC, Doctor Who spin-off)

Over the break, I watched "The War Between Land and Sea. I'm going to avoid plot spoilers as best I can (but I cannot guarantee that I have succeeded!).

One of the main science ideas running through it is the impact of human pollution on waterways. It points towards the kinds of things that end up in rivers and seas (sewage, plastics and other waste), and it is a useful reminder that our water systems connect everything. What goes into them does not just stay in one place, and the effects can build up over time.

A couple of examples that link neatly to what students learn in science: Sewage and nutrient pollution can raise levels of nitrates and phosphates, which can trigger algal blooms and reduce oxygen in the water (bad news for fish and other aquatic life).

- Plastics break down into smaller pieces (microplastics), which can be eaten by animals and move through food chains.
- Even when water looks "clean", it can still carry dissolved pollutants that affect habitats and biodiversity.

Alongside the message, it is also just a really well written and well acted show. It does a good job of making the issue feel real without turning into a lecture, and I would recommend it. If it prompts a bit of reflection, a simple "call to action" is to pick one small change that helps: reducing single-use plastic where you can, being careful about what goes down sinks and toilets, and supporting local river or beach clean-ups if you are able.



GREY COURT
SCHOOL

MOGOS 2026

**The Music of
James Bond**

19 March 2026

**Sign up to audition here!
Audition deadline:
30 Jan 2026**



Introducing the Grey Court
2026 Musical...

ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.

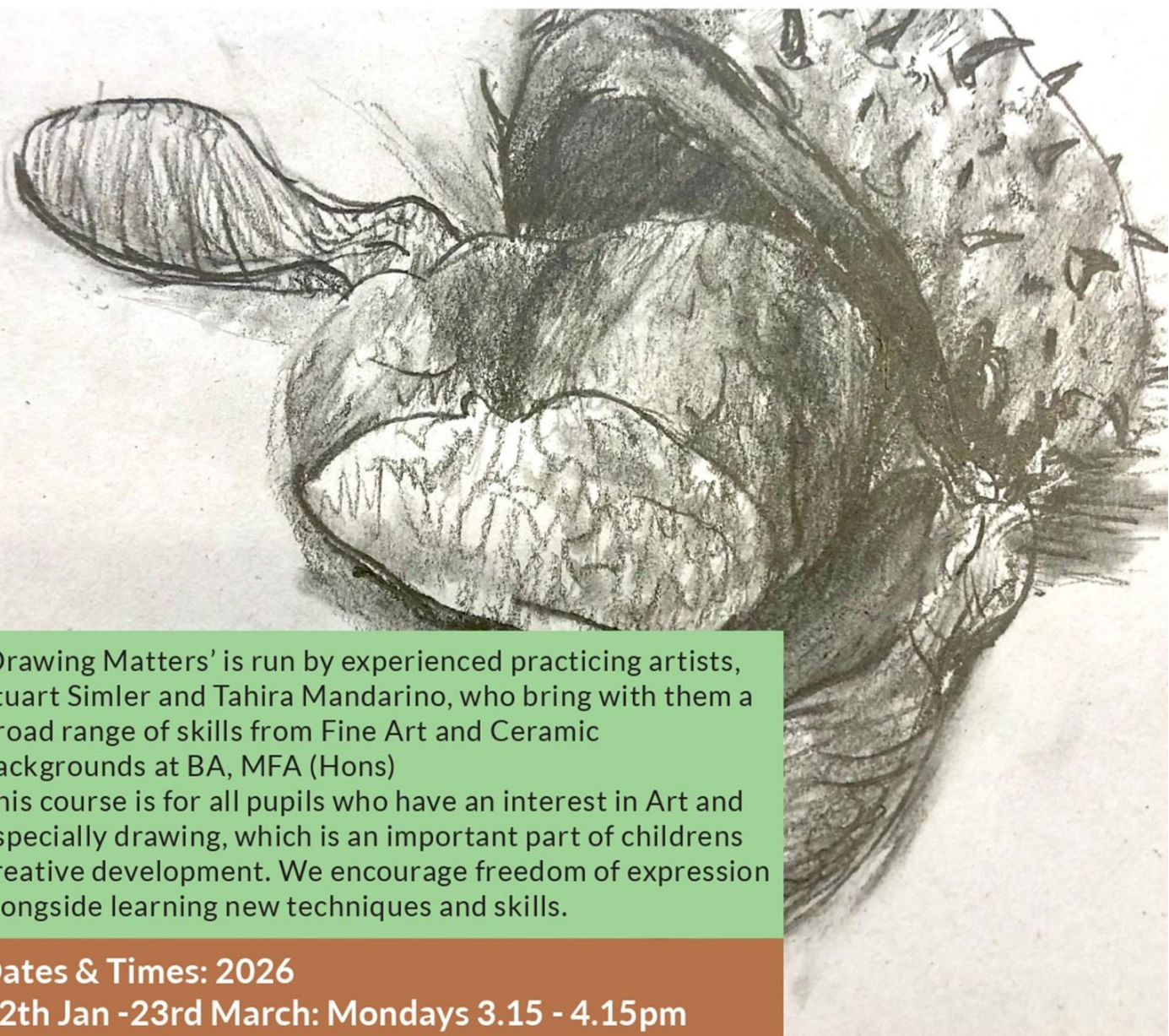
2-3 July 2026



Sign up to audition here -
vocal auditions via Google Classroom



DRAWING MATTERS



'Drawing Matters' is run by experienced practicing artists, Stuart Simler and Tahira Mandarin, who bring with them a broad range of skills from Fine Art and Ceramic backgrounds at BA, MFA (Hons)

This course is for all pupils who have an interest in Art and especially drawing, which is an important part of childrens creative development. We encourage freedom of expression alongside learning new techniques and skills.

Dates & Times: 2026

12th Jan -23rd March: Mondays 3.15 - 4.15pm

Cost: £108.00 - 9 weeks

No class: 16th or 23rd Feb

Year Groups: 7-10

Grey Court

How to apply:

If you would like to book a place for your child on these classes please email: Stuart: stuartsimler@mac.com

Payment terms BACS: Company name: Raw Ground Arts Limited
Sort: 40-26-12 Account: 32189860

Should you wish for your child to take part but need financial assistance, please contact T. Razvand: trazvand-atwi@greycourt.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming your young artist onto the course.

Stuart & Tahira

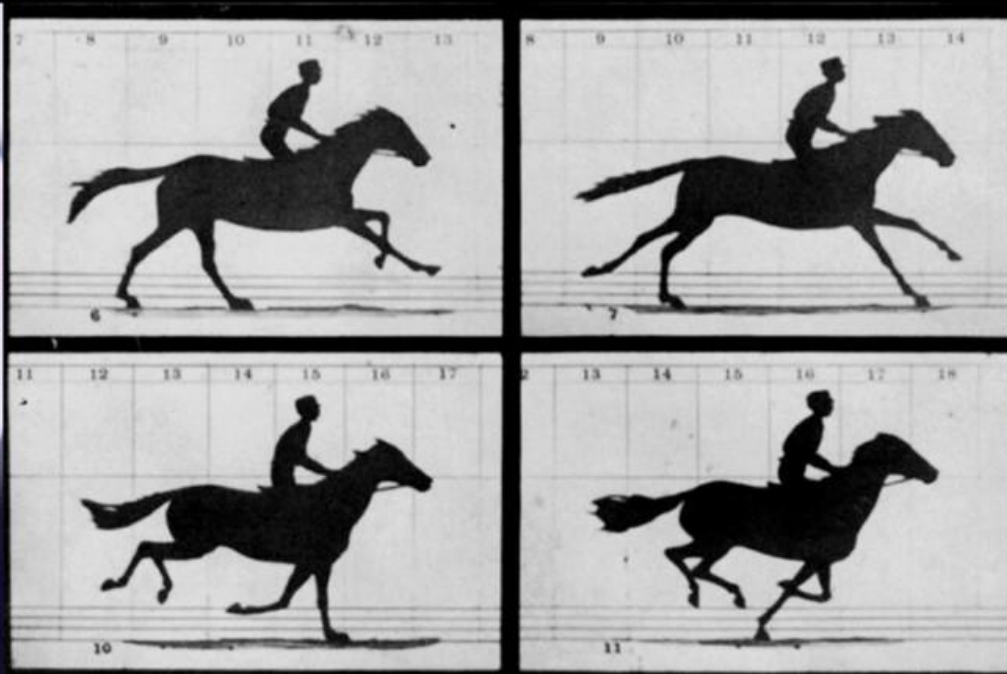
*For terms and conditions please visit: <https://www.rawgroundarts.com/drawing-matters>



RG

www.rawgroundarts.com

LONDON



**Grey Court School Spring 2026
Photography for Y7-10 (& DofE)
Thursday 3.15 - 4.30pm**

**Muybridge - Film Making - Teddington Lock
Collage - Vortography - Portraits -
Photography & Ai**

9 Weeks from Thursday January 15th
Course Fee £90 includes Canon Dslr cameras

Please email clickschools@gmail.com
to book your place. More details
www.clickphotographyworkshops.com

Grey Court is keen to ensure this opportunity is open to all students. Should you wish for your child to take part but may need financial assistance, please contact Ms Price by email vprice@greycourt.org.uk

Click Photography Workshops is run by award-winning photographer Philip Hollis & Sheridan Morley, former Nikon UK Fashion Photographer of the Year

Wellbeing



MHST

Support for You



Parent Information Leaflet (Spring 2026)

General information about AfC MHST services, including the links to the Helping with... Parent webinars (topics chosen by parents)



Supporting families and professionals

As the new year kicks off, and the debate over the government-led review into mental health conditions continues, our spotlight this month falls on advocacy, and how it is driving our work as a community-based support for families and professionals.

Advocacy is vital for ADHD because it raises awareness, reduces stigma and improves early diagnosis. Just as important, it influences research, and ensures access to appropriate support, accommodations, and policies that reflect real needs rather than outdated assumptions. This month in our latest [blog](#), our Chair, Annette Wilson, reflects on the independent reviews and NHS ADHD Taskforce final report, and advocates the need to tackle disinformation using an evidence-based approach, and speaks up for the families affected.

A key element of our advocacy work, our programme of events, is planned up to Easter 2026, and is ready to take bookings [now](#); including a highly topical webinar, [ADHD Diagnostic Pathways: A guide](#).

We are also delighted to announce the appointment of our newest ADHD Embrace Advocate, Deputy SENCo at Tiffin School, Matilda Underwood.

Best wishes for 2026, from the Team at ADHD Embrace

For all other information regarding news and events, click [here](#)



SIXTH FLOOR NEWS

Y12

Year 12 Trial exams

The year 12 Trial exams started this week and will continue into next week. All trial exams will take place in lesson time. All information is in the [Trial exams booklet and timetable](#)

Year 12 Oxbridge

Students in year 12 who are interested in applying for Oxbridge have joined the google classroom. The trip to Oxford is running on the 27 January. Further sessions will run later in the term once mocks and the trip have been completed. Currently students can be working to develop their super curricular record as outlined on the google classroom assignment.



After the year 12 exams, we will be doing a big push on work experience. Students should now be looking for work experience placements or a university summer school for the week **29 June-3 July 2026**. Students may like to do extra work experience at different times but they **MUST** have something planned for our designated week.

There is a Spanish trip to Valencia for any year 12s studying Spanish and this will replace work experience, you can do additional work experience outside of this period.

For all information on work experience: [WEX student launch - Nov 2025](#)

Once they have spoken to an employer and arranged this it needs to be added to the Unifrog placements tool as this is where all the information is kept and shared between the student, employer, parent/carer and the school. [How to record your work experience placement on Unifrog](#)
The deadline for this to be completed by student, employer, parent and school on the Unifrog system is: 20 March 2026

Careers Opportunities + O-Bulletin

Y12

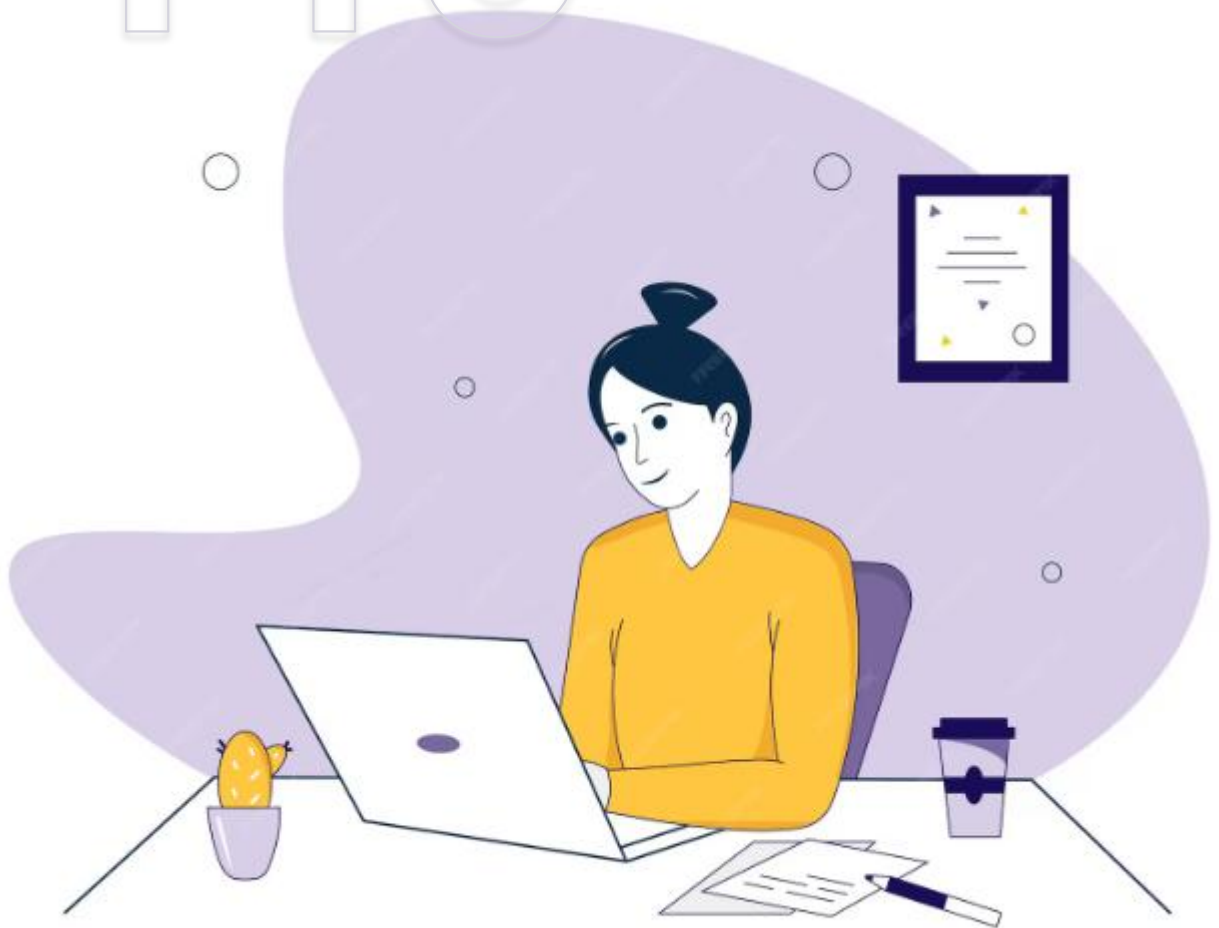
[GC Careers opportunities bulletin 09/01/2026](#)

All year 12s and 13s should be checking this weekly. This will also include work experience details for year 12s.

Take a look at this week's opportunities bulletin packed with apprenticeships, work experience, careers events, university tasters, and much more.

and

Y13





Y13

Year 13 students have made a positive and meaningful start to the year, with many of our students sitting BTEC exams this week and next. I hope that they have gone well so far, and good luck with next week's exams!

UCAS

Only a few students are waiting to send off their UCAS applications and so in the coming weeks we'll be using form time to look at topics such as student finance and accepting university offers.

Many of our Year 13s have had responses from their five choices of university, so now it's time to start thinking about accepting firm and insurance choices. There is plenty of time before students have to respond - pay attention to the reply by date given (this varies depending on the date students heard from their final university).

For information about student finance and what you can apply for see [Student Finance How to Guide](#). There is also really useful information about loans and budgeting on the [Martin Lewis website](#).



UCAS Stars

The students who have accepted their offers by choosing a firm and insurance choice: Amelia P, Yusuf R, Malachy O, and George B



EPQ Update

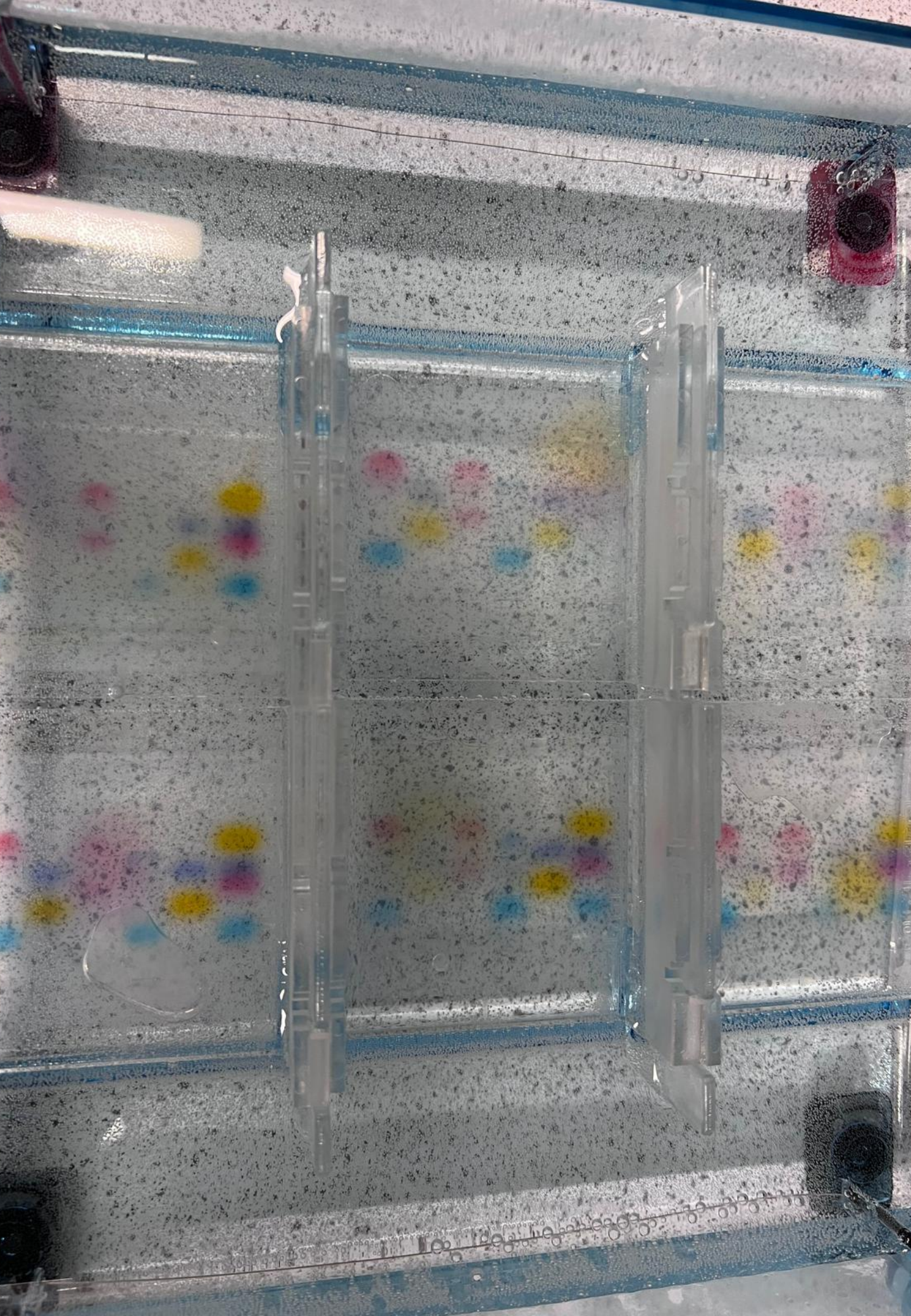
All drafts should have been uploaded to the google classroom in the next two weeks for your supervisor to read and respond to. When this is done, time should be used to: update your log book and action plan, put your folder together and begin thinking about your presentations. Once you've had feedback you need to work on the final draft of your essay and meet your supervisor to complete your midterm review. Final presentations will take place in February.

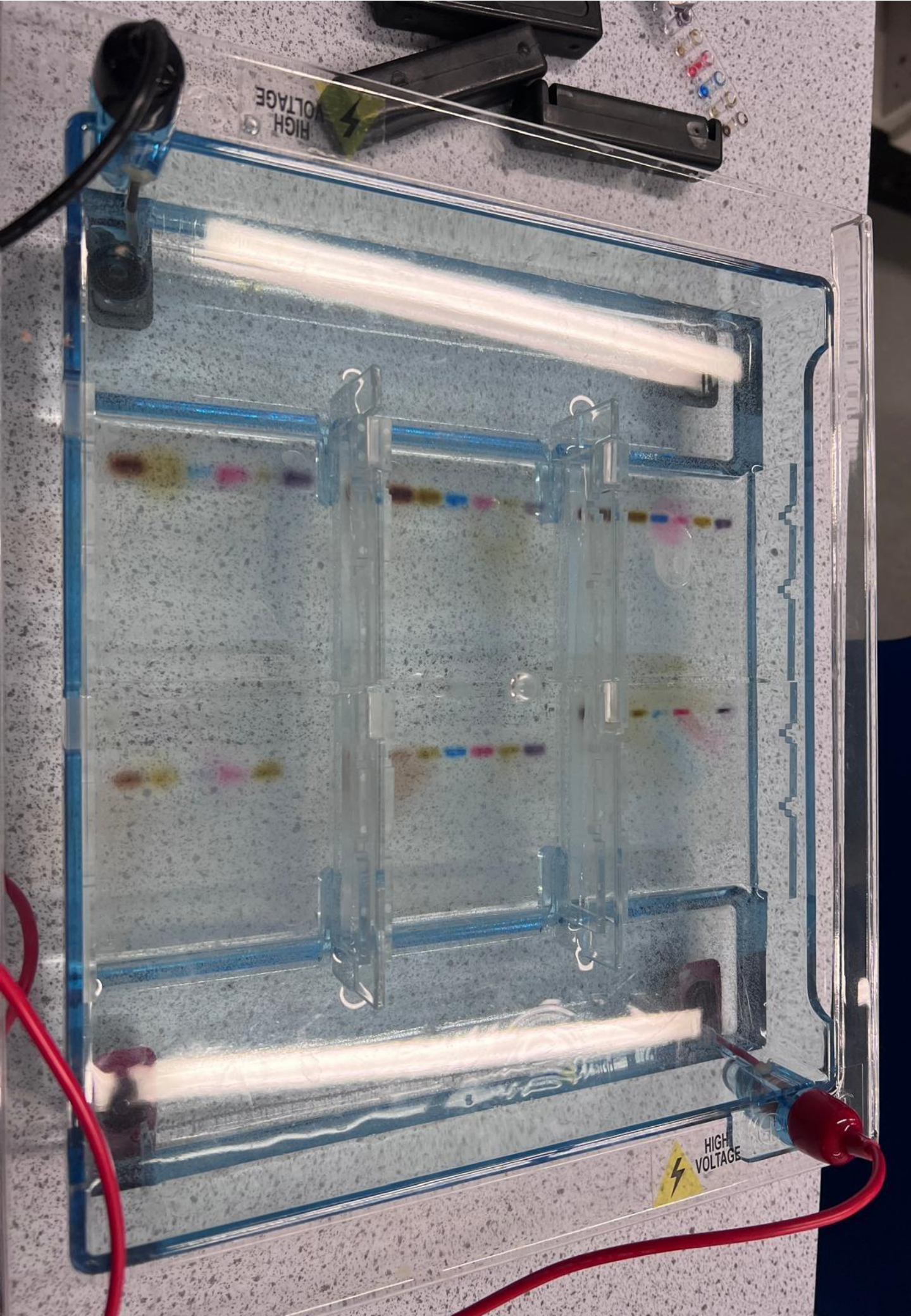


Y13

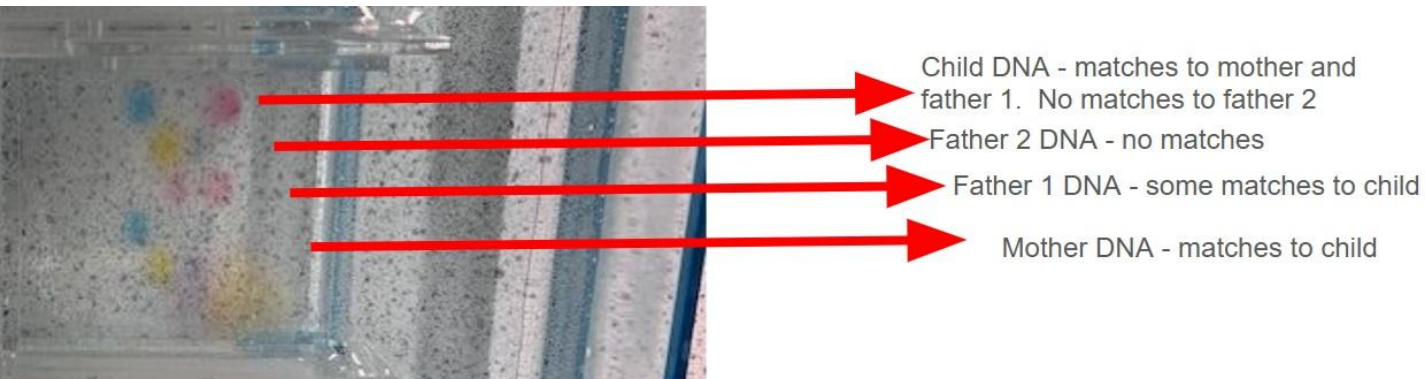
Biology

Just before the break, our Year 13 biologists became the lucky first of students at Grey Court (thanks to the hard work of Ms McCorrison and Ms Mohamed!) to complete a practical investigating DNA analysis using gel electrophoresis. Students prepared DNA samples, loaded them into agarose gels and applied an electric current to separate DNA fragments by size. By comparing banding patterns, they were able to interpret genetic similarities and differences with real scientific precision.





The practical culminated in a paternity test simulation, where students analysed DNA profiles from a child and two possible fathers, making the biology lab briefly feeling like a calmer take on the Jeremy Kyle Show... The results showed it was a 'Father 1' match, with all the child's DNA bands accounted for between the parents. Thankfully, the findings were handled with more scientific detachment than in Elf, where Walter Hobbs regrettably discovers that Buddy the Elf is his son.



Beyond festive films, students discussed why gel electrophoresis matters in the real world. The technique underpins forensic science, medical diagnostics, genetic research and paternity testing. A recent example from the news reports how several Kenyan individuals won legal cases in the UK's Family Court to prove that British soldiers stationed at a former army base were their biological fathers, allowing their children to claim British Citizenship. In paternity disputes like these, scientific evidence from DNA profiling can be crucial. The practical provided an excellent opportunity for Year 13 to develop technical skills and practise data interpretation. Examples like these also helped students appreciate how scientific lab work can have profound legal, personal and societal consequences.

We now move on to the principles of genetic engineering, where students will be debating the ethical implications of genetically modified crops, pharming (using genetically modified animals to produce pharmaceuticals) and germ line therapy (replacing mutant alleles with healthy alleles in egg cells/embryos) - so hopefully some interesting discussions but thankfully for the safety of us all, no practical work.

- Ms Bapty

Y1 with LOVE

The sixth form put together some Hampers for the Vineyard Project in Richmond during the last week of term.

The drop in centre was delighted to receive them on the last day of term and the contents of the boxes will have been very much enjoyed and appreciated by the recipients, many of whom are homeless or have nowhere to go at Christmas.

Thank you to all the sixth form tutors and staff and of course the students who made this surprise delivery of treats happen with their generosity.

- Ms Mannion



SPORTS



Congrats



Welsh Winter Championships Welsh Winter Championships

Congratulations to Charlie and Millie Welsh, Seb Garnham, and Ida and Albie Teggarty-Sparks, who competed in the Welsh National Winter Championships in Swansea from 18-21 December 2025.



Charlie Welsh

14/15 Age Group

400 free – qualified for the finals and then got Gold

800 free – Gold

1500 free – Silver

200 free – qualified for the finals then got Bronze

100 free - qualified for the finals and then got 7th

Charlie also raced 200 IM, 200 Back and got PBs in all



Millie Welsh

12/13 Age Group

200 fly - qualified for the finals and then got Gold

400 IM - qualified for the finals and then got Bronze

1500 free – Bronze

800 free – 7th

200 back - qualified for the finals and then came 7th

100 fly - qualified for the finals and then came 8th

400 free - qualified for the finals and then came 8th

50 fly – 10th

She also swam 200 free, 100 free, 100 back, 200 IM, 50 free



Seb Garnham

Seb Garnham won 2 National medals. Silver in the 800m and bronze in the 400m. Unfortunately, he had to miss the last day and the 1500m/200 fly (which are his strongest events) as he had his London regional development day at Harrow School with the Swim England talent pathway coaches.



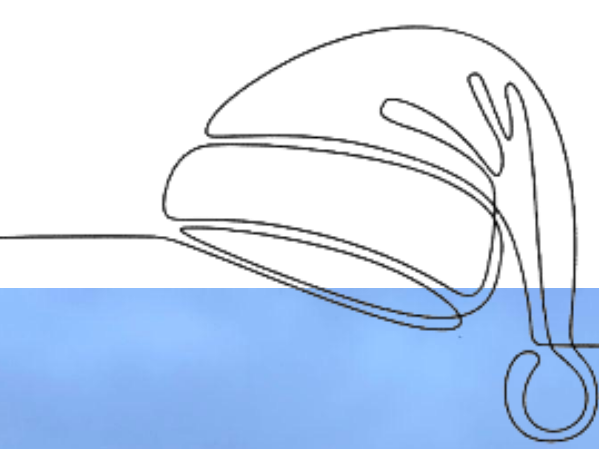
Ida Teggarty-Sparks

Ida (age 14) competed in the 14-15 age category, taking two silvers in the 200m and 400m freestyle events, and a bronze in the 800m freestyle. She also came 5th in the 200IM and managed to swim long course personal bests in all these races.



Albie Teggarty-Sparks

Albie was one of only four 12-year-old boys to compete in the 400m freestyle event in the 12-13 age category. He swam a long course PB in the Welsh National pool.



18 December 2025: Christmas run along the Thames



Tuesday 6 January: a good win for the Boys U14 Basketballers at Orleans Park. Congratulations!

ALUMNUS

DECLAN RICE



lifeofballers Declan Rice is really moving at a different level and we need to have conversations on where he stands as one of the world's best. Another dominant performance in midfield. Two goals, controlling the midfield, leadership and the 3 points. Strengthening his claim as one of the best midfielders in the world with each game. He's arguably been the Player of the Season so far. But the love for the game started way before packed stadiums. Back in London, Declan was just like any other kid playing for his school team at Grey Court School. Playing with his classmates. Loving every minute. He loved school football so much that he used to beg his teacher to move kick-off times so he could play school football before heading off to Chelsea training at the academy. He says his school team became one of the best in the country, playing in County Cup Finals against the top schools in the area. Maybe that's why he's used to the pressure and expectations of big games. He still talks about those days with a smile... reminiscing on the memories. Fast forward and Declan is now playing his best football for one of the biggest clubs in the country and one of the best teams in the world. He's living his school days on a bigger scale now. Full circle moment... swipe to the end when Declan returned to his school to greet the next generation.

[lifeofballers Insta page](#)



“ ”

I used to love school football. When I was at Grey Court School, we had one of the best teams in the country.

LifeOfBallers

Everyone has a story.

Declan Rice

@lifeofballerss



Daisy

Performer of the Month



Daisy has had an outstanding month, showcasing her exceptional talent, dedication, and competitive spirit across multiple sports.

At the **Lee Valley Indoor Championships last week**, Daisy shone on the track as the **fastest 60m runner**, demonstrating explosive speed and brilliant race execution. She didn't stop there—Daisy also claimed victory in the **Long Jump**, winning the event with an impressive **4.47m** leap. Adding to her achievements, she was a key part of the **4x200m relay team**, who finished as the **fastest female squad in the entire competition**.

Beyond athletics, Daisy continues to prove her value as a **vital member of the netball team**, who have now progressed to the **2nd round of the SIS Bowl**. Her versatility, teamwork, and determination make her an asset in every arena she steps into.

Daisy is not only excelling right now but shows **tremendous potential for the future**. Her commitment to training, positive attitude, and natural ability make her a truly deserving **Player of the Month**.

Joshua Gilbert

Player of the Month



Congratulations to Josh Gilbert who has been awarded Player of the Month for December. Joshua's dedication and performance over the past few months have been exceptional. After first being introduced to multi-eventing through Grey Court in Year 9, Joshua committed to training specifically for pentathlons, putting in 3-4 focused training sessions each week, alongside regular runs. His hard work has paid off in a big way this year.

Joshua was unable to compete in the Middlesex School Pentathlon but due to his scores in the individual events, Joshua was invited to join the Regional team to represent Middlesex. He didn't disappoint, finishing 2nd overall, and as a result, earned an invitation to the National Pentathlon competition in September. That event determined the four-person England squad for international competition - Joshua came 4th to secure a spot on the England squad, earning him his first international vest. Over the weekend, he competed for England in Glasgow, Joshua took on the five pentathlon events: 60m hurdles, long jump, 200m, shot putt, and 800m. He excelled across the board, setting personal bests in 4 out of the 5 events - please see below for the individual event times/distances. The competition came down to the final 800m race, where Joshua had to stay within 1.5 seconds of the third-place athlete to retain second. In a thrilling final 100m, Josh held on to finish 2nd in Britain, just 50 points behind the leader. His performance contributed to Team England's team gold, making this achievement all the more special.

Joshua's determination is coming along and it shows what he can achieve if he puts in the work and continues to develop across all athletic disciplines and in his rugby, where he is an impactful player for our U15 team who look to continue their cup run this week. Below are his impressive scores in Glasgow over the 5 events:

800m - 2:17	60m Hurdles - 8.72	Long Jump - 6.05m
200m - 23.50	Shot - 14.55	

Scholar of the Month

Olivia Fisher



Olivia truly embodies everything our Sports Scholarship programme stands for: dedication, talent, and an unwavering drive to improve. Her commitment to cross country has been outstanding — proudly representing Grey Court with determination and resilience — and she approaches every Sports Scholar lesson with exceptional focus and effort.

Whether she's training, competing, or supporting her peers, Olivia consistently demonstrates a brilliant work ethic and a positive attitude. Her willingness to push herself, learn, and grow reflects not only her natural ability but also her genuine passion for sport.

Beyond her athletic achievements, Olivia brings enthusiasm, kindness, and a supportive spirit to all areas of school life, making her a valued and respected member of our community.

Well done, Olivia!

Scholar of the Month

Woody Cowie



Congratulations to our Scholar of the Month for November and December – Woody Cowie.

Woody has made an excellent start since joining the Sport Scholarship Programme, immediately standing out for his outstanding attitude and determination. In scholarship lessons, he consistently shows focus, effort, and a real desire to improve, making him a valuable member of the group.

His hard work outside of lessons has also paid off. Woody has earned a starting place in the Boys' U12A football team, where his commitment and performance have been impressive. In addition, he has secured a spot on the Junior Boys' Cross Country team and was part of the squad that qualified for the National Cross Country Championships.

A strong work ethic, enthusiasm, and ambition define Woody's approach, and his progress so far has been exceptional.

Well done, Woody—an excellent start to your scholarship journey!

Inter Cross Country

Team of the Month



Congratulations to the Inter Boys Cross Country Team, who have been awarded December's Team of the Month after being crowned **National Champions** at the weekend!

This exceptional group of athletes has made Grey Court history. After a season of determined training and unwavering commitment, the team secured victory at the National Finals - an achievement never before accomplished by any Grey Court team. Their performance on the day was outstanding. The boys took the race on and they each knew their tactics which led to impressive races across the board: Euan 7th, Andrew 8th, Ifan 18th, Avery 56th, Liam 59th, and Ed 61st. Their combined effort produced a team total of 89 points, enough to clinch the national title by just 2 points in what was an incredibly competitive field.

This triumph follows a dominant season in which the team won both the Middlesex Round and the Regional Round, earning their place on the National start line and proving themselves to be the best Cross-country team in England. Their success is a testament not only to their talent, but also to their hard work - week in, week out, through training sessions, races, and the countless miles run along the way.

A huge well done to all six athletes on this remarkable achievement. You have made the school incredibly proud and set a new standard for future teams to aspire to. Congratulations, boys - what a way to finish the year!

Team of the Month

Junior and Inter Cross Country



This month's award goes to two exceptional teams who have made school history with their outstanding performances and unwavering determination.

On Sunday, both the **Junior and Inter Girls Cross Country teams** proudly represented Grey Court at the **ESAA National Cross Country Finals**—a phenomenal achievement in itself and the **first time Grey Court has ever qualified a girls' team, let alone two.**

Every student demonstrated remarkable grit, resilience, and team spirit throughout the demanding course.

The **Junior Girls** delivered an impressive performance, finishing **12th out of 28 schools**. Special congratulations go to **Olivia**, who finished **18th**, and **Clio**, who placed **22nd**—the two highest-ranked female finishers of the entire day for our school.

The **Inter Girls** also rose to the challenge brilliantly, securing a fantastic **8th place out of 28 schools**, showcasing their strength, consistency, and superb racing talent.

Both teams have not only set new standards but have also inspired future athletes with their dedication and success.

A huge well done to all involved—you have made Grey Court incredibly proud!



What's happening ...



OLD KINGSTONIAN HC

2026

JUNIOR HOCKEY TRIALS

18 JAN 26

SCHOOL YEARS 1-7
TIFFIN GIRLS' SCHOOL

9:00 U10
9:30 U8
10:30 U12

25 JAN 26

SCHOOL YEARS 8-11
KGS SPORTS GROUNDS

9:30 GIRLS U14&U16
11:00 BOYS U14&U16

**TRY SOMETHING NEW IN 2026
JOIN THE CLUB**

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ADMINISTRATOR@OKHOCKEY.COM,
USE THE **BOOKING LINK** OR
THE QR CODE TO BOOK
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BROS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

Book by
David Greig

Lyrics by
Scott Wittman
Marc Shaiman

Music by
Marc Shaiman

ROALD DAHL'S
CHARLIE
AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY



Songs from the Motion Picture by
LESLIE BRICUSSE and **ANTHONY NEWLEY**
Based on the novel by **ROALD DAHL**

RICHMOND THEATRE
Wed 18 - Sat 21 Feb 2026, 7.30pm
Matinees Thurs 19 and Sat 21, 2.30pm
BSL translated performance Thurs 19th, 7.30pm

Tickets from £24.20 (subject to booking fees)
Discounts available for under-16s.

[ATGTICKETS.COM/Richmond*](https://atgtickets.com/Richmond)
(*Fees apply.)

For group bookings of 10 or more submit a request online or call 020 7206 1174
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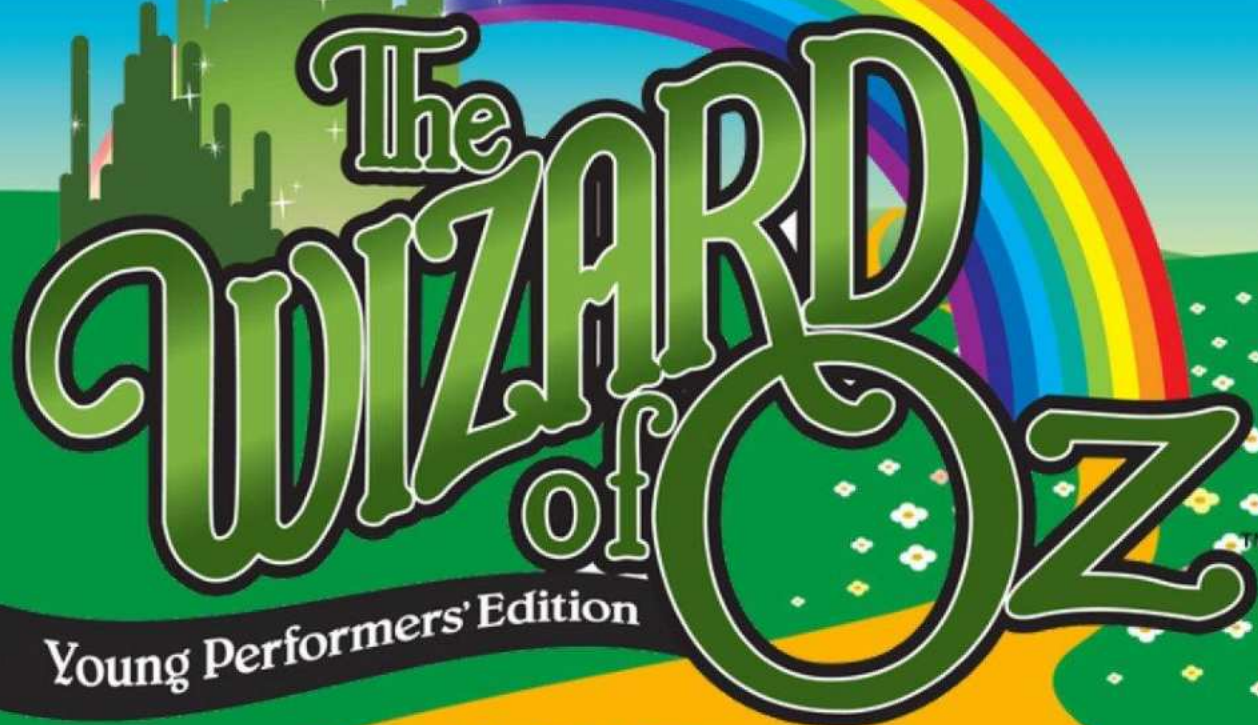


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Young Performers' Edition

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With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg

Background Music by Herbert Stothart

Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard

Orchestration by Larry Wilcox

Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company

Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.

Adaptation and support materials developed by iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

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5-7, 8-12 & 13-18 YEAR OLDS

PERFORM AT HAMPTON HILL THEATRE MARCH 2026

SPRING TERM STARTS W/C 5TH JANUARY 2026

HAMPTON HILL, TEDDINGTON, TWICKENHAM & WALTON-ON-THAMES

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Want to learn DIY and basic building skills?

Why not join our **FREE training course in Ham**, starting **mid-January!**

Resident Ham Project is a comprehensive, hands-on DIY skills training programme designed especially for local residents. You'll gain practical experience and confidence in essential home maintenance skills, including:

- Carpentry
- Painting & decorating
- Basic plastering
- Plumbing maintenance
- Electrical safety

Course details:

Location: **Ham**

Starts: **20 January**

Duration: **7 weeks**

Days: **Tuesdays and Wednesday**

Time: **10am – 2:00pm**

Cost: **FREE**

HAM FEVER

At St Richard's Church, Ham, TW10 7NL
on Saturday 17th Jan 2026, 3pm until 9pm

Fundraising to fix the church's leaky roof!



A fabulous afternoon and evening dance party. DJ Si will be spinning a variety of tunes from the 1960s through to 2025 plus synchronised dances for you to learn, courtesy of Aerolatino

18 and over welcome



Children welcome with an adult

Scan the QR code to purchase a ticket and for more information

Tiffin Children's Chorus

2026

Registration

Registration for 2026 is now open. Please fill in this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIJ5GI9Vg4hT43_GkRN02rArA6kE34jNWH4gzhd1PKs1EcQQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Term Dates

Spring Term	
Monday 12th January	Spring Term weekly rehearsals begin
Monday 9th February Monday 16th February	Half Term (no rehearsals)
<i>Thursday 19th February (rehearsal 18th tbc)</i>	<i>External event for Seniors (by audition/selection)</i>
Monday 23rd March, 5pm (rehearsals from 4pm)	Children's Chorus Spring Concert (Open Rehearsal), Walden Hall (Tiffin)
Summer Term	
Monday 27th April	Summer Term weekly rehearsals begin
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday (no rehearsal)
Monday 25th May	Half Term (no rehearsal)
<i>Monday 22nd June, 5.30pm (rehearsals from 4pm)</i>	<i>Tiffin Children's Chorus Summer Concert, St Luke's Church KT2 5TE</i>
<i>Friday 3rd July, 5.30pm (rehearsals from 4pm)</i>	<i>Tiffin in the Garden, Head's Garden, Tiffin School</i>

Timings & Location

Rehearsals will take place **4-5pm** in the Walden Hall on Mondays. Both Senior and Junior Choruses will rehearse at the same time.

Performances

All children (Juniors and Seniors) will be performing in each of the Children's Chorus termly concerts. Children must be regularly attending Monday rehearsals in order to participate in performances or projects.

You will see potential additional dates for Seniors to participate in projects. These are external performances for which Tiffin is providing a children's/youth choir. The group will be made up of singers from across Tiffin Choirs, depending on the requirements of the organisers. There is no guarantee any particular child will be involved, but please do save these dates if your child is a Senior and interested in participating. More information about these will be sent out next term.

Concert Dress

Standard concert dress for performances is:

Dark (black/grey/navy) trousers and socks or skirt and tights

White top (shirt/blouse/polo shirt if possible)

Black/dark smart shoes

Contact

The contact is Mrs Levine (MLevine@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk)

Fees

Fees will be £50 per term. If for any reason you are in need of a bursary to cover these, please do not hesitate to contact us in confidence.

Fees will be payable between the first two sessions of each term and a link will be sent to you at that time.

Auditions

New members, or members who have been absent from the Chorus for a year or more, will be invited to audition during one of their first sessions. For children currently in the Chorus, we are moving to an in-session monitoring process. Mrs Cadogan will listen regularly to each child during rehearsals to assess progress. They will not be required to reaudition each year, although Mrs Cadogan may ask to hear a child separately occasionally as part of the monitoring process.

Auditions for projects and performances will be undertaken separately, and information will be sent out regarding these to any children who may be eligible. Please note that there are many factors at play for any audition for external performances, including behaviour and attendance. There may also be requirements from the external engager.

Recruitment

Please encourage others to join us! Recommend us to your child's music teachers/class teachers, and any friends or family who might have children who like to sing! The more members we have, the more opportunities we can provide.

Attendance and leaving the Chorus

Sadly, we aren't able to keep all our singers forever!

We are best placed to cater to upper voices up until the end of Y11. After this time we highly recommend moving to one of the choirs better suited to older singers. Similarly, when boys'

voices change we are not well-placed to guide them through the change, and recommend them moving to a specialist Cambiata choir. We are very happy to recommend options for anyone leaving the Chorus, and will always discuss next steps for anyone who wants advice.

If a child leaves the Chorus mid-year (we recognise they sometimes have other commitments!), please let us know before the start of the term from which they will be absent. If a child needs to be absent for an extended period (several weeks to a term) for a specific project, but will rejoin the Chorus afterwards, please let us know as soon as possible so we can discuss performances and work around the absence.

Please note that children will not be able to participate in any kind of performance or project unless they are regularly attending Monday rehearsals. Attendance will be a factor taken into consideration during auditions for projects.