

Winter 2025

Gryphon

Prize Giving

Remembrance

Trips this term

Welcome

As we come to the end of a rich and vibrant Autumn Term, I have been reflecting on how our students continue to bring The Gryphon School vision of “life in all its fullness” to life every single day. Christmas offers us a moment to pause, to notice, and to celebrate the fullness that comes from community, one shaped by our Gryphon Christian LIFE Values of **Leadership, Integrity, Fellowship, and Exploration**, which have been evident in so many aspects of school life this term.



This term, our Gryphon Christian LIFE Values have been powerfully evident across school life. Students have demonstrated **leadership** through their outstanding volunteering at Open Evenings, their teamwork on Team Building Day, and their commitment on the sports field. **Integrity** has been shown through the diligence and maturity with which students, particularly in Years 11 and 13, have approached their studies and mock examinations. **Fellowship** has been visible in the joy of shared performances at the Music Concert and Carol Service, and in the generosity of our extensive charitable fundraising, alongside meaningful events such as Year 7 Diversity Day. **Exploration** has thrived through inspirational trips such as the Neasden Temple visit, Harry Potter World, and the Adventurous Training Awards, as well as through daily learning that encourages curiosity, creativity and courage.

Throughout all these moments, big and small, our young people remind us that fullness of life is not simply about achievement, but about character: how we lead, how we care, how we show integrity, and how we explore the world with open hearts and minds. In a year when the wider world has once again been marked by uncertainty, stories of global cooperation and compassion have reminded us that hope often emerges through people choosing kindness, service, and community. Our Gryphon students exemplify this daily. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our exceptional staff team. All the wonderful opportunities and experiences our students receive are possible because of the time, energy, and enthusiasm that our staff so willingly give. Their commitment, creativity and care underpin every trip, performance, lesson, event, and success we celebrate. It is their dedication that makes The Gryphon School such a special community and ensures that every child who walks through our doors is supported to flourish.

As Christmas approaches, I hope each of our students, families and staff members finds time for rest, joy, and reflection. On behalf of everyone at The Gryphon School, thank you for your continued support. I wish you a very happy Christmas and a New Year filled with purpose, opportunity, and life in all its fullness.

Jim Gower
Headteacher



From our Chair

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, on behalf of the governing body, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our staff, students and their families, and wider community for their continued support and dedication to The Gryphon School. This festive season offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the achievements, resilience, and growth we have witnessed across the school. We are incredibly proud of the hard work shown in the classroom, the creativity displayed in extracurricular activities, and the kindness demonstrated throughout our school community. We wish everyone a joyful, peaceful and blessed Christmas and we as governors look forward to supporting staff, students and families as we build on this term's successes when we return in the new year.

Yvonne Bright, Chair, The Gryphon School Local Governing Body



Remembrance

Armistice Day at The Gryphon School was once again marked with a service of reflection and silence. Pupils on the School Council, those with parents in the Armed Forces and those involved in uniformed groups were invited to attend. It was a delight to welcome back visitors from the Old Fosterians' Association who represented the 41 young men from Fosters Boys School in Sherborne who served and lost their lives across the First and Second World Wars. It was also a pleasure to welcome Wing Commander Ashleigh Philpin who reflected on his experiences and 'times of remembrance' throughout his service within the Royal Air Force.

Reverend Jim Edie, Chaplain to The Gryphon School

Pistachio, our official Gryphon tortoise, has been getting into the festive spirit in his handmade Christmas jumper – made by our very own Mrs Gould-Haines! Pistachio lives in our Nurture classroom, the children really enjoy having him in the class. They help give him warm baths, feed him, and find him fresh dandelion leaves. He even walks around the classroom during lessons sometimes!





Prize Giving

This September we once again stepped into the magnificent Sherborne Abbey to celebrate the achievements of Year 13 and Year 11 students who completed their exams in July 2025. This year the setting was made even more spectacular due to the presence of Gaia – an art exhibition that celebrates the natural world as we see in our everyday lives. The event was a fantastic celebration of success, resilience and dedication, and we were delighted to hear performances from students and to celebrate with families and friends.

Mr Gower, Headteacher, said ““It was a real joy to welcome everyone to Sherborne Abbey to celebrate the achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. At The Gryphon School, we want our young people to ‘have life in all its fullness,’ and these students have shown that through their hard work, character, and community spirit. We are immensely proud of all they have contributed and excited to see the difference they will make in the future.”

Miss Hetherington, Head of Year 11 said “It was a real privilege to attend the Year 11 Prize Giving Ceremony at Sherborne Abbey. The Abbey looked beautiful and made a perfect setting to celebrate such a hardworking, kind, and resilient year group. The evening was a lovely opportunity to reflect on everything they’ve achieved so far and to look ahead to the exciting next steps they’re about to take. Well done again to every member of Year 11! You’ve been a real credit to yourselves, your families, and to The Gryphon School.”



Behaviour & Attitudes

As we move through the school year, I am delighted to share some truly encouraging updates about the behaviour and attitudes of our students. Their commitment to our LIFE values continues to shine through in every corner of the school.

One of the most striking indicators of this success is the exceptionally low number of negative behaviour points recorded so far. Even more impressive is the remarkable 53,000+ positive points awarded to students for their Leadership, Integrity, Fellowship and Exploration in lessons.

The competitiveness between year groups for the greatest number of positive points is always a discussion point. As it stands, Year 7 are narrowly leading Year 8 going into the final weeks. This is a clear reflection of our school community where the vast majority of students consistently make the right choices and contribute to an environment where everyone can thrive.

As a school we have also seen a vast improvement in being on time to lessons and the handing in of homework. We believe that educating our students on the importance of these two factors is essential to their future aspirations and we have been incredibly impressed by the upturn and accountability that our students have shown. A recent statistic showed that over 850 of our pupils have never missed a homework deadline! For those that have, we have had nearly 400 pupils complete their homework in our Homework Club provision.

Over the past term, we have welcomed numerous external visitors to the school, including educational consultants, trainee teachers and professionals from partner organisations.

Without exception, they have all commented on the calmness around the school site, the purposeful atmosphere in lessons, and the noticeable absence of low-level disruption. Many have remarked that the culture here is clearly one in which students feel safe, focused, and ready to learn; something we are extremely proud of.

The positive atmosphere around school is not accidental; it is the result of the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff and the ongoing support we receive from you as parents and carers. Together we have built a community that encourages every young person to be their best self.

Thank you for your continued partnership. We look forward to building on this success throughout the rest of the year.

Dan Burleigh, Assistant Headteacher & Head of Behaviour and Attitudes





Adventurous Training

It has been a period of significant development within the Adventurous Training (AT) Department. In September, we welcomed Mrs Ambrose to the team, joining me in leading the department. Together, we have established this year's training schedule for both the Ten Tors Challenge and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We have also finalised The Gryphon's own Ruby Award and are preparing to relaunch it in the new year under two new names, Tin and Copper. These internal awards, aimed at Years 7 and 8, are designed to introduce students to the structure and expectations of the DofE programme. In addition, we organised a highly successful Year 7 Challenge Day, filled with team-building activities and games—a great icebreaker for our new students as they began their journey with us in September.

The AT Department has also been very active in delivering Adventurous Training sessions across the school. We have been working closely with both Gateway and Nurture students, providing opportunities for outdoor learning that include campcraft cooking, tent-pitching, mountain-style abseiling (using ropes on steep hills without harnesses), and basic first aid. Many more activities are planned as we continue to expand our provision.

We have also been coordinating a series of nature walks for students in Years 7, 8, and 9. These sessions aim to encourage young people to spend more time outdoors, explore natural environments they may not have visited before, and develop a greater connection with the natural world. The walks are designed to promote wellbeing, confidence, communication, and environmental awareness. Our first walk took students to Old Harry Rocks in Studland, and next term we will be visiting Wareham Forest and Colmer's Hill.

-Mr Banfield, Adventurous Training Lead



Year 8 nurture have been mastering the art of pitching their own tents and taking their first brave steps into the world of abseiling! Students have thrown themselves into every challenge.



English Trip to London

Earlier this term, 53 A-Level English students enjoyed an inspiring day in London, combining cultural discovery with academic enrichment. The trip offered two distinct experiences tailored to their courses: English Literature students attended a live performance of Shakespeare's *Othello*, while English Language students explored the historic roots of British journalism on Fleet Street.

For the 31 Literature students, the highlight was seeing *Othello* brought to life on stage, with David Harewood delivering a commanding performance in the title role, reprising this role for the first time since 1997, when he was the first black actor to play *Othello* at the National Theatre. Toby Jones also gave a strong performance as Iago, and Year 12 and 13 very much appreciated the opportunity to watch two such skilled and high-profile actors and their distinctive takes on these roles. Experiencing Shakespeare in a theatre setting gave students a deeper appreciation of the play's themes of jealousy, trust, and betrayal.

Meanwhile, 20 Language students embarked on a guided tour of Fleet Street, once the beating heart of British newspapers. Walking through streets steeped in media history, they learned about the evolution of print journalism, the rise of tabloid culture, and the technological changes that shaped modern reporting.

The tour provided real-world context for their studies on language and communication, making theory tangible and engaging.

Beyond the academic focus, the trip was a chance to experience the vibrancy of the capital, especially in the run up to Christmas. From iconic landmarks glimpsed en route, to the lively streets filled with history and culture, students were immersed in the energy of London. For many, it was their first visit, and the excitement was clear. The trip was more than an academic exercise—it was a celebration of literature, language, and the cultural richness of one of the world's greatest cities.



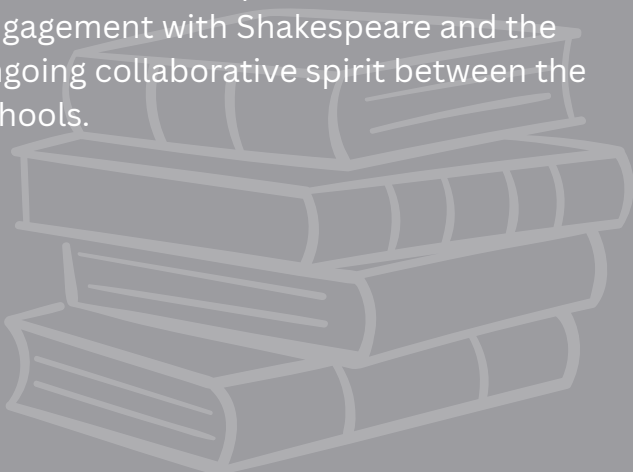
Sherborne Schools Literary Society

Monday 10th November saw the latest coming together of the three secondary schools of Sherborne with this school year's first meeting of the Sherborne Schools Literary Society, in the Merritt Centre at Sherborne Girls.

Around 100 students and staff from all three schools were treated to three inspiring student presentations, one from each school, focusing on Tragedy, Comedy and Tragicomedy: Joy and Sadness in the Theatrical Works of William Shakespeare.

These engaging, and impressively mature presentations focused largely on the plays each set of students were studying at A Level in their respective schools with some perceptive thoughts shared on Hamlet and Romeo and Juliet by students from the Boys' and Girls' schools respectively. The Gryphon's Caitlin W considered the play she is studying, Othello, as a starting point, but also branched out into a number of other Shakespeare plays in a beautifully constructed and delivered presentation.

The event culminated in a lively panel discussion featuring teachers from all three schools, expertly moderated by the Sherborne Boys Head Boy. Insightful, good-humoured, and rich with expansive literary and philosophical debate, the evening showcased the depth of student engagement with Shakespeare and the ongoing collaborative spirit between the schools.



Art

Year 9 students have created vibrant calavera shrines for a new project inspired by Mexican Day of the Dead traditions. Their colourful designs, thoughtful details, and creative use of materials have filled the art rooms with energy and imagination. They have now moved on to studying bones, skulls and still life.



Challenge Plus

So far this year, the Challenge Plus group of more able students from Years 7-10 have been involved in a session testing their skills across multiple subject areas. They were challenged in teams to complete various tasks, including a WW2 MI6 recruitment crossword, an Oxbridge thinking skills assessment, and some classical artwork amongst others!

The students were their normal competitive, driven selves and worked tirelessly to complete the challenges set. They displayed some amazing neurological power in the process! Lots more sessions lay in store for them all this year.

Year 12 Thinkers Group

The Thinkers Group of early entry students from Year 12 have been involved in a collaborative programme of early entry support, with students from Sherborne Boys' and Girls' Schools. The students have been meeting weekly to work on various challenges, developing key academic thinking skills in preparation for writing their personal statements and upcoming university interviews. They have designed cities of the future, taken seminar sessions and are soon to be meeting with a local ex MP for a Q&A discussion.

Year 10 RE Trip to Neasden Temple



In November, our Year 10 students took part in an enriching RE trip to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden—one of the most remarkable Hindu temples in the UK. The visit offered a unique opportunity to step inside an active place of worship and deepen our understanding of Hindu beliefs, traditions, and daily practice.

Students began their visit with a guided tour of the mandir, exploring its intricate marble carvings, peaceful prayer halls, and striking architecture. The tour highlighted both the artistry and the spiritual meaning woven into every part of the building, giving students a clearer sense of how Hindu worship and community life are expressed through sacred space.

A highlight of the day was witnessing the Arti ceremony, a devotional ritual involving light, music, and prayer. Experiencing this live, offered students a meaningful glimpse into the atmosphere of Hindu worship—something that cannot be fully captured in textbooks.

Throughout the visit, students learned about the history and construction of the mandir, including its cultural significance and the values that guided its creation. They also had the chance to ask thoughtful questions, helping them expand their knowledge of Hindu concepts, practices, and ways of life.

Overall, the trip offered a memorable and insightful learning experience. Students returned with a richer understanding of the Hindu faith and a deeper appreciation for the diversity of religious expression in the world around us.



Year 9 Cookery Club

The Year 9 Cookery Club has had a very busy term making a variety of dishes including scones, a baked risotto, fairy cakes and chocolate chip cookies. They have also planned, designed and decorated food products associated with a movie to finish off the Christmas term. The students have worked incredibly hard to create these dishes which has been brilliant to see.



Hospitality & Catering

Our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students showcased fantastic skill and confidence during their recent practical exams, producing an impressive array of sweet and savoury dishes. Each student approached the challenge with professionalism, creativity, and composure, resulting in some truly outstanding plates that reflect their hard work throughout the course. The photos included, celebrate the achievements and standards of past students. Well done to all involved for demonstrating such talent and dedication!

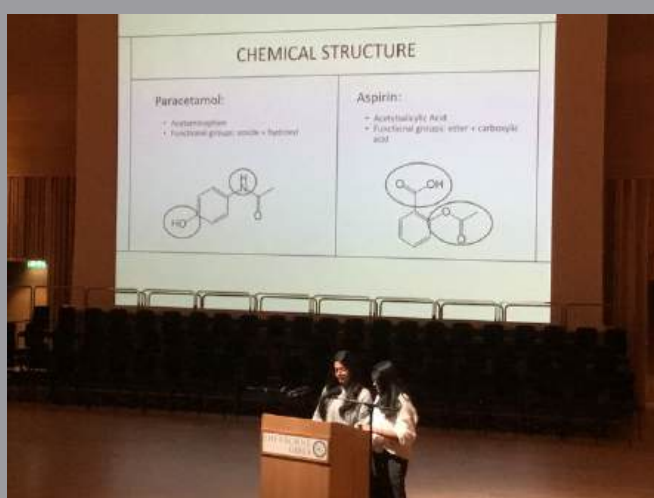
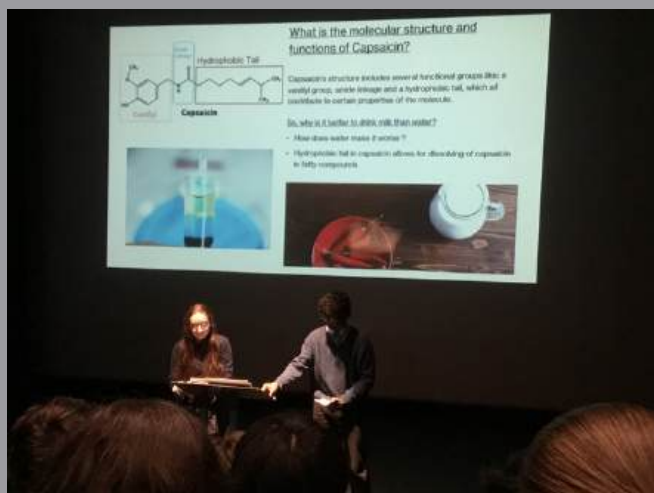


Chemistry Symposium

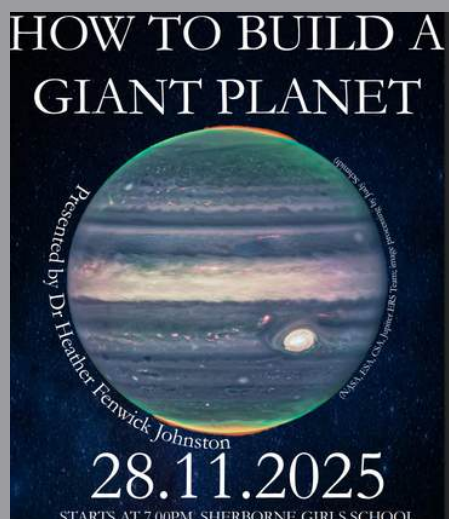
This term our sixth form chemists have attended two cross school Chemistry Symposiums, where students from a range of local schools gather to listen to presentations by other students on ideas outside the A level specification.

In September's symposium Gayathri and Aiswarya presented on behalf of The Gryphon on aspirin and paracetamol. They compared the two molecules in terms of their functional groups and how that affects their chemistry, as well as talking about their discovery and comparing how they each affect the body.

In November, Giorgia and Rupesh talked about the chemistry of hot sauce, looking at the chemical structure of capsaicin, the molecule present in chillies that is responsible for the "hot" taste that we experience. They discussed its different functional groups and how they affect its solubility in water compared to fatty solvents like milk, and why it is that drinking milk helps to ease the burning taste on your tongue from eating too much spice! Both pairs gave well-rehearsed and polished presentations, showcasing lots of in-depth research and attention to detail and highlighting some fascinating chemistry of the things we see in our everyday lives.



Astrophysics Lecture



In November, 27 Gryphon Physics students from Years 11, 12 and 13 attended a talk on 'How to Build a Giant Planet' at Sherborne Girls' School.. The inspiring talk was given by Dr Heather Fenwick Johnson from Exeter University who presented detailed insights into her work investigating planetary formation and the latest work being done in the hunt for exoplanets.

The hour long presentation culminated with a range of intelligent and thoughtful questions from students to Dr Fenwick Johnson and students had the chance to stay behind at the end for a one to one discussion in person. Given the popularity of the event and the interest shown, we will be seeking to organise or attend similar events for students over the course of the next year.

Year 8

Since September, Year 8 have made an outstanding start to the academic year. We recently celebrated their fantastic behaviour with a well-deserved reward afternoon, where students enjoyed time together reflecting on a very successful term so far.

During our Year 6 Open Evening, Year 8 truly stepped up. Dozens of keen and confident students volunteered as tour guides, welcoming potential pupils and their families with maturity and warmth. Their involvement helped create a supportive and exciting atmosphere, showing our future students what our school community is all about.

We have also seen students showing amazing initiative and leadership beyond the classroom. Several Year 8s have volunteered for the Dorset Youth Parliament, using their voices to help shape positive change within the wider community. Following an inspiring assembly from Sergeant (SSI) Oliver Owen, a number of students have also signed up for Cadets, demonstrating their growing confidence, discipline, and willingness to try new challenges.

Year 8 have continued to impress in school and beyond. Five of our boys have been selected for the North Dorset District Schools Football Squad; a fantastic achievement. We've also celebrated national-level success in dance, impressive accomplishments in gymnastics, and even standout performances in banger racing. Their talents, passions, and determination continue to inspire and amaze us all. Well done, Year 8! Keep up the brilliant work, and we look forward to seeing everything you achieve next term.

-Miss Hetherington, Head of Year 8

PHSE Visiting Theatre Group

Years 9, 10 and 12 had the privilege of working with Theatre for Schools on 11 November 2025 to raise awareness of CCE for young people. Narrative Alchemy were commissioned by Norfolk Constabulary to develop an Applied Theatre play to raise awareness around Child Criminal Exploitation – specifically the strand of the County Lines drug trafficking model that sees vulnerable adults and young people targeted by organised groups and gangs to groom, trick, trap and manipulate them into trafficking drugs and sometimes weapons.

The two Liam's from the project, engaged the year groups with their strong performances and Q & A sessions at the end of each performance, giving students the opportunity to engage and ask questions. The play proved highly effective in raising awareness around: -

- What is County Lines and how can it affect young people
- The Grooming Process and how it can apply to County Lines
- The similarities and potential crossovers between Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Where to go for help & advice

It was good to have outside presenters in school to develop the PHSE curriculum that covers these topics in tutor times, but in a more realistic way that enabled students to see the pitfalls of those that manipulate and groom young people.

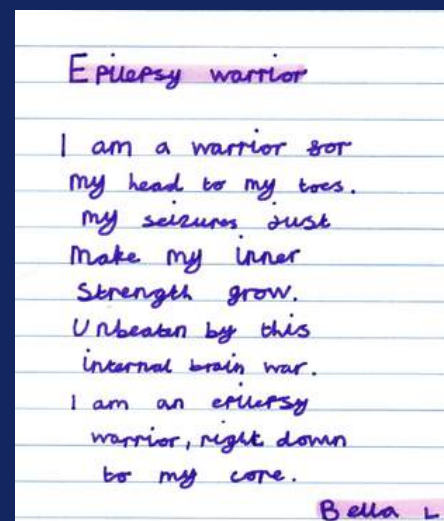
My Visit to Parliament

“At the end of October, I had the empowering experience of visiting parliament to highlight the importance of individual health care plans (IHP) in schools.

As a young person with epilepsy, in previous schools I felt unsupported, unsafe and unlistened to. I was excluded from my class residential and school trips and at one point I was even deregistered from school.

I was able to share these experiences with my MP at an event at the House of Commons aimed at securing better support in schools for children with epilepsy. Children with epilepsy are unfairly missing out. 1 in 220 children in school have epilepsy. 1 in 3 of these children do not have an IHP. Epilepsy shows itself in many different forms which is why an IHP is so important - it is personal to the child it is referring to and shows how they can be helped, supported and kept safe.”

by Bella L.



Fundraising this term

Members of The Gryphon School community have demonstrated genuine dedication to our school ethos of living life in all its fullness by supporting several charitable initiatives this term. Following the success of our YoungMinds fundraiser on HelloYellow Day in October, we organised a whole-school bake sale in aid of Children in Need. Students and families from all year groups, along with staff members, generously donated cakes and biscuits. Sixth Form students also ran a “guess the number of sweets in the jar” competition, adding to the fun and fundraising efforts.

We are pleased to share that the event raised just over £340, which will help support Children in Need’s vital work with some of the UK’s most vulnerable young people. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed—whether by baking a cake, helping to run the stall, or making a purchase. Your involvement reflects our core values of leadership, integrity, fellowship, and exploration.

Our fundraising efforts will continue with a non-uniform day on the final day of term before the Christmas break, with proceeds shared between Save the Children’s Christmas Jumper Day campaign and Friends of the Yeatman Hospital.

Music

We are extremely grateful to both Laura J, for her incredibly virtuosic flute playing, and to Tilly R, for her accomplished and sensitive singing, and for making such inspiring and highly-valued musical contributions to the Year 11 and Year 13 Prize Giving Ceremony held in Sherborne Abbey on Thursday 11th September. We are also indebted to Jamie Henderson, Director of Music at Sherborne Abbey, for his tremendous organ-playing. We wish Laura J every future success as she commences her Undergraduate Music Degree at the highly prestigious Royal College of Music in London, one of this country's very top musical institutions.

On Wednesday 12th November our Year 10 GCSE Music class visited Westlands' Entertainment Venue to attend a KS4 Schools' Concert given by members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. This was a thoroughly enjoyable and educational opportunity for students to hear one of the exam board's two 'Set Study Pieces' played 'live' and to gain an insight into the process of how professional composers approach writing atmospheric music for actual Netflix wildlife documentaries; students were provided with tips about approaching their own coursework compositions and were fascinated watching how the conductor and professional musicians synchronised their performance of the composer's actual soundtrack to the video footage in real-time.

On Tuesday 4th November the Music Department held our Autumn Term School Concert. We are very grateful to the many parents, carers, students and staff who so very kindly braved the weather and supported our students in this event. Despite this being the earliest date that we have ever held our Autumn Term Concert, students, whether singing or playing, rose to the occasion admirably and did us proud with very many really excellent solo and duet performances in addition to excellent ensembles items; there were two many to list them all, although Oakley J's CPE Bach 'Solfeggietto' piano solo and Danny M's Mozart 'Horn Concerto' solo especially stood out as highly professional and accomplished performances. The styles of music performed ranged from 'Baroque' to 'Rock' and it was wonderful that the music heard was performed by students from all year groups: 7 through to 13. It was an incredible achievement to reach the collective standard that was achieved in barely six weeks' of rehearsals and we are most grateful to everyone who contributed.

On Monday 15th December students in both the Gryphon School's 'Pitch Perfect' whole school choir and the 'Aurora' Chamber Choir performed a couple of Christmas Songs as part of Sherborne Abbey's Christmas Carol Concert – a free event for the local community in Sherborne Abbey, with music provided by a range of local Sherborne schools, including the Sherborne Town Band.

The following day was our very own annual School Carol Service in Sherborne Abbey. Both school choirs including our 'Staff Choir' and instrumentalists in our School Orchestra, Recorder Consort and String Ensemble performed. The orchestra played carols and the choirs sang a range of Christmas-themed Choral items including a vocal solo sung by Tilly R. Students and staff also led the readings and prayers. It was a wonderfully atmospheric occasion and fitting end to the year.

Val Mizen, Head of Music

Sixth Form

20 Mile Sponsored Walk

It was wonderful to see our school LIFE values in action within the Sixth Form as students took on a sponsored 20-mile walk. Starting at The Gryphon, students embarked on a trek through Sherborne and the surrounding villages in aid of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance - the charity was chosen by the sixth form students and we chose to complete 20 miles as this year the service celebrates 20 years of action serving our local communities.

It was wonderful to witness some wonderful qualities in the students outside of the classroom, leadership, resilience, determination and sheer willing to give up their time for the support of others, fellowship and integrity at its finest. A special mention must go to Remy for his local knowledge of the routes, helping us to bypass sodden pathways and save the group from some soaking wet shoes that certainly would have made the walk that much more difficult. Students raised a staggering £1,305, a truly wonderful achievement.



Student Financial Time Advocates

Two of our Year 12 Economics students are taking their learning beyond the classroom as Financial Times Student Advocates! As part of their role they are promoting the benefits of reading the Financial Times in school, sharing ideas on how the Financial Times can engage young people, work with students around the world through online forums & calls and create resources to help classmates access the Financial Times for free. It is amazing to see that they have already produced materials linking current Financial Times topics to multiple school subjects—making real-world learning more accessible for everyone. A brilliant opportunity grasped with both hands, well done Ronnie and Noah!

Aubrey Allen Awards

Each year we celebrate student leadership and community volunteering with Sherborne Rotary Club and their Aubrey Allen Award. Two students received £50 worth of books to help further develop their passions or academic progress. Chosen winners were invited to accept their prize at a Sherborne Rotary Club meeting earlier this term. Lily C and Jamie H were celebrated for the time they give up to support local food banks, rainbows and patients in Yeovil Hospital. Congratulations to them both and thank you for your selfless acts of kindness to others, a true reflection of our fellowship value in action.



Sherborne Literacy Society Event

A huge congratulations to Caitlin W who presented at the most recent Sherborne Literacy Event. Caitlin's presentation titled "Comedy, Tragedy, and the Relationship Between the Two in Shakespeare's Plays" was exceptional.

The praise from the panel noted the quality and depth of analysis as well as a commendation for a confident delivery. Remarkd as the standout speaker of the night, a fantastic achievement, well done!

Drivers Awareness

It was great to welcome Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue in to speak to students about the importance of young driver and passenger safety. Key takeaways from the session that numerous students have remembered include; the importance of driving with caution seeing speed limits as a limit not a target, the positive impact of removing distractions including having the confidence to speak up to passengers that may be travelling which the vehicle, and the vital step of securing seatbelts for all trips regardless of the distance.

It was truly wonderful to see the engagement of the students in the session and the maturity in which they approached the subject with focus and empathy for others' experiences.



Sport

Hockey

The Year 7 girls' hockey team has kicked off the season brilliantly, securing one draw and one well-earned win. Their teamwork and determination has been clear in both training sessions and match play, with noticeable improvement each week. It's been an exciting start, and the team's progress promises a fantastic next few games.

Year 8 Hockey has been bursting with progress and talent this year. It has been wonderful to see so many new faces representing The Gryphon in fixtures and building their momentum as a team, within the defensive and attacking units. With a mixed bag of results and a final narrow 5-4 defeat to Sexeys School, the girls just missed out on the finals this year.

Our boy's hockey team have had two competitive match ups this term, starting with a 2-1 victory against King Arthur's followed by an unfortunate 2-0 defeat against Holyrood. The boys have benefitted massively from our afterschool training sessions from Yeovil and Sherborne Hockey Club, showing huge improvements in their confidence and composure under pressure. Looking ahead, they have one final game later in December - a rematch against King Arthurs!



The Year 9 & 10 team have shown great determination this season. Stand out contributions include captains Elspeth and Hettie who have led with confidence, including through a tough grass match where the whole squad worked tirelessly. Jazzy has dominated the midfield and forward positions, Heidi has been rock-solid in defence, and Mia's flexibility across the pitch has been invaluable. In goal, Phoebe has been outstanding, making key saves and boosting team confidence to keep us in games. With the season still underway, the future looks very promising for hockey finals for this talented group!

Sports Leaders

Our Year 10 Sports Leaders have been making a fantastic impact this term as they helped coordinate and deliver a series of sports events for local primary school pupils. Stepping confidently into leadership roles, they supported young children in developing teamwork and confidence. Throughout each event, our students showed maturity, patience, and real enthusiasm. Teachers and visitors alike were impressed by their professionalism and the positive relationships they built with the primary pupils.

We're really proud of the example our Sports Leaders set and the contribution they continue to make across our school community. Their dedication reflects the LIFE values that The Gryphon consistently strives for, and they are keen to help at future events, inspiring the next generation of sportsmen and women.





Rugby

Our Year 7 boys have made a fantastic start to their rugby journey. With only a handful of players having previous experience, the group quickly came together, supporting one another and showing great teamwork. The new players made rapid progress, and despite their first win arriving in their fourth game, their resilience and positive attitude never dropped. Their improvement was clear in their comeback draws against Westfield and their first well-earned win against Sturminster.

Our Year 8 squad have continued that momentum with a season defined by enjoyment, physicality, and growing success. They have produced solid all-round performances, showing noticeable development in their tactical play, particularly in areas such as rucking and decision-making around the breakdown. Their confidence and enthusiasm in each fixture, combined with their improving teamwork, have made them a consistently competitive and impressive team to watch.

Meanwhile, our Year 9 team have shown significant development in both their physicality and their rugby-specific skills. They have demonstrated impressive resilience throughout the season, often rising to the challenge against tough opposition.

The group have continued to progress their rugby knowledge and gameplay, and importantly, have shown that they truly enjoy representing the school. Their positive attitude and commitment have helped them develop into a strong and hard-working squad.

Year 10 have continued to develop well, putting in some determined performances and showing real progress throughout the season. They lost to a strong Gillingham side in the National Cup, and took Kings Bruton school all the way in the National Plate, unfortunately ending up second best on both occasions. Their spirit and enthusiasm for the game is brilliant to see and we hope to build on recent wins, hoping to finish the season in style.

Our Year 11 and Sixth Form sides have led by example, playing with maturity and showing real commitment in every match. We are incredibly proud of our U18 set up and individual talent and continue to produce 25-man squads to take on the best grammar and private schools in the area. We are looking forward to the Annual Dorset 10s tournament, where Nate and his team will get another chance to show off their talents.

Football

Girls

Our girls' football teams have had a great start to fixtures this year, showcasing skill, determination, and teamwork across all age groups.

The U15s faced Budmouth in a thrilling match, demonstrating excellent passing and strong defensive play. Their commitment and energy throughout the game was fantastic, earning them well-deserved praise.

The U13s took on Gillingham School and delivered an impressive performance. Their attacking play and resilience were key highlights, and they should be proud of the way they represented Gryphon.

A big well done to all the girls who have been attending afterschool football sessions. Your dedication and enthusiasm are making a real difference to the strength of our teams.

Boys

It has been an action-packed and promising start to the football season for all year groups, with our students showing commitment, teamwork, and plenty of talent on the pitch.

Year 7 have made an excellent introduction to football at the school. With over 60 boys attending trials, enthusiasm has been incredibly high. Although their first County Cup match ended in defeat, the squad's potential is clear, and Mr Edwards is confident that with continued focus, the team will see improved results after Christmas.

Our Year 8 team continue to establish themselves as a strong, cohesive squad. Their confident 2-0 win over Gillingham School has secured them a place in the next round, and the boys are eagerly looking forward to their upcoming fixtures.

After reaching the County Cup final last year, the Year 9 boys have begun this season with real determination to go one better. A dominant win against Twynham has set the tone for their campaign, and they now look ahead to a second-round match against Lytchett.

The Year 10 team were extremely unfortunate in their first-round match. Despite outplaying Colfox for much of the game, they were defeated 2-1 by a last-minute goal. The boys responded in style, though, with a well-earned victory over the Year 11s in a recent grudge match—excellent resilience and team spirit on display.

For Year 11, a combination of poor weather, mock exams, and a first-round bye has meant they have yet to kick off their campaign. However, the squad has remained focused and ready, and they look forward to getting their season underway as soon as fixtures allow.

Our Sixth Form team have also enjoyed an impressive start, currently sitting joint top of their group in the county-wide Wessex League. With convincing wins against both Budmouth and B/P College, the squad has shown quality, maturity, and strong tactical awareness. Following a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Purbeck in the league, the boys will now face them again on home soil—this time in the County Cup—where they are eager to make a strong statement and progress to the next round.

Across all year groups, the dedication and enthusiasm of our students have been outstanding. The PE Department is incredibly proud of their efforts and looks forward to an exciting second half of the season.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2026!