


Connect

ISSUE 129 TERM 6

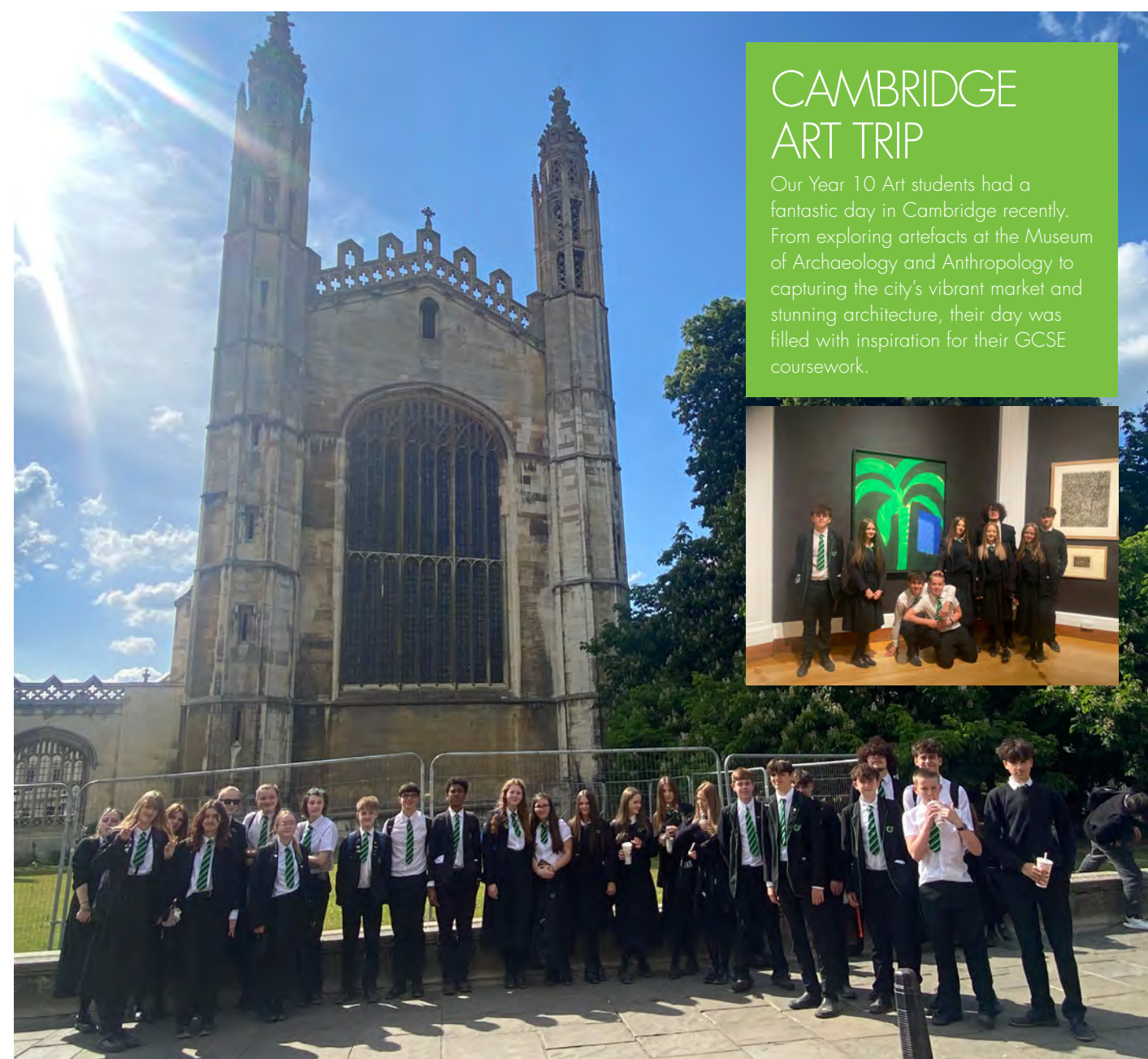
BUMPER
ISSUE

FRENCH EXCHANGE
YORKSHIRE RESIDENTIAL
SPORTS DAY 2025
MATILDA PERFORMANCE
AND MUCH MORE

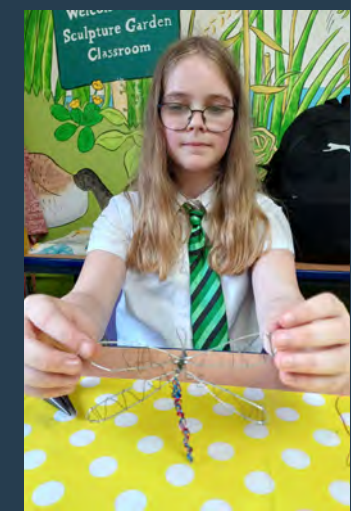
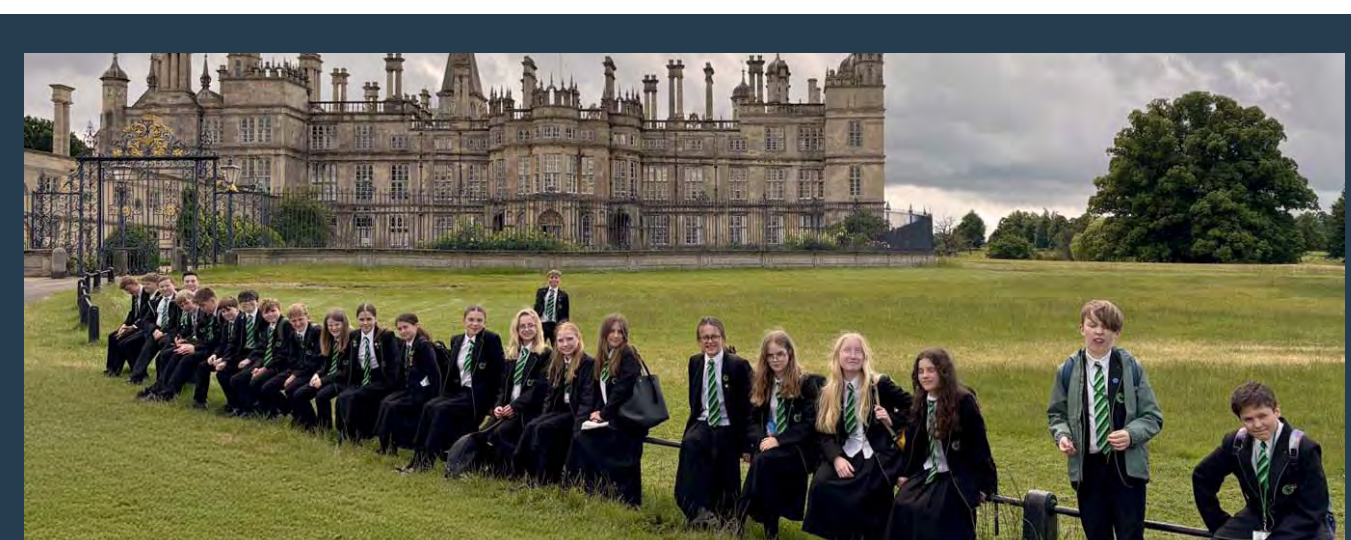
YORKSHIRE RESIDENTIAL TRIP

The joint Humanities and English residential trip to Yorkshire was a fantastic experience for all! Students explored York, exploring its rich history with visits to York Minster, Clifford's Tower, and the York Dungeons. The Dungeons were a hit, even with all the screams as students learned about its gory past. The second day took students to Whitby, where they studied the geography of the area and its ties to Dracula. They visited Whitby Abbey and enjoyed fish and chips and ice cream. The final day was spent at Flamingo Land, where students and staff had a great time.





CAMBRIDGE ART TRIP
Our Year 10 Art students had a fantastic day in Cambridge recently. From exploring artefacts at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology to capturing the city's vibrant market and stunning architecture, their day was filled with inspiration for their GCSE coursework.



BURGHLEY HOUSE
Year 7 students were delighted to participate in our annual Art trip to Burghley House. During the day, students had a range of opportunities to participate in; a sculpture wire workshop - creating a dragonfly, touring England's finest Elizabethan house and learning about the Tudors and later generations who worked and lived in the house and exploring the wonderful gardens scattered with a vast selection of sculptures.



AWAY HOSTING

"The French exchange was my first trip abroad, and it felt like an adventure in itself—even without any dramatic moments. Just experiencing another culture was eye-opening: from different mealtimes to entire supermarket aisles dedicated to jams and compote!

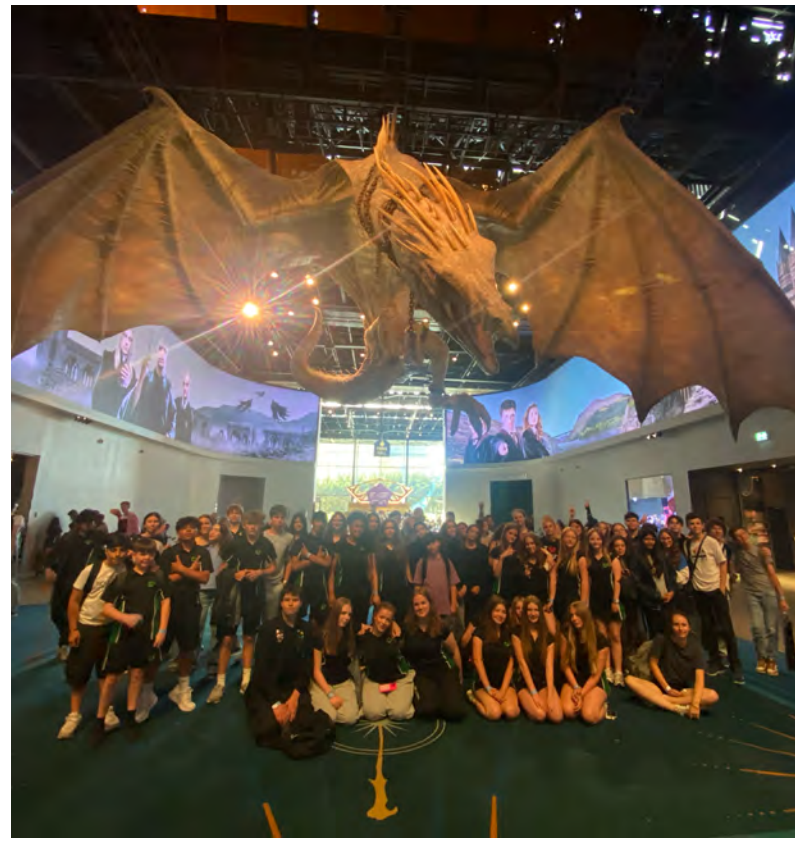
Everyone I met was incredibly welcoming. My host family made me feel at home right away, and Arthur and his friends were fantastic and we all got on so well. A kind woman in a cake shop even helped me through some very shaky French!

Exploring Paris with the other students was unforgettable. Seeing the Seine, climbing the Eiffel Tower, and walking through the city felt like a dream. At the French school, the younger kids were fascinated by us and it was like being celebrities at lunchtime!

Over the weekend, we watched Mission: Impossible (entirely in French, it was very confusing!) and played laser tag with Arthur and his friends, which was hilarious. Our trip to Parc Astérix was a highlight and I even braved one of the scariest rollercoasters.

It was an amazing experience I'll never forget."

Honey, Year 10 student



HOME HOSTING

Towards the end of term we welcomed our French exchange students to Catmose. They explored Oakham through a local quiz, joined us for lessons, and spent time at the Harry Potter Studios, King Richard III Centre, and in central London. A packed schedule of culture, conversation, and connection with just under 20,000 steps to show for it.

Thanks to everyone who made the exchange such a rewarding experience.

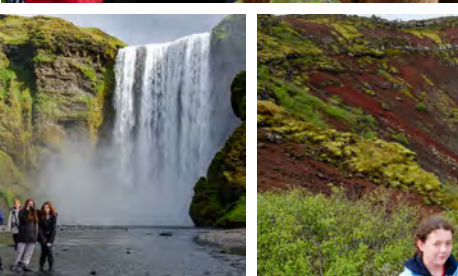
ICELAND

During the Easter break Year 9 and 10 creative students visited the wild landscapes of Iceland for a photography residential trip of 5 days and 4 nights.

The trip included highlights such as stunning waterfalls, to caverns, glaciers laced with black ash, historic lava tunnels, whale watching, the infamous black sand beach and the vibrant urban streets of Reykjavik.

Students worked together well as a creative team throughout the trip and enjoyed moving accommodation to experience more of the Icelandic landscape with staff and our inspiring guide. It certainly was a trip with a full itinerary to capture photographic and enrichment opportunities from the epic landscapes and tourist attractions in Iceland.

We would like to thank the students for their exemplary behaviour, and the staff who supported the trip to make this trip of a lifetime possible!





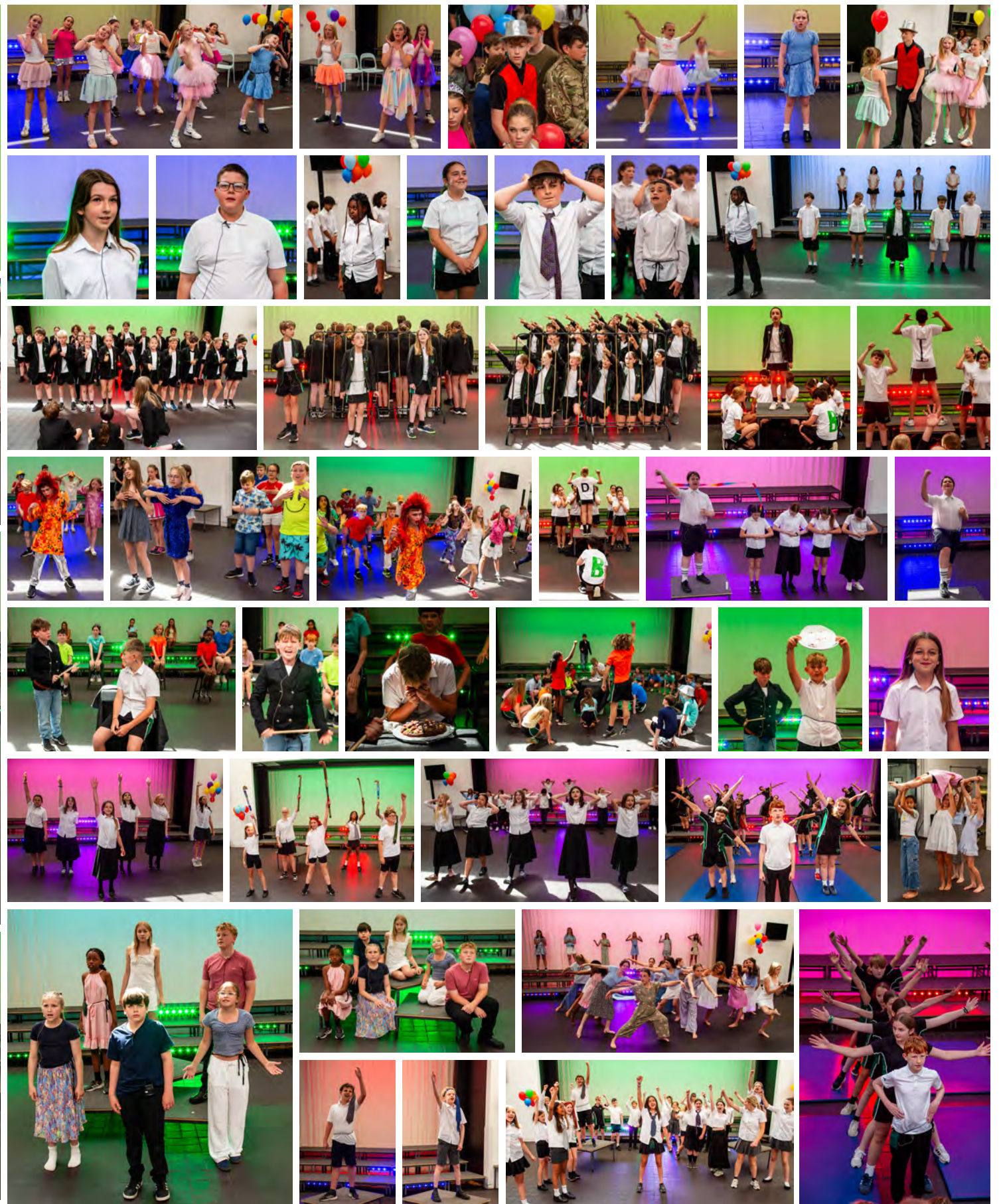
YEAR 11 PROM

Farewell Class of 2025 you were absolutely fabulous!



YEAR 7 MATILDA

Well done to our Year 7 cast of Matilda. They worked really hard over the last few months of the term, following watching the show on the West End, to putting on a memorable performance.

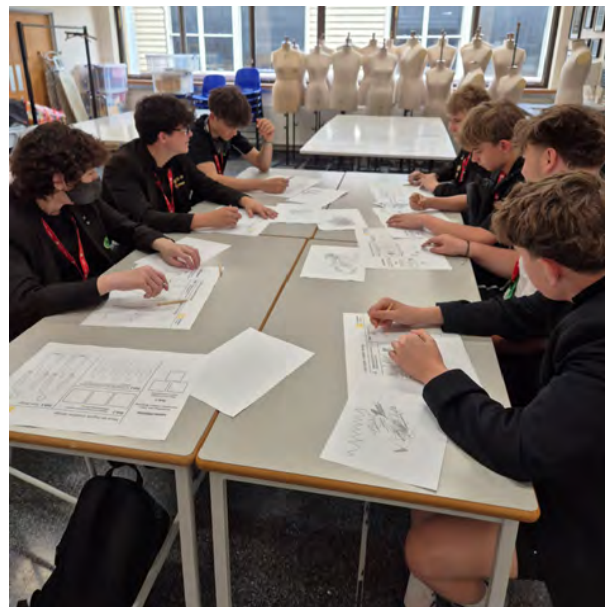


STAMFORD COLLEGE VISITS

Our Year 10s explored future pathways with taster days at Stamford College! From construction to creative arts, students got hands-on experience and guidance on post-16 options.

Lucien said, "I went on the animal care taster and the staff informed us about the different pathways available in animal care courses including the entry requirements to get onto the variety of courses. The final presentation was very informative. It clearly outlined which grades we needed to pursue certain qualification routes which backed up the information we received in our 1:1 meetings with Mrs Meynell."

Want to learn more? Join us at our My Future event on Wednesday 24 September, 3.15 to 5pm or email Careers@catmosecollege.com



SPARK OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME

Year 10 students recently took part in the Spark Opportunity Programme, led by Tracey West, Operations Director at Spark Opportunity. They developed employability skills, explored their personalities, and took part in team building activities. In the final session, students applied what had learnt through interactive games, showcasing communication, leadership and teamwork. Each received a certificate for their efforts. Thanks to Tracey and the Spark Opportunity team. We look forward to continuing this valuable programme.



SPORTS DAY 2025

During the morning our athletics students competed against each other in a range of track and field events. Although competition was fierce it was equally friendly.

All students were excited to compete in games of rounders, dodgeball, football and tug of war during the afternoon. While other students chose to showcase their skills in dance.



VARSITY ROUNDUP - TERM 6



BADMINTON & ATHLETICS CHAMP

Join us in celebrating Sam's amazing achievements! Named Player of the Year at South Kesteven Community Badminton Club for his playing and volunteering, he then stormed the National Para Athletics Championships with 3 silver medals in the 100m, long jump, and shot putt, plus PBs in the 100m and shot. Well done Sam!

RACE FOR LIFE PRETTY MUDDY EVENT

Our incredible Science Team swapped lab coats for running shoes and took on the Muddy Run, all in the name of cancer research! Through every splash, slide, and muddy mile, they powered through with a whole lot of team spirit. And the best part? They raised just over £800! A huge thank you to everyone who donated and cheered them on. Together, we are helping fund breakthroughs that bring hope to so many.



ACTIVE RUTLAND COMMUNITY SPORTS AWARDS

What a fantastic night celebrating sporting success at the Rutland Sport Awards, recognising the incredible dedication, talent, and achievements of young athletes across our county.

Many congratulations to our amazing Catmose students who were nominated this year:

- Sporting Commitment KS3 – Libby
- Sporting Achievement KS3 – Maizie
- Sporting Talent KS3 – Hannah
- Sporting Achievement KS4 – Logan
- Sporting Talent KS4 – Zack
- Sporting Commitment KS4 – Gargi
- Best Team – Year 9 Basketball team (Ruby, Hannah, Heidi, Hattie, Grace, Erin, Matilda, Sofia)

This brilliant group of students are true role models for Catmose sport. We're incredibly proud of each and every one of you!



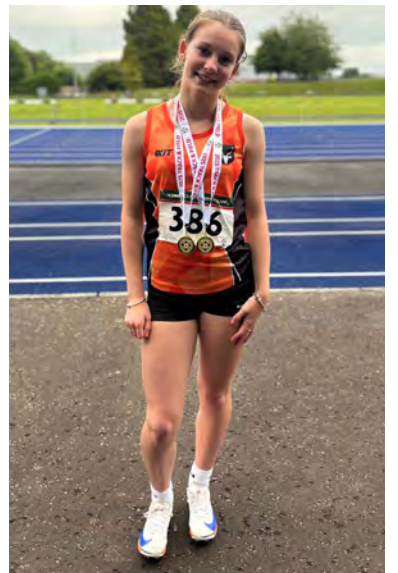
YEAR 8 RUTLAND WATER TRIP

Year 8 pupils had a fantastic time at Rutland Water, where they participated in paddle boarding, raft building, and kayaking, enhancing their teamwork, coordination, and physical skills as part of the PE national curriculum.



FOOTBALL SUCCESS

We are proud to celebrate Stanley's incredible football season with Peterborough RTC. His team went unbeaten in 28 matches, winning the Peterborough and District Junior Alliance Division One, the County Cup and the League Cup. With 146 goals scored and only 11 conceded, it has been a truly remarkable year. Stanley also plays for Cambridge United, and we are thrilled to recognise his dedication and success.



ATHLETICS CHAMPION

Congratulations to Year 9 student Maizie, who is now the Northern Ireland & Ulster 100m and 200m Champion. Thanks to her hard work, dedication, and determination, she's earned the opportunity to represent Ireland on the international stage. We're so proud of this talented young athlete. The future is bright, and this is just the beginning of her incredible journey.



GYMNASTIC COMPETITION

Year 9 student Libby smashed it at the Bronze Level Leicestershire Gymnastics Competition this weekend, bringing home 3 silver medals — 2nd on Floor, Beam, and Overall Gymnast — plus two strong 4th places on Bars and Vault.



RUGBY SEASON

Oakham RFC U14 and U16 teams had an outstanding performance at the Tigers Rugby 7s tournament, winning every match and claiming the top spots in their categories. Well done to all the players, including some familiar faces from Catmose College. The teams were proudly presented with their trophies during halftime at the Tigers vs. Newcastle match at Welford Road, and the U16s even aced the “Big Boot” challenge, catching 8 out of 10 balls! What an amazing way to wrap up the season.

ACTIVE RUTLAND COMMUNITY SPORTS AWARDS

The College recently competed in the annual Varsity athletics competition, going head-to-head with Oakham School, Uppingham School, UCC, Casterton, Belvoir, John Ferneley, and Longfield. Leading up to the event, students dedicated several weeks to athletics practice, with many showing incredible progress. Their hard work paid off, with some standout performances and impressive results:

- Year 7 boys and girls both took home 1st place!
- Year 8/9 boys secured 2nd place, while the girls claimed 1st.
- The KS4 boys finished in 5th place, and the KS4 girls took 2nd.

A huge thank you to the Harington sports leaders for their fantastic support at the finish line. We are also excited to share that several students have been selected to compete at the county athletics event at Loughborough University. What an amazing achievement!



PENTATHLON

Huge congratulations to Year 9 student Owen, who proudly represented Leicestershire & Rutland at the regional pentathlon! He went head-to-head with some of the region’s toughest competitors and delivered an outstanding performance. Well done.



POLOCROSSE

Ava recently travelled to South Africa with the UK Polocrosse squad, where she competed in an exciting three-match test series. After weeks of intense training and fiercely contested games, Ava stood out with her strong defensive play, making a big impact on the field. Her horse, “Fuse,” was even awarded Best Horse of the Tournament! Beyond the competition, the team enjoyed an unforgettable game drive, spotting lions, giraffes, zebras, and Cape buffalo in the wild. Ava is incredibly proud to have represented her country and created lasting memories on this incredible journey.

More recently, Ava also represented Catmose College at the National Schools Equestrian Association Championships at Hickstead, finishing 3rd in the national dressage finals. Such a fantastic achievement.

WIMBLEDON 2025 TRIP

Our sports scholarship students recently enjoyed an unforgettable trip to London, filled with iconic sporting moments and incredible experiences. They watched live tennis at the world-famous Wimbledon, soaking up the atmosphere and witnessing elite athletes in action. The group explored the historic grounds, took part in exciting activities, and even spotted a few celebrities along the way. Their journey continued with a visit to Twickenham Stadium, where they toured the home of English rugby and learned about its proud legacy. A truly inspiring and action-packed adventure for our rising sports stars.



VARSITY 2025

Thank you to all the students who have represented the College in the Varsity competition this year.





YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAY

Year 6 students were welcomed to the College for their transition day. They enjoyed lessons in a range of subjects including art & design, science, humanities, and sport.

We are delighted to invite prospective students and their families to join us at our **Open Evening on Wednesday 1 October 2025 from 5.30 – 7.30pm**, with guided tours of our outstanding facilities and our unique educational offer. Staff and students look forward to welcoming you and giving a flavour of College life and answering any questions you may have.

Our Principal, Stuart Williams, will be giving a presentation during the evening, at 5.45pm and 6.45pm, there is no need to book.

ROTARY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Huge congratulations to our talented Art Scholars for their incredible achievements in this year's Rotary Art competition! In the Senior category, Matilda placed 3rd nationally, after winning both the District and Local rounds. Thinuli impressed with 2nd place at District and runner-up locally, while Sofia earned a Highly Commended mention. In the Intermediate category, Jenna took 1st place at District and was the local winner, with Charlie close behind as runner-up in both rounds. A special mention to Darcy for being Highly Commended locally.



ESCAPE ROOM ELECTIVE

Good fun during the Escape Room Elective with all teams managing to finish and solve the puzzle.



SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to all our Year 7 students who participated in the Catmose Spelling Bee. First place went to Rafaela, second place to Louis, and in third place to Lily. Well done, everyone!

HEAD STUDENTS FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Congratulations to Lexi and Oliver who will be supported in their roles by deputy heads Madeleine, Samuel, Charlotte and their team of subject ambassadors and senior prefects.



ROTARY YOUNG WRITER

Huge congratulations to Year 10 student Lauren, who has been named the national winner of the Rotary Young Writers Competition 2024–2025. Lauren received her award from Rotary Club of Rutland President Bruce Strickland. She is the first national win in his 50 years with the club! Her powerful story ‘Wondrous Water’ wowed judges across the country. Well done, Lauren!

Lauren’s story:

The sun stares down at me, its menacing glare causing sweat to trickle down my forehead. I look up at the brilliant blue sky - under different circumstances some might call it pretty. I squint upwards, sighing when once again there’s not even a wisp of a cloud.

Staring down at my bare feet - caked in dry, cracked mud - I slowly drag them across the barren ground beneath me. In a matter of weeks green fields have turned into ragged wastelands, the clean crisp air now thick and heavy. My throat scratches, crying out for a drink as I feel my resolve beginning to waver under the burning heat.

No shade.

No water.

No comfort.

No hope.

Then, just as I think my time is up once and for all, a drop lands on the wizened earth before me. I frown, confused. Is this but another mirage sent to trick my weakened mind? It happens again. And again. Each drop swallowed by the barren ground, hungry for its first taste of life. Every bead washes away the drought; every bead washes away my doubt. A laugh escapes my chapped lips, a rare smile pulling them up over my teeth.

Tilting my head up to the sky, I close my eyes as a waterfall of hope cascades down upon me.

I am saved.

Saved from the searing heat.

Saved from my near inevitable death.

Saved by the wondrous gift of water.



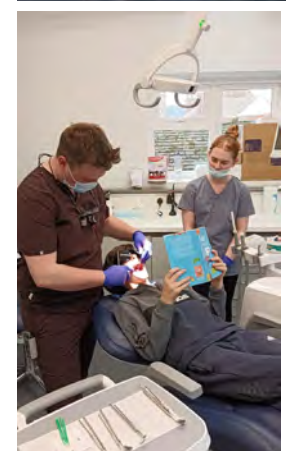
POETRY BY HEART COMPETITION

Well done to our talented KS4 students who took part in the national Poetry By Heart competition! Year 10 students, Charlotte and Beth, impressed the judges and were awarded certificates for their powerful performances. Out of 4,339 entries nationwide, Year 11 student Anna Barwell was selected as one of just 40 finalists and went on to win the Key Stage 4 category! She performed Sylvia Plath’s The Applicant at the iconic Globe Theatre in front of 800 people. The judges praised her: “An excellent presentation of a dark and tricky poem, which nonetheless made us smile because the student delivered it with clarity and charisma.”

We are incredibly proud of all three students for their creativity, courage, and command of language!

HEAD STUDENT HANDOVER

We had a special moment as our former Head Students, Oliver and Maisie, met with the new team to share their insights, experiences, and plenty of laughs along the way. Being a Head Student is about more than just holding a title, it's about representing fellow students, offering support, and making a positive impact on school life. A big thank you to Oliver and Maisie for their incredible contributions, and best of luck to Oliver and Lexi as they step into their new leadership roles.



OAKHAM CHURCH FLAG RAISING

Eighteen Catmose students took part in a flag raising ceremony at Oakham Castle, marking the start of the week leading up to Armed Forces Day. Both the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff were in attendance and expressed their appreciation to the students for joining the event.

UNUSUAL PLACES TO READ

During half term, the English team held an "Unusual Places to Read" house competition, and Emerald House were victorious. Individual winners included Reggie (Year 7), Robin and Helene (Year 8), Madeleine, Emily, Daisy and Sam (Year 10) as well as Henry (English teacher). Congratulations to all the winners and everyone who participated, your creativity was excellent and this showed in some amazing entries!

CATMOSE OPEN DOUBLE TABLE TENNIS

We held the first ever Catmose Open Doubles Table Tennis Tournament and what a lunchtime showdown it was. Despite rain stopping play, a few minor injuries, and some highly questionable tactics from the teacher team, the students brought the energy and made it a brilliant event. Huge thanks to everyone who took part or came to support. Here's to more epic rallies and rematches next year.





YOUNG WRITER HOUSE COMPETITION

Congratulations to Lauren, Cassidy, and Kiara for winning our house competition! Their imaginative stories about forgotten objects stood out for their originality and creativity. Well done to all three for bringing overlooked treasures to life through storytelling!



RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL YOUNG CARERS CHAMPION AWARD

We are proud to share that Catmose College has been awarded the Rutland County Council Young Carers Champion Award 2025. This recognises our ongoing commitment to identifying and supporting Young Carers in our school. A special thank you to Sarah Shipley, our Client Services advisor, whose passion and dedication in leading this work and making a real difference.

NATIONAL SIMON POWELL POETRY PRIZE

Huge congratulations to our amazing Year 11 student Cali, winner of the national Simon Powell Poetry Prize! Judged by acclaimed poet Daljit Nagra, Cali's poem stood out in a hugely competitive field. As part of her prize, she will take part in a workshop with Daljit, receive a bundle of books, and has been invited to read at a Poetry Live event next year.



THE BIG BANG TRIP

180 Year 7 students had an amazing time at The Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham! They got hands-on with a wide range of STEM activities and discovered exciting career paths and post-16 education options in science, technology, engineering, and maths.



FAREWELL YEAR 11. ONWARDS TO YOUR NEXT CHAPTER...



ROTARY YOUNG WRITERS

Well done to the winners and runners-up of the Rotary Young Writers Competition! Each of these talented writers received book tokens from the Rotary Club for their amazing work on the theme "Wonderful Water". Keep up the fantastic writing!

Top Scores		
👑 Zac	29	🇬🇧
👤 Player747	27	🇬🇧
👤 NayanRaj	26	🇮🇳
👤 Player51	17	🇨🇦
👤 Player517	17	🇨🇦
👤 MsRandolph	16	🇬🇧
👤 Luke	16	🇬🇧
👤 Player184	15	🇮🇳
👤 Scarl2014	14	🇬🇧
👤 Tomilola	13	🇬🇧
👤 Player521	12	🇺🇸
👤 Player510	12	🇬🇧

Most Points		
👑 Zac	173 pts	🇬🇧
👤 Player747	149 pts	🇬🇧
👤 NayanRaj	146 pts	🇮🇳
👤 Player184	97 pts	🇮🇳



WORD FROG CHAMPION

Congratulations to Year 7 student Zac who has reached top of the global leadership board for Word frog



Thank you

to
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants
from
Rutland and District Schools' Federation

who spent
1729 Hours

volunteering between
1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

We are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement of young people making an impact in their community.

The social value of these hours is
£11064



Ruth Marvel OBE, Chief Executive

June 2025

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD VOLUNTEERS

Our students participating in our DoE Awards were recently presented a Volunteer Hour Certificate for 2025 on behalf of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Social value certificates recognise the fantastic work that our students do for their DoE, both in and for their communities. The certificate also shows a monetary value to students' efforts towards the Volunteering section of their DoE. The statistics revealed that our students clocked up a huge 1729 hours of volunteering as part of their DoE this year, with an estimated total value of £11064.

We know volunteering changes lives, that is why it is such a vital part of our DoE programme. It's more than our students just giving their time; it's about discovering passions, building confidence, and gaining skills that last a lifetime.

You can find out more about The Duke of Edinburgh's Award by visiting our [website](#)



OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER
FROM 5.30 - 7.30PM

Catmose College is an Outstanding School
Ofsted



WHAT'S ON



SCAN TO KEEP
UP-TO-DATE
WITH EVENTS

AUGUST 2025

Thursday 28 Term 1. College opens

SEPTEMBER 2025

Wednesday 3 DoFE Silver Kit Return

Monday 22 & Tuesday 24 Year 7 Bushcraft Trip

Wednesday 24 My Future Event (Careers) - Years 9-11 / Years 7-8 (Lunchtime)

Wednesday 24 Year 11 Progress Evening

Tuesday 30 Year 8 John Clare Cottage Trip

OCTOBER 2025

Wednesday 1-4 Year 10 Berlin Residential

Wednesday 1 OPEN EVENING
5.30-7.30pm

Monday 6-12 German Exchange Home Leg

Tuesday 7 Year 8 John Clare Cottage Trip

Tuesday 14 & Wednesday 15 Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Bradgate Park

Thursday 16-19 Year 9 & 10 Spanish Malaga Residential

Friday 17 End of Term 1. College closes

NOVEMBER 2025

Monday 3 Term 2. College opens

Wednesday 5 DoFE training starts - Electives

Friday 7 Festival of Remembrance - times TBC

Monday 17 Year 11 Print Workshop Trip

Thursday 27 Presentation Evening for Year 11

DECEMBER 2025

Thursday 4 Year 11 Business Trip to Cadbury World

Wednesday 17 Christmas Concert, All Saints' Church Oakham

Friday 19 End of Term 2 College closes