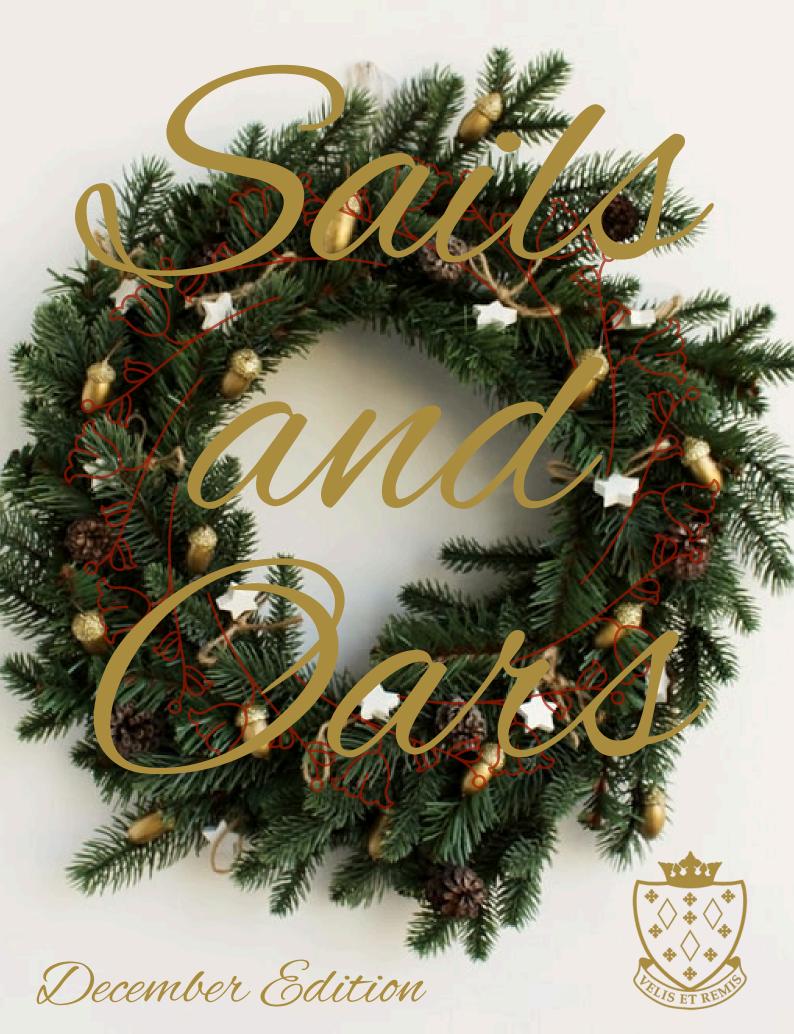
Stockport School





A letter from the Headteacher









Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

I am pleased to introduce our end of term festive edition of Sails and Oars, our publication which aims to share with you some of the very many uplifting and inspiring events and activities which have taken place in and around school over recent weeks. This special final edition of 2025 celebrates as one of our whole school values, the power of positivity in our school community, and picks up on how optimism, resilience, kindness, and encouragement shape learning and wellbeing. This edition highlights students and staff who face challenges with a positive mindset, uplift others, and embody 'The Stockport School Way'.

I wish to take this opportunity to also bid thanks and say farewell to Mr Warren, our very well respected and long serving senior leader, who in keeping with the theme of this edition, has very much embodied the school values including positivity during his incredible 30 years and 4 months of dedicated service to the Stockport School community, Mr Warren, Senior Deputy Headteacher, will be retiring at the end of this term from his role as Senior Deputy Headteacher. Mr Warren has been a highly valued and dependable senior leader of our school since September 1995, and I am sure you will all join me in recognising his outstanding commitment and service to the school and to our community, which has been first rate, and in wishing him all the very best in his semi-retirement.



I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of Sails and Oars, and of learning more about what has been going on in and around our vibrant school community over recent weeks.

Finally, at the end of this autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with Stockport School, for your incredible support and commitment this year. I would also like to wish you and your families all the very best for the festive period and in the safe celebration of the end of 2025, and in looking forward with hope towards a happy and prosperous New Year in 2026!

I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and hopefully successful New Year.

Best wishes

Mr I. R. Irwin Headteacher





This edition celebrates the power of positivity in our school community — how optimism, resilience, kindness, and encouragement shape learning and wellbeing. We highlight students and staff who face challenges with a positive mindset, uplift others, and embody **The Stockport School Way**.



Beyond the Classroom - Puspiring Positivity

Showcasing students and staff whose extracurricular achievements, leadership or service inspire others and reflect the values of The Stockport School Way.

Shining a light on achievements that inspire us all to aim higher





Our amazing student Evan P represented Great Britain at the WAKO European Kickboxing Championships, competing against over 2,500 young athletes from across Europe. He won two European championships GOLD MEDALS in Kick Light and Light Contact — an extraordinary achievement at the highest level of the sport.

Evan hopes his success will inspire other young people to get involved in physical activity and new challenges.
Well done, Evan — a fantastic example of positivity and determination in action!



A magical production powered by positivity and teamwork Beauty and the Beast Tr.



With over 100 students involved this year, our production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr was a roaring success! Students gave up endless hours after school for rehearsals and showed positivity and determination throughout the process. The performing arts team even received feedback that the cast were incredibly respectful of all staff volunteers who chaperoned backstage and were the tidiest cast we have had to date!



The most magical part of Beauty and the Beast was the bewilderment of younger audience members, especially those who got to meet Belle (Sienna H) and the Beast (Ollie M) after the show and even got to take home their own roses!

Understanding the past to better shape tomorrow

History - Western Front Trip





Our GCSE Historians showed outstanding positivity and respect during annual 'Western Front' trip to France and Belgium to visit the battlefields and memorials of the First World War. A proud moment saw Daisy C-W, Pixie-Lou R and Cody G lay a poppy wreath at the Menin Gate during the Last Post ceremony.



Meeting the MP

Eight Year 11 students took part in a Q&A with Hazel Grove MP Lisa Smart, asking thoughtful questions and engaging confidently in political discussion — a brilliant example of positivity in action beyond the classroom.

Discovering landscapes, learning Geography together



Year 11 Media City Trip

The year 11 Geographers were an absolute credit and a joy to spend time with during our trip to Media city, despite the cold conditions. We are very proud of the geographers they have become. During the trip students completely environmental quality surveys, questionnaires with the general public and pedestrian counts at 3 sites to help us determine "Is Media City a successful economic hub?" On our return to school we will complete a full geographical investigation, which will be examined in both the mock and final exam papers. Thank you very much year 11 for a lovely trip from the geography team.



Discovering landscapes, learning Geography together



Year 9 Peak District Trip

Fantastic to see year 9 taking the opportunity to experience geography in our nearest National Park, the Peak District. Students braved the cold and a little rain to reach the summit of Mam Tor to survey footpaths and 6 different sites along the journey from Mam Nick car park, over the tops to Hollins cross. This walk is noted as one of the best walks in England, for good reason as students can see the full extent of a Hope valley, a beautiful U shape valley carved by glaciers thousands of years ago.



Once in the village of Castleton students also completed a land use map and traffic counts to see how people are impacting the area and is tourism sustainable? We had a lovely time chatting and walking with year 9 and hope they enjoyed the day as much as we did. Well done year 9!

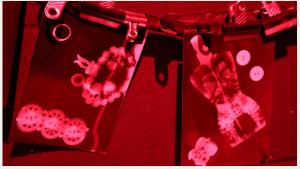
Creativity flourishing across the Art Department



Year 11









Year 11 GCSE Art have been exploring the departments very own dark room, as they took part in a new Photogram workshop, focusing on the work of artist Lisa Milroy. The students relished this opportunity for a hands-on approach to photography, with some stunning results. The workshop was a wonderful creative breather before the mock exams start.

Creativity flourishing across the Art Department



Year 10



GCSE Art have been working hard on their 3D food project, utilising everyday materials such as cardboard and tinfoil to produce some realistic and imaginative culinary arrangements. Yummy!

Year 7



Our Year 9's are diving deep into the world of ceramics by constructing slab clay pots, inspired by Architect Frank Gehry. We are excited to see their up-and-coming designs for the glazing process! Watch this space!



Creativity flourishing across the Art Department



Our Year 8 have focussed on refining their drawing skills this term, using stick and ink to observe natural forms with dramatic effect and detail.



Our Year 7 After School Art Club has produced some fabulous ceramic Christmas decorations. These are being proudly displayed at St Georges Church Christmas Tree Festival in November. Well Done Artists!



At the end of the summer term, the Design & Technology Department held its first exhibition showcasing GCSE Non-Exam Assessment work. The standard across both classes was outstanding, with multiple students achieving Levels 7-9, including four Level 9s. To celebrate this success, four awards were introduced: Best Product, Best Design Folder, Outstanding Effort and Best Overall Project.



Best Product - Rhys G









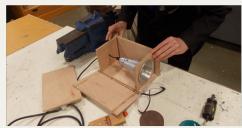












Rhys produced a 1930's cinema style lamp. The lamp included six identically formed wooden legs, metal and wood turning, rebated joints, laser cut elements and electrical wiring. The whole product was produced to a very high standard and immaculately finished with Rhys achieving full marks for the practical element of the NEA.

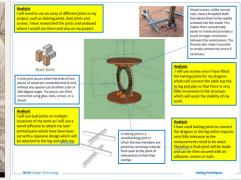




Best Design Folder - Harry S

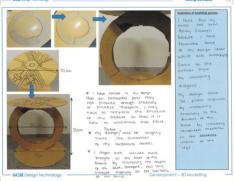


















Harry designed and produced a Japanese style coffee table with a floating shelf. His design incorporated numerous design elements, including the ability to dismantle the product in order to ship it in flatpack form. Harry designed the rainbow pattern found on his product and thoroughly developed a final working solution, achieving full marks on his practical work and joint top marks on the design element.



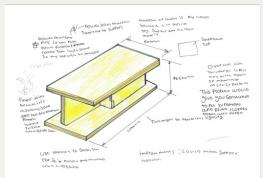


Outstanding Effort - Clayton D



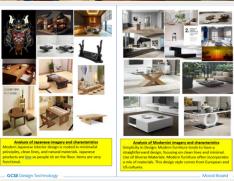






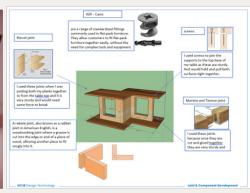


Clayton D







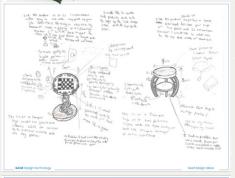


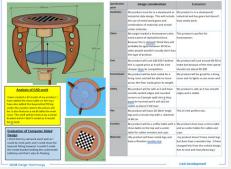
Clayton worked tirelessly over the course of two years, improving the standard of his design work and the quality of his practical work. During the course of his practical work, Clayton had to deal with multiple issues which made his life more difficult but never gave up and the work he produced was to a standard double that of his target grade.





Best Overall Project - Moah W







Best Project

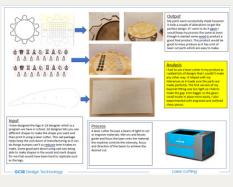
Noah W













Noah designed and produced a steam punk and industrial inspired coffee table, with a hidden drawer to hold his chess and drafts pieces under the tabletop. Noah's project was inspired by British designers such as Sir Norman Foster, with modular elements and the ability to collapse the table down so it could be flat packed. Noah achieved full marks on his practical piece and the joint highest grade for his design folder.

Honourable mentions should also go out for Ralph B modernist lamp, Reggie K Moroccan coffee table, Jake C Japanese coffee table and Jamie D's storage unit, all of whom were close to winning awards.

Celebrating teamwork, resilience and sporting success



Our students have had an incredible term of sporting achievements, showing positivity, teamwork and determination across every event:



Celebrating teamwork, resilience and sporting success



Y7 boys after winning the dodgeball tournament, amazing teamwork & we had the Y8 boys came in at 2nd place.



some fantastic rugby skills on show!



γ9 boys rugby team winning 2/2 games, amazing defensive skills and some excellent running!

Celebrating teamwork, resilience and sporting success



Celebrating resilience, determination and personal growth

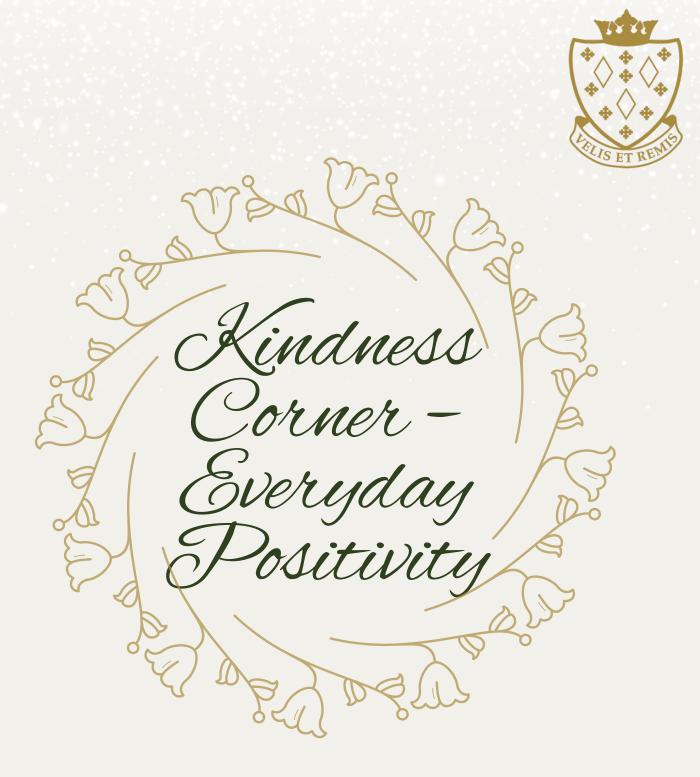




cohort of 2024-25 were invited to a special Awards Ceremony at Stockport School, to celebrate all of their personal achievements and successes over the programme.

It was a fantastic way to show our DofE students just how proud of them we are and how much their efforts are recognised positively by Stockport School and the DofE staff team.

The students' sense of optimism, resilience and kindness across the programme was truly something to behold, and we know that all of our qualifying students will go on to do great things, both in school and out in our community. Well done, everyone!



Celebrating small but meaningful moments of kindness: smiles, teamwork, thank-you notes and shared successes, supported by photo snippets and short reflections from students and staff.

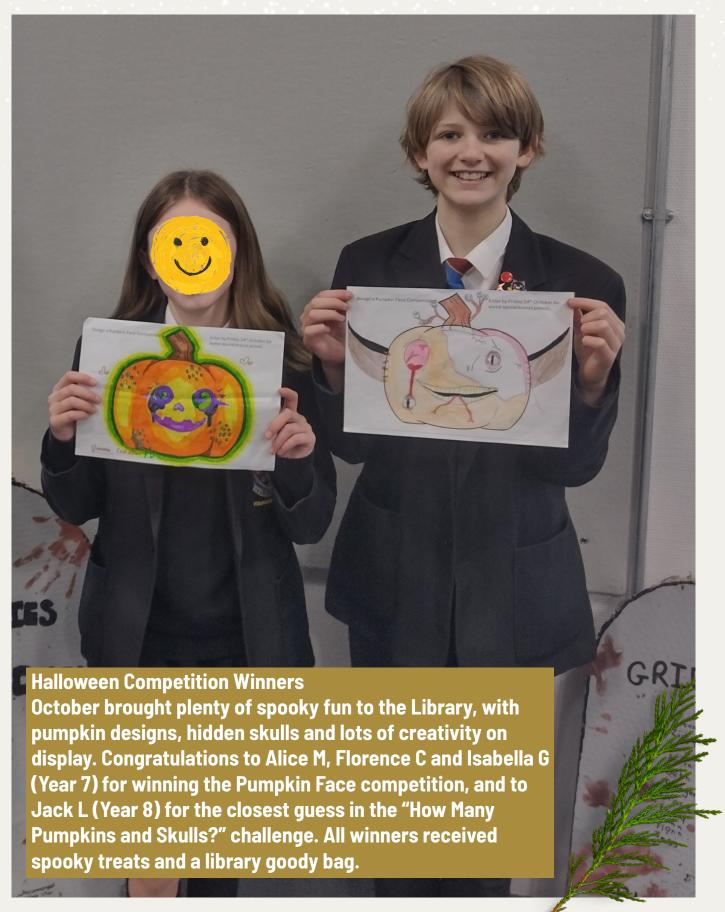
Creativity, achievement and shared moments in our Library





Creativity, achievement and shared moments in our Library





Creativity, achievement and shared moments in our Library





Lunchtime Storytime

Our first Lunchtime Storytime of the year featured Mr Wright sharing spooky poems including work from members of his Poetry Club.

With a year-long poetry competition and a summer slam ahead, it's set to be an exciting year for our young writers.

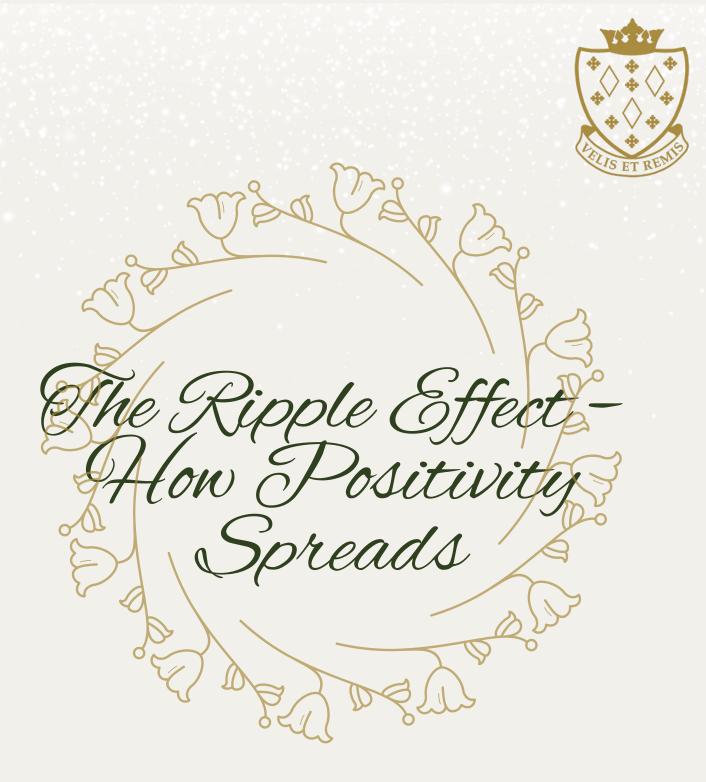
Finding positivity through shared well-being



The wellbeing team continues to offer a range of activities each half term to promote positivity. Staff enjoyed a calming Sound Healing and Reiki Wellbeing - an opportunity to pause, reset and reconnect. Guided by crystal bowls, gongs and chimes, the session promoted relaxation, reduced stress and encouraged a sense of balance. Staff also enjoyed another great night with Zumba which was a fun-high-energy workout that boosted cardiovascular fitness while improving coordination and strength.

e mirror...





Stories that show how one positive action can lift others, whether it's encouragement between peers, classes supporting each other, or a staff member's words making a difference.

From Stockport student to celebrated playwright — inspiring the next generation



After making connections with Simon Stephens in 2023, Miss Mellow was incredibly excited to receive an email from him asking to come and meet some of our students to inspire his next play! On October 13th, Simon came back to Stockport School, where he was once a student from 1982-1990, and took a trip down memory lane as we toured the building. He then met with focus groups of Years 9-11 to ask about life as a teen in 2025 Stockport before watching our Year 11 GCSE Drama students perform extracts from his plays. All 60 GCSE Drama students came together to welcome Simon as he shared his journey to success.







Simon was incredibly grateful and has spread a new wave of positivity through the Drama department, proving to our students that they can achieve their dreams. He has even since been in contact with Mrs Smith to organise his next visit and to get our students writing! Watch this space!

Students helping students to grow in confidence





Our new team of Funkey Mathis Hond training in January after three months of dedicated preparation training in January after three months of dedicated preparation with Mrs Andrew. These specially selected students will soon with Mrs Andrew. These specially selected students will soon begin supporting our Year 7s with times tables, sequencing and begin supporting our Year 7s with times tables, sequencing and fluency — a fantastic example of how peer encouragement can boost confidence and learning.

The Maths Department sends a huge congratulations to all our mentors for their hard work, positivity and enthusiasm.

Finding strength and connection through poetry



Our Poetry Club has been exploring two powerful themes this term: "Our feelings during the first week of high school" and "Problems I have overcome." Students have been writing thoughtful, honest and uplifting poems that reflect their emotions, challenges and the positive steps they have taken to move forward.

We approached the gates, walking skyscrapers meandering among us, More and more students arrived using bikes, scooters, and the bus, Sweat cascaded down our faces like waterfalls. From the bosses of primary to the ants of secondary, we awaited our downfall, In our forms we marched, With a lack of water we were parched, After assembly we waited, We met people we liked... and some we hated, We walked to our form room, We were as pale as the moon, We took the register and went to lunch, We sat down and began to munch. Finally it was break, We went and hung out with out mates Then back to forms - we did some icebreakers. I enjoyed it and it was a joy maker, Then we ended the day, feeling blown away.

Torin W (7V)

0 0 0 0

I woke up late - Oh, what a fright!
My socks don't match, my hairs not right!
I ran to school as fast as air,
And found my homework wasn't there!

The teacher smiled and said, "Oh dear, Did aliens eat your work this year?"
I laughed and said "it might be true...
They said they wanted homework stew!"

School is fun in every way,
We learn and giggle every day.
From Maths to lunch to breaktime rule,
I really love my crazy school!

Up early, uniform on,
Jumpers feeling itchy - tie not on!
Nerves kicking in, my stomach in knots,
Summers really over, a new school I
belong.

Living 5 minutes from school has made things a lot easier, because of the change some mornings I feel a bit queasier!

Friends in their groups keep me all in a muddle,

How can I keep track without being in a fuddle?

Going in between our classes, we have to go one way

However, fast we go we enter with a delay,

The maze of corridors hurt my head. By the end of the day, I am well and truly ready for bed.

It feels the amount of homework is just absurd,

We keep getting more and more, my memory is blurred,

The count downs on for Christmas, When I've 2 weeks off from school. Oh, how I wish it was summer, when I

am sat by the swimming pool.

Olivia K (7T)



Featuring collaborative projects, community links and initiatives that demonstrate teamwork, shared purpose and the strength of working together.

A powerful example of community kindness



In January 2025, our Talent Show and Raffle brought the school community together in a wonderful display of positivity and teamwork to raise funds for a local defibrillator. Thanks to an exceptionally generous donation from John Southworth, the Mile End Lane defibrillator was fully funded, allowing our fundraising to support a second defibrillator at Stockport Lads Club.



Positivity through generosity





A huge thank you to our entire school community for your generous donations to Chelwood Foodbank. Your kindness and willingness to support others have made a real difference.

This is a fantastic achievement — a true reflection of the positivity, compassion and community spirit that define our school. We couldn't have done it without you!

One Stockport Family Hubs app— Support at your fingertips for families across Stockport

A free, easy-to-use app designed to support parents, carers and families from pregnancy through every stage of childhood and into young adulthood. The app offers over 2,000 expert-written videos and articles, tailored guidance based on your child's age or your due date, and up-to-date local information about groups and services in Stockport.



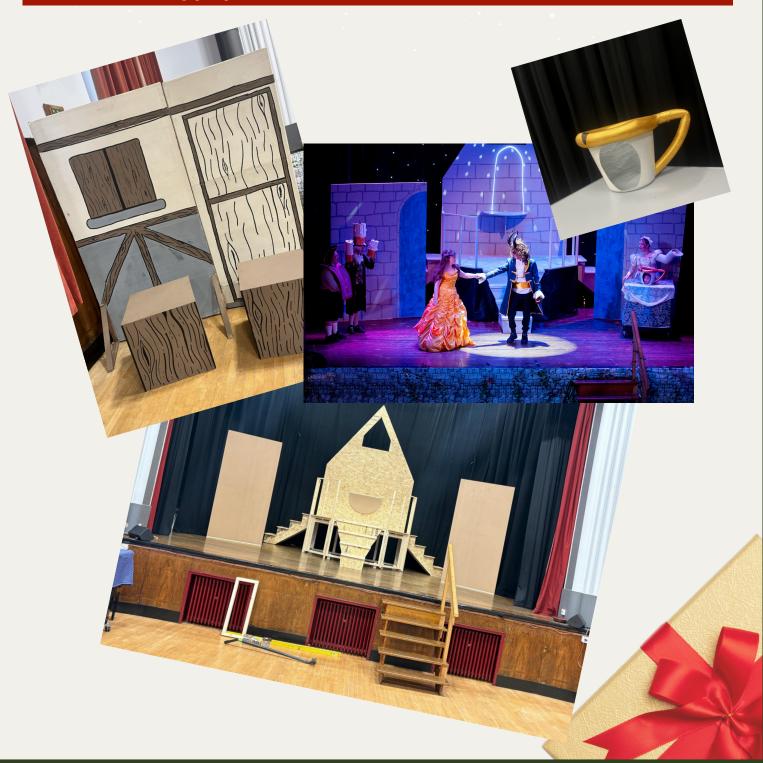
App Store iOS



Google Play store (Android)

A magical set brought to life through incredible community partnership Beauty and the Beast Set & Props

We were lucky enough to have Godfrey's Joinery build our magnificent set for Beauty and the Beast, giving his time and resources to the performing arts department over the summer to bring our magical vision to life! A special mention must also go to Tomlinson Parbans Timber Merchant for donating the supplies to build our set and to Mr Burgoyne and his team for all of the hours spent painting the set and making props.



A whole-school celebration of language and culture

During the last week of September, the MFL Department brought the whole school together to celebrate European Day of Languages, creating a joyful sense of shared purpose across year groups and subjects. The ever-popular Bake Off showcased fantastic teamwork and creativity, with awards going to: Torin W (Quickest-selling), Seth P (Most Authentic), Miles G (Attention to Detail), Charley L (Showstopper) and Holly H (Commitment to the Theme).

Students collaborated enthusiastically in the Bushtucker Challenge, took part in quizzes, and enjoyed videos of teachers from different departments speaking a range of languages — a brilliant example of staff and students joining together to celebrate diversity. 9 Goldsworthy won the challenge to identify all the languages featured. It was a vibrant week of community connection and cultural appreciation, with plans already forming to make next year's even better.



