

SUMMER 2025

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'Algoryphons' Robotic Success

Trips across Europe

DofE Expeditions

SAST
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER



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WELCOME



As we reach the end of another rich and rewarding academic year at The Gryphon School, it has been deeply inspiring to see our school community living out our vision of "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). This term has offered countless examples of students showing courage, kindness, and aspiration, reflecting our Christian LIFE values of leadership, integrity, fellowship, and exploration in so many areas of school life.

Academically, we have witnessed incredible resilience and determination. Our Year 13 students sat over 600 A Level papers, and our Year 11s over 2,300 GCSE exams. I want to thank all our staff who have gone above and beyond to prepare and support our students, running extra revision sessions and offering encouragement every step of the way. We celebrated with these students at their end of year Proms and will recognise their results and next steps in September at our annual Prizegiving Ceremony in Sherborne Abbey as they move on to college, university, apprenticeships, or the world of work. Their perseverance and commitment have been a true example of integrity.

Sporting achievement has flourished. A special congratulations to our Year 11 football team, who made

history as the first Gryphon team to win the U16 Dorset Schools Cup, a fantastic display of teamwork, dedication, and leadership. Our Year 8 team also made it to the final, and students really enjoyed 'The Gryphon Games', our unique take on sports day.

Creativity has shone through in the arts. The Year 13 Creative Design exhibition has been phenomenal, a reflection of the talent nurtured by our exceptional staff, including Mr Fenton-Wilkinson, who retires this year after 18 years of inspirational and enthusiastic teaching, visionary and dedicated leadership. Our choir performed at Sherborne Abbey as part of the Sherborne Music Festival and hosted a spectacular pre-tour concert ahead of their music tour to Barcelona. In Drama, Year 12 students led a vibrant 80s-themed dance project with Key Stage 3 students, a powerful example of fellowship across year groups and of older students stepping into leadership roles.

Our commitment to exploration has never been stronger. Students have broadened their horizons through trips to Berlin, Rome, and the Normandy Battlefields, as well as closer to home at Chesil Beach, Longleat and Durdle Door. Adventurous Training continues to thrive, with Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions completed, and a Gold expedition to Snowdonia to come, alongside strong participation and enormous success in the Ten Tors Challenge, all experiences that build character, resilience, and a deeper sense of self.

We have also seen powerful student-led action through charity. Joe in Year 12 organised an Ice Bucket Challenge for

staff, raising over £200 for Active Minds, a brilliant example of leadership combined with care for others.

Our annual Celebration of Achievement events for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 took place this week, giving us the opportunity to celebrate both academic progress and personal growth. They were a joyful reflection of our belief in the potential of every child to grow and thrive in their own unique way.

As we say goodbye to some of our students and staff this term, I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who is moving on to new adventures. Special recognition must go to Mrs Pinkawa, whose 26 years of extraordinary pastoral care has changed the lives of so many. Her commitment and compassion have been a quiet, steady force behind countless students flourishing, a true embodiment of fellowship and integrity.

As we look ahead to the summer and the new academic year, I want to thank every student, member of staff, and family for your ongoing support and contribution to our school. You help make The Gryphon School a place where young people can truly live life in all its fullness.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer.

Jim Gower
Headteacher

YEAR 8 STUDENTS **STEP UP** AS PEER MENTORS

Supporting Wellbeing, Building Confidence

We are proud to share that a group of enthusiastic and compassionate Year 8 students have recently applied and been selected to become peer mentors as part of our school's wellbeing initiative. These students have shown a strong commitment to supporting others and helping to create a caring and inclusive school environment.

As part of their preparation, the new peer mentors took part in a dedicated training session led by our Mental Health Lead, Jackie Brighouse. During the training, they learned key skills such as active listening, offering support without judgment, and recognising when to seek help from an adult. The session also focused on how to be a friendly and approachable presence for their peers, especially during times of transition or challenge.

Looking ahead, our peer mentors will play a vital role in welcoming and supporting new students. They were on hand during our Taster Day on 1st July to guide Year 6 pupils as they explored their school,

answered their questions, and helped ease any nerves. Their involvement will continue in September, when they will again support our newest students through their Induction Day and the start of term.

This initiative not only empowers our Year 8 students to develop leadership and communication skills, but also helps to foster a stronger sense of community and care across the school supporting the LIFE skills which we value so highly. A huge well done to all those who have taken on this important role—we know you will make a real difference!



Year 6 Taster Day

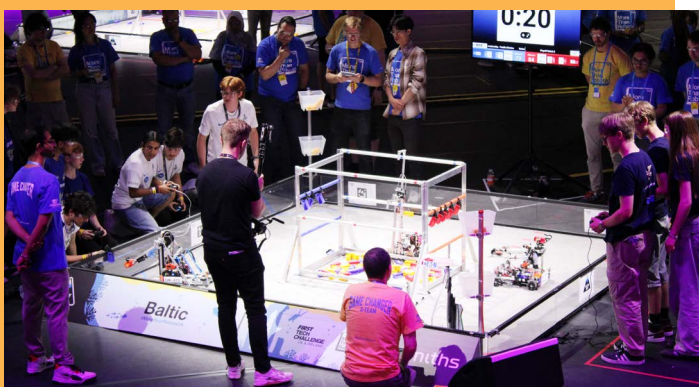
Our Year 6 students had a fantastic time in their feeder lesson exploring still life collage inspired by artist Megan Coyle. Using only paper shapes, they "painted with paper" to create colourful fruit compositions, learning how to add shadows and highlights to bring their work to life. The children showed great creativity, teamwork and focus — well done everyone!' Mr Malone. The Art Department

BUILDING ROBOTS, BREAKING BARRIERS: THE ALGORYPHONS' IMPRESSIVE DEBUT

The Gryphon's first-ever robotics team, The Algoryphons, ended their debut season with a standout performance at the FIRST Tech Challenge UK National Championships in London – placing 4th in their division and reaching the quarter finals. An incredible result for a first-year team!

Their journey wasn't without setbacks – like a last-minute motor failure – but the team showed resilience, creativity, and teamwork throughout. They also won the Social Media Challenge, earning a brand-new 3D printer to support future innovation.

Backed by generous sponsor Eaton, who provided funding and mentorship, this Year 12 team didn't just build a robot – they built a thriving, collaborative community.



Follow their next chapter on Instagram: @Algoryphons or visit their site: algoryphons.github.io

Watch this space – the future is being built, one robot at a time!

Music

Sherborne Abbey Festival – 6th May

Thirty-two Gryphon choir members joined Bournemouth University Choral Society and Orchestra for a spectacular concert at Sherborne Abbey, performing Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The combined choir of 120 voices impressed conductor Ian Davis with their confidence and sound. A standout moment was Year 13 student Laura Jones' virtuosic flute solo in Rutter's *Suite Antique*.

Summer Tour Concert – 26th June

Ahead of their tour to Barcelona, 44 students wowed audiences with a preview concert, receiving a full standing ovation. Highlights included solos from Daisy Gillibrand (bagpipes), Grace Robinson (vocals), Danny Mitchell (French horn), and Laura Jones (flute), as well as impressive duets

and a showstopping finale of *You Can't Stop the Beat*. A surprise non-musical moment featured some fabulous Irish dancing by Mathilde O'Dowd!

National Youth Orchestra Visit – 7th July

Twenty students were inspired by a thrilling open rehearsal from the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. From classical to Latin-American to a Rihanna orchestral arrangement, it was a high-energy performance that left students buzzing with motivation to keep practising – or even start learning – a musical instrument.

The music tour to Barcelona, 16–21 July, promises to be another incredible chapter, with concerts in both Barcelona and Lloret del Mar. Watch this space!

Year 7 Challenge Day at The Gryphon!

This was the first big project I coordinated since starting the role of Adventurous Training Lead at The Gryphon, and it was a really fun day!

All of Year 7 were off timetable completing a range of activities focused on leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship, and creative thinking! With the assistance of the Year 9 Peer Mentors, Year 7 Tutors and support staff, each group spent the day moving between sections named Sports, Team Building and Task Master.

In each section were stations such as Gutter Ball, where students must transport a golf ball to an end destination using small pieces of guttering, but when the ball is on your piece of gutter, you cannot move, and the ball must stay in motion. If the ball is dropped, you start again!

Another station saw students work together to tap a bunch of numbered cones in a circle, in numerical order, as fast as possible, the catch being that only one student could be reaching into the circle at any one time, communication and team coordination was essential here to get that time as quick as possible! Other stations included a game of Capture The Flag, Highest Marshmallow + Spaghetti Tower and a Human Knot challenge! We had sunshine all day, smiles all round and a very, very close finish when it came to tallying up the scores at the end of the day! We'll be hosting a similar day next year, closer to the start of the year, to act as an icebreaker for the new Year 7s as we welcome them to The Gryphon School!

Mr Banfield

READING

Gryphon students have once again been reading avidly this year. For example, Year 7 have logged 410,100 minutes on Track My Read, so nearly 2,000 minutes per student – well done Year 7!

We want to encourage all our students to keep up the good habit of reading regularly. Here are some reading recommendations from students – most of these books are in our excellent library, other can be found in your local book shop or online:

- Blade: Playing Dead by Tim Bowler – modern thriller recommended for Year 7+ readers.
- The Inheritance Games series by Jennifer Lynn Barnes – adventure thriller for Year 8+ readers.
- Binding 13 – Book 1 of the Boys of Tommen series – teenage romance for Year 9+ readers.

DofE Expeditions

We've had some very warm days out in the sun this term. Our Silver DofE Practice expedition saw four groups of our Year 10 students hike through Wareham Forest, Kimmeridge and Lulworth, up and down coastal hills amid a heatwave! Students did well to cope with the soaring temperatures in preparation for their final expedition in The New Forest at the start of July. We were blessed with slightly cooler weather, and we even managed to dodge the rain. Students followed routes that they had planned themselves, taking them across The New Forest, camping for two nights and walking for 3 days with all their gear on their backs! It was great to speak with the students after and hear how keen they are to hear more information about Gold DofE already!



4.

Geography

It's been a truly memorable and enriching year for the Geography Department at The Gryphon School, with students across all year groups heading out of the classroom to explore the world around them – whether collecting field data, visiting iconic landscapes, or stepping into leadership roles. Here's a round-up of what our geographers have been up to:

Fieldwork Adventures: From Chesil Beach to the Jurassic Coast

Year 10 geographers travelled to Chesil Beach this term as part of their GCSE Paper 3 preparation. They put their fieldwork skills into action – measuring beach profiles, collecting pebble samples, and analysing coastal processes. It was also a chance to unwind and connect, with students enjoying a sunny coastal walk and ice creams. Their conduct was exemplary, earning compliments from café staff and making the day both academically rewarding and personally meaningful.



Meanwhile, Year 8 students headed to Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door, immersing themselves in the dramatic landscapes of the Jurassic Coast. Equipped with fieldwork tools, they explored beach profiles and environmental quality, worked collaboratively, and produced detailed sketches of landforms. Public praise for their environmental awareness and polite behaviour was a proud moment for staff.



Year 12 students embraced two days of intensive fieldwork under sunny skies in Studland Bay and Swanage. They studied sand dune formation, coastal defences, and tourism impacts, all in preparation for their NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) and A-Level exams. The trip also helped build connections across classes, reinforcing friendships and teamwork within the cohort. You can view highlights on Instagram at @gryphonGeography.

Wider Learning: Conservation and Community Engagement.

Year 9 explored themes of conservation and biodiversity at Longleat Animal Park. Seeing animals in a real-world context helped bring their geography and ethics curriculum to



GIRLS INTO GEOSCIENCE: EXPLORING EARTH AND EMPOWERMENT

Girls into Geoscience (GiG) is a two-day outreach event designed to introduce young women to careers and university courses in physical geography, geology, and geoscience. With field trips, inspiring talks, and hands-on workshops, it offers valuable insight into both academic and professional pathways – while also helping students build CV-worthy skills and connections.

Encouraged by Mr. Woodville, I attended both days and found the experience empowering and eye-opening. A highlight was the field trip to Dartmoor and Torbay, which showed how enjoyable and accessible fieldwork can be. The second day featured talks from women in industries such as mining, petroleum, and academia, alongside interactive workshops on topics like climate change and planetary geology.

GiG not only challenged stereotypes in the geoscience field – with an almost equal gender split – but also helped me clarify my interests and future academic goals. Even though I may not pursue geology directly, the event was a fantastic experience that broadened my horizons and boosted my confidence.

Esther, Year 12



life. Discussions on animal welfare and sustainability were thoughtful and engaging, and the students impressed staff and visitors alike with their respectful conduct and insightful observations.

Our Year 12 students also played a role in nurturing the next generation of geographers through a Geography Taster Day at Sherborne Primary School. In an interactive volcano simulation lesson, they guided Year 5 and 6 pupils through fast-paced decision-making and exciting scenarios. The visit helped ease transition fears while showcasing the fun and challenge of geography at secondary level. A huge thank you to student volunteers Hannah HB, Megan W, Joseph S, Esther M, Genevieve D, and to the SPS team for their warm welcome.



Global Thinking: Student-Led UN Migration Conference.

One of the most inspiring events of the year was the Sixth Form UN-style Migration Conference, led by Esther M and a team of passionate Year 12 geographers. Collaborating with students from History, Sociology, and English, they recreated a diplomatic forum exploring the complexities of global migration. Delegates represented a range of countries, presenting speeches and engaging in lively, thoughtful debate.

Held after school during a busy exam period, the event showcased incredible dedication and initiative. It left such an impact, that students are already planning next year's edition, involving the next Sixth Form cohort. It was a shining example of how our geographers are not only learning about the world – but helping to shape it.

MFL SPEAKING COMPETITION

On the 24th June 2025, the Languages Department ran the KS3 Speaking Competition in the Quarr Hall at the Gryphon school. All students took part in a creative competition in lesson time, and in each class, a student was chosen for having prepared an excellent speech. The finalists competed against each other on stage, presenting their work with confidence and courage. The quality of the students' presentation and linguistic skills blew us all away. The variety of styles and topics ranged from, best friends, to women's rights, from favourite fruits to their relatives...we were thoroughly entertained!

We would like to congratulate all our contestants for their hard work and enthusiasm. They are:

Year 7: Eric J, Lacey E, Poppy S, Pip S-G, Karthik G, Imogen G, Mia C-E, Sunidhi Z, Laura N and Michelle B.

Year 8: James D, Sophie E, Ewan G, Phoebe W, Belle V, Megan M, and Mae M.

Year 9: Jack B, Lily N, Seb C-L, Julia O, Mahdi L, Stanley R, Owen H, Fawn G, Charlie F, and Aneurin W.

With special congratulations to our three winners:

Khartik G – Year 7

Mae M – Year 8

Julia O – Year 9





BERLIN TRIP

When I was on the Berlin trip, I enjoyed every single part. The trip was full of action-packed activities that gave me and other students an extra chance to learn. Seeing all the different sites in the flesh really helped me visualise what it was actually like at the historic sites. One project we do for GCSE is 'History Around Us' – for this we study an old historical site in Berlin called Hohenschonhausen which we visited. Seeing this building certainly helped me understand what really happened at the site. The staff on the trip were also very friendly and really built good relationships with students. When people look at these sort of trips, they should always think about going on them, because for me, they have created memories that will last a lifetime.

Will H – Year 10

NORMANDY TRIP

In early April, 44 Year 9 students took the opportunity to explore the stories of heroism and sacrifice by touring the battlefields and beaches of Normandy. They experienced a range of French and Norman culture, cuisine and conversation, all while walking the ground on which one of the most famous turning points of the war occurred, hearing stories of courage in the most trying circumstances. All students were a credit to themselves, and the school, and behaved impeccably throughout – Mr. Reid and trip staff were incredibly proud to take such brilliant Gryphon School ambassadors abroad.



BIG PIT

On the 2nd and 3rd of July, Year 8 students visited Big Pit National Coal Museum in Wales. This provided them with a unique glimpse into the sheer grit and backbone that fuelled the Industrial Revolution. Students loved the realness of the experience and felt that it put them in a unique position to understand the 'treacherous mining conditions' of the past. The highlight of the day was the underground tour, where we descended 300 feet in the original mine cage (the length of a football pitch) and walked through the narrow, dark tunnels once worked by generations of miners.

Led by former miners, the tour brought history to life in a truly powerful way. As one student put it, "The miner giving the tour really brought history to life. It was cold – I should have brought a jumper!" This small detail made the experience feel even more authentic, giving us a sense of the tough conditions miners faced.

Above ground, we explored the old facilities building and interactive exhibits that told moving stories of miners and their families. Offering a blend of personal and technical mining history.

Overall, the trip was eye-opening and memorable, helping us appreciate the resilience and hard work of the Welsh mining communities that shaped the nation's history.

ITALY 2025: History Comes Alive

Over Easter, more than 40 Year 12 and 13 students travelled with the History Department to Rome and the Bay of Naples for an unforgettable educational adventure.

In Rome, students explored a packed itinerary of ancient and medieval landmarks – including the Pantheon, Colosseum, Palatine Hills, Vatican, Castel Sant'Angelo and more. A peaceful afternoon at Hadrian's Villa offered a welcome break from the city's energy.



After averaging 30,000 steps a day, the group headed south to the Bay of Naples. Highlights included visits to Ercolano, Mount Vesuvius, and the haunting ruins of Pompeii. The trip concluded with a relaxed stroll through Sorrento's narrow streets – gelato and tiramisu in hand.

Student Esther summed it up: "It was the most incredible experience – full of learning and connection. Mount Vesuvius was a highlight!"



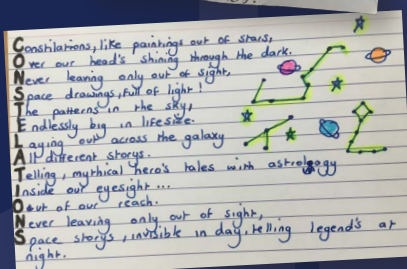
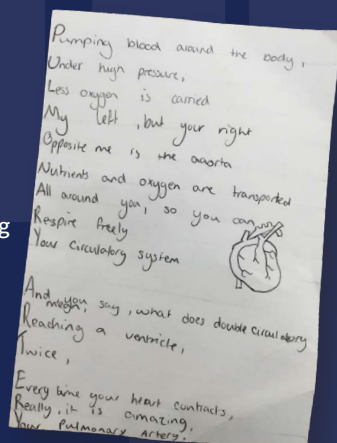
Huge thanks to Miss White and Mrs Oxford for supporting the group each day. We hope this trip inspires students to return to Italy in the future – and we look forward to planning the next adventure.

KS3 Science Acrostic Competition

This term our Year 7 and 8 students have been taking part in a science acrostic writing competition, where they were challenged to write an acrostic poem based on any key word from the science topics they have been learning this year. Teachers chose the top five entries from their class to go forward into a longlist, which was then whittled down by Miss Upton, with guest judges Mr Tuke, Ms Heath-Whyte and Miss Barnes, to pick out a final shortlist and an overall winner in each year group. The standard was phenomenally high and we were so impressed by the creativity and use of scientific language on display. Well done to all of the students that took part who made it so difficult to judge, and particularly to our winners:

Year 7 – Esme X, Constellations

Year 8 – Phoebe B, Pulmonary Artery



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

This term a group of intrepid Year 12 chemists took on the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, an event designed to stretch the very brightest Year 12 students in the country through a mind-bending paper, leading them beyond what they would have covered in their A level courses so far. In a paper that ranged from carbon-13 NMR to the structure of boron containing ions in borax, some of our students really stood out, with Adonis, Issy and Marinella all earning themselves Copper awards and Melissa and Giorgia achieving Silver awards. This is a huge achievement, and a big well done to everyone that took part for pushing yourselves to explore some new and exciting aspects of Chemistry.

Biology Olympiad

Within Year 12 this year, 37 students took part in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad. This is a taxing paper that takes into account information from Years 11 and 12, as well as external information students will have acquired through extra reading and interest in the subject. Over 17,000 students from across the UK took part this year.

Our students have done brilliantly! Three students achieved a highly commended and six achieved Bronze awards putting them in the top 30% of all students who have participated. Above that, 3 students – Esther B, Toby H and Isabel F – all achieved Silver awards putting them in the top 15% of all participants, and one student – Rupesh R – achieved a Gold award. This puts Rupesh in the top 5% of all of the students who took part; an exceptional achievement.

We are so proud of all the biologists who took part, and we hope that their excellent results encourage them in the further study of Year 13 Biology next year, and into future biological sciences careers!

6.

YOUNG ARTIST



Alice F in Year 8, had her painting selected for the Young Artist Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy. There were over 23,000 entries, and only a small number made it into the online exhibition and an even more select number for the physical exhibition. Alice's painting has made both!

Now in its seventh year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. The online exhibition opens on July 15th. The display is on from July 15th – August 10th.

Alice said:

"For my competition painting, I chose to paint my grandmother's kitchen. It might seem simple but it's a place special to me. I don't get to visit her very often since she lives in Romania, so that space holds a lot of memories from when I was younger. I didn't expect to win anything with my piece, I painted it the night before the entry deadline, on a cheap piece of paper. But since I like to sketch and paint in my free time anyway, I figured I might as well submit something.

I like to draw interiors, and I often sketch scenes from my favourite music videos or video games so I thought it could be cool to draw something similar but with just more personal sentiment. I used a school watercolour palette, added depth with coloured pencils, and detailed the tablecloth lace with a gel pen. To get the layout right, I used Minecraft to map out the perspective and furniture from memory, since I didn't have any reference photos.

I hope to take one of the art-based subjects as a GCSE because I know I'll always love creating and consuming art. It's one of the most important things in my life, and I hope it will stay a constant for me as I grow up."

GRYPHON GARDEN

The Gateway students have been very busy in the garden again this term. Firstly, using recycled pallets, a compost bin has been constructed. This allows our catering waste vegetable materials to be added to other brown and green waste to create compost that can be used in the garden in the future.

We have also successfully grown plants from seed and have planted these in raised beds in the garden. We are currently growing runner beans and sweet peas. We have also grown tomatoes that will be transplanted when large enough. The plants in the raised beds have required a large amount of watering, especially during the heatwaves that we have experienced. The raised bed surrounds also had to be constructed. This required the wood to be hand cut to size, then holes were predrilled before the sides were then screwed together.

Finally, with the help of some Year 6 students, a Bug Hotel has been built using recycled materials including cardboard, plastic bottles, bamboo canes, bricks and pallets. This will provide an essential habitat to encourage beneficial insects to set up home in the garden. The school and the students would particularly like to thank Mr Miller for the very generous gift of wood that has been used to create the raised beds in the garden.



Painting



Last year, one of our A Level students produced a beautiful oil painting of praying hands, taking inspiration from classical works of art. Their skilful use of light and shadow brought a striking sense of realism, giving the piece a timeless quality that speaks of peace and reflection. We are delighted to share this outstanding work and to celebrate the creativity and dedication shown by our art students.

Mr Malone, Lead in Fine Art

Year 9 Cookery Club

The Year 9 Cookery Club have had a very busy term making a variety of dishes including chilli con carne, brownies, carrot cake muffins and a flavoured cheesecake. They have also had the challenge of designing some afternoon tea ideas including sandwiches, scones, cupcakes, cookies, shortbread to name but a few dishes. The students have worked really hard this term to make these dishes which has been amazing to see.



Year 10 Students Explore Millfield School's Sculpture Garden

On June 11th, a group of Year 10 students embarked on an inspiring trip to Millfield School's renowned Sculpture Garden. Nestled within 100 acres of parkland, the garden boasts a remarkable collection of sculptures by artists such as Marcus Vergette, Glynn Williams, and Peter Randall-Page.

The weather was perfect – sunny and warm – providing an ideal setting for the students to immerse themselves in the art and nature surrounding them. Equipped with sketchbooks and cameras, the students engaged in drawing and photographing the diverse sculptures, capturing their intricate details and unique forms.

This visit was part of their new project focusing on the themes of "Aged", "Organic Forms", "Helmets and Armor", "Texture" and "Fluid Forms." The students are exploring how materials, forms, and contexts can change perceptions and meanings in art. The Sculpture Garden's diverse range of works provided rich inspiration for their creative endeavours.

FUNDRAISING FOR STONEWALL

June was a month filled with colour, community, and cake – and we couldn't be prouder of the efforts made to support LGBTQ+ charity Stonewall, during Pride Month.

We kicked things off with a fabulous Staff Bake Off, where sugar and creativity collided to deliver some seriously showstopping treats. After much tasting (and some very tough judging!), the coveted title of Star Baker went to Vinnie Lynch, whose bake wowed everyone with both flavour and flair. The event raised over £100 for a brilliant cause – thank you to everyone who baked, bought, or just turned up to enjoy the fun!

Hot on the heels of the Bake Off came our Equality Council Quiz Night, a brilliant evening of brainpower and inclusive celebration. Led by our fantastic Equality Council Chair, Imogen, the event brought together staff, students, and families for a packed night of questions, laughter and community spirit.

The Teacher Team took home top honours as quiz champions – though competition was fierce! The night also included a raffle, with all prizes generously donated by local Sherborne businesses. The grand prize – a luxurious hamper – added extra excitement, and all proceeds from the evening contributed to our fundraising total of £100+, with final figures still coming in.

Together, these events show the power of community to spark change, raise awareness, and celebrate diversity. All money raised will go toward supporting Stonewall, who continue to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion across the UK.

Well done to everyone involved and thank you for being part of something meaningful and joyful.



Sixth Form

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YEAR 13 LEAVERS DAY

Just a few short weeks ago we had the chance to celebrate the end of a wonderful two-year journey for our Year 13 students. A wonderful milestone in their lives that marked the end of full-time education as they knew it, culminated in a day filled with various activities on which they can look back fondly. A return to the very much favourite year group bingo to an assembly filled with throwbacks, laughs, student musical performances and even a bit of primary school assembly style singing led my Mrs Moore and 13CEM. The year group has been an absolute pleasure to work with, and we wish them the very best of luck in their futures, wherever the opportunities that lie ahead may take them.

Equality March

We are exceedingly lucky to have such a diverse community of young people in the sixth form, who day to day show acceptance, support and unity for and with each other. Taking the chance to share and role model such wonderful personal attributes to the lower school students was taken on by the students in abundance through an equality march in the school grounds.

Joined by some lower school students, Year 12 students donned flags and whistles to use during a march through the school grounds alongside classrooms to gain attention and encourage conversation around equality and diversity in communities. In the classrooms around school the students held discussions with their teachers around the importance of talking about diversity and equality in our communities and why the sixth form students were so proudly marching in unity with each other.



AEROWOMEN

On Monday 9th June, 10 girls from Year 10 and 12 attended the AeroWomen25 conference at Westlands in Yeovil. AeroWomen is now in its 5th year; it is an annual event run by Leonardo trainees with the aim to create a professional network of women in an inclusive and welcoming environment where they can thrive in all sectors of the Aerospace industry. The theme of this year's event was "The Power of Role Models in Advancing Women in Aerospace".

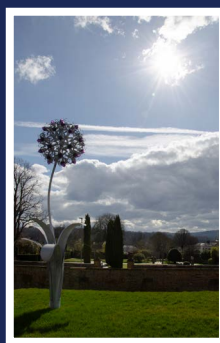
The girls were treated to a series of inspirational workshops and speeches delivered by a wide range of people including the Rt Hon Justine Greening (The Purpose Coalition) and Elsa Hogan (Vice President FCAS Portfolio, Rolls-Royce). They were also able to pose questions to panellists and able to network with many women (and men) who are currently breaking down gender barriers within the Aerospace industry.

The mantra of the day was "You can't be what you can't see" and hopefully the trip provided the students with a vision of what they can be if they put their mind to it, and that gender isn't a barrier in engineering.



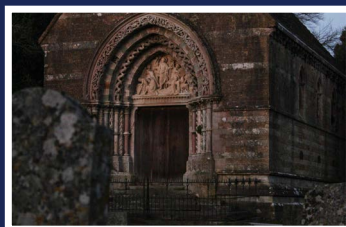
Gryphon Students Finalists in 2025 North Dorset Photography Competition

Congratulations to A Level Photography students Ben M and Hunter P, who have been named finalists in the 2025 North Dorset Photography Competition for their striking images of Sherborne.



The competition, run by the North Dorset Tourism Committee, drew 223 entries across five towns and celebrates the beauty of the region through the eyes of talented photographers. Finalist images will be featured in council materials, brochures, exhibitions, and local promotions – with plans to showcase the Sherborne entries in town.

Renowned landscape photographer Charlie Waite, this year's judge, praised both students for their exceptional use of light and atmosphere.



Photography Director Nigel White commented, "Ben and Hunter continue to excel. Their success reflects the creativity and dedication of our A Level photographers – making a real impact both in and beyond the classroom."

CAMBRIDGE RESIDENTIAL

Ten of our most able Year 12 students were invited to Cambridge University to experience student life in a highly academic environment. The students took lectures in biochemistry, law, aerospace engineering and history delivered by university academic staff. These were high level, data and idea filled talks that were well received. Our students questioned well! Moreover, students took part in interview workshops, tours of university departments and the town of Cambridge. They were all excited, inspired and a credit to the school.



ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

It is always wonderful when a student comes into the office and says, "I have an idea, please can you help me". This is exactly what Joe in Year 12 did just a few short weeks ago. An advocate for mental health and wellbeing, Joe pitched us the idea of completing the viral ice bucket challenge in school to raise money for a cause close to his heart. A brief conversation became a truly wonderful event with 12 teachers facing the not so hot seat, taking a bucket of ice water over the head. Collectively in the sixth form, students raised over £300 for a fantastic cause. A wonderful opportunity for Joe to develop his leadership and communication skills, and most certainly a fantastic example of our gryphon school values of fellowship and integrity shining through in our day to day school community.



GRYPHON ALUMNI ELLIOT PERFECT EXHIBITS IN BATH AND LONDON

Former Gryphon student Elliot Perfect has recently exhibited his architectural photography at Bath Spa University as part of his BA (Hons) degree, and showcased his work at The Truman Brewery Gallery in London from 11–13 July 2025.

Elliot's final university project focused on *The Sherborne*, a newly restored arts centre in Dorset, presented through striking prints and a photo book.

Director of Photography Nigel White praised Elliot's eye for capturing the beauty in everyday architecture and shared that Elliot will return to The Gryphon next year to speak to Sixth Form students about studying photography at university.

View Elliot's work at: www.elliottperfectphotography.com



8. P.E.

It's been a fantastic term in Sport and PE, with students showing incredible enthusiasm, teamwork, and progress across all year groups. From inter-school competitions to in-house tournaments, our pupils have represented the school with pride and sportsmanship. PE lessons have been full of energy and engagement, with a real focus on skill development, fitness and having fun.

As we look ahead to Sports Day, excitement is building across the school. With preparations well underway, we're confident it will be a celebration of effort, determination, and school spirit. We look forward to seeing everyone cheering each other on and enjoying a day of healthy competition.

Boys's Cricket and Softball

It's been a busy few weeks for boys' cricket and softball at The Gryphon School. In softball, both the Year 9 and Year 10 teams impressed with strong wins over Sturminster Newton. On the cricket pitch, results have been mixed: the U15s and U13s faced tough cup defeats to Gillingham and Clayesmore, respectively, but the Year 7 and Year 8 teams bounced back with excellent victories over Sturminster Newton. A close-fought match against Appleford saw a narrow loss but showed real promise from our players.



Rounders

As the rounders season draws to a close, our teams have had a mixed bag of results, with some major successes this year. Our Year 7s stormed through their league games undefeated. Despite their best efforts, things didn't quite go their way at the finals and they finished in 3rd place – a fantastic achievement for their first season together! The Year 8 team had a mixed bag of results throughout their league run which unfortunately meant they just missed out on a place in the finals. However, the season isn't over for them just yet as they are looking ahead to an upcoming mixed boys and girls game against King Arthur's soon. Our Year 10's season mirrored that of Year 8 with some strong performances and close matches but despite their consistent efforts, they narrowly missed out on a finals place. If there's one team that lit up the pitch this season though, it's Year 9. They faced an unusual start, drawing two out of their four league games – something rarely seen. But they didn't let that shake them. They powered through to the finals and delivered a standout



performance when it mattered most. Finals week was no small task. The day before, the team competed in the annual Thomas Hardye's Tournament, and what a show they put on! Slick fielding, relentless batting, and flawless teamwork saw them lift the trophy for the first time since 2021. Riding high on their win, they attended the Yeovil Area Finals the very next day. After a dominant win over Sexey's in their first game, they faced Ansford in a tense final match. With nerves of steel and a fierce determination, Year 9 edged the win by just half a rounder, earning the title of Yeovil Area Rounders Champions. An incredible back-to-back achievement in two days – huge congratulations to the whole team!

CrossFit

This year, students have been sweating, lifting, and lunging their way to stronger bodies and sharper minds in the Student CrossFit Class. Designed for all fitness levels, the class combines high-intensity functional movements with a big focus on camaraderie. Under the guidance of the PE staff, students learn proper techniques, challenge their limits, and celebrate progress together – whether it's a first pull-up or a new personal best. More than just a workout, the class fosters resilience, confidence, and a supportive community focused on health and growth. We've given away some brand-new CrossFit T-shirts, alongside some assemblies, where we've brought in some competitive elements! We've had split Girls and Boys classes, alongside bringing the equipment into regular lessons in the sports hall too.



Sport Relief

A huge well done to our students who ran, walked, cycled, rowed, skied and danced their way to an incredible 568km in aid of the Big Sport Relief Run 2025. Raising £170 for great causes across the country and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing across the community.

Sports Awards Evening 2025:

This year's sports awards evening took place on Tuesday 17th June down at The Digby Hall in Sherborne. The purpose of the event is to recognise the huge amount of sporting talent that exists at The Gryphon School and brings together the vast range of talented athletes from across the school. This year's guest speaker was Beth Rodford who was a former Olympic Rower. Beth gave an inspirational speech about her journey into rowing and the challenges she faced along the way. She spoke of how her support network enabled her to thrive which really resonated with the students and parents who attended. Throughout the evening awards were given to 'Players of the Year' in all major sports as well as recognising representative honours for those who have devoted hours of training and playing to reach their goal. The biggest awards of the evening went to the following:

Individual Performer of the Year – Faye H
Team of the Year – Year 11 Boys Football Team
Junior Girls Sports Personality – Coco G
Junior Boys Sports Personality – Caspar S
Senior Girls Sports Personality – Amy L
Senior Boys Sports Personality – Henry A

Silver Sports Mark Award:

We are delighted to announce that The Gryphon School have achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award for the 2024/25 academic year. The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. With a vast total of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY 2025

This year at The Gryphon, we were thrilled to run our *Dance the Night Away* project for a second successful year in the Drama department. Our incredibly talented Year 12 students worked alongside Miss Knight to choreograph and teach a stunning variety of dances to students from Year 7 through to Year 10.

On 17th July, we showcased our hard work to an audience of 180 people. The performance featured dances inspired by the vibrant energy of the 1980s and included styles such as Cha-Cha, Hip-Hop, Ballet, Lyrical, Musical Theatre, and many more.

The dedication and enthusiasm from all the students was truly inspiring. Their willingness to try something new – regardless of prior dance experience – and the mutual respect shown towards the Year 12 leaders created a supportive and inclusive environment for everyone involved.

A huge thank you to our amazing Year 12 dancers, who worked tirelessly to guide and encourage younger students, helping to build confidence and create a safe, joyful space to explore dance. We're also very grateful to everyone who came to support the project.

We're already looking forward to *Dance the Night Away 2026!*