

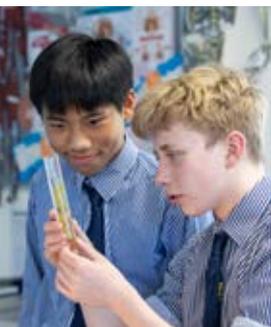
# The Sidcotian

A review of the academic year 2024/25





# What Matters at Sidcot School...



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# Head's Welcome

Welcome to the 2025 edition of *The Sidcotian* magazine—a celebration of the remarkable milestones and memorable moments from the past year.

And what an extraordinary year it has been! From academic excellence and sporting triumphs to bold adventures, acts of immense generosity, and countless inspiring stories, there is so much to share within these pages.

At Sidcot, we believe that true education is rooted in curiosity, making a difference, a love of learning, self-discovery, authenticity, and living life to the fullest. These values shape *The Sidcotian*, which is why the magazine is organised into six sections reflecting them. I continue to be amazed by how our community—both individually and together—embraces these principles, living adventurously and bringing them to life in everything we do.

Once again, 'Loving Learning', is the longest section of *The Sidcotian*. From page 26, I'm sure you will be struck as I was by the range of inspiring opportunities provided by our dedicated staff, from our annual

Dymond Speech Competition, to our Sixth Form Textiles Workshop, for which we welcomed back Alumna Jiazhen Xie (Class of 2017) to share her expertise. This enduring passion for learning nurtured by our students has opened doors to bright and promising futures for Sidcotians. This year, 95% of UK applicants secured places at their preferred university, across a wide range of courses, from Languages at Cambridge, to Medicine, International Relations, Fashion, Equine Sports Science, Music and more. This year, a record 22% of students secured places at international universities, cementing our truly global futures support. Congratulations, Class of 2025, on pursuing your dreams and finding success.

For me, it is no mistake that our magazine opens with 'Being Curious'. I am frequently in awe of our students' appetite for trying new experiences, whether it be a night or two in boarding, learning flamenco



in Salamanca, singing at Sidcot's Got Talent, or putting themselves forward for our very own 'Dragons' Den'. All that they have achieved are truly inspiring, and the answer to 'What Matters?'.

The stories in this edition capture the caring, adventurous spirit of our community and show how our students embrace the challenge to 'Live Adventurously' in all they do. I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *The Sidcotian* as much as I have. Leading this School is an immense privilege, and I look forward to the opportunities, challenges, and unforgettable moments the coming year will bring.

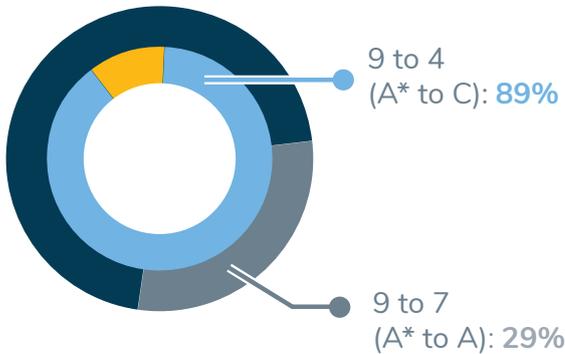
**James Jones**  
Head



# Student Success 2025

An indication of how the School has performed in external examinations.

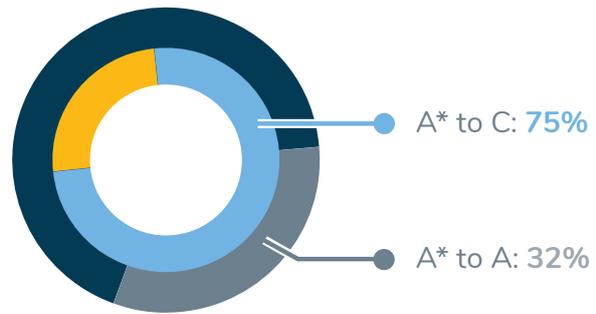
## GCSE 2025



Year 11 GCSE students achieved higher than the national average across all grade boundaries.

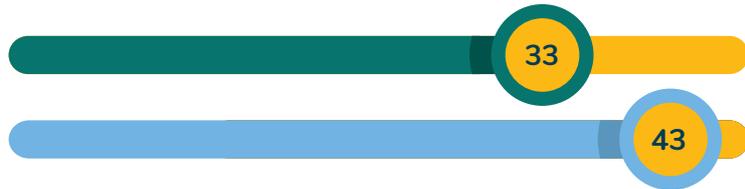
## Year 13 Results 2025

- Across our range of pathways (IB, A Level and BTEC), Year 13 students have received the equivalent to:



One student secured a place to study at the University of Cambridge and two accepted places to study Medicine.

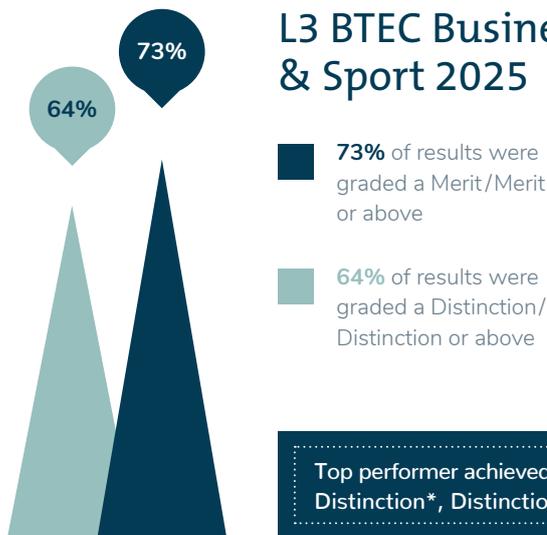
## International Baccalaureate 2025



Sidcot continues to significantly overachieve the world average.

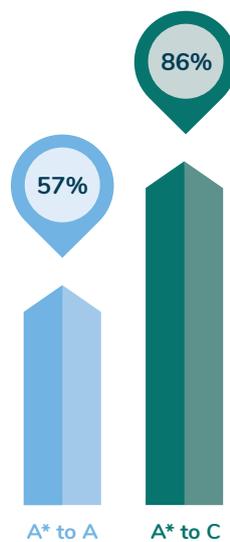
- Sidcot mean score for students who received the diploma: **33**
- Top score of **43** out of a possible 45

## L3 BTEC Business & Sport 2025



Top performer achieved a **Distinction\*, Distinction.**

## Extended Project Qualifications 2025



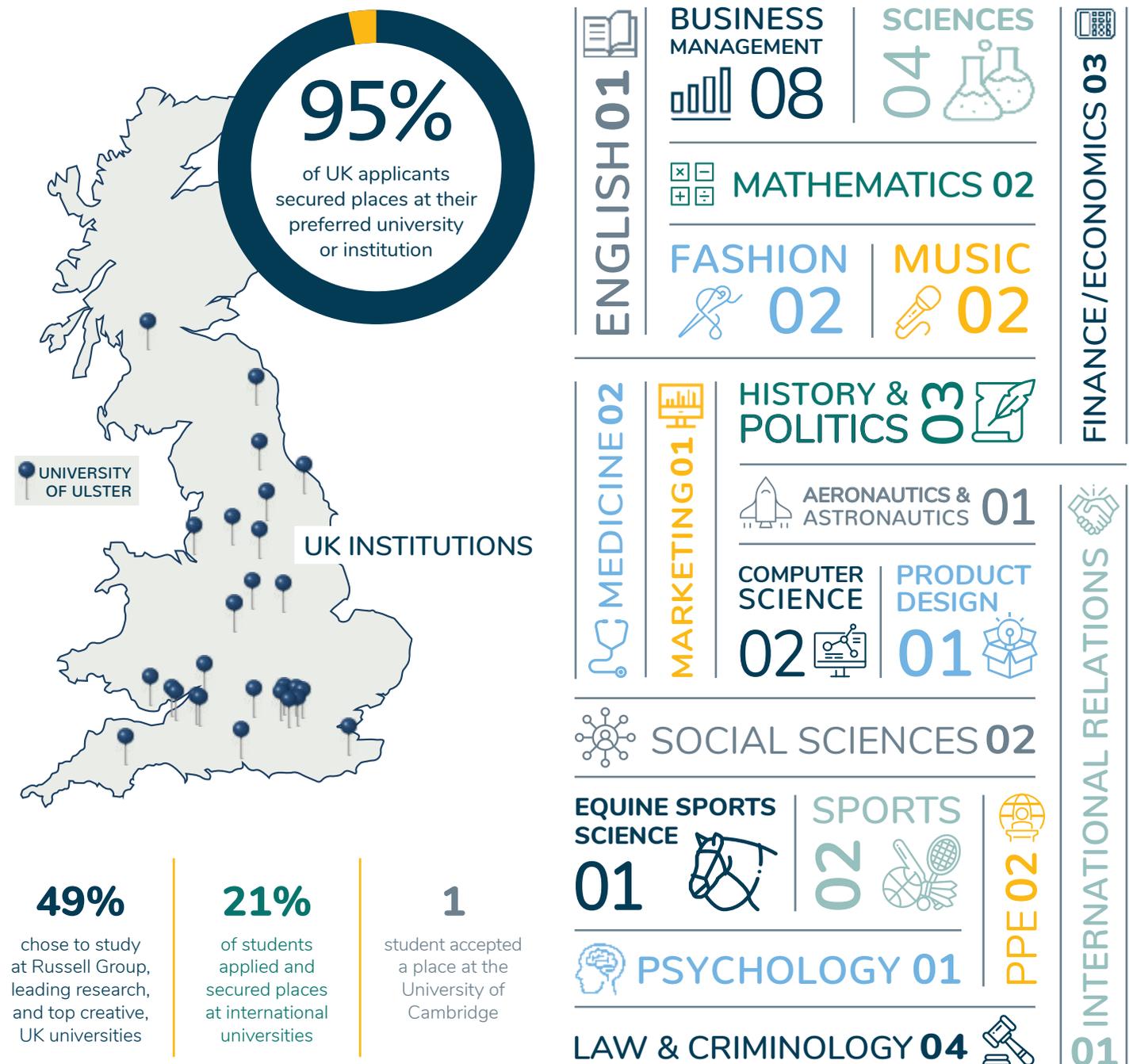
The EPQ, or Extended Project Qualification, offers students the opportunity to produce a project on a topic of their choice and provides the equivalent of half an A Level. Each student will embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project taking responsibility for choosing a topic, planning, researching and developing their ideas into a finished product.

- **95%** of UK applicants secured places at their preferred university or institution
- **49%** of students studying in the UK are attending Russell Group, Times Top 10, or specialist universities
- **22%** of students secured places at international universities

# Leavers' Destinations 2025

Students at Sidcot have a wide range of strengths and abilities, and every year, they delight us with their results and chosen paths after they finish their studies. We take great pride in supporting students in progressing to employment or the next stage of their academic journey.

Below is a summary of the higher education institutions and courses Sidcot students pursued last year.



Please note that the destinations and student profiles listed were correct at the time of printing, though students may choose to change courses post-enrolment.

Bath Spa University	Business & Management
	Commercial Music
	Criminology
Cardiff University	Business Economics with a Professional Placement Year
	Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging
	Human and Social Sciences
	Law with Politics
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Performance Analysis
dBs Institute, Bristol	Electronic Music Production
Em Lyon	Business Management
Erasmus University Rotterdam	Management of Social and International Issues
Esade	Business Administration
ESCP Business School, Turin	Business
Esmode, Paris	Fashion
Foothill College, USA	Entrepreneurship
Gap Year	Travelling and Work Experience
INTO University, London	Business & Management
Kingston University	Fashion
Loughborough University	Graphic Design
Norland	Early Childhood Education and Care
Nottingham Trent University	Equine Sports Science
Oxford Brookes University	Philosophy
	Sport, Coaching, & Physical Education
Pepperdine, USA	Business Entrepreneurship
Queen Mary University of London	Politics
Thammasat University, Thailand	Dentistry
UKSA	Super yacht Cadetship to become Officer of the Yacht
Ulster University	Culinary Arts Management
University of Amsterdam	Psychology
University of Arts London	Foundation Arts
University of Bristol	Medicine

University of Cambridge	Modern & Medieval Languages
University of Exeter	Biological Sciences
	Business & Management
	English
University of Glasgow	Mathematics
University of Leeds	International Business
University of Liverpool	Business Management
	Chemistry
	Diagnostic Radiography
University of Manchester	Politics & Social Anthropology
University of New South Wales	Computer Science
University of Plymouth	Marketing
University of Reading	Accounting & Finance
	Business & Management
	Law with Criminology
	Mathematics
University of Southampton	Aeronautics and Astronautics
University of Sussex	Banking & Digital Finance
	Social Sciences
University of Swansea	Materials Science
University of Warwick	Chemistry
	History & Politics
	Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
University of West of England (UWE)	Architectural Technology and Design
	Health and Social Care
	Law
	Product Design Technology
	Software Engineering for Business
University of York	Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence
	Criminology
	Law & Criminology
Utrecht University, Netherlands	International Business Economics
ZHdK Arts University, Switzerland	Fine Art, Sculpture

**ONYE**

**Grades:** A\*, A, A  
**Destination:** University of Warwick  
**Course:** Chemistry

I'm delighted that I've achieved the results to take up my place to study Chemistry at the University of Warwick! Joining Sidcot for Sixth Form was one of the best decisions I've made — in just two years, I've had the privilege of serving as Head Student and experiencing incredible personal growth. I'm deeply grateful for the support and encouragement I've received from all my teachers, across every subject, as well as the teachers who didn't directly teach me, but also made an impact on my Sidcot experience. Mrs Pike, our Head of Careers' guidance has been invaluable, and I'm grateful she supported me in figuring out what course I should apply for. I'm excited for the future and all that lies ahead, and I look forward to returning to visit Sidcot again soon!

**JACOB**

**Grades:** A\*, A, A  
**Destination:** University of Cambridge  
**Course:** Modern & Medieval Languages

I'm incredibly happy to have achieved the A Level results needed to be able to accept my offer to study Spanish and French at the University of Cambridge. Although I've only been at Sidcot for two years, the incredible support from both staff and students has shaped my academic journey. From serving as Charity and Events Officer to taking part in Model United Nations, I could not have done it without Sidcot! I want to give an enormous thanks to my teachers: Mrs Bowen and Mrs Fielder for inspiring a love of History; Celine and Dr Harbridge for their kindness and dedication in French; and my three incredible Spanish teachers — Mrs Winchester-Snell, Mr Weidner, and of course Gemma — for their constant encouragement and support. I owe a very special thank you to Mrs Pike for her dedication, guidance, and incredible support with my university application. While I'm so excited to begin this next chapter, I will never forget the friendship and sense of community I've found here at Sidcot and congratulations to all my fellow Year 13 students on your fantastic results!

**EMILY SUEN**

**Grades:** B, B, B  
**Destination:** Queen Mary, University of London  
**Course:** International Relations & Business Management

Joining Sidcot for Year 10 was one of the best decisions I've made. From the moment I arrived, I felt genuinely welcomed by both my teachers and the boarding staff who were always there with kindness, encouragement, and support whenever I needed it. That care really helped me settle in and build confidence in myself. Compared to what I was used to in Hong Kong, I found the teaching at Sidcot to be much more engaging and supportive of independent thinking, which suited me so much better. It allowed me to explore subjects I enjoy and realise what I'm really capable of—I ended up achieving grades that were even higher than I'd hoped for. Now I'm looking forward to starting my degree in International Relations and Business Management at Queen Mary University of London. I'm so grateful to Sidcot for giving me a place to grow, feel at home, and succeed.

**JOSHUA**

**Grades:** 40 points  
**Destination:** University of Bristol  
**Course:** Medicine

I joined this school in Year 8 and have loved it ever since. The atmosphere and community that exists at Sidcot is amazing, and I know I have benefited hugely from it. While the last two years of IB have certainly not been the easiest, I am still really glad I chose the course. I was able to continue studying Drama and a language, alongside everything I needed to get into university, which has made the many stressful coursework deadlines a little more worth it! I was incredibly pleased to have received 40 IB points, more than enough to get into my first-choice of Medicine at Bristol; a course I feel my time at Sidcot, and especially the last two years, has set me up well for. Thank you to all the teachers and classmates who helped me get here.

**ELEANOR**

**Grades:** Distinction\*  
Distinction  
**Destination:** University of the West of England  
**Course:** Physiotherapy

I was thrilled to receive my BTEC Sport result of D\*D after 2 very enjoyable years studying. The sports team at Sidcot are very supportive and I outperformed my expectations with their help and guidance. The structure of the BTEC was well-suited to my learning strengths, and I am looking forward to moving on to my first choice of university to study Physiotherapy. Thank you, Sidcot.

**RENEE**

**Grades:** A, A, C  
**Destination:** Norland College  
**Course:** Early Childhood Education & Care



I'm happy to have received the results I needed to pursue my dream course at Norland. I first heard about Norland at our Careers Afternoon. I then did some additional research, went to an Open Day, and gained some work experience at Sidcot Holiday Club, but I really have to credit Ms Pike and Ms Scherer for helping me to make my final decision. Ms Pike (Careers) helped me to decide between my offers to study Textiles or Education, and Ms Scherer not only helped me as my tutor to consider what my vocation truly is, but as my Drama teacher to build my confidence, which was crucial in my interview with Norland. I'm so excited to start my course and pursue a professional nannying career, followed by a career in primary education, but I will miss Sidcot and have loved every day I've spent here! Every day was so different, and that's why it's been such a great place to learn and grow.

**ALEX**

**Grades:** 43 points  
**Destination:** University of Warwick  
**Course:** PPE



After a wonderful time at Sidcot, I'm delighted to have reached my offer to study PPE at the University of Warwick. Studying the IB has been challenging but I'm incredibly grateful to all my teachers for their hard work and support, which I certainly couldn't have gone without; it has made me a better student and person in the process. I'm incredibly excited about this next step and will look back on my time at Sidcot with very fond memories.

# What Matters at Sidcot School...

## > Being Curious

From an early age, Sidcot students experience a community where it is clear that independent thought is encouraged and curiosity is a way of life.



## Bridging The Curriculum



### Year 10 Future Focus

By Kate Champion, Assistant Head (Academic)

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you combined a Physics, Design Technology and PE lesson together? We did... so we had a go! It turns out, the overlap is bungee swimming, of course! And we didn't leave it there. We asked our Key Stage 5 subjects to fuse together to create exciting lessons for Year 10 students, where they could experience the cross-curricular nature of Sixth Form subjects at Sidcot, whilst utilising new skills and equipment, in preparation for academic life post-GCSEs.

Find out what curious combinations were created here:



### The 'Dragons' Den' Challenge!

Excitement and innovation filled the classrooms at Sidcot as students from J5, J6, and Year 7 came together for an unforgettable cross-curricular experience.

Working in small, mixed-year groups, students were guided by staff from the Science and Business departments, as well as the Junior School team. The challenge? To design creative, real-world solutions in a fast-paced, hands-on learning environment that brought their classroom knowledge and skills to life.



Read all about the event and check out the innovative solutions students came up with here:



## Art Exhibition

By George, Year 8 Art Scholar

The Bridging Curriculum Art Exhibition brings together work from the Junior School and the Senior School and is a feast for the eyes!



Over the course of two weeks, we welcomed members of the community to view our work exhibited in the Arts Centre. On entering the exhibition, guests were met with impactful plates designed by Year 9, with messages of political and social importance, such as 'Women's Rights Are Human Rights' and 'Stop Animal Testing'. Underneath were beautiful micro-scenes in boxes, designed and created by J5. As guests ventured a little further into the exhibit, the arch from this year's production of Alice in Wonderland took them past a painted piano played amazingly by a Sidcot student next to a wall of imaginative robot prints. I especially loved the wall of Willow Pattern Plates by J4. The still life with animal skulls by Year 9 were incredibly interesting in their composition because of the strangely mismatched objects like lipsticks and flowers. In the centre of the Arts Foyer stood a large plinth covered in ceramic hearts, created by J6, and a little further in were Year 8's ancient vessels which were enormous and impressive! There was so much more than this on display and every piece in the show was incredible in its own way. It's a great display of how our artistic skills develop through our time at Sidcot.



## J6 Trip | Nothe Fort

J6 brought their history learning to life with a WWII Evacuee experience.

They arrived in School looking fantastic, dressed as children from the 1940's with their name tags, ID cards and gas mask boxes in tow. They had a traditional packed lunch, with no plastic or bananas in sight! They then set off to Nothe Fort in Weymouth. On arrival, they walked through the tunnel singing songs in keeping with the era. The billeting officer asked the local headteacher, shop keeper and washing lady to select children. The children were horrified to be told that they were clearly city children due to the smell and were asked questions like, 'Do you have visitors in your hair?' All adults were in role and the children found 1940's behaviour rules hard! Particularly boys getting more pocket money than girls – this caused a huge debate.

In groups, the children then experienced:

- **A WWII lesson**, including the cane (luckily, it was not used!)
- **The washing room and kitchen** – using a mangle proved challenging work and plugging a kettle into the light bulb a very unusual concept
- **A shop** – using a ration book and money
- **Made do and mend** (which horrified some; particularly using the pig eyes to thicken the stew)
- **Air raid precautions**, definitely the highlight for some – sitting in the Anderson shelter with bombs around.

Luckily, the songs came in handy to keep our spirits up. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experience but were incredibly grateful to live in 2024 and not 1940.

## Year 7 & 8 Trip | Normandy

By Clare Winchester-Snell,  
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

45 students in Year 7 and Year 8 set out on an action-packed, fun-filled five days in Normandy.

They were immersed in history visiting Omaha Beach and the D-Day museum, the Bayeux Tapestry depicting the Battle of Hastings, and La Falaise Castle where William the Conqueror lived. They also enjoyed plenty of French culture and food, including sampling snails, crepes, and tarte aux pommes, and their gite in the Normandy countryside was the perfect setting to play outside with beautiful views of the Calvados region.



They practised their French at every opportunity, most notably in the local French market where they all bought souvenirs and completed challenges. They also completed a diary in French every day. They certainly lived up to the School tagline of *Live Adventurously* through their experiences of land yachting on the beach, doing high-ropes in the trees, and tubing. One of the highlights had to be the bay walk across to Mont-St-Michel where the students hiked through sand to reach the beautiful landmark. The French hypermarket, as well as the ferry crossing, were also a big hit. Many thanks to Mr Vecchio, Mr Andrews and Mrs Jones for accompanying this trip, and to the parents for having to drop off and pick up in the middle of the night!

## Languages Trip | Cologne & Brussels

By Sarah Jones, Teacher of Languages

40 students from Year 8 through to Year 13 embarked on a five day adventure to sample the sights of the world-famous Cologne Christmas Market.



As well as visiting Cologne, students also climbed the dizzy heights of Cologne cathedral's tower (all 533 steps!), enjoyed forest walks, a highropes course, lots of fun games, and a quick visit to a part of the historical Siegfried Line. They then moved on to Brussels, where, again, they enjoyed an action-packed day, visiting both the EU Parliamentarium and the Atomium, a firm favourite for many students, with its fantastic light shows. It was a great trip and an excellent way to finish the busy Autumn Term.

## MFL Trip | Salamanca

By Jacob W, Languages Captain

Salamanca was an amazing cultural and linguistic experience. We explored the medieval city and climbed to the top of the cathedral with stunning views. The tapas and paella nights were fantastic, and we were so warmly welcomed by our amazing host families, who not only helped us with our Spanish but also made us delicious meals. One day, we even tried flamenco, which was easier said than done but was a worthwhile experience. We also attended daily language lessons, which re-enforced our learning and were extremely useful for our academic studies.



## Year 11 Art & Photography Trip | London

Students had a fantastic day visiting the Tate Modern in the morning and then split between The Photographers' Gallery, V&A and the Natural History Museum in the afternoon.

The Zanele Muholi exhibit was a favourite for the students at the Tate; their series of striking photographic work and sculptures left students reflecting on the artists' context and purpose in sharing the imagery.



They also enjoyed the installations of Antony McCall's 'Solid Light' show, an immersive exhibit where participants could interact with beams of light shone through mist. Students then prepared to find pieces of their choice and navigated the permanent

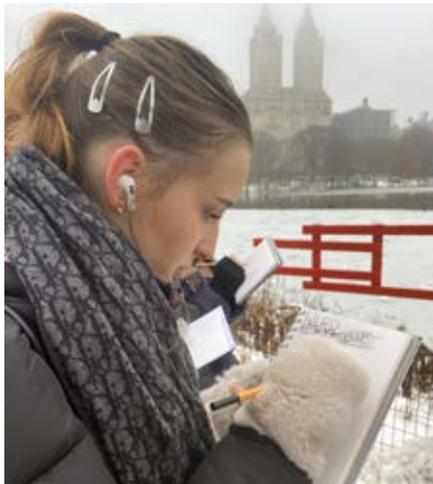
collections at the Tate. Highlights included work within the 'Artist and Society' and 'Media Networks'.

Photography students then spent the afternoon recording scenes of London for their chosen exam question and visited the Letizia Battaglia documentary show at the Photographers' Gallery. Art students split visiting the Natural History Museum's collection of Flora and Fauna pieces and the V&A's vast range of ceramic and stonework. All students collected research for their chosen exam question, and it was fantastic to see this influence in their final pieces.

## From Sidcot to Skyscrapers | New York City Adventure

Over the spring half-term, Sidcot Drama and Art students headed to the Big Apple for an unforgettable adventure!

From the buzz of Broadway and bright lights of Times Square to the rich artistry of The Met and vibrant culture of Brooklyn, students enjoyed five days of incredible experiences and inspiration.



Read all about their New York City adventure (and check out more amazing photos) here:



## GCSE & A Level Textiles Trip | London

30 GCSE and A Level Textiles students enjoyed an inspirational residential trip to London.

The trip started with a visit to The Lightroom to experience the 'Vogue Inventing the Runway' exhibit, where students were immersed in a documentary-style showcase of influential designers and iconic catwalk productions.

The second day saw learners visit the 'Fashion Renegades of 80's London' exhibition at the Fashion and Textiles Museum and take part in an expertly guided workshop where they got to learn about fashion drawing and visualisation, creating their own sketches of key pieces from the museum's permanent collection including garments by Zandra Rhodes, Ana Sui and Dior. Mrs Ralph even

got an autograph of famous milliner Stephen Jones OBE! After a quick look around smaller galleries and independent shops, the group were given the fantastic opportunity to visit Fashion Enter, a sustainable UK social enterprise that has its own garment factory and training facilities for the industry. After an engaging talk on circular fashion and the importance of sustainability within the industry, students also got a tour of the factory and were able to see innovative developments in AI technology.

After a busy day of learning, students enjoyed dinner in Covent Garden and a theatre visit to watch Mamma Mia! To round up the trip, the group visited the 'Naomi' exhibition at



the V&A – another opportunity to see designer garments up close and learn more about the supermodel's life and career, before being let loose on the famous Goldhawk Road to select fabrics for their projects.



## GCSE Science Live | Bath

By Thea, Year 10

On Monday 3 March, a group of Year 10s had the opportunity to visit GCSE Science Live in Bath.

Throughout the day, we listened to four professors and doctors, talking about their specialities in the three sciences - Physics, Biology, and Chemistry. One of the topics was whether or not humans can time travel to the future, and back into the past, which is what my class found the most interesting about the trip. This talk was led by Professor Jim Al-Khalili, a famous Physicist. We also heard some great facts and top tips for sitting our GCSE's next year, which helped us understand what we need to do in order to get the best marks. It was a great trip that presented us with lots of opportunities to talk with other school students about science, and hear professionals speaking about their field.

## ASPIRE Trip | Oxford University

By Sophia, Year 12

The ASPIRE group is a programme designed to stretch and challenge the top-performing students at Sidcot by providing us with academic and enrichment opportunities outside of our lessons.

On 5 March 2025, as part of this programme, I was fortunate to attend a trip to Oxford University. We attended the 'Thriving Minds Senior Conference' hosted by the University, experiencing compelling and innovative lectures, followed by a tour of Merton College.



Read all about Sophia's experience here:



## Arcadia Workshop | Glastonbury

Ahead of Glastonbury Festival, Sidcot students were invited to visit the Festival site to take part in a workshop with Arcadia.

One student, Lara, described the amazing 'behind-the-scenes' experience:



"We had the chance to visit Glastonbury just a week before the actual festival kicked off. We got to see this year's Arcadia Dragonfly stage and explore what it means to collaborate with a big team over the course of a year to produce an outcome like this. What began as military scraps—like an old helicopter—had been transformed into the spectacular Arcadia stage for the UK's biggest festival. The Arcadia team walked us through the entire process—from the making to the message behind it—and showed us their portfolio of previous stages they've worked on, including the iconic spider. The group responsible for the technology even explained how the beamers and screens are installed to create the astonishing spectacle that forms the wings and head of the dragonfly, which is currently open and on display. To top it off, we had the opportunity to take part in a welding workshop, where all kinds of fun, whimsical creatures were created."



## GCSE Art Residential | St Ives

Our Year 10 Art students visited St Ives for a hands-on experience to enrich their GCSE project.

The trip began with a visit to the Tate St Ives, where students participated in engaging workshops with a local artist, delving into the town's iconic modernist art scene. Students also took part in a landscape painting and collage session at the celebrated St Ives School of Painting, with a special focus on the work of renowned artist Peter Lanyon, known for his expressive dramatic depictions of the Cornish landscape, whilst others honed their photography skills in a workshop capturing the beauty of their surroundings.

No trip to the coast would be complete without a taste of local cuisine so, after the workshops, students enjoyed some Cornish fish and chips on the beachfront - dodging the seagulls!

The next day, students took part in beach workshops, connecting with the natural environment around them, before visiting the Barbara Hepworth Museum. There, they explored the artist's life and fascinating sculptures and learned about her innovative approach to form, materials and abstraction.

It was an inspiring and enriching experience, bringing the students' coursework to life through direct engagement with the landscape and rich artistic heritage of St Ives.

## A Taste of Sustainability | Year 10 Business Students | Yeo Valley Farm

Year 10 Business Studies students had the privilege of visiting Yeo Valley Farm, an inspiring local business that beautifully blends organic sustainability, innovation, and community values.

One of the highlights was a yoghurt tasting challenge, where students sampled a range of Yeo Valley's delicious products, from Natural to Greek Style and 0% fat options, while trying to guess not only the type but also the fat content. It was a fun, hands-on activity that opened up discussions around product development, branding, and consumer perceptions. Students were then introduced to the company's outstanding organic and sustainable farming practices, gaining a first-hand understanding of ethical trading, biodiversity, and long-term environmental responsibility. The experience was eye-opening, helping students link classroom theory with real-world application.



In the afternoon, we explored Yeo Valley's sustainable forestry project, which gave students insight into how businesses can go beyond compliance to become leaders in environmental stewardship. We are incredibly grateful to Yeo Valley for this valuable opportunity. It was a day our students won't soon forget. A reminder that great business can also mean doing good.

## Careers Afternoon 2025

To mark National Careers Week at Sidcot, we hosted our ever-popular annual Careers Afternoon!

Students were treated to a huge variety of career talks, events, and networking to showcase the breadth of opportunities available to them and build skills that will help them in their futures. Every year group was offered a separate option, allowing their careers education to progress year-on-year, ultimately aiming to inspire our students by the time they leave us to live adventurously in their career choices!

We asked a few of our students and staff to recap their Careers Afternoon experience:



## Year 10 Work Experience Week

At Sidcot, we believe in preparing our students for life beyond the classroom.

That's why our comprehensive Careers programme includes a dedicated Work Experience Week for Year 10 students. During the summer term, our students embraced the opportunity to dive into the professional world, gaining invaluable insights and hands-on experience.

For many, this week was a chance to "test drive" a potential career path, confirming passions and clarifying future ambitions. Others used the time to explore new fields, letting curiosity guide them as they discovered hidden strengths and interests.

Whatever their individual goals, every student gained a clearer understanding of how their skills align with various careers and industries, as well as which academic pathways might best support their aspirations. This early exposure to the working world is a crucial step in helping our students envision their futures and make informed decisions about their educational journeys. We're incredibly proud of their proactive approach and the diverse experiences they embraced.



Here are just a few of the stories from this year's work experience cohort:



## Transition Activities

Throughout the academic year, J6 took part in an exciting range of transition activities, including taster lessons in Physics, Biology, Maths, and English, held at the Senior School. This aims to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in their educational journey and to meet more Senior School staff.



## Third Former for the Day

Another popular transition activity for J6 is our 'Third Former For The Day' event.

On this day, J6 move up to Year 7 and get to experience what life is really like in the Senior School! A fun-filled day was had by all and many of the teachers commented on their enthusiasm, engagement, and hunger to learn. Well done, J6!



## Boarding Experience

A new addition to this year's transition programme, was a one-night boarding experience!



Over a sunny weekend, J6 boys and girls each spent one night in Combe House and learnt all the fundamentals of boarding, like how to properly tidy your room, what 'roll call' is, and where the best hiding spots in the house are! They were also shown what a typical night in boarding looks like, hanging out with new friends in Wing, playing sports and games, visiting the neighbouring llamas, making friendship bracelets, and holding an epic karaoke session! It was amazing to see how naturally and confidently our J6 class blended into our boarding community!

## EPQ Showcase

By Oli, Marketing & Media Office Holder

As part of our EPQ, we participated in presentations where we discussed our projects.

My project, for which I built a kayak from scratch, was well-received by both peers and teachers. The presentation covered how I managed, developed and changed my project and sparked an engaging Q&A session. Later, at the after school display, my classmates and I showcased our projects. The display allowed us to discuss and show off our work with a wider audience, celebrating our collective efforts and enjoying each other's work.

For my EPQ, I built a kayak from scratch. I started by designing the kayak and choosing materials, like marine plywood and fibreglass. The project involved constructing the hull, applying fibreglass with epoxy, and making sure it was watertight. I faced some challenges, such as ensuring there were no structural weaknesses, or rough parts of wood. Testing the kayak in local waters confirmed that it was both functional and sturdy. This project improved both my practical skills and project management. It was a great accomplishment seeing my design come to life.



## Year 13 IB Extended Essay Showcase



Year 13 IB students gathered in the Art Centre Foyer with teachers and friends to celebrate the submission of their coursework and their big project, the Extended Essay. It was an opportunity to discuss their research process and share their findings. Students worked on their 4000-word essay throughout the two years of their IB programme and researched a topic of their choice in their favourite subject. The Extended Essay grade, together with Theory of Knowledge, will give them the possibility to gain up to three extra points to achieve the maximum of 45. Well done to all our students!

## Year 12 IB Creativity, Activity, Service Highlights

As part of the IB Diploma, our Year 12 International Baccalaureate (IB) students actively engage in CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service).

CAS is a core component designed to develop well-rounded, reflective, and community-minded young people. It encourages students to pursue experiences beyond the classroom that challenge them, grow their skills, and benefit others.

Throughout the programme, students keep a CAS portfolio where they plan, document, and reflect on their experiences. This supports their personal growth and helps them develop a deeper understanding of the impact of their actions.

This year's cohort has taken on a wide variety of projects that reflect both personal passions and a deep commitment to the Sidcot community. From leadership roles and cultural initiatives to physical challenges and the arts, their CAS journeys have a genuine impact.



Learn all about what they've been up to here:



## > Making a Difference

Social and ethical issues around social responsibility, peace and sustainability are live topics within the School. Students experience and discuss them and reflect on their own intellectual and emotional response. In doing so they come to understand how their actions can make a difference.



## Pearson National Teaching Awards | Winners!

We are absolutely delighted to share that we have won a Silver Award for School Partnership of the Year for our collaborative work with the ELAN multi-academy trust in this year's Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Chosen from thousands of nominees, we will now be in with the chance of winning the highly desired Gold Award, which will be announced at a prestigious awards ceremony in London and on BBC One's The One Show later this year.

This national recognition is a testament to the hard work, innovation, and unwavering commitment of our staff, students, and everyone involved in our collaborative efforts to make a real difference in education. We want to particularly acknowledge the exceptional educators who are at the heart of this success, embodying the spirit of partnership and excellence every day. We believe in the power of collaboration to enhance learning experiences and outcomes, and this award truly validates that vision.



Read more about this exciting achievement and our award-winning partnership here:



## ELAN Expressive Art Exhibition 2024

As part of our ongoing partnership with ELAN, we welcomed 250 pupils from nine local primary schools to Sidcot Art Centre to view an exhibition of their impressive artwork and take part in a fun workshop lead by our Art Lead Learners & Scholars! Well done to all the pupils and teachers involved in creating this striking exhibition.



Read all about it and view all of their amazing artwork here:





## Student Council

By Alex M, Deputy Head Student

Every half term, a group of representatives covering all year groups meet in the Old Library for Student Council.

We discuss various issues that students have brought to us and review the staff actions from last term's meeting. Throughout this year, some very good points were raised: we talked about PASS, uniform, PSHE, and many other things. We're very proud that students have the opportunity to come to us and share their thoughts and we always encourage people to get involved and have a say in how the School is run. Great work, everybody!



## Mental Health First Aiders

We're incredibly proud of our Year 12 students who volunteered to become certified Mental Health First Aiders this year.

This initiative truly embodies our Quaker values and the school motto, 'Sic Vos Non Vobis' ('This we do, but not for ourselves').

These dedicated students took part in certified training, equipping them to be compassionate peer supporters. Keep an eye out for their pink lanyards – a visible sign they're here to offer a listening ear in a judgement-free zone, and recommend further support if needed.

## Student Voice | Food Committee

On Wednesday, 6 November, the Food Committee met for their first meeting of the academic year.

The meeting provided the year group reps with an opportunity to feedback their thoughts on the catering offer and dining experience to the Deputy Catering Manager, and several actions were agreed upon. All the reps thought that the changes brought into place at the start of this year have been positive, and there was a huge thumbs up for the Sidcot Kitchen, Pasta Paradise, the Omelette Counter and Baked Potato Bar! The reps also appreciated the changes made to the Salad Bar, including the

enhanced consideration for students with allergies, and thanked the catering staff for all the time that has gone into producing the allergy cards for each dish.

Agreed actions include looking at the greater variety of options for vegetarians and vegans, bringing back the sauces to the Salad Bar, more guacamole on offer at boarding meals, sharing the menus with the students via teams and ensuring that the pasta is not overcooked in Pasta Paradise. The work of the Food Committee is a perfect example



of student voice in action and provides an opportunity for our students to be changemakers. We encourage as many students as possible to get involved in the many forums available at School where their voices will be heard.

## Office Holders

Once again this year, we were sad to bid farewell to our Year 13 Office Holders but pleased to welcome in the next cohort of school leaders!

Our outgoing Office Holders have done an exceptional job over the past year in their roles, showing incredible dedication and innovation, consistently working to build the best school for their fellow students.

Thank you Year 13 for your exemplary service!

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We are now thrilled to welcome in our Year 12 Office Holders, including new roles focused on 'Academic Enrichment' and 'Environment'.

Upon induction into their new roles, they signed their names into the 'Roll of Prefects' book, cementing their place in Sidcot history and committing to *Making A Difference* over the next year - we can't wait to see what you achieve!



2024/25 Office Holders



2025/26 Office Holders

## Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) Report

This year, we were pleased to welcome ISI inspectors into School and are delighted to share our latest report.



Gone are the days when inspectors provided schools with graded categorisation; now, they simply state whether or not "standards have been met". Behind this simple statement is three days' worth of rigorous assessment of leadership, governance, quality of education, safeguarding, pastoral care and student opportunity conducted by eight inspectors.

With this in mind, we proudly share that our wonderful School has met all standards. Inspectors praised our commitment to excellence in academic and pastoral outcomes, acknowledged our strong Quaker values, commented on the dedication and knowledge of staff, and praised our inclusive environment in which every student is valued and supported to achieve their personal best.

Check out the full summary of the report here:



## Junior School Spirit of Sidcot Awards

Each term, we take great pride in recognising children across the Junior School who exemplify the values we hold dear at Sidcot, values rooted in our Quaker heritage, such as peace, integrity, simplicity, equality, and a deep respect for others and the world around us.

The Spirit of Sidcot Awards celebrates those pupils who go above and beyond in demonstrating kindness, empathy, curiosity, and a commitment to making a positive difference, both within the classroom and beyond. Whether it is through quiet acts of compassion, enthusiastic participation, courageous honesty, or uplifting encouragement to peers, these children truly embody the spirit of our School community.

We are delighted to announce the recipients of the Spirit of Sidcot Awards for 2025:

- **Reception:**  
Isaiah W, India W, Elijah
- **J1:**  
Ezra, Alice, Freddie
- **J2:**  
Flo, Freddie, Evie
- **J3:**  
Gabriel, Sophie, Vivienne
- **J4:**  
Annabelle, Alex, Beau
- **J5:**  
Edie, James, Sam, Katie, Zac, Emily
- **J6:**  
Ioan, Eli, Toby, Monty, Paladin, Ruby

Congratulations to all of our award winners! Your contributions to Sidcot Junior School are deeply appreciated and truly inspiring. Thank you for showing us what it means to live our values every day.



## Clifton Triathlon Event: A Great Achievement!

On 4 May 2025, a group of children from Sidcot Junior School formed teams and took part in the Clifton Triathlon.

Their efforts raised an impressive £7,203.62 for Restless Development and £897 for Children's Hospice South West, a charity chosen by the children. It is incredible to hear that the pupils raised £8,100.62 in total. Congratulations to all the participants for their hard work and dedication to these worthy causes and thank you to all their friends and families for their support.

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## Alberto's Fundraising Success

For his 11th birthday, instead of gifts, Alberto asked for support in raising funds for Children's Hospice South West.

This incredible charity provides essential care and support to children and their families who are facing unimaginable challenges due to illness.

Thanks to the very generous donations of his friends from J5 and J6, Alberto raised £410 (his goal was £200). Alberto is pleased that the fundraiser will make a meaningful difference to the charity: this money will pay for two days of music therapy for families in their care.



## Fairtrade Chocolate Sale - A Sweet Success!

By Jeminah, Year 12

At ACS (Afro-Caribbean Society), we were thrilled to organise a Fairtrade chocolate sale to raise awareness about ethical consumerism and sustainability.

With every five bars sold, a tree was planted, making this not only a delicious effort but also one that positively impacted the environment. Thanks to the support of our school community, we raised funds that were donated directly to Fairtrade, helping to support farmers and workers around the world. We really enjoyed running this event and hope everyone loved their chocolates as much as we loved making a difference!



## Turning Waste Into Fashion!

By Andrea Grist, Librarian

Over the February half-term last year, there was a leak from one of the radiators in the office on the floor above the Library. By the time we came back to School, a shelf and a half of fashion and design books were ruined! Rather than throw them away, I asked the Sixth Form Textiles Lead Learners, Rene T, Nelly L, and Lola H, to make the salvageable pages into an art piece. The result is now displayed on the top floor of the library and looks amazing.

## Litter Picking Challenge!

By The Eco-Changemakers Club

In the Spring Term, we undertook our long-planned Litter Picking Challenge, which we had set up for the Year 7s.

Armed with garbage bags and gloves, we went on a hunt for litter in the gardens and had a great time in the fresh air. Everyone was very committed to keeping our environment safe and beautiful. The Year 7s had a lot of fun and got a reward of WOW cards for helping to make our School environmentally friendlier. A big thank you to everyone who participated, and stay tuned for updates on our next projects!



## Remembrance Day

On Friday 8 November, J1 led a Whole School assembly on Remembrance Day. Prior to the assembly, they were all given a specific section on Remembrance Day to learn in class.

They explored when, where and why people wear poppies. J1 were interested to learn about the different coloured poppies and what they symbolise. They even went on to create their own artwork which they showcased at the end of their assembly. Each child stood up and spoke exceptionally well using clear, loud voices. They loved getting the whole School involved and asking them questions throughout. As they brought the assembly to a close, the audience gave them a rapturous applause. They were beaming from ear to ear – J1 we are so proud of you for presenting your very first assembly at Sidcot.



## Thanksgiving

In J3, some of our pupils and their families celebrate Thanksgiving so we thought we would incorporate this into our international learning! We learned about the origins of this celebration and thought about the food and customs. This linked with the work that we have been doing in our Quaker Peace and Global Studies lessons about people who need to seek refuge from danger, so the children have filled our Gratitude Jar with things for which they are thankful.



## International Day of Peace

To mark the International Day of Peace, both our Junior & Senior Schools gathered to ring the Sidcot Peace Bell, and take a moment of silence reflecting on this year's theme 'Cultivating A Culture Of Peace'. Our Junior School pupils also spent the week prior reflecting on what peace means and where you can find peace ("In The Peace Garden!" - we were pleased to hear our J2 class comment). Here are a few of the beautiful peace doves they designed to carry their messages of peace:



Throughout the year, students and staff have come together to raise money and awareness of important issues from World Mental Health Day to International Women's Day and Children in Need. Well done to the whole community for making a difference this year.



## Race for Charity 2025

By Sarah Davies, Co-Curricular Lead

Thank you so much to students, staff, and parents for all your support with the amazing Race for Charity afternoon!

I would like to give a particular thanks to our incredible PTA for funding the gladiator duel and all of the stock for the stalls that were available on the day, which makes a huge difference to our final total raised. A massive shout out must also go to our Sixth Form Office Holders for all they did on the day and in the lead up to the event. Most notably, our House Captains, Charity & Events, Sports and Technical Support Office Holders who planned, promoted and drove the whole event forward.



With all of the activities (including the incredible 1000s of skips per day in May!), stalls and donations (including GiftAid), we've collectively raised in excess of £3400 for Cancer Research UK and the Little Princess Trust. An amazing achievement! Well done to everybody who took part; your contributions and enthusiasm have made such a huge difference!

## House Tech Challenge

By Sarah Davies, Co-Curricular Lead  
Mounds of recycling were put to excellent use in our annual House Tech Challenge.

Students assembled fan-powered cars, ships designed to carry heavy loads, the tallest hats in the town, and the best fleet of paper aircrafts that Sidcot's ever seen! Students showcased their technical and creative talents and put their constructions head-to-head to see who would be crowned champion! Well done to the top performers in each event, but it's all about the overall House scores at the end of the day.



This year, East peaked in the hat design category, but North really sailed away with the overall title (puns intended, sorry)! Taking to the skies, the seas and the roads North put their heads together and returned victorious! Congratulations North House!



## Quaker Testimonies Mosaic

Visitors to the Junior School Reception will have noticed a beautiful new addition to our space: the Quaker Testimonies Mosaic, now proudly installed.

Created collaboratively by all pupils, the mosaic is a vibrant and meaningful expression of the values we hold dear at Sidcot School. This striking artwork not only brightens our entrance but also serves as a lasting testament to the strength of our community and the shared principles that guide us. Our heartfelt thanks go to the PTA for their generous support in funding this inspiring project. We hope it brings joy and reflection to all who pass through our doors.



## Epilogue

By Susanna, Quaker Elder

On the first Sunday of every month, we host our monthly 'Epilogue' meeting in the Old Library.

As is expected of a Quaker school, this is another one of our silent reflections; 'Meeting for Worship'. Such meetings consist of a group gathering, then proceeding to sit in silence together. What you do with this silence is up to you, though many choose to use it for worship, silent reflection, or to take a breather from the stress and chaos of their everyday lives.

As opposed to our usual Meeting for Worship, Epilogue doesn't give the group a prompt to think about, so the path their thoughts will take is entirely up to them. Still, everyone is encouraged to minister throughout the meeting, by standing up and voicing their thoughts. Therefore, many use the Epilogue's thirty minutes as a chance not just to reflect but also to share whatever it may be they want to share. We've had all sorts of little speeches, ranging from thoughts on the news to just a little thing that happened that same day - anything, really.

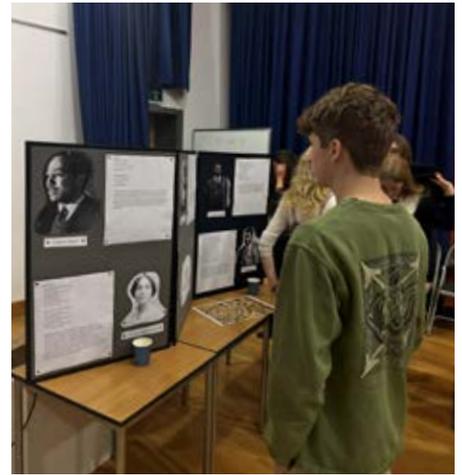


Epilogue is also voluntary, though every boarding student is required to partake at least once per School year. Still, many attend outside of this duty and even stay behind after the meeting (where biscuits, coffee, and tea are provided!!) to chat with people from outside the School and enjoy the atmosphere lightened by the cosy setup and fairy lights.

## Sustainable Cooking in Leiths

Leiths Professional Cookery students learnt to make pavlova in the summer term, a delicious treat perfect for the sunny weather!

This, however, left the team with 15 egg yolks, which they were keen to use to ensure they were cooking sustainably. The students decided to make a super high-protein pasta using all the yolks in one batch. This was then gifted to the PE department, to be turned into muscle and converted into points against Winscombe Rugby Club!



## Black History Month

To celebrate Black History Month, the African-Caribbean Society (ACS) led a series of impactful events across the School with several new members on board.

The month kicked off with a Black History Assembly, where students were educated about popular narratives within black history, shedding light on untold stories and influential figures. This helped to raise awareness and spark conversations about black culture and its contributions to society.

Year 7 and 8 students attended a talk on microaggressions, followed up with a quiz allowing students to reflect on what they had learned and reinforce their understanding of the subject. One of the highlights

of the month was a collaborative exhibition on the Harlem Renaissance. The exhibition served as a testament to the power of artistic expression in black history and was a visual celebration of African-American cultural achievements. In the final week, the ACS wrapped up the month with a lively Sixth Form quiz hosted by members of the society. The quiz tested students' knowledge of black history, culture, and current events, bringing a fun and competitive spirit to the conclusion of this year's Black History Month activities.

In the Junior School, students participated in a Chapati cooking session led by the ACS, which blended cultural exploration with practical skills. This was followed by a small assembly in which the students learned about the significance of African and Caribbean food traditions as well as Rosa Parks' impact on history.

ACS has created an inclusive and engaging environment where students across the School have had the opportunity to learn, celebrate, and reflect on the importance of black history and culture.



To mark Black History Month in Pre-School, the class celebrated Alma Thomas who was a Pre-School and Art teacher and who famously said, "Colour is Life". One of Alma Thomas' paintings is called 'Autumn Leaves Fluttering in the Breeze' which inspired the children to create their own colourful paintings.



## Dymond Speech & Prizegiving

Addressing a packed Meeting House, Annie (Year 12), Isaac (Year 12), Sophia (Year 12) and Ginny (Year 13) spoke passionately (and in many cases, by heart) on topics of their choosing in the Dymond Speech Competition.

These included, "History is Queer" (Annie), "Why AI could ruin our lives – but here's why it won't" (Isaac), "Silencing half of the species: How human gender bias has informed research in Zoology" (Sophia), and "What are you laughing at? An insight into the psychophysiology of laughter" (Ginny).

Our sincere thanks go to our three adjudicators for the Speech: Lesley Barton, Headmistress at Fairfield School; Karen Arzumanyan, Old Scholar (and prior winner of the Dymond Speech); and David Didau, Former English Teacher turned Author. It was agreed by all that theirs was not an easy job, as the calibre of entries this year was exceptionally high. Our sincere congratulations go to Annie for winning this year's competition.



Watch all of the amazing speeches here:



This year's prizes were distributed following the Dymond Speech, with many students throughout the Senior School celebrating their successes.

## Academic Enrichment Showcase

The Arts Centre Foyer was buzzing with excitement at our Academic Enrichment Showcase!

This annual event allows our Scholars and Lead Learners to display and present the exciting projects they've been immersed in to their fellow students, staff and parents. This year, there was a vibrant array of displays alongside some incredible performances from our athletes, musicians, and actors, providing a truly amazing insight into

the depth and breadth of learning happening across our subjects.

Following on from the Showcase, Academic Scholars in Years 7 to 9 delivered presentations on their Higher Project Qualification (HPQ). We were so impressed by the curiosity and diversity shown in the topics chosen and the quality of independent learning on display from our youngest students.

Check out some of this fantastic work for yourself and find out which presentation won top place from our panel of judges here:





## J1 and J2 African Culture Session

Recently, J1 and J2 had a wonderful opportunity to explore African culture.

Natasha Oryang led an engaging session where children learned about African traditions such as naming customs, greetings and their spoken language in Uganda (Luo). Furthermore, the children had the wonderful opportunity to play traditional African musical instruments. Natasha's personal stories and warm presentation

brought these cultural elements to life. We were also delighted to welcome members of the Senior School Afro Caribbean Society. This session sparked curiosity and excitement, giving the children a broader perspective on African heritage. Lots of questions were asked and all children were fully immersed in their learning. To complete the experience,

the children had the chance to taste Mandazi, a sweet and fluffy East African donut. It was a big hit and a delicious way to connect with East African cuisine. A huge thank you to Natasha Oryang and the Senior School Afro Caribbean Society for making African culture so accessible and memorable for J1 and J2.



## J2 Art, Be an Architect!

In Art lessons, J2 explored architects and architecture.

They learnt that architects take inspiration from the environment, colour, shape, and line to help them design exciting structures. They studied a number of amazing buildings, like the Taj Mahal, the Great Pyramids and the Burj Khalifa and sketched the parts that inspired them and made them say "wow"! They then used the 'design through making' technique to build their very own pieces of architecture.

## A Level Fashion Photography Workshop

Sixth Form Photography students received a visit from Old Scholar, Pete Martin. Pete shared a presentation about his career and pathway that led him to become Art Director at Soccer Bible.

Students were given the opportunity to ask questions about his career and current job before being set a practical challenge. All students worked incredibly hard to respond to the brief to shoot in the style of Pete Martin and planned some exciting fashion shoots that then took place over the School grounds. On return they took part in a group critique and received feedback on their outcomes. The whole experience left the photography room buzzing with excitement. Students loved the realistic fast turn around and excelled under the time pressure! We hope to have Pete back in the future!



## Year 8 Drama | Clowning Around!

Year 8 dived headfirst into the world of slapstick, clowning, and circus skills—bringing energy and laughter to the Drama Studio! They showcased their new found talents in wildly entertaining performances packed with comedic chaos. From expertly timed stage combat to banana gags, their creativity knew no bounds. Some even went the extra mile, bringing in their own circus equipment, face paint, and props.



## Year 12 Dive Into the World of Punchdrunk

Our Year 12 A Level students explored the methods and techniques of the renowned theatre company Punchdrunk.

After being introduced to the world of site-specific and immersive theatre, the students developed their own installations and performances, completely transforming the Drama Studio using light, sound, texture, and space.

Each student created a unique and atmospheric environment, inviting us to step inside and interact with their worlds. As an active audience, we explored each space and engaged with the performances, which resulted in lively discussions about the meanings and ideas behind them. It was an exciting and imaginative exploration of immersive theatre, and a fantastic demonstration of the students' creativity and collaboration.

## Taster Violin Sessions

We're thrilled that our J2 students enjoyed the chance to try out the violin, giving them the perfect introduction to this beautiful instrument.

We hope to see many of our young musicians take up this instrument in the future!



## Year 7 Technology Carousel In Action!

Our Year 7 students have been learning a whole host of new skills this year as part of their 'carousel' of Technology lessons, where classes rotate between DT, Computing, Food Technology and Textiles.

By taking this approach, our students can develop technical skills while still experiencing a broad range of subjects. Observing the Carousel in action in the Spring Term, we saw:

In **Product Design**, students mastered the core hand tools and equipment to manufacture unique acrylic clocks inspired by the bold and vibrant Memphis Design movement.



In **Food**, they baked delicious carrot muffins, showcasing their culinary skills.



In **Computing**, students added the final touches to their impressive digital animations.



In **Textiles**, students amazed us with their practical and creative drawstring 'bags for life', which they'll be able to use for years to come.



We love seeing the creativity, effort, and innovation that Year 7 students bring to each project. Well done, everyone!



Here are photos from some of the other History projects over the year.



## Year 7 History Project | Witches

Year 7 students were given a summer project to study witches in Britain and around the world during the 14th - 17th centuries.

The students were given a selection of tasks from which they could choose, and then they presented their work in class. Chloe decided to write a poem, 'A Witch is a Witch', which reflects the lesson on Matthew Hopkins, the Witchfinder General.

Matthew Hopkins was active as a self-proclaimed "Witchfinder General" during the English Civil Wars, mainly in East Anglia, between 1644 and 1647. He became infamous for his witch hunts and the methods he employed to identify and prosecute alleged witches.

Read her excellent poem here:





## What have our Geographers been up to this year?

Enjoying the amazing weather as they completed their fieldwork!

Our Year 13s were first up, spending three days in Swanage to research and collect data for their independent enquiries, really putting all the skills they've learnt over the years to the test. Year 12 followed suite in the Summer Term, heading off-site on their own residential trip to Slapton Sands, working on their Non-exam assessments and Internal Assessments.

Meanwhile our Year 7s stayed on-site to develop their fieldwork skills within our beautiful 150 acre campus. Students explored a variety of data collection techniques, conducted environmental quality surveys, and completed detailed field sketches, creatively presenting their findings back in the classroom. It's wonderful to see our students making the most of the incredible natural resources available at Sidcot, truly enhancing their learning.

## Forest School

In Forest School, J6 further developed their topic knowledge on the rainforest.

They learnt about the rainforest habitat and the adaptations of the insects that live there. They then had the task of inventing their own insects out of clay, using items from the forest floor. The insect designs demonstrated how they had adapted these to the environment.



## How many teeth does a Giant African Land Snail have?\*

We'll give you a clue – it's more than you might think!

If you'd like to know, ask J3 pupils, who were captivated by the visit of our friends from Noah's Ark Zoo Farm. The team brought with them giant cockroaches as well as the snails for pupils to learn about their habitat, fun key facts and, if they wanted, to hold them.

These visits are a wonderful and practical way to bring Science and Geography learning to life – not to mention being lots of fun! They will be writing about the things that they have learnt in their classes later in the week. Another favourite fact (recounted by Gabriel, J3) was that, in the wild, giant cockroaches have been known to eat bat guano and dead animals. Yum!

\*In case you're very curious – it's 14,000 or more!

## Year 7 Slime Wellies

Year 7 have been working on a fun Maths project learning about 3D shapes.

They have been working out the volume of 3D shapes, then modelling their feet as 3D shapes, and finally filling wellies with slime so that it reaches the top of the welly but does not spill out. It has been lots of fun, if a bit messy!



## Year 7 & 8 | Shakespeare Scenes in the Gardens

By Kate Jones, Teacher of English, and Tom Church, Deputy Head of English

In the Spring Term, students in English stepped onto the stage or, rather, the lawn, to perform a series of Shakespeare’s most powerful monologues in our beautiful gardens.

With sunshine and birdsong as their backdrop, Year 7 brought key moments of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ to life, including Oberon and Titania arguing, Helena waking Lysander in the woods and Puck delivering his farewell speech from a woody glade. Meanwhile, Year 8 menaced the shrubbery with excerpts from ‘Macbeth’, including the witches casting fearsome spells and Lady Macbeth and Macbeth arguing. Students also delivered iconic speeches from ‘Romeo & Juliet’ including the romantic wonder of Romeo’s, “But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?” Each performance showcased the richness of Shakespeare’s language and the talented oracy of our students. A huge well done to all!



Watch a highlight reel of some of the performances here:



## Onatti Theatre Visit | La Primera Cita

We were thrilled to welcome the Onatti Theatre Company into School again this year. A duo of Spanish actors performed a 50-minute interactive play, all in Spanish, for our students in Year 8 to Year 12. It was fun and entertaining, with lots of opportunities for students to join in and shout out in Spanish! Great listening practice for all!



## Year 12 BTEC Business | Team Building

By Steph Tidey, Outdoor Learning Coordinator

For their Team Building unit, we took Year 12 BTEC Business students caving.



We split them into two teams and asked them each to navigate and lead sections of the cave whilst undertaking some challenges. After kitting up at School, we drove to Burrington Combe and went to Goatchurch Cavern. For most students, this was a new experience and one that filled them with uncertainty. On entering the cave, the sight of cave spiders and bats left some of the group a little uneasy, but as time progressed, the group started to bond really well. By the end of the trip, spirits were high and everyone had completed all the challenges set. It was so lovely to see how supportive they were to one another and how their communication skills shone through in each situation. Well done everyone!

## World Book Day

Senior School students celebrated World Book Day by completing a variety of challenges based in the Library. There were famous character dingbats to solve, villainy quizzes, dressing up and even a treasure hunt organised by Year 7 students Ruby and Jessica, that led to a surprise appearance from Queen Titania in the gardens!



## STEMterprise Week

Every year, our Junior School classes take part in STEMterprise week, exploring a new area of Science and relating this to real-world application, ultimately creating products to sell at their STEMterprise Fair, raising money for charity! Highlights included Early Years developing their woodwork skills to create products, J4 doing market research to make the most delicious and sustainable smoothies, and J5 learning all about the cheese-making process, from visiting a local farm to a factory to see the process in action!



## Senior School Science Week

By Tamara Reed, Head of Science

The Science Faculty was buzzing with excitement as we celebrated Science Week with fun, prizes, and charity!



Each day, students tackled challenging and fun escape rooms for a chance to win sweets and prizes, making it a week full of adventure, teamwork, and problem-solving. The grand finale was a cake sale in The Hub, where over £200 was raised for our chosen charity, 'The Association for Women in Science'.

Students who participated in all three days of the escape room challenges were rewarded with a delightful Science plushie keyring. The cake sale featured an array of creative and delicious entries, with Harry T and Natasha B emerging as the winners of the 'Best Cake Bake' prize and Thom D in Year 7 runner up. The winners of the cake bake earned themselves £10 hub vouchers - well deserved!

We couldn't have had such a successful Science Week without the hard work and dedication of our Science Captains - Sophia, Lois, Ollie, and Ethan - who helped organize these fantastic events. A big thank you also goes to our Science Lead Learners, Ila, Eleanor, Sam, Pip, Alana, and Michael, who did an amazing job hosting the Junior School during their STEMterprise week. Their efforts in mentoring and inspiring younger students were very appreciated.



## Cashmore Poetry Competition

We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part in the Cashmore Poetry Competition this year - it takes real courage to stand up on stage and recite a poem in a different language. Our winners this year were:

### J4 GERMAN

- 1st place: Rafe
- 2nd place: Emily & Lottie
- 3rd place: Eleanor S

### J5 SPANISH

- 1st place: Ted & Tait
- 2nd place: Freddie & James
- 3rd place: Zac

### J6 FRENCH

- 1st place: Alberto
- 2nd place: Eloise & Sophia
- 3rd place: Ben, Josh & James

### Y7 FRENCH

- 1st place: George, Mickey & Robin
- 2nd place: Olivia & Chloe
- 3rd place: William, Seamus & Archie

Congratulations to all participants — you made this year’s competition truly memorable!

## Sidcot’s Model United Nations (SIMUN)

By Isaac, Jodis, Anastasia, Toby, Sophia and Philip

**SIMUN visited Queen’s College, Taunton, on Saturday 16 November.**

We had a fantastic day debating as our assigned countries, Libya and Kazakhstan, and everyone made great contributions. There were over 300 students making it a brilliant day for meeting people and learning how MUN works. It was a great day to increase our confidence about how the real United Nations functions and to practice debating!



### Model United Nations Conference, Bristol

The Sidcot team were also hosted this year by Bristol Grammar School and joined 23 other schools participating in BGSMUN.

Sidcot students represented the delegations of Mexico and Bolivia in a series of historical committees. These included debating resolutions surrounding peace in Vietnam, reactions to apartheid in South Africa and the break-up of Yugoslavia. For Lois, James and Natasha, this was their first experience of an MUN conference. James “enjoyed voting for the different clauses and discussing issues with delegates from other schools”, and Lois particularly enjoyed the General Assembly at the end of the day, which she found “inspiring” to see all the delegates brought together and engage in lively debate. Old timers Anastasia, Sophia and Isaac were keen to discuss how we could organise our own SIMUN conference. Watch this space!

## Intermediate Stretch & Challenge Conference

On Tuesday, 24 June, 12 Academic Scholars in Years 7, 8, and 9 travelled to the Intermediate Stretch & Challenge Conference at Leweston School in Dorset. The conference was organised by Academy Learning, who organise academic conferences around the world, and was hosted by its founder, Julie Arliss, an Oxford lecturer.



Read all about it here:



## Year 7 Transition Work | The Clockwork Conspiracy

By Jess D-K, Year 7

Over the summer holidays, the new Year 7 students joining Sidcot Senior School were asked to read a book by Sam Sedgman called *The Clockwork Conspiracy*.

This interesting novel is about a boy on a quest to save time itself. As well as reading the book, the soon to be Year 7 students were expected to do one of the following tasks: make a model of an invention related to time; write a letter to the Prime Minister persuading them to use their power to change the world for the better; create a graphic novel about a character who travels through time to make a positive change. Above are some of the other pieces of work created by students. We hope you enjoy them.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, and especially to this year's winners: **Millie B** | **Lily P** | **Ben B**

The teachers' picks for each category were:

- **Ruby E** (book review)
- **Joe C** (graphic novel) & **Chloe C** (story)
- **Thomas R** (letter to MP)
- **Michael P** & **Isaac J** (3-D model)

## The Golden Road | History Scholar Talk

Year 7 Historians had been researching the Silk Road as part of their topic on medieval China.

During one of their lessons, Michael suggested that the Silk Road needed rethinking and that Historians should focus more on the Golden Road based around India. Michael was asked if he would design a presentation on the Golden Road to share his knowledge with his fellow Historians. It was arranged for Michael to give a talk to the students on Wednesday, 25 June, during lunchtime. From the start of the talk, it was clear

that Michael had taken the time to plan and research his topic on the Golden Road carefully. This was evident in the depth of detail and historical understanding he demonstrated when explaining why History teachers should reconsider their approach to the Silk Road. Moreover, his ability to respond to every question with well-chosen and relevant historical evidence was truly impressive. He certainly has given the History department extra reading for the summer!





## An Evening at... Cabaret!

The Drama Department lit up the evening with a glitzy yet intimate Cabaret event, celebrating the incredible talents of our LAMDA students.

The evening offered a fantastic opportunity for students to share their exam pieces with a warmly receptive audience - ranging from powerful Greek tragedy to the playful wit of Roald Dahl, ensuring something for everyone to enjoy.

We were especially thrilled to welcome our J6 Lead Learners to the stage for the first time, where they confidently showcased their developing talents. They should feel immensely proud and are already looking forward to future Cabaret Evenings.

In addition to an array of compelling monologues and duologues, the evening featured musical numbers, improvisations, and original devised pieces performed by our Senior School Drama Lead Learners and Scholars.

It was a truly joyful celebration of performance and creativity!

## Circus Workshop

On Friday 13 June, our Drama Lead Learners, Scholars, and GCSE and A Level groups were treated to an exciting and daring workshop led by three incredible circus acrobats.

Throughout the session, students participated in tumbling, static balance, and strength-based exercises. As the workshop progressed, they moved on to lift work, using one another to balance, build height, and create striking shapes. It was fantastic to witness the energy, focus, and teamwork in the room, not to mention how inspiring it was to see students from different year groups collaborating so confidently.

We can't wait to see the Drama Lead Learners and Scholars passing on these new techniques to others in their lessons!



View the Scholar's Concert here:



## Music Scholars' Lunchtime Concert

By Olivia, Year 8 Scholar

On Friday 6 June, a Scholars' Concert was held in the Concert Hall.

A range of music – from piano to singing – was performed by many talented students at the School. Taking place during lunch, the performance gave the Music Scholars a chance to showcase their hard work and talent. It included a variety of instruments and was both entertaining and inspirational.

## Stargazing in The Observatory

By Pip, Year 11 Science Lead Learner

As a Science Lead Learner, I very much enjoyed helping to host a planet and stargazing evening.

The event was held at the School, which is fortunate to have its own Observatory. Thankfully, the weather conditions were favourable, and we were able to observe the night sky clearly. Using the newly recalibrated telescope, we saw objects in the sky, managing to find, locate, and gaze upon three objects: the Moon, Jupiter (and three of its Moons!), and Orion's Nebula. These were all amazing to see!

As the Observatory can only hold ten people, attendees took turns looking through the telescope. While waiting outside, the black night sky was full of planets and constellations; it was fun and interesting to locate the nebula planets in the sky that we had just been looking at through the telescope. The experience has informed and complimented the current Astrophysics module that we are studying in Physics.

I have very much enjoyed the whole process, from being taught how to use the Observatory and telescope leading up to the event to sharing the observation experience with others. Seeing objects within the night sky magnified was certainly an amazing experience and one that shall stay with me forever.



## Sixth Form Textiles Workshop

We were delighted to welcome OS Jiazhen Xie (Class of 2017) back into School to lead a series of workshops for our Sixth Form Textiles students.

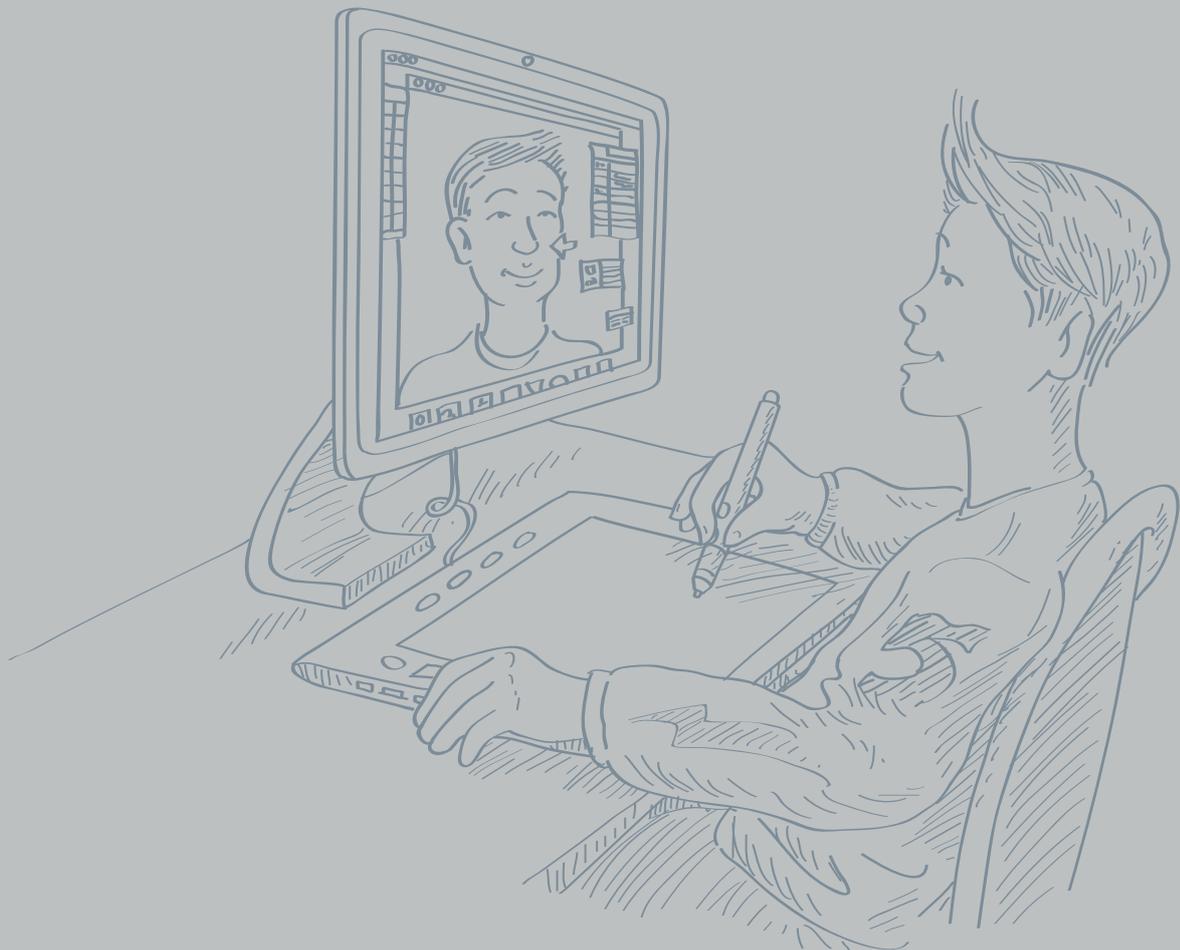
She shared with us her incredible career journey since leaving School, including gaining a coveted undergraduate place at Central Saint Martins School of Art, followed by a Masters in Brand Management at London College of Fashion. She has also recently had her work appear in Vogue and is currently shortlisted for a Burberry award for a project using Recycled Materials.



Thank you so much Jiazhen for sharing your expertise and incredible story - yours is a life certainly being lived adventurously! We look forward to watching your career mixing the commercial and creative continue to blossom.

## > Being Yourself

At Sidcot, we are proud of the part we play in nurturing students to become authentic and insightful young people who are skilled in self-awareness and value their emotional lives.



# IB Art Exhibition

Congratulations to Franci, Daria, and Adrian for putting together a very impressive Art Exhibition showcasing their IB artwork over the last two years!



Read about the thought processes behind their work and see their artwork up close here:



## A Level & GCSE Art & Design Showcase



The end-of-year Art & Design Exhibition 2025 was a resounding success, offering an inspiring look into the extraordinary talent and passion of our students.

This annual showcase highlighted the exceptional quality of work across the Art, Textiles and Design & Technology departments, celebrating creativity, innovation, and technical skill.

Read all about the showcase and view all the artwork here:



# Music performances

Throughout the academic year, our students display their musical talent in front of their peers during assembly and gain great practice for shows and concerts! This is always an enjoyable way to start the week.

Enjoy some of their performances here:



## Lunchtime Concert

By Annie, Year 12 All Rounder Scholar

Sidcot's lunchtime was filled with music as a number of our singers joined Rachael Cooper's choir, Cantio, for a charming and fantastic recital.

The event was intimate, with around 30 audience members and beautiful lighting cast over the grand piano, helping to ease nerves for some of the performers. The concert brought together vocalists of all ages, ranges, and experience levels, allowing each singer to share pieces they have been developing in their lessons.

Among the many memorable moments, two performances stood out for me - both drawn from the beloved musical *Les Misérables*. Charlotte (Year 9) delivered a heartfelt rendition of "On My Own," while Misty (Year 10) captivated the audience with her moving interpretation of "I Dreamed a Dream".

Over the past couple of months, Cantio have been working on an extremely complex piece written by Robert Latham, "Were You There". Wednesday marked our first performance of this unaccompanied, four-part arrangement, and we are very proud of how it went. We look forward to polishing it further.

Check out the recital here:



## Junior School Virtual Concert

Enjoy our Junior School Virtual Concert, showing the developing skill and talent of our young musicians. A huge congratulations and well done to the pupils who took part!

Check out the performance here:



# Colours Of My Life | Spring Concert

By Daisy, Year 10 Music Scholar

This year's Spring Concert was a fantastic night of performance. The theme, 'Colours of My Life', meant that every piece either had a colour in the title or created a sense of colour through the music.

There was a great mix of group performances from Concert Group and Jazz Band, as well as some amazing solos. Highlights included 'Over the Rainbow' and 'By the Sea', but for me, Grace's performance of 'There's a Fine, Fine Line' and Pip's violin solo of 'Black Eyes' really stood out.

For the past two years, we've had guest performers from the Junior School, and this year was no different. We welcomed back Eloise on flute and a new performer, Eli, who played the EastEnders theme on trumpet.

One of the best parts of the night for me was performing with the Sidcot Singers, where Cantare, Alpha Male, and Intermezzo came together for songs such as 'Brown Eyed Girl' and 'Golden Slumbers/Carry That Weight'.

It was a brilliant evening filled with so much talent, and I'm sure many of us can't wait for the next one!



Check out the highlights here:








## The Gothic Gathering

Brave souls gathered on an Autumn night dreary for an evening of dramatic, literary and culinary delights.

The Drama Lead Learners and Scholars transformed into contorting circus performers, the witches from Macbeth and even Macbeth himself, who claims to have seen daggers floating in the Head's office!

An English classroom became a spine-tingling toy shop with a terrifying toymaker. The corridors of Sidcot were haunted by ghosts, zombies and deathly brides who led the audience through the Old Library, Drawing Room and Hub as English Lead Learners thrilled with spooky tales and chilling poetry. The grand finale took place in the Quad, where a fire pit blazed to the sound of drums and the sawing of bone.

Students from the Leith's Academy served a wide variety of delicious horrors, including blood-red drinks in test tubes and canapés made with bugs. Thank you to all our wonderful staff and students who made the night such a spooky success.

## What a Knight!

Pupils from J3 to J6 dazzled audiences with their end-of-term production, *What a Knight!*, held in the Large Meeting House.

It was fantastic to witness the children's energy and confidence on stage. They fully embraced their roles with spirit and enthusiasm, delivering outstanding performances in both singing and acting. This year, we were particularly struck by the subtle moments – the thoughtful expressions, the quiet gestures, and the unwavering focus even when not centre stage – all of which reflected their deep commitment to the production. A heartfelt thank you to all the staff who supported the children in preparing for the show, and to the families who came along to cheer them on. A special mention must also go to our talented Year 12 students, who expertly managed the lighting and sound; thank you for helping to bring the performance to life.



## A Midsummer Night's Dream

J5 has been busy bringing Shakespeare to life as part of their English and Music unit, rehearsing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Junior School amphitheatre.

The students have thrown themselves into their roles with great enthusiasm, learning lines, exploring characterisation and developing stage presence. They gave a magical performance to the J3 and J4 classes, who were thoroughly entertained by the mischievous fairies, confused lovers and comical mechanicals.

The highlight of the performance was undoubtedly the incredible costumes, which added a splash of colour and authenticity to the production. We are extremely grateful to Fairfield School for their generous donation of these costumes, which helped transform our young actors into characters from Shakespeare's enchanted forest.



**J5's commitment and creativity has been truly impressive and we look forward to seeing how their Shakespeare journey continues to flourish! Check out the highlights here:**



## Lord of The Flies

On Wednesday 12 March, the entire Year 7 cohort took to the stage to bring *Lord of the Flies* to life in a dynamic performance.

With all three drama classes uniting, the Drama Studio buzzed with anticipation and nervous excitement. Over the past five weeks, the students have worked with dedication and creativity to devise their own sections of the play, capturing the intensity, survival instincts, and raw emotion of William Golding's classic novel. Their hard work culminated in an unforgettable performance in front of a packed audience, showcasing their talent, confidence and collaboration. We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 students for embracing the challenge, stepping out of their comfort zones, and truly living adventurously on stage.





## Tuesday | KS3 Play

By Ebba Scherer, Head of Drama

Seventeen students from Years 7 to 9 took part in a fantastic adaptation of *Tuesday* by Alison Carr, impressing audiences with their incredible professionalism and commitment.

They worked on this production during their 2-hour PASS sessions during the Spring and Summer terms. The cast delivered a highly physical, one-hour ensemble piece, where they all had to remain on stage and work together throughout. Through thought-provoking duologues and fast-paced physical theatre sequences, the students transformed the Drama Studio into a chaotic, fractured world with other calm moments of emotional reflection. We are very proud of the cast and the creativity, discipline, and dedication they have shown throughout this process!

Thank you to Lois, a co-director in Year 12, and our student Tech Team, which led on lighting and audio support.



## Antigone | The Sixth Form Play

To end a year of fantastic productions, Sixth Form students performed Sophocles' Greek tragedy *Antigone*.

This student-led production was brought together in just four weeks by Emily W, who directed with clear vision and creativity in her innovative adaptation of the 441 BCE play, reimaged in a 1940s setting.

The cast delivered a sophisticated and gritty portrayal, bringing intensity and energy to the Drama Studio. Year 12 and 13 students transformed the space into a world of post-war tension, moral conflict, and political unrest. Through stylised movement, atmospheric lighting, and compelling performances, the ensemble captured the timeless themes of duty, defiance, and fate with remarkable maturity and power. It was a striking reminder of what young people can achieve when given creative freedom. A huge congratulations to all involved.

## Alice In Wonderland

By Ebba Scherer, Head of Drama

Wow! What a wonderfully bonkers story to bring to life on stage.



From a directorial perspective, this production has been an absolute feast for the imagination. With a cast as fabulous as this one, no idea felt too big or challenging! From the sassy Queen of Hearts to the playful Tweedledum and Tweedledee, we were swept into Wonderland by these beloved characters, brought to life by our incredibly talented students from Years 7 to 13. A humongous thank you to every student, cast member, and crew member who has dedicated their time and energy to this production.

Read all about this fantastically wacky show, including student reviews, here:



Or watch the full show here:



## I Can & I Am Bus By Olivia and Sarah, Year 8

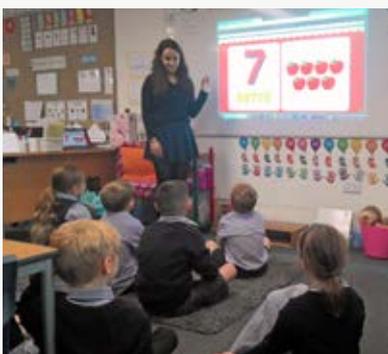
Year 8 was privileged to experience the “I Can, and I Am Bus”. It was a recycled double-decker London bus that had been converted into a transportable activity centre that travels to many schools, including ours.

We started off our day by splitting into two groups, one group going to the top floor and the other to the bottom. On the bottom floor, we cooked pizzas, which were delicious. After the pizzas were cooked, we went up to the top floor and spent about 10 minutes eating our pizzas, which were delicious, before having a supportive chat with our helper, who was called Rachel.

Rachel talked about how self-belief is like a balloon and that we need to learn to bounce back from mistakes in life. If we learned to inflate our balloon more, we would easily be able to bounce back from our mistakes and carry on. We talked about who we wanted to be when we were older and our first step to achieving it. We talked about what we were grateful for and where we thought was home to us. Towards the end, we picked

a few words that we would use to describe ourselves and then picked a few words to describe other people in our group. This experience was heart warming to find out what other people thought of you and definitely changed our perspective of people we weren't necessarily close to. Overall, the whole experience taught us a great lesson on how having a positive self-belief can create a better mind-space and different ways that we can achieve this. We all loved this amazing experience!

At the end of their experience, students filled out a survey, rating the bus visit an average of 4.88/5. 88% of students said they would rate their self-belief as 'better' after coming on the bus. Thank you, James Shone and team, for visiting and spending time with students, parents, and staff over the last week!



## International Languages Week

International Languages Week is the perfect time to celebrate the diversity of our community.

On Monday and Wednesday, our Languages Captain and International Head of School led our assembly with a game show for the students and a song performed by our Sidcot International Choir. At lunchtimes, students had the chance to come along to fun Chinese, Russian and Italian lessons. On Wednesday lunchtime we held a Multilingual Fair, where students from other countries had stations and non-native students were invited to go around each to learn some basic greetings and facts.

Our J1 and J2 students also enjoyed some lessons in Italian, Portuguese, German and Russian taught by Sixth Form students, which featured games and songs. Our Y10 and Y12 students studying Spanish had a Flamenco workshop, while our Y9 students took part in an international quiz, and our Y8 students undertook the Linguascope challenge. Our Y7 students were treated to a French banquet, and on Thursday lunchtime, members of the Afro-Caribbean Society put on an African dance session in the Quad. The week concluded with all staff having a go at speaking in another language and an International World Cup 5-a-side Football Tournament.



## Chinese Study Tour

In the Spring Term, J5 were pleased to welcome a group of Chinese students on a study tour into their class for 10 days to experience life in a British school.

It was a wonderful opportunity for cultural exchange and learning, benefiting both our students and our guests. The Junior School particularly enjoyed the J5 assembly on Lunar New Year; to be able to hear about first-hand experiences is so valuable in gaining a deeper understanding. Such experiences highlight our commitment to fostering international-mindedness and building global connections.



## Senior School pupil shares his experience of Ramadan

In RE, J5 were visited by a Senior School pupil to explain the Islamic practice of Ramadan.

Fesal spoke to the pupils about his experiences of fasting between sunrise and sunset and shared details about his favourite treats during Iftar, the evening meal. He also explained that the first week of the month of Ramadan is always the hardest, but that the whole experience is fulfilling. J5 found it fascinating to watch Fesal write in Arabic script, and they thoroughly enjoyed asking Fesal about his day to day practices of life as a Muslim at Sidcot.



## International Holiday Celebrations

In boarding, we have celebrated a whole host of international holidays that truly reflect our international community and help our students feel at home. Here are just a few of the celebrations we've held this year:

- Pancake Day
- Easter
- Lunar New Year
- Mid Autumn Festival
- Holi
- Eurovision



# Christmas at Sidcot

The Junior School took to the stage for their much-anticipated Nativity.

This event was a highlight for all, showcasing the incredible singing and acting abilities of our youngest pupils. Seeing children stand confidently before a large audience was truly heart-warming. Every child shone, and the support from staff and parents played a crucial role in making it a success. A huge thank you goes to everyone involved for their dedication, and to the children, who amazed us with their voices, acting, and enthusiasm.



## Christmas in Boarding

Christmas at Sidcot started with a sprinkling of snow! We decided to keep the momentum going by putting up our Christmas decorations, transforming The Refectory into a magical Winter Wonderland! Our boarders went one step further to get into the Christmas spirit, heading to Bristol to enjoy the Christmas Markets and a festive meal. We decorated our boarding houses to fill them with as much Christmas joy as possible, held Christmas parties, did lots of Christmas crafts and baking and, of course, held a big Secret Santa!



See all the photos here:

# SIDCOT'S GOT TALENT

By Sarah Davies, Co-Curricular Lead

Every year I am blown away by the incredible talent shown on an afternoon that's become a highlight of our School calendar!

Performing to so many people at such a professional standard is difficult at any age, and our young people take it all in their stride.



To see such talent across a huge variety of acts and styles, from musical numbers to mountain biking and everything in between, is mind-blowing.

Well done again to everyone who took part and, in particular, to this year's champions!

- **Zuzia S**, singing *Runaway* by Aurora
- **Akustix**; Cara E, Amelie H, Orlagh B, Esme D, Peter D, Felix S, Charlie H, performing *Riptide* by Vance Joy
- **Thom D** performing his poem '*How High I Climb*'

**Sidcot School House Spirit Awards** as voted for by our students and staff:

- Years 7-9: Callum H singing '*Thick of It*'
- Years 10-13: Kimi P & Gunes G with their drum battle!

## Christmas Carol Concert By Cara E, Year 8

The Christmas Concert was a great way to begin the festive season at Sidcot.

The night was filled with beautiful singers, amazing soloists, multiple bands and more! Unfortunately, as the audience was settling down, we heard the red weather alerts go off from everyone's phones! However, we continued the concert and began with a wonderful solo of *Once in Royal David's City* by Albert C in Year 8. After some congregational carols involving the audience, we were able to listen to the stunning voices of the Cantare girls' choir, the Year 7 Intermezzo choir, the incredible sound of Cantio, Jazz Band, Concert Group, Akustix, and, of course, the many soloists involved. As well as the music, we also had some Christmas readings, such as *The Grinch* and Bible stories. The concert was wonderful and enjoyed by all. Thank you to Mr Woolley and the Music department for a great evening!



Watch the full concert here:



Or check out the highlights here:



## Christmas Truce

The Christmas Truce was an unofficial ceasefire during WW1 on Christmas Day 1914. Soldiers from opposing sides, British and German troops, stopped fighting and emerged from their trenches. They sang *Silent Night*, exchanged gifts and greetings and played football. It was a rare moment of peace during the conflict. J1 to J6 joined staff to re-enact this memorable and emotional moment of peace.

## Charity Christmas Decoration Sale

Our Year 10 Design & Technology students manufactured Christmas decorations to raise money for Save the Children, a charity helping to improve the lives of children worldwide. Working together in groups, they used their learning about batch production - an essential technique used in industry - to create ten identical decorations per group. It was lovely to see the students enthusiastically selling their creations ahead of the holidays. A huge thank you to everyone who supported their efforts by buying the decorations and contributing to this important cause!



## Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

To celebrate the season, the whole School came together to enjoy a delicious Christmas lunch kitted out in our favourite Christmas jumpers! This special treat was the perfect way to bring the Autumn Term to a close, staying true to our Quaker values by making a difference in raising money for Save The Children as part of their annual Christmas Jumper Day. A huge thank you to the Catering Team for putting together such a phenomenal lunch and bringing the community together, and a shout out to SLT for getting involved in clearing up and setting tables!

## > Surprising Yourself

At Sidcot, we give students the confidence to stretch themselves, safe in the knowledge that they will be encouraged every step of the way.



## Back-To-Back Unbeaten Basketball Seasons

Our basketball team has had an incredible two years, achieving an impressive record of 25 games played and 25 games won! They concluded this year's season with a thrilling match against Clifton College.



Read all about their amazing season and hear from Captain, Alex K, and Coach Smilevich here:



## British Triathlon Inter-Regional Championships

Killy (Year 8) represented the South West at the British Triathlon Inter-Regional Championships. He was selected earlier in the year, having come 2nd overall in the South West Series (a set of six triathlon events, each scoring points for the overall series' total). Despite feeling unwell leading up to the Nationals, Killy rallied on Saturday, and managed to compete. He managed a very respectable 4th place in the "B Final", and his overall time puts him at around 20th in the whole of Great Britain. He also competed in the Mixed Team Relay where the South West placed the highest out of all of the regions!



## National Girls' Under 16 Cup Final | Iona's Rugby Success

A huge congratulations to Iona and her team, Dings Crusaders, who won the 2024/25 league, undefeated, completing the season with a convincing 43-10 win against Sandal RUFC.

Iona has been nominated for the England Player Development Group U18s, and will be a ball girl at the 2025 Women's World Cup.

Commenting on her brilliant season, Director of Sport Matt Lloyd said: "It always brightens my day to hear about the successes of the students and even more to see Iona at the top of her game. Brilliant! What a try too – POWER!"

## Saskia's Dance Success!

Year 8 student Saskia had a super busy Spring half term - two dance festivals in one week! She danced 22 times in solos, duets, quartets, and groups and medalled with 21 out of 22 dances! She was also the winner of the modern championship section and won the trophy for the classical aggregate (highest score across three genres - ballet, lyrical, and character). Well done, Saskia. Amazing work!



## Boys' Cricket



### ► Somerset County Cricket

Freddie, J5, has been awarded a place for the 3rd year running in the Somerset County Cricket Pathway. For the past two years he has been playing with boys a year up in the U10 squad, and after a successful summer of County matches where he captained, kept wicket, bowled and opened the batting (top scoring with 83 not out) he has been invited to join the U11 Somerset squad. Well done Freddie!



### ► North Somerset Small Schools Tournament

A huge well done to our Junior School boys' cricket team who were successful in winning the North Somerset Small Schools Tournament. The boys were incredible!

## Athletics

### ► North Somerset Indoor Athletics Championship

Amazing performances from a group of young people who tried their hardest and supported each other throughout. As a result of our stellar performances, the Year 8 girls came 4th, Year 7 girls came 2nd and Year 7 and 8 boys WON!



### ► North Somerset Sports Hall Athletics Finals

We enjoyed a super evening at the North Somerset Sports Hall Athletics Finals with the Year 7 girls' and boys' teams and the Year 8 boys. We had some brilliant results, including our team results:

- Year 7 girls | 3rd place
- Year 7 boys | 2nd place (qualifying for the area final!)
- Year 8 boys | 3rd place

Well done, everyone!



## Avon Cross Country Finals

A group of Sidcot School runners set out to compete in the Avon Cross Country Finals.

The successful runners from the County Finals held before Christmas, set to compete again, were Noah and Gabriel in Year 7, Killy in Year 8, Thea in Year 10 & Tali in Year 13. It was amazing to have so many qualifiers from Sidcot School participating this year.

Up first, Noah and Gabriel both raced really well; Gabriel finished 10th and Noah 13th in a super competitive race! Killy raced next, working his way through the field from 16th in the second lap to 12th place at the finish! It was impressive to watch as he is one of the youngest in that field, with his race comprising Year 8 and 9 students combined.

In the Inter/Senior Girls, Tali went out fast and managed to hang on for 2nd in the Senior Girls category. Thea ran a similar race to Killy and worked through the field to finish 10th in the Inter Girls race, again running with students a year older and more seasoned!

This is a brilliant achievement for all Sidcot Runners, all placing in the top 13 for Avon Schools! We are very proud!



## Regional Cross Country Championships

Following on from the Avon Cross Country Finals, two Sidcot athletes qualified to represent the Avon Team at this year's South West Regional Finals event all the way down in Newquay.

Gabe and Tali wore the Avon vest on the day competing against the best runners in the South West. The course was challenging with hills and sharp turns, but the weather held out for them.



The Minor Boys' team with Gabe won! A remarkable achievement indeed and they now progress to the National Finals. Tali, in the Senior Girls' team, was 21st overall and placed 2nd in Avon; after a fall on the first steep hill, she recovered well and put in a brilliant performance!

Once again, Sidcot representing on the biggest of stages. Well done, Gabe and Tali!



## Avon Tennis

Congratulations to Peter who represented Avon Tennis at the LTA 8U County Cup event held in Southampton. The opposition counties were Berkshire, Wiltshire, Hampshire & Isle of Wight. Peter played four singles matches and two doubles. Overall Avon finished in 2nd place, very close after winners Berkshire. Well done Peter!



## North Somerset Rounders Tournament

Our U15 team represented the School at the North Somerset Rounders Tournament and finished in 2nd place!

The girls played fantastically, both in bat and field. The level of teamwork and support they displayed was commendable, and the atmosphere they created was fabulous. Well done to all the girls involved!

**Players of the match:**  
Thea, Maisie, Grace

## BSJFS National Champion

Congratulations to Olivia who won the British Show Jumping Just for Schools (BSJFS) 1.10m Individual Final at the Winter Championships at Crickland. Olivia had brilliant rounds all weekend, just missing out on the 1m final due to a shortcut being ridden a little too 'short'! She had a top three placing in the 1m/1.10m league classes - four rounds, four clears. Fantastic results from Olivia and her horse Lunar!



## International Equestrian Show Success

Olivia also competed in her first international showjumping competition at Chard International with her pony, Fairfield Gort. This was a 2\* show with many of the top names in showjumping present and tricky and challenging courses designed to test the skill of the riders. They jumped several double clears over the four day show, and ended on a high, winning the 1.15 Speed Class! Olivia has not competed at this height before and so it was a super achievement for both her and her pony!



# Sidcot Riders become County Champions!

Sidcot riders travelled to Kings Sedgemoor Equestrian Centre to compete in the Somerset County Show Jumping Qualifiers.

Riders were entered in the 80cm, 90cm, 1m and 1.10m classes. Nelly, Hattie, Charlotte, Olivia and Wilf were all entered as part of teams. Only the winning team or individual were able to qualify for the championships, so the competition was tough!

Congratulations to the 1m team who rode brilliantly to finish in 2nd place and qualify for the Hickstead Elite Show Jumping Finals in July. This was followed by Hattie winning the 1.10m (horses) class and Olivia winning the 1.10m (ponies) class, becoming County Champions!

Congratulations to all riders for another brilliant performance.



# Equestrian National Success at NSEA Championships

By Hattie, Year 12 All Rounder Scholar

The May Bank Holiday saw eight Sidcot riders, nine horses, Sidcot Team Manager (Zoe Aston) and a troop of supporting parents and family members head to Hickstead Showground for the annual National Championships. It is a huge event at a prestigious venue, so it is always a privilege to be there.

Read Hattie's full account of the event, and find out what medals Team Sidcot walked away with, here:





## Junior School Swimming Gala

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everybody who came and supported our annual Junior School Swimming Gala.

The children were incredible and showed that they are progressing extremely well. To have so many competent swimmers, at such a young age, is a real testament to their attitude to learning and the swimming teachers we have at Sidcot. Well done and congratulations to all cup winners:

- **J3** – Gabriel, Mia
- **J4** – Rafe, Emily
- **J5** – Ted, Henry, Tait, Abigail
- **J6** – Josh, Ruby

**HOUSE WINNERS – NORTH**



## Senior School Swimming Galas

It is always a pleasure to see our students 'dive right in' to the swimming gala and compete for their Houses.

It is also a pleasure seeing those swimmers who train for hours in the pool swim so effortlessly and so quickly! This year's Galas did not disappoint with stunning efforts and amazing record-breaking swims.

Check out all the times, wins, and records broken here:

## North Somerset Swimming Gala By Matt Lloyd, Director of Sport

Our team of Year 7 to Year 10 students were keen and excited about taking part in this year's County School Gala.

The best thing was that, this year, the students and the Captains of each team put the groups together



and organised the races for the swimmers; real self-management and teamwork for all.

The races were hard fought as the swimmers from Clevedon and Backwell and their respective swimming clubs were strong, but that did not stop the Sidcot Team. The Year 9 and 10 girls were super! With Thea, Eva and Meghan showing their class and years of dedication in the pool coming in a string of 1st and 2nd places including 1st place for Thea in the 50m front crawl. The Year 7 and 8 boys stormed home in 1st place in

the 4x25 medley relay with Killy and Dash putting in a super leg in the back and breast strokes respectively.

All of the swimmers put in a real shift, even those who stepped in at the final minute. It was great to see Tom creating a tidal wave as he swam in the Year 9 and 10 boys relay! It was such a brilliant day out at the pool. Final results were:

- **Year 9 & 10 Girls** – 1st
- **Sidcot Girls Overall** – 4th
- **Sidcot Boys Overall** – 4th

## Congratulations Larry | STEM Success Stories

Congratulations to Larry who recently took part in the Euclid Contest, a prestigious mathematics competition with over 25,000 participants worldwide, achieving in the top 25% of participants!

Larry has been awarded a Certificate of Distinction for his fantastic results as well as a Gold Medal. Larry also recently received a Gold Certificate in the Chemistry Olympiad (something only the top 8.2% of students receive). We're so pleased to see Larry achieving his full potential through various academic enrichment initiatives, encouraged and supported by his teachers and boarding community.



## Mathematics Challenges

In May, several of our talented J6 pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in another Maths Challenge with their Year 7 and 8 peers.

The Junior Maths Challenge is a national competition primarily aimed at students in Years 7 and 8, so for our J6 pupils to take part in this event is a remarkable accomplishment.

A special congratulations goes to Eloise and Alex, who each earned a Bronze Award, and to Toby, who achieved an impressive Silver Award, an outstanding result, especially considering they were competing against older students.

Well done to all who took part, you have represented the school with excellence and enthusiasm!

In November, several of our J5 and J6 students took part in the Primary Mathematics Challenge, a prestigious national competition that tests problem-solving skills and mathematical ability.

A total of three students earned the coveted Gold Certificate, six received Silver, and nine were awarded Bronze.

All Gold Certificate winners went on to compete in the 'Bonus Round,' held in February. This is a remarkable opportunity as out of the 60,000 students who entered the competition nationwide, only 4,500 were invited to take part in the Bonus Round. Alex, a student in J6, did fantastically, earning a Bronze Certificate! Only 2,745 students, out of the original 60,000 participants, received a Bronze Certificate in the final, making Alex's achievement even more special.



## Year 13 Biology Olympiad

Congratulations to our five Year 13 Biologists who competed in the Biology Olympiad. Over 18,000 students from 1,000 schools took part in this year's competition. Congratulations to Onyinye for achieving a Bronze Award. Well done also to Artima for achieving the Highly Commended award; Talia and Suza must also be congratulated for achieving a Commended. Well done to all the students who participated!

## Intermediate Biology Olympiad

Congratulations to our talented Year 12 Biology students who took part in this year's Intermediate Biology Olympiad, a prestigious international competition run by the Royal Society of Biology.

They joined over 17,000 students from across the globe in testing their knowledge and understanding of Biology beyond the curriculum. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, commitment, and performance in such a challenging competition, particularly Sophia who achieved a Bronze Medal, Summer and Ethan who achieved Highly Commended, and Natasha who achieved Commended.



## Linguistics Olympiad

34 students from Year 7 to Year 13 competed in the Linguistics Olympiad this year.

These were our Lead Learners and Gifted and Talented students in Languages. In Years 7 to 11, students worked collaboratively in teams to codebreak and work out linguistic problems of languages such as Fur, Armenian and Icelandic. These challenges were certainly not easy and students showed great determination, resilience, and teamwork. These may be some of the budding linguists recruited to GCHQ in the future!



## Modern Foreign Language Debate Wins!

Two teams for Chinese and one team for Spanish were sent to compete for Sidcot at the MFL debates at Clifton College.

We're pleased to share that all teams walked away victorious! Congratulations to Jacob and Stass who represented our Spanish speakers, and Michelle, Katherina, Kevin, Bob, Sunny, and Ken, who represented our Chinese speakers. We were also joined by Ethan who represented Sidcot as an excellent chair of the Spanish debate between other schools. A huge thank you to the students for the time they put into preparing and researching for this event and for the staff that assisted them and gave up their time. A huge well done!



## Emily's West End Performance!

Congratulations to Drama Scholar Emily who recently performed with her Stagecoach crew on the West End.

The talented group had lots of fun and you can watch the full eight-minute performance here:



## OS Success | Well Done Felix!

Last year, we welcomed Felix into Year 10 for just one term before he decided he wanted to stay with us for a full school year.

During his time with us, Felix impressed inside and outside the classroom, from gaining 2nd place in our annual Sidcot's Got Talent competition for his amazing blind Rubik Cube skills, to sitting an A Level in Mathematics three years before most of his peers, and achieving an A\* result!



Felix reflects: "When I came to Sidcot a year ago, I initially intended to only study at the School for one term. However, my teachers encouraged me to stay and take on the challenge of sitting an A Level. I am incredibly grateful to the Maths department who supported me through countless hours of work to achieve and A\* result. The year I spent at Sidcot was an amazing, enriching experience and I am thrilled to now be returning to Germany to study Mathematics at the University of Freiburg."

## LAMDA Exam Results

We are pleased to share some of the brilliant results from this year's cohort of LAMDA students.

### DUOLOGUE ACTING GRADE 1

- Olive F (J6) – 80 Distinction
- Nell S (J6) – 80 Distinction
- Amelia M (J6) – 80 Distinction
- Sophia C (J6) - 80 Distinction
- Bronwen C (J6) - 83 Distinction
- Daisy W (J6) - 91 Distinction

### SOLO ACTING GRADE 3

- Amelie H (Y8) - 81 Distinction

### DUOLOGUE ACTING GRADE 4

- Cara E (Y8) – 88 Distinction
- Orlagh B (Y8) – 88 Distinction

### SOLO ACTING GRADE 6, BRONZE MEDAL

- Mattie E (Y11) – 73 Merit

### SOLO ACTING GRADE 8, GOLD MEDAL

- Daniel C (Y13) - 87 Distinction

Congratulations to all on your fantastic results!







## Easter Snowsports Trip 2025

Over the Easter holidays, 35 students set off to Austria on our annual Snowsports Trip. Fresh snow, breathtaking views, delicious food, and lots of adventurous fun.

Read all about the adventure and check out the photos here:



## Duke of Edinburgh | The Expeditions

Over the past academic year, our adventurous students have been undertaking their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Students have completed their practice expeditions, made lots of progress with their Skill, Physical, and Volunteering units, and, in the past term, have completed their final Expeditions.

Read all about their final expeditions and award progress here:



## Junior School Fun Day

Our annual Junior School Fun Day brought lots of smiles to the end of the year!

Pupils took part in a wide array of outdoor activities and inspiring workshops, all designed to encourage them to live adventurously. Of course, the ice cream treat added to the joy! It was lovely to hear the pupils excitedly discussing their favourite sessions. A heartfelt thank you to the PTA for their generous fundraising efforts, which enabled us to offer this event free of charge.





## J3 & J4 Camp

J3 and J4 went to Greatwood Camp to celebrate the end of the academic year.

They had a fantastic time, got very wet and muddy, ate lots of delicious food and mostly slept well! The activities included archery, bouldering, a stream study and 'The Night Line'. The cabins were very spacious, with very comfy beds. On the first evening, pupils had a campfire (which they named Geoff). They sang songs and played games. The teachers even used mind reading to guess an object. The pupils had little torch parties in their cabins too!

All children returned having had a thoroughly good time being adventurous, showing curiosity, displaying super teamwork and lots of resilience.



## J5 Camp

On 7 May, J5 went to Kilve Court for a residential camp.

J5 had been looking forward to this for weeks, and the coach journey was full of laughter and chatter. The teachers planned a fun camp to learn teamwork, confidence, independence and resilience. J5 experienced a fossil walk on Kilve beach and a campfire on the first day. The next morning, they went grass sledging and raft building, getting very wet in the lake.

To test their communication, they did teamwork challenges and jumbles. In the evening, they ran around the maze, playing games. On Friday, they completed archery and wall climbing!

## J6 Camp

To make their final weeks in the Junior School truly unforgettable, J6 were treated to a packed schedule with a host of special events, activities, and trips designed to create lasting memories.



One of the standout moments was the incredible J6 Camp. Blessed with glorious weather, our J6 pupils had an absolute blast. From thrilling team challenges and kayaking adventures to rock climbing and even axe throwing. The icing on the cake? All of J6 have now earned their National Outdoor Learning Award! Every child successfully met the award's criteria by demonstrating key values of respect, learning, and safety. This is a fantastic recognition of their effort, personal growth, and teamwork throughout the week. We are incredibly proud of you, J6!

## Year 8 Camp

Year 8 also had a fantastic week at Camp! Students participated with real enthusiasm in various activities, including kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, raft building, sailing, and high ropes, which developed their confidence and most certainly brought the year group together.



## Year 9 Summer Camp

Our Year 9 students were the last group to head out on their unforgettable four-day camp in beautiful Croyde Bay – and what a way to round off the Fourth Form experience!

From the moment they arrived, the energy was high and the smiles were constant. Days were packed with exciting beach adventures, from surfing and bodyboarding the rolling waves to playing rounders, volleyball, and football on the beach. Students also had the chance to explore the picturesque village of Croyde and soak in the stunning coastal scenery.

The camp wasn't just about the activities, it was about bonding, laughter, and making memories to last a lifetime. Whether it was catching a wave, scoring a goal, or simply enjoying the fantastic view from our campsite with friends, everyone found their moment of joy.

Year 9 camp was the perfect send-off to the Fourth Form; a celebration of friendship, adventure, and the spirit of togetherness that makes our school community so special.

## Year 7 & 8 End of Term Celebrations

Year 7s and 8s celebrated the end of term with an unforgettable week of adventurous activities, making memories that will last a lifetime!

Year 8 filled their week with team-building challenges, sports, swimming, and woodland games. Highlights included daring jumps off the water inflatable at Cotswolds Water Park and a jailbreak at Shepton Mallet Prison (shout out to Max's group for their record-breaking escape!) To cap it off, a visit to Puxton Park offered the incredible chance to hold exotic animals and learn some fascinating biology.

Meanwhile, Year 7 explored the meaningful history of Bristol on a walking tour, time-travelled to a Tudor village at Bullace Hill, and crushed it at Sports Day! Back on campus, they mastered orienteering, raced to put up tents, got creative with drama activities, learned vital fire-lighting techniques, and crafted treasure hunts. What a brilliant way to bond and celebrate their first year in Senior School!



# Sports Day

Our penultimate week of term was a joyful celebration of sport; a time to reflect on the vital role physical activity plays in our student's development. Across four exciting Sports Days, our students showcased not only their athletic skills but also the energy, determination, and joy that sport can inspire.

Our week of sports began on Tuesday with a wonderfully energetic and heart-warming event for our Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils. From the moment they stepped onto the field, their excitement was infectious. Pupils took part in a variety of races, from sprints and relays to novelty events that had everyone cheering. Their enthusiasm was matched only by their concentration and effort. The sense of joy was palpable, and the beaming smiles on their faces spoke volumes about the confidence and pride they felt in taking part. Parents and carers were a supportive and vocal presence, helping to create a celebratory atmosphere that made the morning truly special.

On Wednesday, it was the turn of our Pre-School and Senior School pupils to shine. Our Pre-Schoolers took part in a carefully designed programme tailored to their age and abilities, demonstrating the physical skills they have been developing throughout the year. From balancing and jumping to running and throwing,



each activity offered an opportunity for them to build coordination and confidence in a nurturing and playful environment. It was inspiring to see how the foundations of healthy movement habits are being laid so early, and how sport is already becoming a joyful and integral part of their learning experience. The pride in their achievements and the cheers from parents and staff made it an unforgettable afternoon for all involved.

For our Senior School students, they enjoyed the opportunity to compete in 11 different sports, showcasing skill, spirit, and some serious House pride.

technical skill but also gave every child the chance to demonstrate perseverance, personal goal setting and encouragement of their peers. In the afternoon, the excitement continued with a packed schedule of track events. From short sprints to longer-distance races, every pupil gave their best effort, spurred on by their classmates. The atmosphere was electric; filled with cheers, laughter, and celebration of every achievement. It was a true festival of sport, capturing the inclusive, spirited ethos we value so deeply at Sidcot.

At Sidcot, we are proud not only of our student's achievements in sport but of the inclusive, supportive environment we foster. Our focus is not just on performance, but on participation and enjoyment, encouraging every child to discover what they love, challenge themselves, and strive for their personal best. A huge thank you goes to Matt Lloyd, Lee Molland, and the entire PE team across both Senior and Junior Schools for their hard work and dedication. They create a vibrant and encouraging atmosphere that allows every student to thrive, whatever their level of ability.

**Read all about our Senior School Sports Day from Matt Lloyd, Director of Sport here:**

Our J3 to J6 pupils finished off the week of sport, taking centre stage on Thursday. The morning began with a series of field events, where pupils took on challenges including long jump, javelin and beanbag shot put. These events not only highlighted



## JUNIOR SCHOOL RESULTS

**J3:** Mia & Gabriel                      **J4:** Eliza & Rafe  
**J5:** Abigail & Freddie                **J6:** Oli & Edward  
**Margaret Spottiswoode Cup Winners:** Ruby T & Isaac

## SENIOR SCHOOL RESULTS

**Individual Champions:** **Junior Girls:** Darcy | **Junior Boys:** Seb  
**Inter Girls:** Eva | **Inter Boys:** Tom/Noah  
**Senior Girls:** Anastasia | **Senior Boys:** Fides

**The 1 Mile Cups:**                      **Girls:** Thea | **Boys:** Harry  
**Hermes Shield (Outstanding performance):** Grace  
**Davey Shield (Best team over the term):** Year 8 Boys Athletics Team

**HOUSE WINNERS: JUNIOR SCHOOL – EAST  
 SENIOR SCHOOL – WEST**

### The House Cup

Combining the house points from Sports Day with those achieved throughout the year, we are thrilled to share that this year's House Cup winners are South and West in the Junior School, and West in the Senior School. Well done everyone.



## Record Breakers

We also had several records broken throughout the day. Big well done to the following children who now have their name written in Sidcot sporting history:

### JUNIOR SCHOOL

- **J4 Shot Putt**  
Eleanor - 8.75m, West
- **J6 Shot Putt**  
Cody - 13.85m, West
- **J5 Shot Putt**  
Abigail - 10.75m, North
- **J4 150m**  
Rafe - 25.9, South

### SENIOR SCHOOL

- **200m Junior Boys Record**  
Seb - 27.1s
- **80m New Events**  
Millie (JG) - 12.1s  
Thomas (JB) - 10.8s  
Grace (IG) - 11.2s  
Joseph (IB) - 10.9s

## Year 11 BBQ

Having wrapped up their final GCSE exams, our Year 11s celebrated in style with an end-of-year BBQ and the much-loved traditional shirt signing.

Every year, the creativity behind the shirt designs blows us away, and this year was no exception – some students truly outdid themselves with hand-embroidered and painted shirts that are sure to be cherished memories for years to come!

Having already celebrated at Prom earlier this year, this was another wonderful way to acknowledge all the hard work our Year 11s put in during their exams and the incredible contributions they've made to the Sidcot School community over the years. We can't wait to welcome many of our students back into the Sixth Form this September – that's when the real adventure begins!



## Year 11 Prom

On Friday, 28 March, Sidcot's Year 11 students celebrated the culmination of their GCSE journey with a spectacular prom at Cadbury House Hotel.

The evening was a true celebration of their hard work and achievements, bringing together friends and teachers for a night of laughter, dancing, and unforgettable memories. From the moment students arrived, dressed in their finest suits and prom dresses, there was an air of excitement and celebration. The venue provided a stunning backdrop for the occasion, with beautifully decorated tables and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

As the evening progressed, the dancefloor quickly became the heart of the celebration, and it wasn't long before the entire room was filled with energy and enthusiasm. From classic hits to modern favourites, students danced the night away, making the most of every moment. The Year 11 Prom was a fitting farewell to an important chapter in the students' lives. A huge thank you goes to the staff and organisers who made the event possible, ensuring it was a night to remember.



Check out more photos from the night here:



# Sixth Form Ball

By Isaac, Head Student

On Friday, 21 June, we said a final goodbye to our Upper Sixth class of 2025 at the Sixth Form Summer Ball.

With 145 people in attendance, this was the biggest Summer Ball Sidcot has ever held. Hosted at the stunning Leigh Court Manor House, the event brought the whole Sixth Form together for an evening of celebration and fun. Dressed in black tie, everyone enjoyed a three-course meal, a photo booth, and a dance floor thanks to a DJ set.



It was a thoroughly enjoyable night and a fitting way to say goodbye to our Year 13s.

# Muddy Stiletto's Best Schools Awards Finalist



We are thrilled to announce that Sidcot School is a finalist in the Muddy Stiletto's Best School Awards for 'Inventive Extra-Curricular Programme' in recognition of our PASS programme (Programme of Activities for Sidcot Students).



Find out more about our selection as finalists here:



# Wing House: A Year in Reflection

By Longman, Year 10 Boarder

As my first year in Wing draws to a close, I have been fortunate to experience the unique sense of community that makes this place so exceptional.

Within 24 hours, I have already joined this close-knit family of 24 boys (I do enjoy the coincidence there), where we all support and encourage each other. From the first day, the warmth and camaraderie in the house have been truly inspiring to me. This year has been filled with highlights. The boys shone in inter-house competitions, showing incredible teamwork and spirit. Or on the sports field, you might catch me and my friends enjoying tennis in the summer nights, or even in an entertaining game of treasure hunting around the School.

Weekend trips like the Bath Trips and the Stonehenge trip we did last week, brought plenty of laughter and new memories while everyday moments such as movie nights, chats in the common room, hanging out with friends in the Gardens or even just enjoying an evening tea together, has created memories that will last for a lifetime.

Wing House also plays a vital role in the wider School community which I have been proud to see. Everyone in Wing excels in academics, sports and extracurriculars while carrying the house values, like respect and kindness, and demonstrating the Quaker Values that we cherish in School. Thank you, Wing House, for making this year so memorable. I'm excited to see what lies ahead in the next chapter!



# Sidcotians **CONNECT**

Live Adventurously

Issue 14 | Winter 2025

# News from the Alumni Office

It's been a positive and energetic start to the new term, despite the introduction of VAT on school fees — a change that, while challenging, has done little to dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of our community.

We were delighted to welcome 61 new boarders and 83 new day students to the school this September, many of whom are the children of our own alumni. There's something particularly special about seeing the next generation of familiar families walking through our gates, continuing the legacy and traditions that make this place so distinctive. You can read some of their stories in the following pages.



This summer was a quieter one in terms of major development work — understandable after the successful completion of our Sixth Form Centre and Science Block refurbishments — and in recognition of the economic times we live in. Instead, our focus has been on consolidating, nurturing, and celebrating the people who make this community what it is.



It was wonderful to welcome back the Class of 2015 for their 10-year reunion over the summer, and to receive news of alumni marriages, births, and achievements from across the world. We always love hearing from you — so please do get in touch with the Alumni Office ([alumni@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:alumni@sidcot.org.uk)) and share your stories. Enjoy this edition!

**Sarah Simms**  
Director of Marketing & Development

## CALL FOR SUPPORT!

We are eagerly seeking a local Sidcotian with an interest in history, who might be prepared to support our Archive team with some voluntary hours.

**Please get in touch if you would like to learn more.**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **London Reunion** – Thursday 12 February 2026
- **Easter Reunion** – Friday 3 to Tuesday 7 April 2026
- **Class of 2016, 2006, 1996, 1986** – please contact us if you would like support arranging a decade reunion in School.

We love to grow our community, so please join us or connect online via our bespoke alumni portal: [www.sidcotiansconnect.org.uk](http://www.sidcotiansconnect.org.uk)

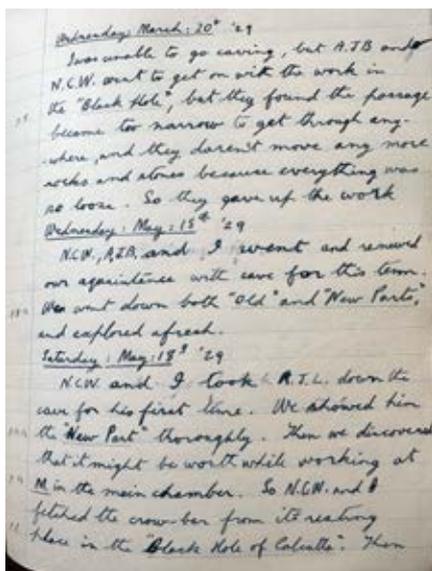
# Dipping into the Archives:

## 100 years since Sidcot Swallet was found by SSSS

This year marks the centenary year discovery of a cave near Burrington Coombe by the Sidcot School Speleological Society (SSSS) explorers.

Now known as 'Sidcot Swallet', it is probably the most popular cave in the Mendip Hills for novice cavers, after Goatchurch Cavern. Anyone who has tried them, can attest to its narrow crawls and tight squeezes, which have kept generations of Sidcot cavers entertained! Despite its popularity, many calcite formations still remain intact in the farthest reaches of the cave.

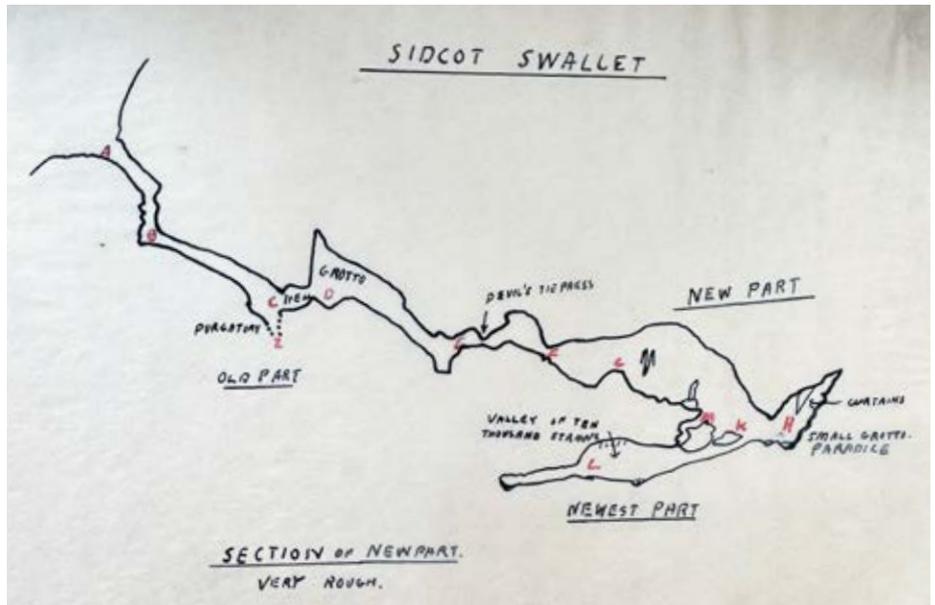
We are lucky to have years' worth of caving logs from the very popular SSSS in our Archive, including the beautiful drawing of Sidcot Swallet pictured right. While unfortunately the entry listing the Sidcot Swallet discovery does not remain, we have records dating back as far as 1929, with cavers experiencing the Swallet for the first time. Records were kept diligently.



One such record, pictured above, reads,

### “Wednesday: March: 20th '29

I was unable to go caving, but A.J.B and N.C.W went to get on with the



work in the “Black Hole”, but they found the passage became too narrow to get through anywhere, and they weren't move any more rocks and stones because everything was so loose. So they gave up the work.”

Other entries talk of work with crossbars as they investigate the chambers – very serious work!

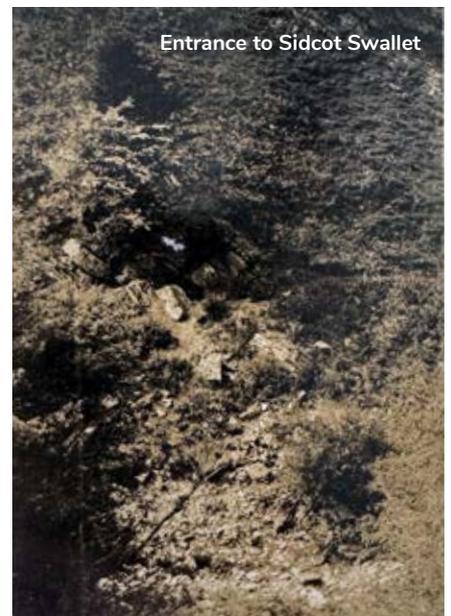
Old Scholars speak very fondly of their time in the SSSS, and caving is a big part of life at Sidcot still. While regulations might be slightly tighter(!), our students still enjoy living adventurously.

Our latest cohort did note that Sidcot Swallet is now home to large cave spiders and the odd rubber duck!

**Were you a member of the Sidcot School Speleological Society?**

**We'd love to hear your stories!**

Entrance to Sidcot Swallet



To learn more, please visit the Sidcot Swallet Wikipedia page here:



# Inspirational Sidcotians

## William Temple | Class of 2020

One thing about Sidcot has stuck with me more than anything else. For me, Sidcot sparked not just a love of business and technology, but also a deep, lasting commitment to equality. This has become a cornerstone of my work.



During my final year of studying business, I discovered that the AI dominating the news and transforming multinationals was reserved for businesses with large budgets and even larger IT departments. The businesses that keep Britain afloat were left behind with confusing, unaffordable and misleading AI as the only option.

This inequality frustrated me so much that I decided to start my own tech company, UA&I. Honestly, there have been many times, after spending months without a screen break, when I thought I'd bitten off more than I could chew.

But the belief that everyone deserves a fair and equal shot, no matter their budget or tech knowledge, kept me going.

I'm always keen to connect with fellow Sidcotians, and I'd love to hear from business owners. If AI isn't front of mind for you, I'd love to hear your insights and invaluable experience. If it is, reach out and I will help as much as I can, even if it isn't on the website.

My website is [uaandi.com](http://uaandi.com) and email is: [william.temple@uaandi.com](mailto:william.temple@uaandi.com)

## Leonie Wassermann | Class of 2024

A huge shout out to Leonie W, Class of 2024, who was part of the GQ Hong Kong launch team this summer. Interning on the styling team, she has been credited for her work on the first ever cover shoot (*pictured right*).

She said, "My time there was super informative and hands on. As GQ has just launched here in Hong Kong, I was a part of the launch team.



I also published four English articles that can be found on the GQ HK website.

My responsibilities were organising all the looks, putting them in order and altering the clothes last minute in the morning (which I could never have done without Miss Ralph training me with hand sewing skills to perfection). Overall looking into the future, my next internship will hopefully be at Vivienne Westwood in London or at Vogue next summer."



Leonie Wassermann, styling the GQ Hong Kong launch cover shoot

Wow, Leonie, you're an inspiration! Congratulations and we can't wait to see your next big success!



## PTA Update

A huge thank you to Jill Sandiford for her three years of service as Senior School PTA Chair after serving many years as Treasurer. Jill has been a wonderful leader for the PTA, consistently organising fantastic events such as the Garden Party, and raising funds for projects around the School to enhance the student experience including new outdoor basketball hoops, water bottle stations, and a climbing wall for Sports Day. We would also like to thank Nick Page for acting as Interim Chair while the process of choosing a new PTA Chair was undertaken. We are delighted to announce that Shonah Cross has been appointed as the new Chair of the Senior School PTA. Shonah brings great energy, organisation, and a passion for strengthening our school community to the role, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead under her leadership.

## Sidcot Births

Present at the 10 Year Reunion was Honor Turner, who brought her beautiful baby son (with husband Ash Jones) to meet her classmates. Arthur was born at the end of May and is a delight to his family (especially granny Barley Hearn, Class of 1988!).

Pictured right: Honor, Ash and Arthur at Reunion



## Sidcot Love Stories | Two Alumni Weddings

This summer marked the marriages of two Sidcot love stories – Selina Bird and George Michael, Class of 2015, and Tom White and Anna Edis from the Classes of 2017 and 2016. Congratulations to you all!

### George Michael writes,

“We first met at Sidcot School in Year 9 - George as a day student and Selina as a boarder in Newcombe House. Though we didn’t quite hit it off straight away, Sidcot brought us together and gave us the chance to meet. We later reconnected at university, and years (and many adventures) later, we’ve just got married!



“Sidcot will always hold a special place in our story, and we’re so grateful for the memories, the friendships, and the connection that began there.”

### Tom White says,

“Our story began at Sidcot over 11 years ago, when we first met on stage in the school drama productions. Performing together soon brought us closer and a year later we were dating. University took us in different directions for a while, but we always found our way back to each other. Five years ago we reunited for good and began building our life together, and in 2023 we got engaged in Winscombe. Earlier this year, we celebrated our wedding with the most incredible day – made even more special by having so many Sidcot friends there with us, including 8 in our bridal party! It truly felt like the perfect celebration of how far we’ve come, and a wonderful reminder of where it all began.”



**Have you recently got married, or expanded your family? We’re always delighted to hear your news – get in touch at [alumni@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:alumni@sidcot.org.uk)**

# Obituaries

## Christina Diana Mary Kingsmill

3.05.1950-17.07.2025 (S:1963 -67)

With thanks to her classmate Elizabeth Marks for these words and to Christina's son Charlie for the tribute he gave at the celebration of her life on August 7th 2025.

Christina came to Sidcot in 1963 and her family credit the School with "emphasising principles that shaped her life: creative thinking, creativity, curiosity and social responsibility". Under the influential and inspirational Head of Art, Jim Bradley, she nurtured a love of arts and crafts which was to be such a large part of her future life.

Christina was a regular attender at our major Sidcot reunions and went with some of our year group on a memorable holiday to Kerala in 2020. She was a much valued and loved member of our weekly form zoom calls right up until her peaceful death on July 17th 2025.



To read the full obituary of Christina's life, please see here:



## Kendall Clark (S:1940-43)

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Edmund Kendall Clark in Bedford on 6th July 2024. With thanks to his family, and particularly his daughter Ann, also an Old Scholar, for sharing this moving obituary for his Memorial Meeting with us.

Our sincere thanks also to Kendall for remembering Sidcot School in his Will, for which our students remain both indebted and grateful.

To read the full obituary of Kendall's life, please see here:



## News from the Sidcot 1699 Society

Our ever-expanding Sidcot 1699 Society was formed to recognise in their lifetime those members of the Sidcotian community who have included Sidcot School in their Will. Legacy gifts of all sizes are most welcome. Society members will receive, amongst other things, regular news updates, invitations to annual Society events and a welcome box of Sidcot treats.

Please note that you may also contribute to our Sidcot Trusts: The Sidcot School Education Trust or the Sidcot Buildings Trust Fund via our Legacy Society. More details on our Trusts and Society can be found here:



## WE ALSO REMEMBER...

- **Jo Clark** (née Counsell) (S: 1951 - 1952)
- **Francis Jeffrey Wathan** (S: 1959 - 1966)
- **Judith Clare Gelsthorp** (S: 1973 - 1979)
- **David Russell** (S: 1982 -1986)
- **Roger Barlow** (S: 1940 - 1943)
- **David Pugsley** (S: 1948 - 1955)
- **Jane Brown** (Friend of the School, died 26 April 2024)
- **Deborah Wells** (S: 1948 - 1955)
- **Judith Harland Thomas** (née Roberts) (S: 1940 - 1948)
- **Bill (Joseph William) Fox** (S: 1956-62)
- **Marion Dutcher** (née Ware) (S: 1957-62)
- **Elizabeth Mary 'Lilla' Lloyd** (S. 1940-48)
- **John Gripper** (S: 1939-43) - died 10 October 2021, made aware May 2025
- **Michael Reynolds** (S:1944-1950)
- **Christina Kingsmill** (Class of 1968)
- **Roger Freeman (ex-staff)**
- **Edmund Kendall Clark** (S:1940-43) - died 6 July 2024, made aware August 2025
- **Joan Warlow** (née Oakley) (S:1939-1945)
- **Desmond Harris** Staff 1977-89
- **Robert (Bob) Horn** Class of 1957 (& Committee Member of SBTF)

## Generations at Sidcot

Something we are proud of at Sidcot is that so many of our Old Scholars choose to send their children or grandchildren back to their old school. Here are two current examples from among our students, though there are many more!



### From Christine Suffolk:

In the 1990's, my parents moved abroad for work and so I went to Sidcot as a boarder in School House Girls. I made some really lovely

friends at Sidcot, who I am still in contact with today. Sidcot provided an environment which encouraged kindness, thoughtfulness and individuality and when choosing a school for our children, we felt that these values aligned with ours. We thought that Sidcot could provide a supportive educational environment for our children and our decision was confirmed when we attended the Taster Evening. The teachers were all really enthusiastic and passionate about their given subjects and the lessons were interesting and engaging. Our daughter started at Sidcot in September 2025 and is currently in the Third Form. So far, she's really enjoying it! We have also recently decided to move our son to Sidcot Junior School and we are looking forward to him starting there.

During my time at Sidcot, I was really lucky to be able to attend early morning swims (a one minute walk

away from my boarding house!) and we hope that our children's time at Sidcot will provide them with the opportunity to develop their interests and skills (in an international community) and reach their academic potential whilst having fun and making good friends along the way!



### From Catherine Mary Howard:

"Other than the great teaching, we chose Sidcot for Thomas (and also for Seth, age four, who has now just started Reception class) for a number of reasons. Small, nurturing classes, the thriving outdoor education and the low pressure environment which is so much more conducive

to the type of self-directed learning you need to establish for yourself to really succeed later on in life. PASS in particular suits Thomas so well – get him doing climbing/ bouldering/mountain biking/cold water swimming or triathlon and he couldn't be happier. PASS has offered him all of these opportunities and more. He's tried some great STEM subjects there too, like Lego Robotics. The breadth of education at Sidcot is pretty much unbeaten in my opinion. Thomas also enjoys swim training two or three times a week, loves the opportunities he gets to play piano in School concerts and as background music during other School events like the third form taster evenings and thrives being a part of the School's cricket teams.

"I love the fact that Thomas has been able to experience the amazing fourth form camps with Rosie Bellinger just as I did (I have joked with her about how she's now the only teacher left from my time at the School and she still seems just as energetic as she was back then!). We also love the opportunities the students get to travel abroad and visit the theatre so regularly at Sidcot. For the younger students, like Seth, the variety of holiday clubs, pre-school groups and forest school events have also been great and Seth now loves going to "out of school care" after School has finished and always tells me off if I try to pick him up earlier as it's like a great big caring family in there, with loads of yummy food and fun toys to enjoy."



Thomas pictured left at an Insights session for Scholars

## Donor Celebration Event 2025

On Saturday 21st June 2025, we welcomed a group of our donors from across the past year to join us for a celebration event in the Old Library. We were delighted to be able to thank so many members of our School community in person for the contributions they have made in 2024/5.

Over drinks, guests were welcomed by James Jones, Head, who spoke movingly about the impact that philanthropic giving continues to have on the School. They heard first-hand testimonials from Julia, who has been a recipient of bursary support through her time at Sidcot, and a parent whose family has been supported by our Hope and Imagination Fund. We welcomed the newest members of our 1699 (Legacy) Society.

Before touring the School, guests also heard about additional projects within School, including the Travel Awards, which encourage career-enhancing work to make positive change, supported by the Sidcot

School Education Trust (please find out more on their valuable work at the QR code below). Our thanks to Trustees Judy Reeves (pictured) and Sally Harvey who spoke to give more information about the work of the Trust. James Jones also spoke about our award-winning community partnership programme with local state schools.

Following the School tour, guests were able to enjoy a cream tea by the wonderful School catering department, while mingling and exchanging memories of School.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who came to



the event, and of course to those generous philanthropic supporters of either of our Sidcot Trusts, or directly to the School, whose gifts make such a difference to our students' and parents' experiences.

**Our Donor Report outlining our fundraising and outreach programmes across 2024/2025 was distributed at the event. An electronic copy can be read at the QR code here, or request a hard copy format at [development@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:development@sidcot.org.uk)**



**To find out more about the valuable work of the Sidcot School Education Trust, please scan this QR code:**



## 10 Year Reunion: Class of 2015

**During the heatwave of the summer, we opened our doors wide to 17 Old Scholars from the Class of 2015 for their 10 Year Reunion.**

Meeting for drinks in the Old Library, everyone caught up with hugs and lots of laughter, and plenty of reminiscing. We were so happy to also welcome their teachers, including Simon Allen (Head of Sixth Form), Sarah Smith (Deputy Head of Sixth Form), Nicola Goldhawk, Claire Settle, Chris and Janice Bateman, Gaby Sheridan and Graham Hartley.

After a delicious buffet lunch in the Old Refectory (complete with Seconds bell!), we took a tour of the School, to see the new Sixth Form, Science labs, and to take a trip down memory lane around the old classrooms and halls. It was great to hear all of the stories from the past, and to catch up on what everyone is doing now. A special thank you must go to Kenrick Yuan who took the lead in co-ordinating everyone.

**Should members of the Class of 2016 be interested in helping to arrange a Reunion next year, please let us know at [alumni@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:alumni@sidcot.org.uk)**

# Farewell to the Class of 2025 & Recent Graduation Successes



A huge congratulations to the Class of 2025 for their successes during the examinations process and determining their Futures next steps.

Please see here to read their testimonials:



Looking ahead, we also congratulate this year's university graduates, including James Cope, BSc in Accounting and Finance at Liverpool University and Sarah Carr, BA (Hons) in Psychological and Behavioural Sciences at University of Cambridge:

## James Cope:

"Going to university was a massive culture shock after spending my whole life at Sidcot, but I settled in quicker than I expected. I made some great friends early on and started to feel at home not long after arriving.

"My first year was tough — especially after losing my Dad in the second semester. It was a really hard time, but the university was supportive and helped me get through it. I managed to push on and ended up finishing with a First Class degree, which I'm really proud of.



"One thing that definitely helped in my first year was what I had previously learnt in A Level Accounting. I was so glad to have that knowledge going in, and I'm especially thankful to Mr McDonough for being such a brilliant teacher."

## Sarah Carr:

A huge congratulations to Sarah (OS 2006-21) who was elected Cavendish Seton Scholar by her college, Downing, for her results.

Sarah studied at Sidcot from age 3 to 18, where she flourished as an All-Rounder Scholar, taking advantage of the many academic enrichment opportunities available and developing a deep love of learning. Commenting on her Cambridge experience and future plans, Sarah said:

"Studying at Cambridge was like being in a bubble filled with stunning buildings, friendly and talented people, and lots of hard work! I really enjoyed my course as it allowed me to study sociology, anthropology, and criminology alongside psychology. This helped me to develop an



understanding of the individual psyche and how this interacts with the broader social context. I was incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to learn from leaders in their academic fields, which brought their work to life. My time at Sidcot helped me to develop a strong sense of self and personal values, which really helped me navigate the transition to university. After spending the summer working with Bristol-based marketing agency Taxi Studio I will be moving to London to work full time as a brand strategy consultant for Lippincott."

## A Tribute to Christian Hughes

This year, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Christian Hughes our Academic Deputy Head, who has guided and enriched the academic life of Sidcot since May 2017. From the moment he arrived, it was clear that Christian combined the mind of a meticulous planner with the heart of a true teacher.

In meetings, classrooms, and corridors alike, he brought a steady commitment to helping students achieve their very best and to supporting colleagues in refining their craft. His sharp eye for detail, careful organisation, and insightful



Christian was a core member of the Sidcot beekeeping team

use of academic data were invaluable to the School's development — but those who worked with him will remember even more the warmth of his encouragement, the calm patience with which he listened, and the genuine interest he took in every member of our community.

There are many moments from his time here that will remain in our collective memory, but perhaps none more so than his thoughtful, steadfast leadership during the challenging years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through uncertain times, his clarity, empathy, and resolve ensured that our academic life remained vibrant, purposeful, and connected.



As he moves on to new adventures, we know he will carry with him the values and spirit of a true Sidcotian. He leaves behind not only a legacy of commitment to academic excellence, but also the quiet, lasting impact of a leader who cared deeply — and who helped others to do their best work simply by believing in them.

## Meet The Incoming Deputy Head (Academic)

We are thrilled to introduce Rowena Hector as our new Academic Deputy Head. Rowena joined us in September from Ashton Park School, where she was Assistant Head and had additional responsibilities within the Excalibur Academies Trust.



**Commenting on her appointment, Rowena said:**

“I’m absolutely delighted to have joined Sidcot School at such an exciting time in its journey. As someone who’s passionate about helping young people thrive, I feel very fortunate to have joined a school with such strong values, a focus on nurturing character, and a genuine sense of community. I’m really enjoying getting to know students, staff and families, and working together to build on the School’s existing success.”



# Sorry to see you go...

## STAFF LEAVERS

At the end of the 2024/25 academic year we said goodbye to a number of teaching and support staff. Each of them has contributed significantly to the School in their own areas, and we are hugely grateful to them all for the part they have played in the lives of our students.



**Sarah Roberts**  
Head of Psychology



**John Parry**  
Head of Mathematics



**Kevin Smith**  
Head of Learning  
Support and SENCO



**Dave McDonagh**  
Head of Business  
Studies



**Sarah Davies**  
Teacher of  
Mathematics, PASS  
Coordinator, Head of  
House Lead



**Stefania Cauli**  
IB Coordinator,  
Teacher of Modern  
Foreign Languages

- **Andrew Tinker**  
Teacher of Maths
- **Jack Cartwright**  
Teacher of English
- **Richard Williams**  
Teacher of Geography
- **Daisy Houlihan**  
Teacher of History
- **Honorine Harbridge**  
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages
- **Leanda Mochrie**  
Teacher of Drama
- **Jo Halladey**  
Teacher of Art (Photography)
- **Jo Ward**  
Art Technician
- **Meg Scott**  
Teacher of Learning Support
- **Ann Caddy**  
Junior School Teacher and Librarian
- **Leesa Baker**  
Junior School Teacher
- **Vikki Hallett**  
Junior School Teacher
- **Andy Hague**  
Peripatetic Teacher
- **Rob Rogers**  
Electrician
- **Lynn Fogg**  
School Nurse
- **Jack Smallwood**  
Acting Deputy Sports Centre Manager

# New Staff...

SEPTEMBER 2025



**Zoe Ashley**  
Director of Learning  
Support and  
Inclusion



**Susanne Wilczoch**  
Teacher of  
Psychology



**Simon Gilbert**  
Teacher of  
Mathematics



**Deborah Searle**  
Teacher of  
Mathematics



**Lucy Lee**  
Teacher of English



**Felicity  
Hughes-Games**  
Teacher of Art  
(Photography)



**Alexandra Plumb**  
Junior School  
Teacher



**Amelia Long**  
Teacher of Learning  
Support



**Emi Thornburn**  
Teacher of  
Mathematics,  
Learning Support

## INTERNAL STAFF NEW ROLES

- **Kate Jones**  
Head of Third Form
- **Alex Lickorish**  
Head of Business
- **Dirki Balaska**  
IB Coordinator
- **Andy Cox**  
Head of Maths
- **Ben Crockatt**  
Deputy Head of Maths,  
Head of House Lead
- **Indie Drake Brockman**  
Art Technician
- **Nick Yao**  
Teacher of French and Spanish
- **Tom Ruddle**  
PSHE Lead

# The Sidcotian

Sidcot School  
Oakridge Lane  
Winscombe  
North Somerset  
BS25 1PD

[sidcot.org.uk](http://sidcot.org.uk)

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