



Highlands Sixth Newsletter

December 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF SIXTH FORM

This has been a special term for the whole sixth form and for me personally.

In September, we inducted our biggest ever year 12 cohort, retaining a record number of our top performing year 11 students and welcoming our highest total of external students ever, too.

Our sixth form open evening in November was a huge success: we had three rounds of talks which were full to capacity, with over 1,500 students and families coming to see us. Evenings like this are such a valuable opportunity to celebrate our school, to continue growing, and to showcase our biggest asset, which is undoubtedly our fantastic students, who did a stellar job leading tours and greeting guests.

This term, Highlands sixth formers have taken part in trips overseas, to Oxford university, taken up new positions as house captains, and welcomed some of our alumni speakers to share their experiences of working at some of the top financial firms in the world. All the while, our year 13 students are making rapid progress in their university applications: we submitted an impressive number of early applications - best of luck to this talented cohort in their medicine and Oxbridge applications!

On a personal level - this has been my first term at Highlands and I have loved every second of it. Thank you to everyone in our sixth form community for welcoming me and for making me feel so inspired.

I am delighted to share that our applications for the sixth form are now open. It is set to be another very busy year for applications, and our year 11 internal students will be starting their pathways meetings with us in January too. We are looking forward to making offers and welcoming our new cohort of year 12s once the hard work of GCSEs is out of the way next year.

Our plans for the future are very clear: we want to take our already excellent sixth form to the next level. This has been a positive first term towards that end. Thank you for all of your hard work - have an incredible Christmas, New Year and break!

Mr. Marcus
Director of sixth form



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Sixth form applications
- STEM activities and trips
- High Achievers' Evening
- Student leadership
- School trips
- DARE Days
- Insight Days



@Highlands_sch



@Highlandssch



Highlands School Enfield



highlands.enfield.sch.uk

MEET OUR SIXTH FORM TEAM



MS LLOYD
Deputy
headteacher



MR MARCUS
Director of
sixth form



MRS HALIL
Head of year 12



MR TUTON
Head of year 13,
academics, KS5 lead
in maths



MS GUNNING
Assistant head of
year 13



MR O'DOHERTY
Assistant head of
year 12



MRS LAURENZI
Careers leader



MRS COPLEY
Sixth form
administrative officer













MRS KYRIACOU
Study supervisor (Monday)

Our sixth form team guides our students in their final two years of secondary school education. Our team of experienced staff prepare our students for university or their chosen career paths. With a focus on academic excellence, personal growth and extracurricular activities, the sixth form team is dedicated to supporting each student's unique aspirations and goals.



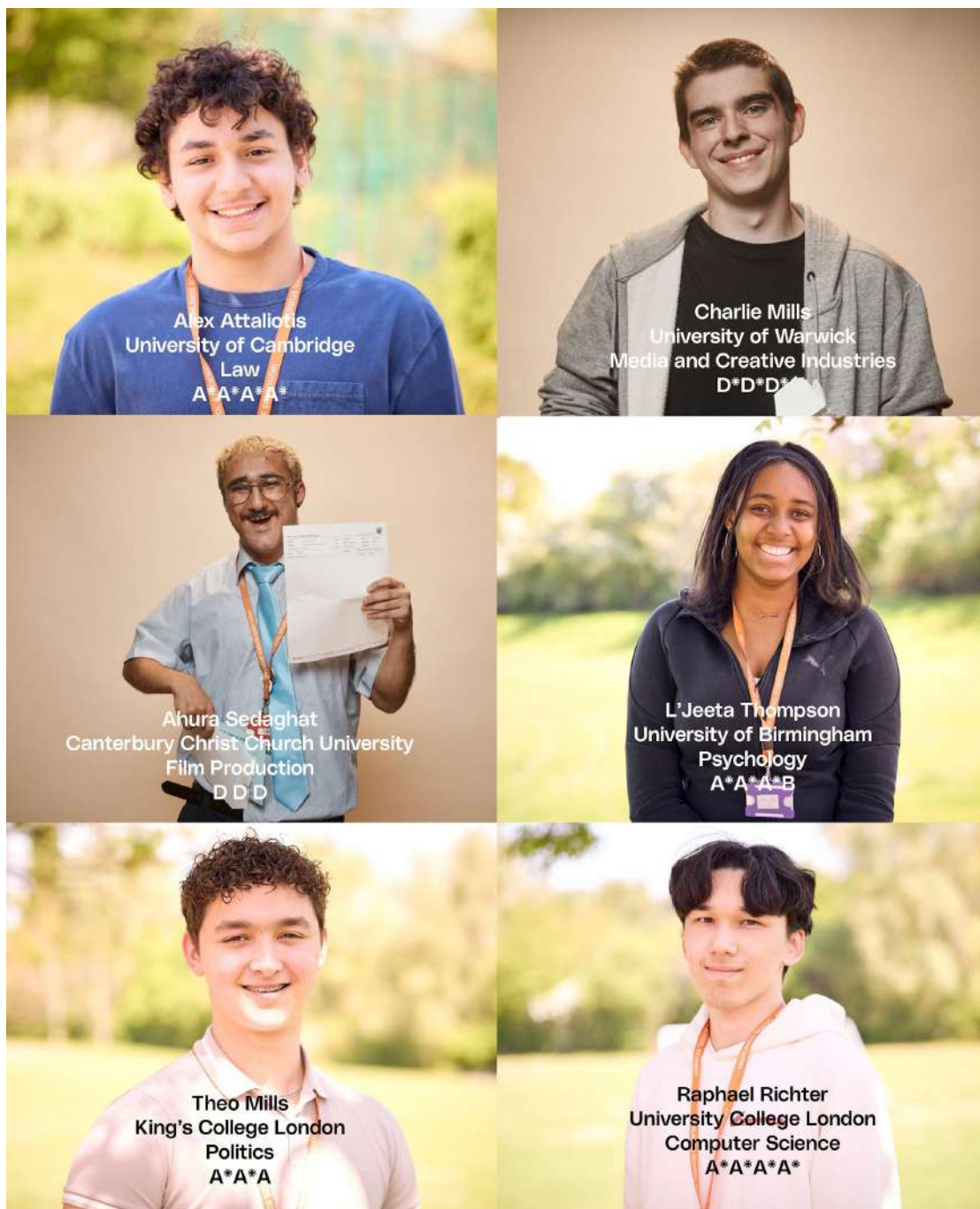
THE PERKS OF SIXTH FORM LIFE AT HIGHLANDS SIXTH

-  Students can sign in or out or go off site to revise and study when they do not have a scheduled lesson or study period.
-  Superb teaching and learning.
-  Excellent, first-hand careers advice.
-  Great student leadership opportunities for all students. Students can apply to become house leaders.
-  Mobile phones are allowed in the sixth form area.
-  Costa coffee available on site.
-  Two weeks October half term.
-  No queuing in the canteen.
-  Smart-casual dress code.
-  Bespoke pastoral support.



A LEVEL RESULTS DAY 2025

We are proud to share that **81%** of our sixth form students secured their first-choice university destination this year - a reflection of their exceptional dedication and the high academic standards we uphold at Highlands. Impressively, **43%** of our disadvantaged students and **41%** of our non-disadvantaged students are progressing to Russell Group universities. Among our many standout achievers, Raphael Richter, one of a few students to achieve 4 A*s, will be studying Computer Science at University College London. We also celebrate Alex Attalotis, who will be reading Law at the University of Cambridge; Charlie Mills, who will study Media and Creative Industries at the University of Warwick; and Brownicia Kiakoulanda, who will begin Midwifery at King's College London. Congratulations also to Peter Pieretti, who has secured an apprenticeship with Deloitte, and Ahura Sedaghat, who will be studying Film Production at Canterbury Christ Church University. A huge well done to all our students and staff - we couldn't be prouder.



A LEVEL RESULTS DAY 2025

You can watch our A level results day videos on our [YouTube channel](#) or [Instagram](#) page or via the links below.

[A level Results Day 2025 - short edition](#), [A level Results Day 2025 - long edition](#), [A level and GCSE Results Days 2025](#)



HIGHLANDS SIXTH FORM

We are delighted to share that many of our students have chosen to stay on with us in the sixth form, along with a number of external students who have joined us this year. We also had the pleasure of welcoming our new year 12 cohort at the beginning of term for their induction.

Due to high demand, our sixth form is now fully enrolled, and our waiting list is also full. This reflects the excellent teaching and learning environment we offer, as well as the strong support we provide to all our students, ensuring they thrive both academically and personally.



HIGHLANDS SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 2025

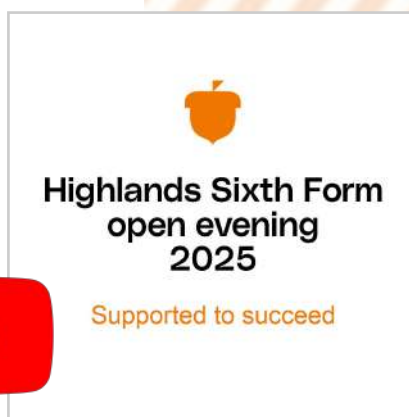
Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Sixth Form Open Evening! It was fantastic to see so many families and students exploring our classrooms, meeting our staff, and experiencing the vibrant atmosphere that makes Highlands Sixth Form such a special place to study.

We hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did and look forward to welcoming our next cohort of students in September 2026.

Watch our Open Evening highlights on [Instagram](#) to relive the event!

External applicants are able to apply online via the following [link](#).

Applications for **internal students** will be available from **19th January**, after students' pathway meetings.



ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

A level entry requirements:

A minimum of 6 grades 9-4 with at least 3 grades 9-6 at GCSE including maths (grade 5) and English (grade 5) and a grade B/6 in each of the subjects to be studied at A level.

BTEC entry requirements:

A minimum of 6 grades 9-3 with at least 3 grades 9-4 at GCSE including maths (grade 4) and English (grade 4).

Two A levels and 1 BTEC requirement:

A minimum of 6 grades 9-3 with at least 3 grades 9-4 at GCSE including maths (grade 5) and English (grade 5). The entry requirements for the A level they want to pursue.

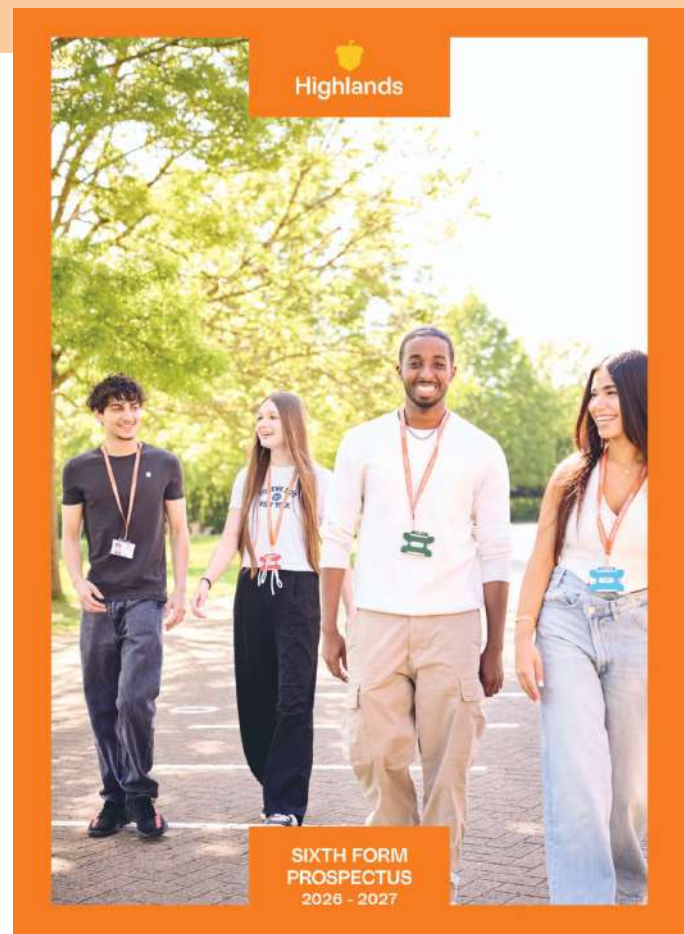
One A level and 2 BTECs requirement:

A minimum of 6 grades 9-3 with at least 3 grades 9-4 at GCSE including maths (grade 4) and English (grade 4). The entry requirements for the A level they want to pursue.

For more information about sixth form admissions, please contact the sixth form team:

sixthformadmissions@highlearn.uk

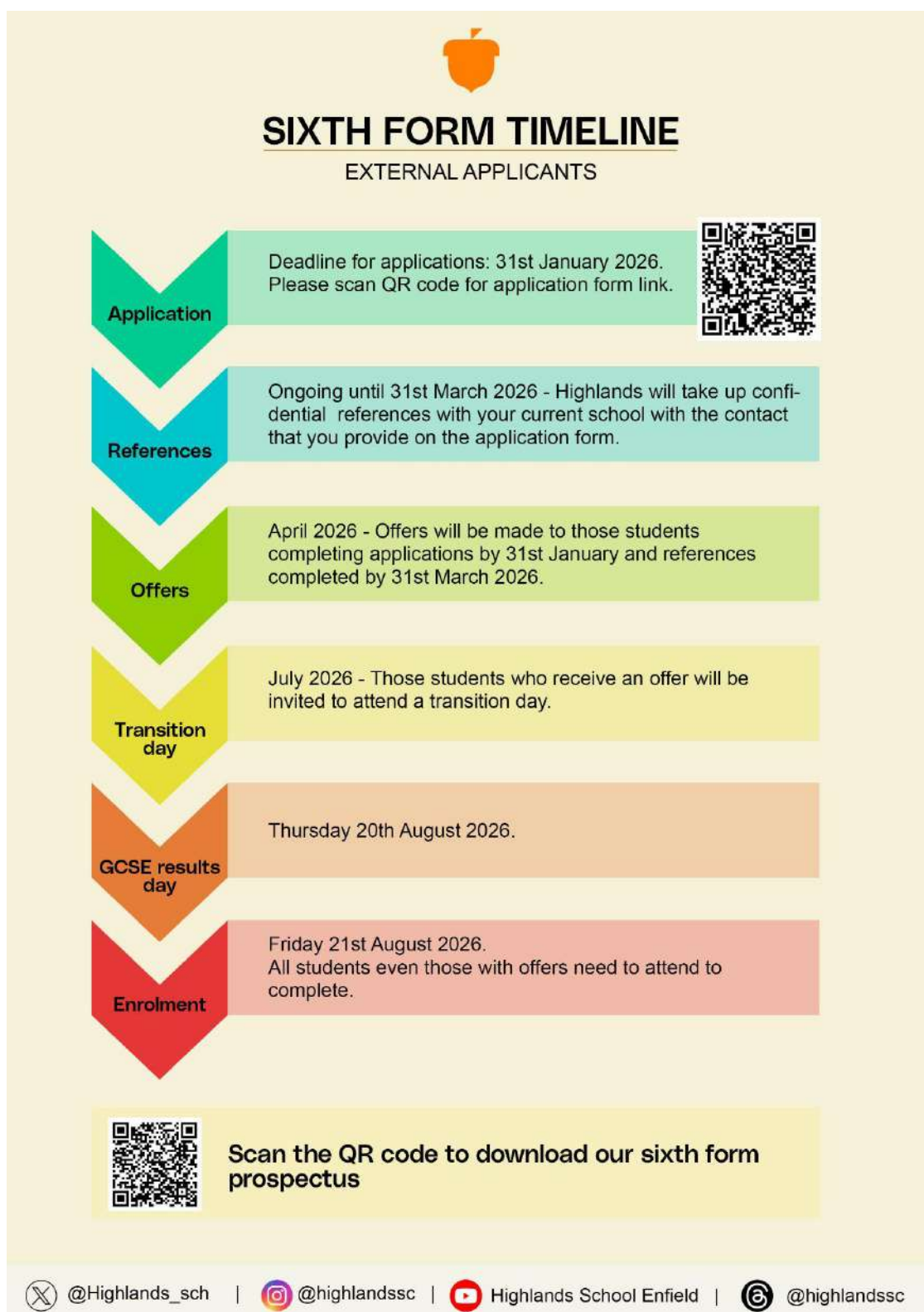
To help you learn more about what we offer, you can access our 2026 - 2027 prospectus [here](#)



APPLYING TO OUR SIXTH FORM

External applicants

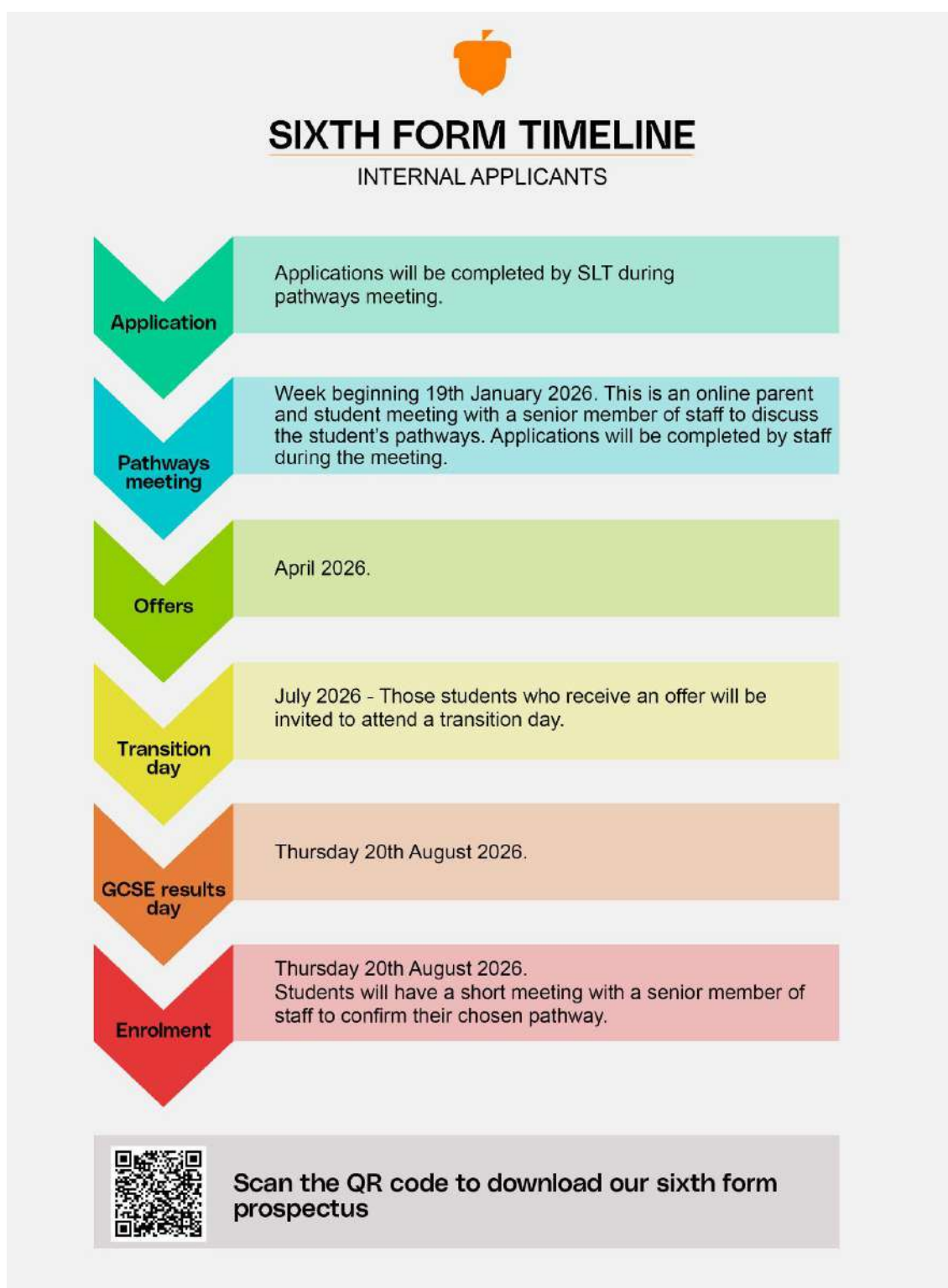
Students from other schools should apply via our **online application system**, [Applicaa](#). The deadline for applications is 31st January 2026. As part of this process, Highlands School will request a confidential reference from your current school. Please see the application timeline below for key deadlines and next steps.



APPLYING TO OUR SIXTH FORM

Current Highlands students (internal applicants)

Applications are completed internally during an online pathways meeting with a senior member of staff in the spring term. During this meeting, students will discuss subject choices and future pathways. Offers will be given in April 2026. Please see the application timeline below for important dates.



A LEVEL GOLD AWARD

We're delighted to share that our 2025 sixth form exam results place us in the top 25% of schools and colleges nationally for value-added progress!

This is an incredible achievement that reflects the dedication and hard work of our students and staff.

Well done to everyone!



SIXTH FORM INTER HOUSE FOOTBALL

The sixth form inter house football competition took place this term and Oak were victorious for the boys after beating Beech 1-0 in the final.

In the girls' final, it was Rowan who took home the trophy after thrashing Beech 5-0 in the final. Well done to all of the players who took part.



Boys: 1st: **Oak**, 2nd: **Beech**, 3rd: **Willow** and
4th: **Rowan**

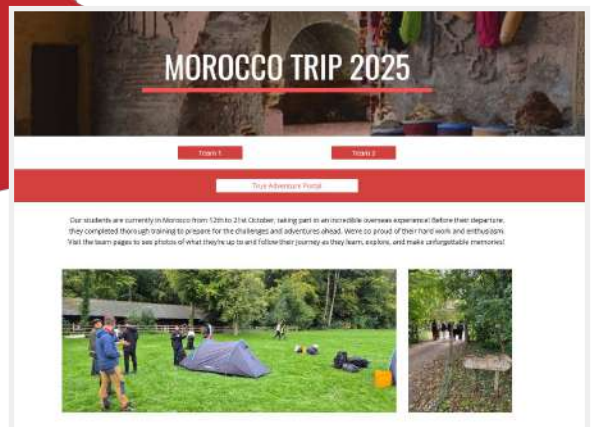
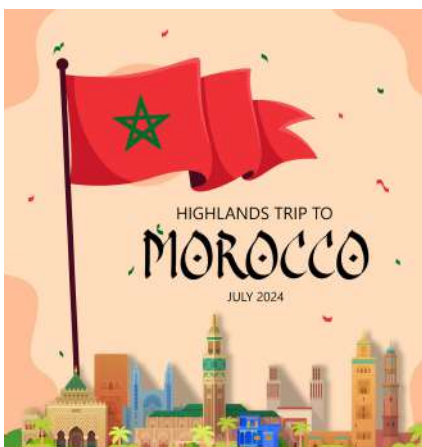
Girls: 1st: **Rowan**, 2nd: **Beech**, 3rd: **Oak** and
4th: **Willow**



TRIP TO MOROCCO

Our staff and students recently returned from an incredible, life-changing trip to Morocco. After completing weeks of training and preparation, they set off on an unforgettable journey through the High Atlas Mountains and the breathtaking Rose Valley, before working on a community project in Boutaghrar and experiencing the magic of the Sahara Desert by camel trek and overnight camp. The trip offered a powerful mix of challenge, culture, and connection - and we couldn't be prouder of their enthusiasm, teamwork, and resilience.

You can watch their incredible journey on [Instagram](#) or you can visit our [Morocco trip mini-site](#) to follow their day-to-day journey as they learned, explored, and made lifelong memories.



SIXTH FORM CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

In the spirit of the season our staff and students donned their cosiest Christmas jumpers, transforming our school into a winter wonderland of holiday cheer! All money raised will go to this year's joint house charity Highlands Green. At lunch, everyone gathered for a delicious festive Christmas meal cooked by our fabulous caterers Chartwells.

Here's to the Christmas season!



SIXTH FORM CHRISTMAS HOUSE QUIZZES

What a great way to celebrate festive cheer with our house Christmas quizzes. A huge well done to the brilliant minds who 'sleighed' the competition and emerged as the victorious winners. Your holiday spirit and quiz prowess truly made this season merrier. Well done to the winners.



Year 12 - 1st: Rowan, 2nd: Beech and joint 3rd: Oak and Willow



Year 13: 1st: Rowan, 2nd: Oak, 3rd: Willow and 4th: Beech

SIXTH FORM WINTER WONDERLAND



Highlands School is absolutely thrilled to announce the outstanding success of the Highlands Winter Wonderland event, which raised an impressive total of £706.30 for the Leukaemia UK!

The festive fair, held in the main hall on Monday, 15th December, was entirely hosted, managed, and executed by our dedicated year 12 business studies students as the capstone project for their Unit 4 coursework, "Managing an Event."

The students applied their learning in planning, marketing, and budgeting to create a truly festive and engaging event for the whole school. The students enjoyed a fantastic variety of stalls, including:

- Challenging games like *throw the ring on the bottle*, *stack the winter cups* and *throw the bean bag in the snowman*.
- Delicious treats like festive chocolate cake, Christmas cupcakes, and strawberries with melted chocolate.
- Warming beverages such as hot chocolate and seasonal Christmas mocktails.

The incredible total of £706.30 is a direct testament to the year 12 students' exceptional organisation, creativity, and teamwork, demonstrating how academic learning can translate into significant real-world impact.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to the year 12 business studies class for their hard work and dedication, and we extend a huge thank you to all students, staff, and parents who contributed their time and money to support this wonderful cause.

Ms Constantas



HOUSE BAKE SALES

This term we held bake sales for each of our houses, Rowan, Willow, Beech and Oak. The teams managed to raised so much money for their chosen charities.

Rowan raised £186.48 for Great Ormond Street Hospital, Willow raised £265.41for Place2Be, Oak raised £238.72 for their charity Noah’s Ark children’s Hospice and Beech managed to raise £251.82 for The World Food Programme.

Thank you very much to all the parents and students who baked, brought in cakes and contributed to raising money for their chosen charities.



YEAR 12 STUDENTS EXPLORE OXFORD UNIVERSITY

At Highlands Sixth Form, we have high aspirations for all students and to inspire our current year 12s I took ten students to St Peter's College at the University of Oxford. Throughout the morning we heard from four current students about life at the university and had a masterclass on the applications process including learning how to structure personal statements, plan for admissions exams and what to expect at interviews. After a tour of the college grounds we were treated to a wonderfully generous lunch in a typically opulent Oxford hall. In the afternoon we were given talks on neuroscience and the mathematics of biodiversity from senior fellows at the college.

This was a great opportunity for our students to experience small group tutorials and interact with experts in the field, something students at Oxford have on a daily basis. I hope that this experience has inspired our students to apply to universities like Oxford and look forward to helping them, and others, with their applications next year.

Mr Tuton



MEET OUR 2025 - 2026 HEAD STUDENTS

We are proud to introduce our newly appointed Head Students for this academic year - Luke Tyrimos and Elena Giudice. They have been selected for their outstanding leadership qualities, dedication, and commitment to making a positive impact on our school community.

Throughout the year, they will work tirelessly to represent the student body, ensuring that every voice is heard and that meaningful changes are made. We are confident that their efforts will inspire and lead our school towards continued success.



“Hello parents, carers and students. My name is Luke and I am very proud to introduce myself as one of the Head Students. I have been at Highlands since the beginning of year 7, and my time here has been a very rewarding experience; during both my studies and extracurricular endeavours, the school has provided me with the necessary support to achieve all that I aspire to.

Starting in year 7 has also given me the opportunity to witness Highlands’ growth and progression, with the relaunch of the House System being indicative of the school’s drive for improvement.

As a Head Student, I hope to be a strong role model for the student body and will always be available to offer help and guidance to any students that need it. I will represent and lead the school with pride and the hope that, as a collective, we can achieve many successes this academic year.”

“Hello parents, carers and students. My name is Elena and I am delighted to introduce myself as one of the new Head Students at Highlands School for this upcoming academic year. I have been a student here since year 7 and throughout my time, I have always been very proud to be a part of such a supportive and close-knit community. The school has continuously encouraged me to achieve my academic potential, whilst also offering countless opportunities to develop my passions and interests, including musical extracurricular activities. Being involved in the student leadership team has been thoroughly rewarding and I am excited to further my role within the school community as Head Student. I have always valued the role as a contact to raise any considerations you have about the school and I encourage you to please come and speak to me if you have any suggestions about the school or for any advice you may need concerning areas of school life, to help make your time at Highlands even better. I am looking forward to meeting more of you and contributing to another great year, especially as the school marks its 25th anniversary.”



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2025 - 2026

Meet our Deputy Head Students for this academic year: Joseph Brooks, Neriah Muhelele, Lizbeth-Ann Thompson, and Yasmin Alameldin.

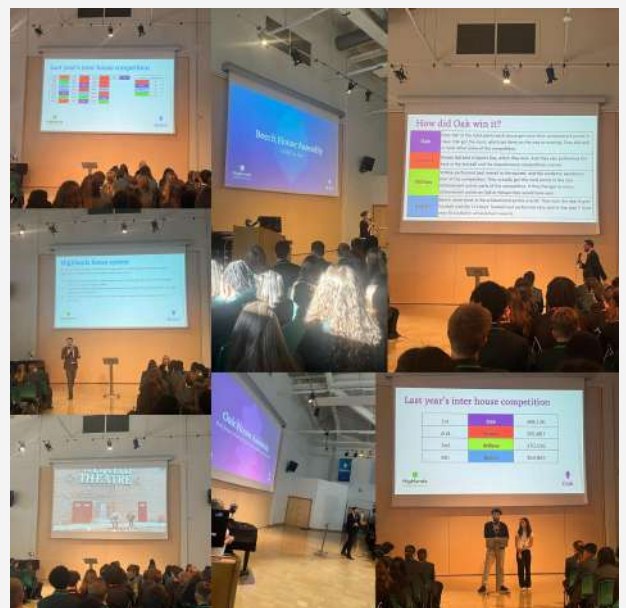
In their roles, they will support the Head Students, represent the voices of their peers, and help lead initiatives that promote our school values. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make throughout the year.



HOUSE ASSEMBLIES

This term, we held our first house assemblies of the year. Students were given a preview of our new school show - *Annie*, set to take place in June 2026, and we proudly introduced our new Head Students, Luke Tyrimos and Elena Giudice.

We also shared an update on the house system and outlined the many ways students can get involved in the student leadership team this year.



NATIONAL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARD

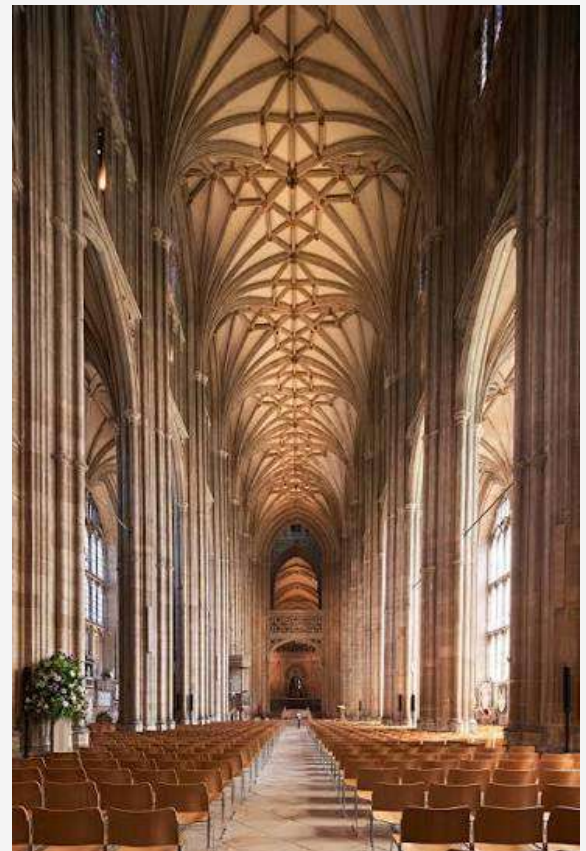
We're proud to share that Highlands School has been recognised among the Top 10% of all FFT Secondary Schools in England, as well as the Top 10% of similar FFT Secondary Schools nationwide for attendance. This achievement highlights the strong commitment of our students and staff to maintaining excellent attendance and engagement across the school. It's a reflection of the consistent effort and high standards upheld throughout our community.



YEAR 13 TRIP TO CANTERBURY

“The trip to Canterbury was a great experience and provided real-world context to our study of The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale. Experiencing the cathedral’s imposing status revealed the significance of the Church in Medieval England and benefited my understanding of the Wife’s character as an opposer of clerical teaching. Exploring the crypt was a highlight of the trip as it was the original burial site of Saint Thomas Becket.” - Luke Tyrimos

“Our trip to Canterbury was both fascinating and enjoyable. The cathedral was undoubtedly a highlight; seeing the beautiful architecture up close was an incredible experience. It allowed us to imagine what it might have looked like in Chaucer’s time, bringing the Wife of Bath’s Tale to life in a much more vivid way. Exploring both areas of the historic city and the cathedral made the trip a memorable and enriching experience.” - Daisy Warner



REMEMBRANCE DAY AT HIGHLANDS

At Highlands School, this term we have been commemorating Remembrance Day, a time to honour and reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who served in past and present conflicts to protect our freedoms.

Beautiful art installations in the art corridor and sixth form area pay tribute to this important day, while a special book display in the library invites students to learn more about the events and impact of the World Wars. We encourage everyone to visit the library and explore these powerful stories.

Well done to all the students involved - their artwork and creativity have captured the spirit of remembrance beautifully.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS

We had the pleasure of welcoming Felicia Pinto, Head of Regulatory Affairs at Sanofi's R&D in the UK and Ireland, to speak with our year 11 and year 12 students at Highlands.

Felicia delivered an engaging and insightful talk highlighting how essential it is in bringing safe, effective and innovative medicines to patients. She shared her personal career journey, the challenges and rewards of working in a global organisation like Sanofi, and the growing opportunities for young people interested in science, policy and healthcare.

Our students were captivated by her openness, clarity and enthusiasm. It was particularly inspiring to hear how diverse skill sets - from communication to critical thinking - play a central role in shaping the future of medical innovation.

A huge thank you to Felicia for giving her time and expertise, and for encouraging our students to think boldly about their own future pathways. Moments like these truly broaden horizons and spark ambition.

Dr Len



HIGHLANDS WINTER CONCERT 2025

The Winter Concert took place at Highlands and was truly sensational, with performances that were out of this world. From singing and steel band orchestra to bands and performing arts, the range of talent on display was incredible and the list was endless.

A huge thank you to the HPFA for their support in selling refreshments and helping make the evening such a success.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE AT HIGHLANDS

Staff at Highlands enjoy a weekly wellbeing break, taking time to relax, mingle and connect over hot drinks and treats, including biscuits and homemade cakes generously baked by colleagues. These moments are an important part of supporting staff wellbeing and building a positive, supportive community.

This week, the wonderful Mrs Brewerton set out a festive spread that helped everyone get into the Christmas spirit, from hot chocolate to mince pies and gingerbread biscuits.

Everyone at Highlands would like to wish the entire school community a very Merry Christmas.



YEAR 13 TRIP TO THE ROYAL INSTITUTION

The year 13 chemists enjoyed a fascinating day at the Royal Institution in London. As we soaked up the history of the building - where Michael Faraday discovered benzene and first liquefied chlorine, Humphry Davy invented his famous miners' lamp, and the Dewar flask (now more commonly known as the Thermos) was created - we attended an engaging talk on dyes.

The students then made their own natural dyes using blueberries and pomegranates, and discovered how these reacted differently with natural and synthetic fabrics. Afterwards, they were treated to a spectacular demonstration of flame colours and the remarkable properties of magnesium.

One student declared it was *"the best Chemistry trip ever!"* You can read what another student thought of it below.

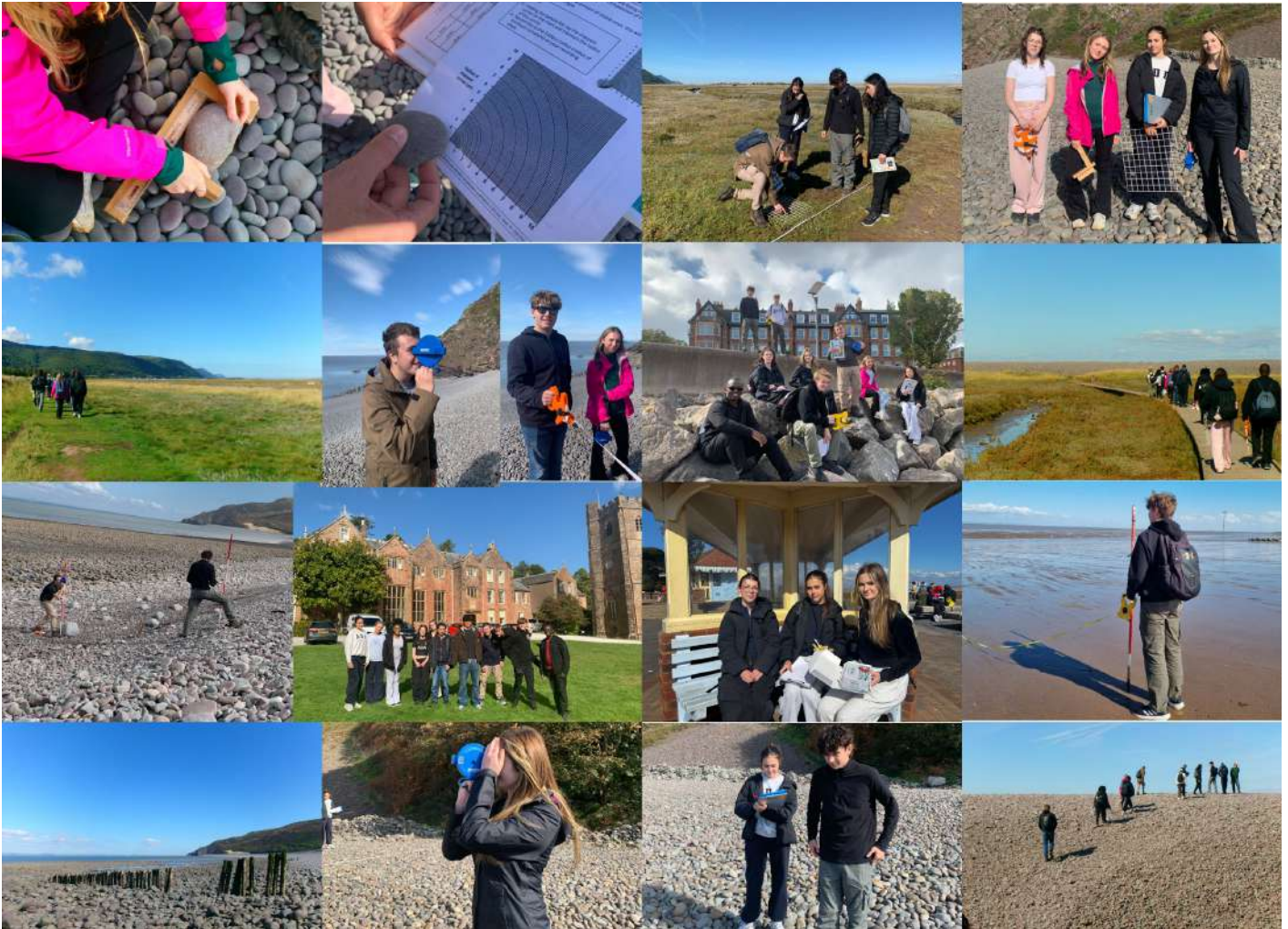
Mrs Smith

'Overall, the day was very inspirational and interesting, as we were in the same building where many discoveries were made by big names in the chemistry world. In particular I enjoyed the demonstrations at the end, including the liquid nitrogen vs sparkler experiment, as well as watching magnesium ribbon lighting up the room!' - Sacha Baker



YEAR 13 TRIP TO SOMERSET

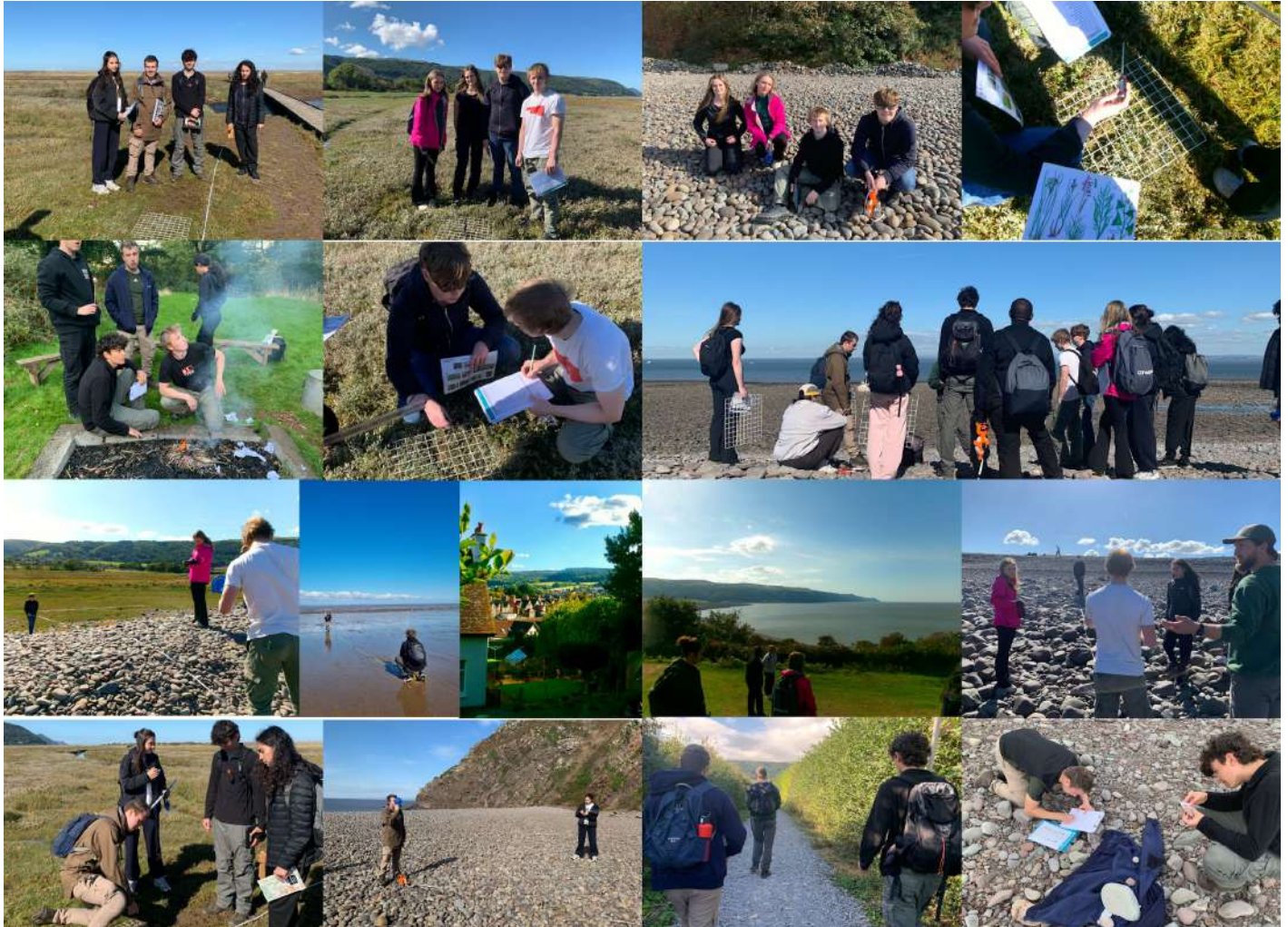
From 22nd to 26th September, our year 13 A level geographers set off on a road trip down to Somerset for their five day NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) coursework field trip. Based in Nettlecombe Court in Exmoor National Park, students took day trips to Minehead and Porlock Bay and were introduced to multiple field techniques such as how to measure a beach profile and how to conduct a 'Hudson's equation'.



They were given the opportunity to practice using field equipment such as calipers and clinometers, before making the tough decision on what topic to write their 4,000 word report on. Two students chose to return to Porlock Bay to conduct their data collection on coastal processes, and nine chose to return to Minehead; five of whom decided on a coastal management report, and four decided on a changing places report.

YEAR 13 TRIP TO SOMERSET

We are so proud of all of our hard-working year 13 geographers, and we wish them the best of luck in writing their NEA reports which counts towards 20% of their final A level grade.



LOCAL MAYOR MARGARET GREER CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH US AT HIGHLANDS

This term, we held Black History Month assemblies, reflecting on this year's theme, "*Standing Firm in Power and Pride.*" The theme celebrates the strength, resilience, and achievements of the Black community, while also recognising the contributions of leaders, activists, and pioneers, and looking ahead to continued empowerment and unity. We were honoured to welcome our local mayor, Margaret Greer, whose inspiring words uplifted everyone. She also moved us deeply by singing a powerful song, reminding us that each of us carries something strong within, capable of making a difference.

You can read our Black History Month special feature newsletter [here](#).



STANDING FIRM IN POWER AND PRIDE BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, students have been working with Write2Speak, a professional poetry and spoken-word company, to explore this year's theme: *"Standing Firm in Power and Pride."*

Over the past several weeks, our young poets have developed their own original pieces, drawing inspiration from Black voices, history, resilience, and identity.

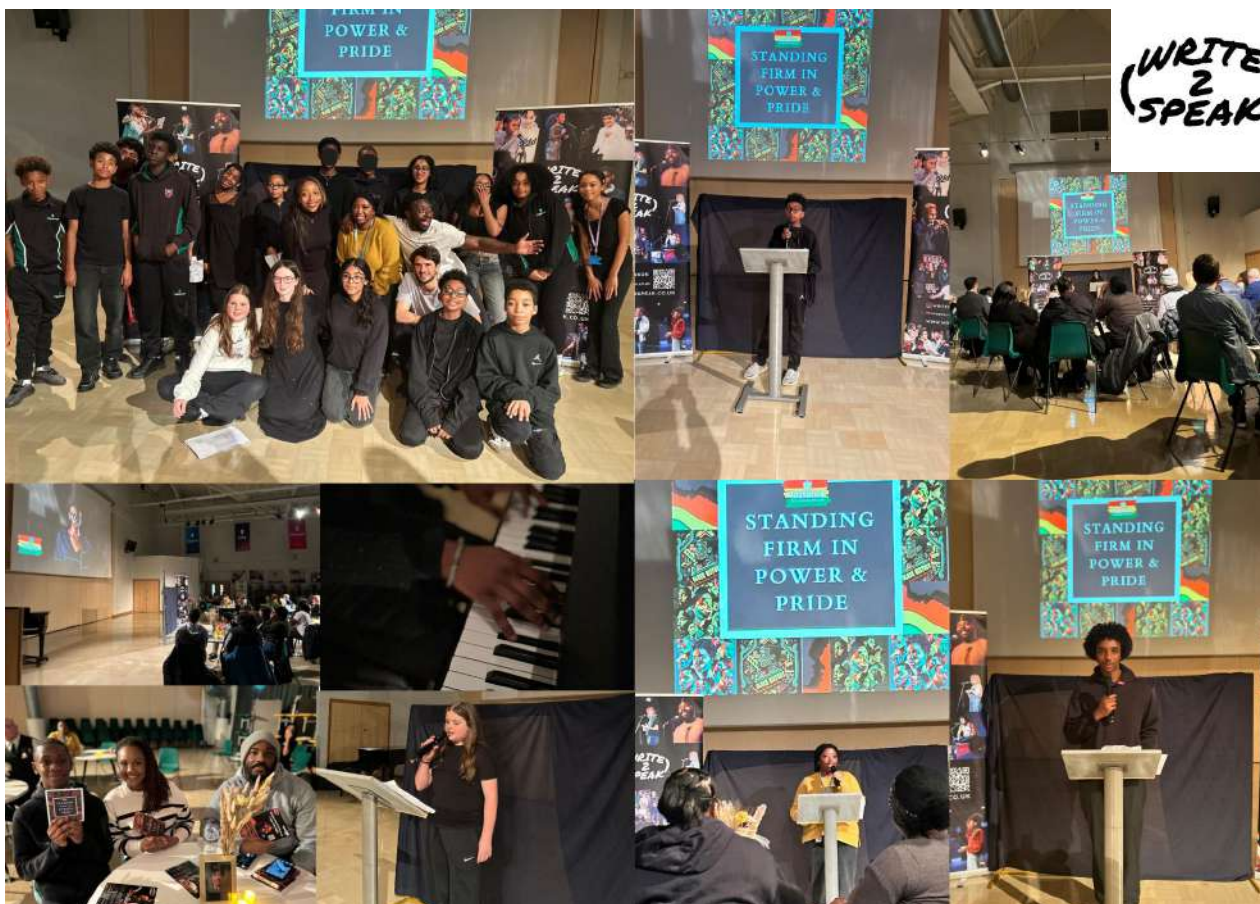
With the guidance of Write2Speak facilitators, they have crafted powerful spoken-word performances that reflect their experiences, creativity, and vision.

Our students took the stage alongside Write2Speak for a relaxed, uplifting, and inspiring evening of poetry and performance. This showcase celebrated not only their talent, but also the pride, strength, and community at the heart of Black History Month.

Have a look through our [special programme](#) to read the inspirational and heartfelt poetry delivered by our speakers.

Well done to all of our performers - they were just amazing. Congratulations to Anaiya Dhaliwal, Aston Lyle, Betsy Coneywood, Blake Cunningham, Chizzy Oguchienti, Dylan Olaogun, Filip Zinga, Idris Osman, Maya Muller, Micah Codrington, Morayo Olaogun, Neriah Muhelele, Nevaeh Watson Wright, Niamh Synnott, Noah Chavda, Raphael Asoegwu, Reuben Maple, Rosie-Mae Lyle, Sienna Brown and Tristan Lewis.

The event raised just under £300, thank you to everyone who attended and for their contributions.



THE ENFIELD HIGH ACHIEVERS' EVENING

Highlands School proudly hosted the annual High Achievers' Evening on Thursday 20th November, organised by Enfield Council, to celebrate students with exceptional GCSE results.

The event was attended by families, school staff, and education representatives, including the Mayor of Enfield, Councillor Margaret Greer, who presented certificates to high-achieving students. Special STEM awards were presented by Linda Van Keimpema from Imperial College London.

The evening featured inspiring talks from alumni: Rishan Patel, a UCL researcher developing Brain-Computer Interfaces to help people with severe movement conditions, and Tia El-Ahmadi, a Highlands alumna and BlackRock Apprentice, nationally recognised for her achievements and for inspiring young people across the UK.

Head students Elena and Luke expertly compered the ceremony. Students also attended workshops delivered by university ambassadors from Cambridge, Oxford, QMUL, Imperial College London and the University of Law, while parents participated in a panel Q&A chaired by Mr McInerney.

The evening concluded with a Careers and Progression Market, giving students and families the opportunity to meet representatives from universities and employers, including Warburtons, Brownes, and Morgan Sindall, to explore higher education and career pathways.

A huge thank you to Theresa Watts for allowing us to host the event, Chartwells for the catering, the site staff team, university ambassadors and all attending employers for helping make the evening such a success. High Achievers' Evening remains a highlight of the school calendar, celebrating talent, ambition, and achievement across Enfield.



A LEVEL DANCE

Highlands School are proud to announce that for the first time in its 25 year history, A level dance will be running as an option in the sixth form.

As a school we are already extremely proud of the provision we provide for students looking to extend their studies in a school sixth form setting and by adding A level dance to the curriculum, the school has shown its commitment to performing arts and enriching the educational experiences of the students.

Our current class can be seen here in the photo. Jessica, Anastasia, Laina and Evie all gained a GCSE grade 7 or above and are excited to develop their skills and knowledge at an advanced level.

During the course they will have to perform as a quartet, perform a solo dance based on a specific dance style and also create a group dance using a stimulus given to them by the exam board. They will also write three essays in their final exam paper, mainly focusing on dance history from 1968 - 2002 and the girls will become experts in their fields of study which will be Rambert Dance Company, the musical *Singing in the Rain* and the dance style of American Jazz.

Everyone in the dance department is very excited!



LAMDA

A huge congratulations to all the students who recently completed their LAMDA assessments - with many achieving the incredible result of a distinction! LAMDA is a world-leading drama school and examinations provider, training and inspiring exceptional artists. We are so proud of each and every one of you for your hard work, dedication, and confidence. The students were proudly presented with their certificates, a well-deserved recognition of their amazing achievements.



HISTORY AMBASSADORS

We are immensely proud to announce the outstanding performance of our two shortlisted students, Lucy Kyriacou (Y11) and JBI (Y13), who recently served as exceptional ambassadors for our school at the local heat of the Historical Association's Great Debate.

This prestigious, nationwide competition is open to students in years 10-13 and is designed to nurture a passion for history while significantly enhancing crucial research and presentation skills.

This year's question was: *"How important are personal and public records as evidence for explaining the story, or stories, of your local area?"*



Both students rose to this intellectual challenge with remarkable distinction, crafting truly excellent arguments. The organisers commended the high quality of the research and the compelling nature of their presentations. Their success reflects their aspiration, demonstrated by entering this high-level challenge, and their determination, evident in the meticulous, high-quality research effort they invested.

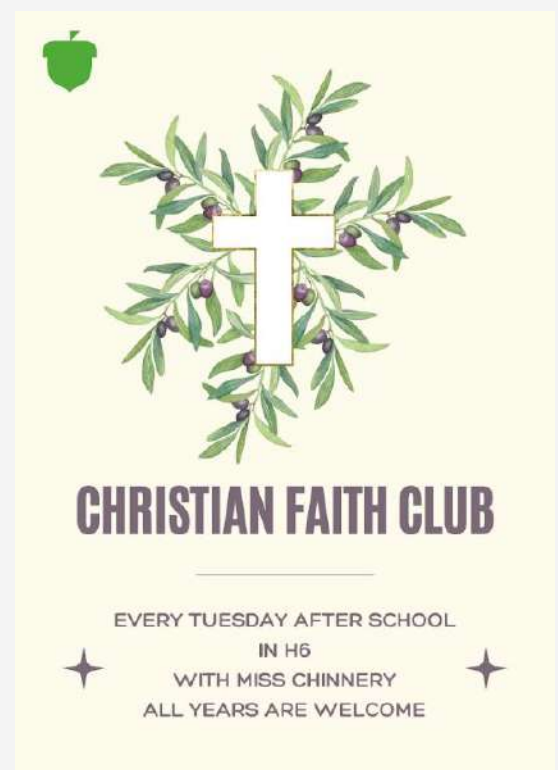
Congratulations to both Lucy and JBI for your exceptional contribution!

Ms Pavlou

CHRISTIAN FAITH CLUB

In the last week of term, the Christian Faith Club celebrated Christmas with an end-of-term celebration. Filled with Christmas tunes, a reading of the story of Christmas, a classic game of pass-the-parcel, and lots of biscuits and sweets. Fun was had by all students, from year 7 to year 13.

Merry Christmas!



RACING SUCCESS

Andrei Stoian in year 12, has made a name for himself in the world of racing since moving to the UK two years ago. He has competed in a number of racing competitions including the Brentwood Championships and national-level events, achieving 3rd place at the Daytona Karting Club competition and racing as part of the Club 100 Championships team at tracks such as PFI and Ellough Park.

Despite undergoing major cochlear surgery, Andrei's determination has never wavered. He trains weekly and continues to excel, recently securing 2nd place in the Brentwood Race League. Go Andrei, you are a true inspiration!



YEAR 12 ART IN ACTION TRIP

Year 12 fine art and photography students visited *Art in Action* at the Emmanuel Centre in London, gaining insight and inspiration from an impressive line-up of guest speakers.

The day featured renowned photographer Martin Parr who sadly passed away this month, award-winning artist and painter Fraser Scarfe, ceramic specialist Duncan Hooson, and celebrated sculptor Rachel Whiteread.

Students enjoyed hearing about each artist's creative journey and professional practice, making it a valuable and enriching trip for all.



STAFF TRAINING SESSION WITH DOUG LEMOV

In partnership with the Ivy Learning Trust, the school was privileged to welcome Doug Lemov to Highlands. Teaching at Highlands is shaped by educational research and the principles of metacognition - understanding how we learn. This evidence-informed approach is now common across schools in England and internationally, due in part to the work of Doug Lemov.

For the past 15 years, Doug has published books and trained teachers in techniques designed to ensure students learn effectively. He previously worked as a teacher and school principal in the United States and holds a BA from Hamilton College, an MA in English from Indiana University, and an MBA from Harvard Business School. As Doug is based in the USA, the opportunity to welcome him to the UK and have him work with Highlands staff was one the school could not miss.

He delivered training throughout the day to Highlands teachers and more than 300 teachers from the Ivy Learning Trust, a local primary school multi-academy trust. Ensuring that students are taught by well-trained, highly effective teachers is fundamental to Highlands' vision of excellence, and today's training has already helped identify ways to make teaching even stronger so that children at Highlands continue to flourish.



YEAR 12 STUDENT IMPRESSES AT TRANSPORT FOR LONDON WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 12 student Rhys had the incredible opportunity to complete a week-long work experience placement with Transport for London (TfL), gaining hands-on exposure to a range of engineering projects across the network.



Rhys impressed everyone he met with his pre-existing knowledge of TfL's past and present rolling stock and his genuine enthusiasm for the transport network. During the week, he visited key projects including the Central Line Improvement Project in Acton, the Beckton DLR Control Room, Beckton Depot Expansion, and the new Piccadilly Line Upgrade train simulators.







On his final day, Rhys presented a summary of the week's activities to a team of over 10 TfL staff. He delivered his presentation confidently, maintaining excellent eye contact and speaking at a clear, professional pace, a skill not easy for everyone, and one he handled exceptionally well.

Rhys's dedication, professionalism, and eagerness to learn have been widely praised by his placement hosts. He is a fantastic example of how our students can engage with real-world opportunities and make the most of them. Congratulations, Rhys!

Mrs Laurenzi

HOUSE CHARITIES

Here are the house charities chosen by our students for the 2025 - 26 academic year - each reflecting the causes they're most passionate about supporting.

<p>Oak house charity</p>  <p>Noah's Ark Children's Hospice is a specialist charity providing compassionate palliative, practical and emotional care to babies, children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions - and to their entire families.</p>	<p>Beech house charity</p>  <p>The World Food Programme is the largest humanitarian organisation saving and changing lives worldwide. They bring life-saving relief in emergencies and use food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>Rowan house charity</p>  <p>Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity supports one of the world's leading children's hospitals. Their mission is to help seriously ill children receive the best possible care and to ensure every family has the support they need during the toughest times</p>	<p>Willow house charity</p>  <p>Place2Be is a UK-based children's mental-health charity that works inside schools to provide one-to-one and group counselling, as well as training and resources for staff, pupils and families.</p>

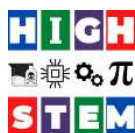


STEM SMART - UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

STEM SMART is a free, 16-month programme to support students in raising their attainment at sixth form level and develop their confidence to apply to study physical, biological or behavioural sciences, engineering or computer science at top universities such as Cambridge in association with Isaac Science.

Well done to the following students who were accepted onto the prestigious and competitive Cambridge STEM SMART Summer School.

- Darcy Dundridge 12RCW
- Ozgenaz Ozsoy 12ODS
- Parla Ghanipour 12OMA
- Haris Rahman 12WTA
- Imran Hassan 12BCR
- Daniel Malaj 12BCR
- Enoc Rodriguez-Lopez 12BCR



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



“What I would hope to gain out of this experience, is a deeper insight into further education and post A level options, boost in computer science and looking into AI development in the future.” - Haris Rahman

“I hope this programme will help me strengthen my understanding of maths and further maths, which are the core analytical skills I need for my goal of studying economics at a top university. I want to gain more confidence in tackling challenging exam questions and learn from the Cambridge approach to problem-solving. I believe this experience will give me the tools and support to achieve my best possible A level grades and build a stronger application for university.” - Ozgenaz Ozsoy



STEM VIRTUAL CAREER TALK - ALBERTO GRANERO, SENIOR ENGINEER AT PEPSICO

Our year 10 to year 12 students had the privilege of taking part in a Q&A session with Dr Alberto Granero, a distinguished Senior Engineer at PepsiCo, who shared valuable insights into his career journey.

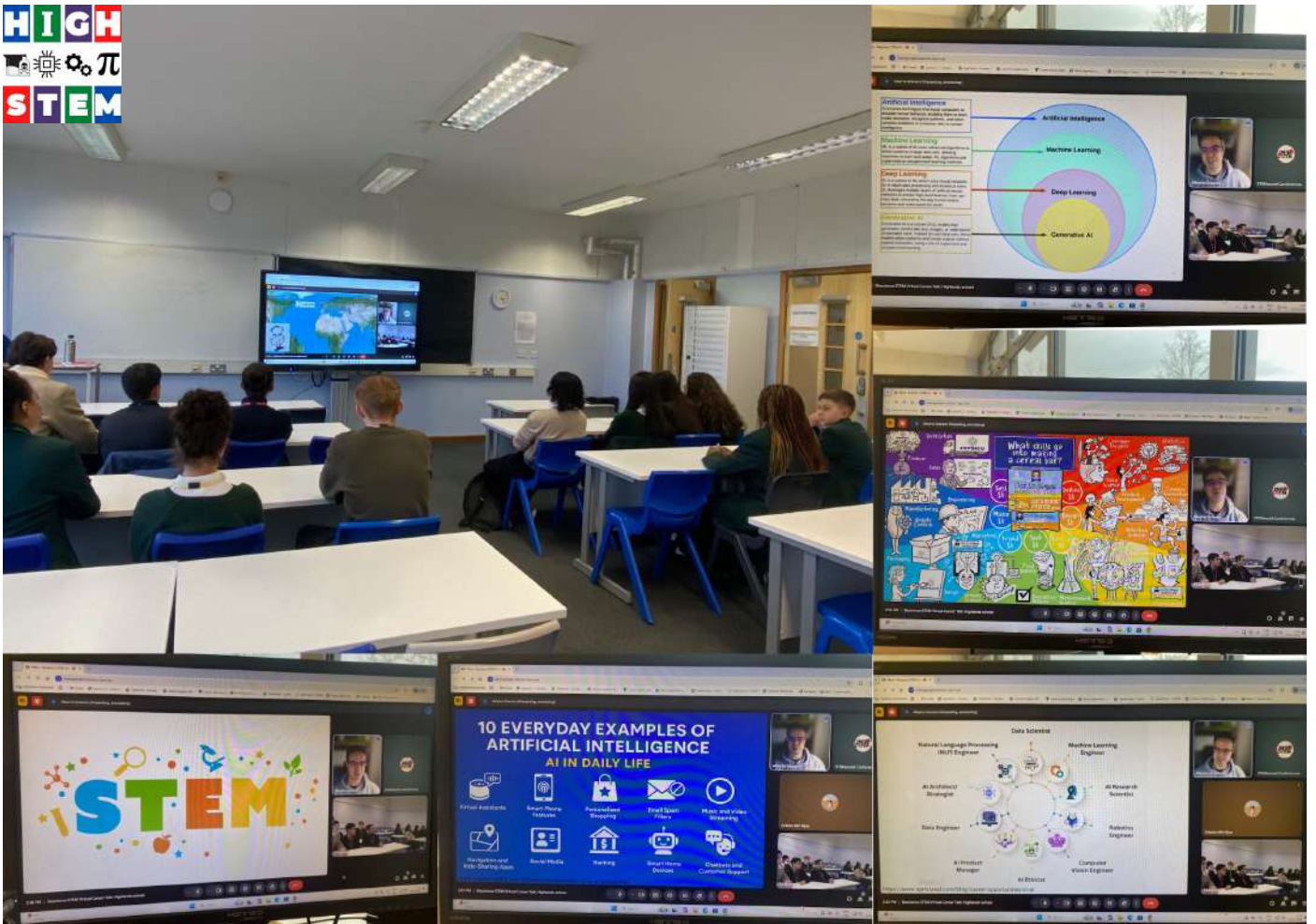
Dr Granero discussed his role as a process engineer, highlighting how he delivers engineering projects using AI, from equipment design to line installation and commissioning. He also spoke about his experience working in both industrial settings and academic research and development departments.

The key themes of his talk focused on the challenges and successes he has encountered, the lessons he has learned along the way, and his outlook for the future of engineering and AI. Students were particularly engaged when he described building machine learning models to solve real business problems - including optimising the crispness and moisture content of cereal bars to ensure the perfect texture for consumers.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the session and asked thoughtful questions about artificial intelligence and potential career pathways.



'I hope to get insight into what a day in the life of an engineer looks like and what steps they took to reach where they are now. I hope this further empowers me to keep studying for a STEM career and how AI could possibly be part of it.' Elis Cristovao, year 11



INSPIRING INSIGHTS INTO MEDIA, TV AND FILM

Our sixth form students with an interest in media, TV and film were delighted to welcome Nick Godwin, award-winning director and executive producer, for an engaging and motivating careers talk. Nick founded BriteSpark Films in 2013 in partnership with Argonon Media, and has built an impressive career creating ambitious television for major British and North American broadcasters.

With senior roles at Cineflix and Wag TV, Nick has overseen some of the industry's most high-profile documentaries and drama-docs, including *Nazi Hunters*, *Manson*, *Air Aces* and *Motives and Murders*. He began his career producing and directing films for prestigious strands such as Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* and the BBC's *Modern Times*, after studying Politics at the University of Sussex and documentary filmmaking at the National Film and TV School.

During an inspiring Q&A session, Nick highlighted that there is no single route into the creative industries. His message to students was to *study what you love, stay curious, and take initiative*, as passion and drive are key to success.

A heartfelt thank you to Nick Godwin for giving his time and sharing his expertise, and to Speakers for Schools for making this fantastic opportunity possible.



INSPIRING FINANCE CAREERS TALK

Sixth form students studying business and economics, had the privilege of hearing from Abubakar Olafusi, an entrepreneur and former J.P. Morgan trader, whose journey into the world of finance proved both motivating and eye-opening. Born and raised in Newham and later studying mathematics at the London School of Economics, Abubakar shared how curiosity, determination and a love for markets shaped his path.

He spoke candidly about discovering trading at 18, taking a gap year to launch his first business, and securing two internships at J.P. Morgan before working on the fast-paced trading floor. Students were fascinated by his “day in the life” snapshot: early morning market reviews, rapid-fire team discussions, analysing credit opportunities, and closely tracking major economic data releases. His description of the trading environment - dynamic, challenging, and never the same day twice - left a strong impression.

Abubakar also broadened students’ understanding of the finance world, explaining the differences between roles in sales and trading, investment banking, asset management, private banking, and the investment fields of private equity, venture capital and hedge funds. He emphasised that finance is not just about numbers - it’s about curiosity, problem-solving and understanding global events.

One of the most valuable parts of his talk was his practical advice. Abubakar encouraged students to start building experiences now, explore different opportunities, stay informed by reading financial news, and develop the confidence to tell their own story. He highlighted the importance of long-term thinking, smart revision strategies, and learning from those just a step ahead.



INSPIRING FINANCE CAREERS TALK

Students left the session inspired, with many commenting that the talk made careers in finance feel more accessible and exciting. Abubakar's key message was simple but powerful: believe in yourself, stay curious, and don't be afraid of failure - use it as fuel for growth.

We are grateful to Abubakar for giving his time and offering such an insightful, motivating session for our students.

"Abubakar's talk showed me that finance isn't just about numbers - it's about thinking globally, solving problems, and being curious. I feel much more confident about exploring this career path now." - Year 12 economics student

"The session was inspiring and practical. Abubakar's advice on building experiences and telling your own story was something I'll definitely take on board." - Year 12 business student

Mrs Laurenzi

EAL GOOD PRACTICE AT HIGHLANDS

We were pleased to host Ms. Mathilde Peutrec, the EAL coordinator from Enfield Grammar Upper School, this week. Her visit was focused on seeing our school's example of EAL good practice. She reported being very pleased with her observations and was highly impressed by how well our work with EAL students is organised.

Mr Restrepo



HOUSE CAPTAINS AND STRAND LEADS 2025-26

We are proud to introduce this year's house strand leads and house captains for 2025-26. This term they collected their captain badges. Congratulations to you all.

House captains			
Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Georgette Agyeman-Aboah (C)	Yasmin Farhadi (C)	Darcy Dundridge (C)	Naa Shidaa Quarty (VC)
Poppy Goss (VC)	Ermioni Tsantikou (VC)	Keira Cheek (VC)	Francesca Georgiou (VC)

Sports captains			
Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Priscilla Nyamaah (C)	Kingston Barrow (C)	Amaan Yaheya (C)	Sienna Francis (C)
Adam Ahmed (VC)	Batu Soykurt (VC)		Daniel Rowswell (VC)

Social action captains			
Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Imran Hassan (C)	Jasmine Desai (C)	Francescka Koci (C)	Sindi Shaban (C)
Sadie Baker (VC)	Nancy Pappa (VC)	Lucia Manescu (VC)	Marianna Pallikaros (VC)

Performance captains			
Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Lily Theodorou (C)	Alexandra Drikou (C)	JBI (C)	Evie Ferguson (C)
Bibiana Edwards (VC)	Ruby Wakeford (VC)	Ioanna Bello (VC)	Elis Cristovao (VC)

Environment captains			
Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Nana Boakye (C)	Fatih Ozcan (C)	Emily Newton (C)	Anaiya Dhaliwal (C)
Yonis Muuse ibraahim (VC)	Julia Zysko (VC)		

HOUSE CAPTAINS AND STRAND LEADS 2025-26

Wellbeing captains			
Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Darcy Smethurst (C)	Isaac Mooney (C)	Sophia Smith (C)	Annika Trivedi (C)
	Thanos Ioannou (VC)	Amber Walford (VC)	Rhys Willis (VC)

Equalities and Diversity captains			
Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Yalda Farhadi (C)	Warren Kelly (C)	Kayla-Faith Muhelele (C)	Abel Kalaj (C)
			Lois Anosike (VC)

HPFA WINTER RAFFLE

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Winter Raffle! Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket, together we raised an incredible **£1,423**, an amazing amount that will make a real difference to our school. We're also extremely grateful to everyone who donated such wonderful prizes, and to the HPFA for organising the raffle so brilliantly. We truly couldn't have done it without you.

All winners have now been contacted and arrangements made to collect their gifts.

From everyone at Highlands, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and thank you for your continued support.



MUSIC BINGO AT HIGHLANDS

Our wonderful HPFA hosted this year’s Music Bingo Night, and what an incredible event it was - lively, fun, and full of brilliant energy from start to finish. With plenty of music, laughter, and community spirit, the evening brought everyone together for a fantastic cause.

Thanks to everyone who attended and supported the night, the school raised an amazing **£757.44**.



HIGHLANDS SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow and encourage your family and friends to follow Highlands School on our social media accounts. This enables everyone to see the fantastic work we do here, as well as seeing any fundraising HPFA events that they may like to attend.

<u>Instagram</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Threads</u>	<u>Facebook</u>
<u>YouTube</u>	<u>LinkedIn</u>



WEEKLY CAREERS NEWSLETTER

In addition to our school weekly newsletter, students are being sent a weekly careers newsletter with valuable information, featuring exciting opportunities to apply to. Whether they are looking to explore future paths or looking for guidance, the newsletter includes resources to help plan next steps, employer and uni spotlights, job of the week and much more.

Stay informed and take advantage of these exclusive invites! You can read the newsletters [here](#).

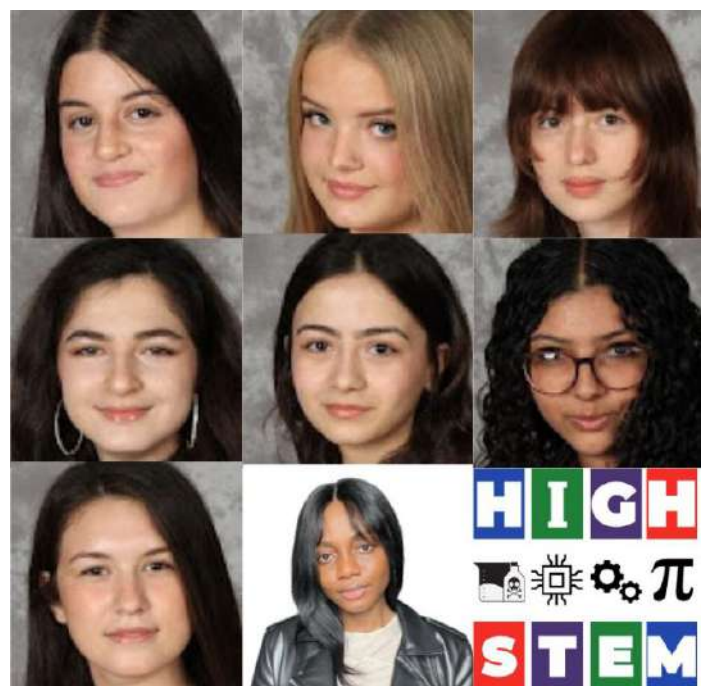


COMPUTING SCIENCE SCHOLARS

Congratulations to the following year 12 students who successfully gained a spot on the competitive 7-week Scholars Programme run by The Brilliant Club.

- Belkisa Cota
- Parla Ghanipour
- Ozgenaz Ozsoy
- Darcy Dundridge
- Nicole Zeka
- Amelie Soon
- Ereni Zaki

The programme will be run by Dr Lois Wakili who is a Data Scientist/AI Researcher and their project is 'Strength Training Reimagined with Artificial Intelligence (AI)'.



DARE DAYS - YEAR 12

Our students enjoyed two unforgettable DARE Days, packed with exciting trips and enriching opportunities.

Year 12 students had an exciting and inspiring experience at school for this year's DARE Day activities, taking part in a 'Wise-Up Apprentice' themed day and a lively 'Hire Me' workshop. The apprentice challenge pushed them to work together, solve problems and show leadership, while the Hire Me session gave them practical employability skills, from communication to interview techniques. Together, the two activities offered a fun and engaging way to prepare for the world of work and future opportunities.

Click to watch our DARE Days highlights reel on [Instagram](#).



**DARE DAYS
2025**



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Here at Highlands we recognise academic achievement in the house system. After each year group's mid-year assessments / mock exams we will recognise:

- The top achieving student in each subject. They will receive the academic excellence trophy for that subject, 1,000 points for their house, and a certificate.
- The most improved student in each subject will receive a certificate.

We have just done our year 13 mid-year assessments, here are the top achieving students in each subject, well done to you all.

Position	Student	Form	House	subject
1	Sia Loomis	13OES	Oak	Art
1	Charlie Skipp	13RHK	Rowan	
1	Muhammad Farooq	13WAD	Willow	Biology
1	Diyon Wilkinson	13WAD	Willow	
1	Rukiye Coban	13OES	Oak	Chemistry
1	Wunfai Alex Lo	13BTD	Beech	Computer science
1	Aryan Vojdani	13OES	Oak	Design technology
1	Reuben Clark	13RJB	Rowan	Economics
1	Rory White	13BTD	Beech	
1	Luke Tyrimos	13WAD	Willow	English literature
1	Isabel Paine	13OAL	Oak	Geography
1	Elena Giudice	13BAS	Beech	History
1	Elaine Ho	13WDS	Willow	Maths
1	Mea Branco	13WAD	Willow	PE
1	Maddie Snellings	13BAS	Beech	Photography
1	Shay Patel	13BAS	Beech	Physics
1	Luke Tyrimos	13WAD	Willow	Politics
1	Jaimin Shah	13RHK	Rowan	Psychology
1	Flori Macarthur	13OES	Oak	Religious studies
1	Elena Giudice	13BAS	Beech	Sociology
1	Victoria Salamanca	13WAD	Willow	Spanish

Highlands School Alumni

As a school, we want to reconnect with our former students so that we can keep in touch and let them know about volunteering opportunities that will benefit our current students. We want to show them the variety of pathways available to them after leaving Highlands School, and who better to showcase this information, than former students!

We are working with education charity Future First to set this up, and all you need to do to get involved is sign up here: [Highlands School Alumni](https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk) or alternatively scan the QR code below.

More information is on our [website](#) and if you have any questions please contact our Alumni Programme Manager at Future First: Tara Human – tara.human@futurefirst.org.uk

#HighlandsAlumni

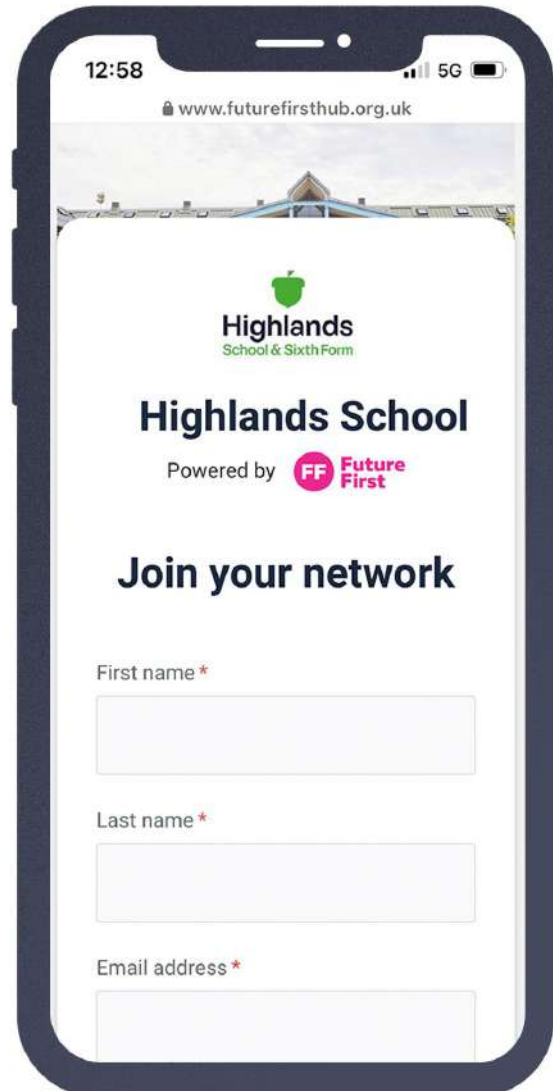


Former student?

Return to Highlands School to inform our current students about what life beyond school is really like.

Sign up to our former student network to receive news, updates and invites to events.

Once you're signed up there is no obligation to volunteer, you can get involved around your availability.



NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget

If you take part in any of the opportunities posted onto Google Classroom including virtual events, and any other career related emailed to you, you must inform Mrs Laurenzi to complete the relevant form.

Keep your apprenticeship search going!

It might feel a little quiet right now, but these next two weeks are the perfect time to keep searching and applying for apprenticeships.

January and February bring **National Apprenticeship Week**, when lots of new opportunities will open up! Use this time to follow the step-by-step application guide and practice your interview skills so you'll be ready to impress when the right role comes along.

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY COUNT!

School might be closed, but employers are still open for contact. Use these two weeks to research and secure your work experience placement, every email or call brings you closer to your future career!

WORK EXPERIENCE

Monday 29th June 2026 - Friday 3rd July 2026

