

THE

BARROVIAN

VOL 332 / 2024-2025





KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE
& THE BUCHAN SCHOOL



ROOTED IN LEGACY, BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

BE PART OF THE UNIQUE PATHWAY
AT KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE &
THE BUCHAN SCHOOL

LEAVE YOUR MARK WHERE IT MATTERS

We're building a stunning new engraved brick pathway in the foundations of our School - and you're invited to be part of it.

- An alum of King William's College or The Buchan School
- A teacher or staff member (past or present)
- A current pupil or parent
- A company with a lasting link to the School

This is your opportunity to engrave your name - or the name of someone dear - into the legacy of our shared history.

YOUR BRICK. YOUR STORY. A LASTING PART OF OUR FOUNDATION.

BUY YOUR BRICK TODAY

Celebrate your time at KWC or The Buchan | Honour a loved one
Leave a message for future generations to see | Mark a family connection



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Lord Archbishop of York

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The Bishop of Sodor & Man

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BA, ACA
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ACA, DChA
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Mr S L Corrie, BMus, MBA,
PGCE

DEPUTY HEAD ACADEMIC

Mr M J Roberts, MA, PGCE

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Ms M Mackie, FCCA

TEACHING STAFF

2024-2025

KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL

Mr D C Henderson, MA

DEPUTY HEAD ACADEMIC

Mr M J Roberts, MA, PGCE

DEPUTY HEAD PASTORAL

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BMus, MBA, PGCE

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Mr D Dawson, BA

Ms J Day,
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Mrs S A Jeffers, BA, PGCE

Mr S P Kelly, BA

Miss A Kerr, BA, MA, PGCE

Mr R D Mann, BSc

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BA, MA, PGCE

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CChem, CSci, PhD, MRSC

Mr M Moss, MArt

Mrs S Parry, BA, PGCE

Miss M Quirk, BA, PGCE

Mr R Rieker, BComm

**Ms M J Sánchez De La Blanca
García**, BA, PGCE

Reverend E J Scott, BA

Mrs K K Shimmin, BSc

Miss Z E Shimmin,
BSc, MSc, PGCE

Mrs C V Singleton, BA, PGCE

Mrs G Smith, BA, PGCE

Mrs L Titley-Brabban,
BA, MA, PGCE,

Mrs M Van den Berg, BSc, PGCE

Mrs O Verstage, MA, PGCE

Mrs T Visagie, BEd

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Mrs H Daykin,
BA, PGDip, PGCE

Mr J Haywood,
MA, BSc, PGCE

Mrs P Howell Evans, BA, PGCE

2Lt Stuart Headon,
GCGL, Cert Ed, MCCT

Mr T Lowey, BA, PGCE

Mr R C Parry, BA, PGCE

Mrs M A Sinden, BSc, MRes

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DEPUTY HEAD

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FULL TIME

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Miss N M Cain, BEd

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Mr C Dunn, BA

Mrs M C Hawley, BSc, PGCE

Miss I Hitchen, BA

Mrs L M Ilott, BEd

Miss R Joynes, BA, PGCE

Miss G L Martin, BA

Mrs S Swift, BEd

Mr R Torpey, BSc, PGCE

Mrs L J Veale, BSc, PGCE

PART-TIME

Mrs A Clucas, BAEd

Mrs J A Garrett, BEd, NPQH

Mrs M Goosen

Mrs A M Haddow, BA, PGCE

Mr A D Macnair, BSc, PGCE

Mrs A Willis, BA, H.DipEd



THE PRINCIPAL DAMIAN HENDERSON

The warmest of welcomes to the 332nd edition of The Barrovian magazine, my second as Principal, covering the academic year 2024-25.

Once again, you will find that the achievements of the children and staff at King William's College and The Buchan School fairly burst off these pages. Many things about the School are changing, but much remains the same. Whatever your involvement or memory of School, I trust that you will recognise in the articles the same fantastic spirit and sense of endeavour which has been our hallmark for nearly two centuries in the case of College, and 150 years this year for The Buchan School.

If you have not visited us for a while, now is a great time to come back and see us in our stunning location between the blue waves and the green hills!

2025

SALVETE

JONATHAN HAYWOOD

Jonathan grew up in Cornwall and has spent the last two decades teaching in the UK and Thailand. He is a STEM expert, with a connected understanding of computing, mathematics, and many areas of science. He has experience working with students of all secondary school ages, and specialises in assisting students in developing the skills needed to succeed in high-level universities.

Jonathan moved to the Island with his wife, daughter and cat; he thoroughly enjoys living here. In his free time, he likes travelling, cycling, camping, and the occasional home-made science experiment. He spends most of his own time coding games and payment systems, very much living what he teaches.



TIMOTHY LOWEY

Timothy completed his degree in European and American Literature in the UK, and was awarded his PGCE with QTS in 2005. He has taught in the UK, including an NQT year at a school near Warminster, a placement at a Bristol Sixth Form College, and a small independent school in the borough of Havering. Additionally, he has taught at several international schools, including The British School of Alexandria and The International British School of Bucharest. Prior to teaching in Egypt, he spent six years teaching at a local school on the Isle of Man.

Tim lives with his two teenage children on a local farm; his interests include swimming, running, walking, watching old movies, and reading. He joined King William's College in September, as part-time teacher of English, and maternity cover for Philosophy and Religious Education. He feels incredibly privileged to be part of the King William's College community, and to be teaching at a school with such a rich history.



LAUREN MOLYNEUX

Lauren has held a passion for theatre and the arts from a young age. Originally from St Helens, Merseyside, she trained and worked professionally in Musical Theatre, before training to become a teacher. She relocated to the Isle of Man to take up her first teaching post at Ballakermeen High School, where she remained for five years.

Outside of the classroom, Lauren remains a keen performer. Since arriving on the island, she has performed in several musicals at the Gaiety Theatre, alongside appearing on the Manx live music scene, singing lead vocals in a band.

Lauren brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience, but above all, a deep-rooted passion for the Arts and the important role the Arts can play in a young person's life and education.

ROSS MANN

Ross first joined King William's College six years ago as a cover teacher in the PE department. From the moment he arrived, he was captivated by the school's vibrant community and the exceptional sporting opportunities it provides for its pupils. Since then, he has been teaching at Castle Rushen High School, where he gained invaluable experience and further developed his teaching practice, applying the knowledge he gained through his PGCE at Nottingham University.

He is thrilled to return to King William's College as the Head of Boys' PE and Games and build on the school's already outstanding sporting reputation, working to inspire a love of sport in all our pupils.

MEGAN QUIRK

Megan joined King William's College in January 2025 as a teacher of History and English, before taking on the role of Subject Lead for History in September 2025. Originally from the south of the Island, Megan began her teaching career at Castle Rushen High School after completing a BA in History at the University of Liverpool and a PGCE at Edge Hill University. During her time at CRHS, she received an Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Isle of Man Government in recognition of her work during the Covid-19 period.

Following the pandemic, Megan moved to Australia to be Head of History at Canterbury Girls' Grammar School in Melbourne, before returning to the UK to teach at University College School in Hampstead, London. Teaching in state, international and independent schools has been a hugely rewarding experience and continues to shape her approach in the classroom.

Outside of school, Megan enjoys training at HYROX events, reading, and spending time outdoors with her dachshund, Odin. Returning home has been incredibly special, and Megan is excited to be part of the King William's College community and to share her love of history, storytelling, and literature with students.



LUCY TITLEY-BRABBAN

Lucy joined King William's College in April 2025 as a Teacher of PE, Games and IB Sports Science. Originally from the Isle of Man, Lucy studied at University in York and Durham, gaining her undergraduate, PGCE and Masters degrees. Whilst at University, Lucy was a Netball Scholarship recipient, playing a high standard of netball, alongside coaching and umpiring university teams. Lucy has spent over a decade teaching and coaching across the UK, USA and the Middle East. After leaving the Middle East and taking a year away from teaching to travel the world, she moved home to the Isle of Man.

Lucy has always had a love for sport, the outdoors and keeping fit. This, combined with her love of travel, has led to her climbing several notable peaks across the world and completing races and fitness events on different corners of the globe. Lucy brings her passion and enthusiasm for sport and healthy lives to the PE department and aims to instil a lifelong love for being active in our students. Having been appointed Head of Year 11 from September 2025, Lucy is looking forward to bringing her previous Head of Year and pastoral experience to the team.



MARITZA VAN DEN BERG

Maritza joined King William's College in February 2025 having previously taught in schools in South Africa. She moved to the island with her husband and two children.

Maritza started her career in the private sector in 2008 after studying BSc Business, Mathematics and Informatics. She started her teaching career in 2011 and completed her PGCE in Mathematics and Accounting in 2012.

As a person, she loves nature and spending time with the family, and camping in Kruger National Park. She is now looking forward to discovering the beautiful landscapes on the Isle of Man.



2025

VALETTE

MADELEINE BURGER

Madeleine Burger joined King William's College in September 2021 as a teacher of English and History. Having previously spent 18 years teaching in her homeland of South Africa, Maddy moved to the Isle of Man in 2019 and during this time has shared her passion for her subjects with numerous students across the island.

Along with teaching English and History, Maddy's impact was immediately evident as she immersed herself into all areas of life at College, making a significant contribution to both academic and pastoral life. She was a caring and supportive Fifth Form tutor before later extending her pastoral contribution by taking on the role of Boarding Tutor in School House. Throughout her time with us, her approachability and warmth have enabled her to form strong relationships with students and colleagues alike.

Beyond the classroom, Maddy utilised her passion for debating and became a driving force for expanding opportunities for debating at College. Under her guidance, the activity flourished, and she went on to establish the Isle of Man Debating League, creating the opportunity for students across all of the island's secondary schools to engage in formal competition and develop their public speaking skills.

Elsewhere, Maddy also undertook responsibility as editor of 'The Barrovian Magazine' and represented her colleagues with compassion and enthusiasm through her role as Common Room President, making her an integral member of the community.

Maddy now leaves College to take up a new role at Thorpe House School in Buckinghamshire. During her time at King William's College, Maddy has made a meaningful and lasting contribution. Her dedication, kindness and energy have enriched our community, and we thank her sincerely for all she has done. We wish her every happiness and success in her future endeavours.



MICHAEL ROBERTS

Michael Roberts joined King William's College in September 2022 as Deputy Head (Academic), bringing with him extensive teaching and leadership experience. From the outset, he has established himself as a calm and thoughtful leader, known for his professionalism, clarity, and collaborative approach.

During his three years at College, Michael has played a central role in overseeing academic standards and driving key developments. Most notably, he led the implementation of a comprehensive curriculum overview along with playing a key role in refining academic structures, promoting high standards across departments and the school as a whole.

Alongside his senior leadership responsibilities, Michael was an active and respected member of the English department. A skilled and knowledgeable teacher, he developed and maintained excellent relationships with his students and consistently delivered high-quality lessons to students across all age groups. In particular his wealth of experience of the IGCSE and IB curricula made him a valued member of the department.

Beyond the classroom, Michael contributed to College life in a number of ways. A talented musician and songwriter, he became a regular performer at College's Live Lounge events, where he shared his creativity with the school community. His involvement in and support of the co-curricular life of the College reflect his unwavering commitment to a well-rounded educational experience for all students.

Throughout his time at College, Michael has been known for his integrity, reliability, and willingness to support others, meaning he has earned the respect of students and staff alike.

As Michael and his family now relocate to Lisbon for the next chapter in their lives, they leave with our sincere thanks and very best wishes. We are grateful for their contributions to College life and wish them happiness and success in the years ahead.



THE REVEREND ERICA SCOTT

Reverend Erica joined College in 2011 to become Chaplain in the Chapel of St. Thomas. The College Chapel has always been at the heart of the College since being finished in 1879. Reverend Erica has continued this tradition and during her fourteen years as Chaplain has made sure that Chapel remains at the heart of College.

Erica gave Chapel ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’, non-uniform day themes and new hymn books. During Erica’s fourteen years, we estimate that she has likely delivered 1,386 Chapel services.

Erica’s Salvete in the Barrovian of 2011 states “she comes from a long line of seafarers and feels perfectly at home by the sea” – Erica went onto successfully complete the Derbyhaven swim – albeit not in the fastest time, but with 2nd Lieutenant Headon as her safety net she made it back to safe shores.

Reverend Erica has been involved in many aspects of college life, including the Boarding Houses, Chapel and Pastoral Guidance.

We thank her for her dedicated service to the pupils and her support for the wider community of the College through various challenges from ill health to family ceremonies.

College wishes Erica, her husband Alastair, their seven grandchildren and their schnauzer, Dotty, a wonderful fond farewell as they move onwards with God by their side.



LOUISE ASHTON

In 2004, Louise Ashton walked back through the gates of The Buchan School, not for the first time, but this time as a teacher rather than a pupil. For someone who once sat cross-legged in assembly and clutched her first school bag in the very same corridors, the return felt like coming home – albeit with a green pen and planner in hand instead of a boater.

Having spent 14 years teaching in the UK, including time in Oxford educating Year 6 and 7 students while also being a swimming coach and lifeguard, the pull of the Isle of Man proved too strong. The Buchan School was not just familiar ground, it was family. Louise's own parents had taught at both The Buchan School and King William's College. She was then among the first cohort to make the jump from The Buchan School to King William's College for Sixth Form.

Starting off as the Form 1 (Year 3) teacher, and also teaching Maths to Form 4 (Year 6), it was not long before she found herself fully immersed. Louise quickly became a Buchan institution, moving on to become Form 4 tutor and teaching English and Maths, and Head of Maths for several years.

One of her greatest passions, and enduring legacies, was coordinating The Buchan School Badge for over 15 years. What started as a co-curricular programme blossomed into a wonderland of life skills, curiosity, creativity. Children explored everything from golf, yoga, and drama to Lego robotics, gardening, cooking, and more.

A highlight of The Buchan School Badge was the Nautical module: A salty blend of marine biology, rock pooling, dinghy sailing and RNLI rescue training. Louise, aka 'Miss A', often found herself knee-deep in seaweed, towing dinghies up Port Erin beach, and trying to keep both balance and dignity while being splashed by enthusiastic Year 4s. Later years saw a graceful pivot to drier topics like Wellbeing and Manx Folklore, swapping the wellies for Manx dancing shoes.

Thanks to her tireless efforts and partnership with 7th Wave, the Manx Wildlife Trust, and more, many Buchan pupils found their sea legs... some even going on to represent the Island in sailing competitions, with the school competing at IAPS National Sailing Championships under her guidance. The Irish Sea, and Louise, clearly nurture a wonderful resilience. The children were always in safe hands with Louise being a keen sailor herself and a coastguard volunteer.

In 2013, Louise took on the role of Head of Prep, a post she held with characteristic gusto and fairness; her mission was clear: to keep the children feeling safe, smiling and having a happy and positive learning journey. She maintained a calm presence amid the hustle and bustle of daily school life.

Louise introduced a structured system of sanctions and rewards including Golden Tickets (a favourite with all of the children) and Housepoint certificates to the well-loved Prep-Diary. She gave children the security of boundaries and the freedom to make their own choices.

Rain or shine, and quite often hail, Louise was there on the school doorstep each morning, offering a cheerful "hello" and a reminder that "if I can be outside, so can you, just wear your coat!"

We wish her all the best as she moves onto her next adventure.



2025 HONOURS

RAQUEL AMOEDO GARCIA
(2017-2022)
BSc (Hons) 1st Class – Politics,
International Relations and Management
Lancaster University

ROBERT JOSEPH BOSTROM
(2014-2021)
BSc (Hons) 1st Class – Physiotherapy
University College Birmingham

STEFAN FONG
(2016-2021)
MRes, Distinction – Biomedical Research
(Anaesthetics, Pain Medicine and Intensive Care)
Imperial College London

ALICE GIBSON
(2008-2022)
BA 1st Class – Theatre with a Minor
in Cinematic Arts
University of Southern California

BOBBIE HEMPSALL
(2007-2022)
BSc (Hons) 2:1 – Human Biology and
Sports & Exercise Science
Liverpool Hope University

TEGAN HORROX
(2007-2021)
BA (Hons) 2:1 – Business and Management
with Placement Year
Durham University

LAI CHUNG HEI JONAS
(2019-2021)
BSc (Hons) 1st Class – Earth Science
and Climate Change
Australian National University

AMELIA KINNIN
(2014-2021)
BSc (Hons) 1st Class - Urban Planning,
Design and Management
University College London
MSc, Distinction – Urban Regeneration
and Development
University of Manchester

GEORGIA MATHIESON-NELSON
(2014-2021)
BSc (Hons) 1st Class - Midwifery
Anglia Ruskin University

REBECCA LOUISE OWEN
(2000-2003)
BA (Hons) 2:1 – Adult Field Nursing
University of Chester
PGDIP High Merit – Palliative Care and Palliative
Medicine
University of Newcastle

BOGDAN OWORUSZKO
(2018-2019)
MSc 1st Class – Management
(Management and Quality Studies)
University of Warsaw

SABIN RUFA
(2017-2019)
BA (Hons) 2:1 – European Political and Governance
Studies with Study Abroad
University of Warwick
MA, Good – European Political and Governance
Studies (Option: European Public Policy Analysis)
College of Europe (Bruges Campus)

CRISTINA SALINARDI
(2011-2021)
BSc (Hons) 1st Class – Business Management
University of Surrey

LAINE SMITH
(2018 -2021)
BA (Hons) 1st Class - Digital News and Media
University of Buckingham
MSc Distinction - Digital Marketing
King's College London

CONSTANZE ZEISS
(2016-2019)
MSc 1st Class – Economic Research
University of Cologne

2025

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

Cameron B	Northumbria University	Law
Kayla B	Gap year then York	Law and Criminology
Milica B	Universität Wien, Austria	Languages
Elliott B	Durham University	Accounting
Edward C	Lancaster University	Finance
Daisy C	Newcastle University	Geography
Max C	Oxford Brookes University	Engineering with a Foundation Year
Nathaniel D	Exeter University	History
Theodore E	Lancaster University	History
James G	University of Liverpool	History
Lara H B	Reading University	Classics
Mikhaella H	Exeter University	Exercise and Sports Science
Elizabeth J	University College Isle of Man (UCM)	Health Care
Emily K	University of Bath	Sport and Exercise Science
Benjamin K	University of St Andrews University	Financial Economics and Management
Tallulah N	University of Oxford	Japanese
Jemima N	Nottingham University	English
Elizabeth O	University College Isle of Man (UCM)	Computer Science
Emily O	Durham University	Business and Management with Placement Year
Jessie Q	Royal Holloway, University of London	Psychology, Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience
Lucy Š	Maastricht University, Netherlands	Maastricht Science Programme
Aidan S	Deggendorf University, Germany	Industrial Engineering
Teodora S	LUT University, Finland	Energy Engineering
Luke S	Bath University	Aerospace Engineering
Rita Z	Kingston University	Photography
Milo B	Leading Edge Aviation	Leap-74







THE BUCHAN SCHOOL

THE BUCHAN SCHOOL

This year marks a special chapter in the history of The Buchan School, as we celebrate two significant milestones. Firstly, we commemorate 150 years since our founding by Laura, Lady Buchan. Secondly, we bid farewell to our Westhill site, making this the final year that our school community will call it home.

Our pupils hold a unique place in this journey. They will be the last pupils to wear the iconic Buchan tartan kilt, blue striped shirt/dress, and blue blazer, while also being the first to step forward in the new uniform—bridging the past and future of our school.

This year all our pupils, from the Nursery to Form 4 (Year 6), have embraced each and every opportunity to learn and to thrive.

They have supported one another through every challenge, growing into confident and capable individuals who can use their skills and knowledge in any situation.

As you read the pages which follow, you will see the numerous activities that have taken place and the amazing achievements.

We now look forward to The Buchan School's relocation to King William's College where pupils can continue to flourish and excel.

JANET BILLINGSLEY EVANS

Head of The Buchan School

THE BUCHAN SCHOOL

PRE-PREP

As the school year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey our Pre-Prep students have been on. From their very first day to their final weeks in this familiar setting, they have grown in confidence, curiosity, and capability. This year has been filled with learning, laughter, and lasting memories, and we could not be prouder of each and every child.

From mastering literacy and numeracy skills, to building friendships and discovering the world around them, our Pre-Prep students have made remarkable progress. Whether through Buchan Rangers, P3 (Year 2) classroom debates, Mini School Council or off-site trips, they have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm.

Special highlights of the year include:

P3 (YEAR 2)

The Great Fire of London topic! The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about this historic event and experienced a first-hand recreation of the Pudding Lane fire at the Airport Fire Station. Their factual knowledge surrounding this event was exceptional! Another highlight was the rainforest topic, which included a special trip to Currags Wildlife park. Finally, a huge thank you to the students that took part in our Expert of the Week presentations; the confidence and knowledge the children displayed was exceptional.

P2 (YEAR 1)

Castle Day! The children were able to use their new knowledge and create their own

castles, along with a handmade crown fit for a King or Queen! P2 (Year 1) also visited our local medieval castle, Castle Rushen, or Cashtal Rushen and expertly recognised and named the different parts of the architecture; very impressive. The children used their practical maths skills to weigh, cook and eat pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday; a treat they all thoroughly enjoyed!

P1 (RECEPTION)

Visiting King William's Chapel of St Thomas, to hear the nativity story whilst surrounding the beautiful Christmas tree was a real highlight. The children always love Buchan Rangers, but this year the children particularly enjoyed lighting fires onto a scallop shell using a ferrocerium rod and steel. They learnt the skills, safety measures and rules of fire building and were delighted when they cooked an afternoon snack on their class-made fire! P1(Reception) have also celebrated their learning by inviting their parents to take part in 'Stay and Learn' sessions, including phonics, mathematics and Rangers activities.

As we close this chapter and look ahead to a new beginning, we do so with gratitude and appreciation for the beautiful Buchan grounds and for the many years of wonderful Pre-Prep memories, for pupils and staff, past and present.

As the well known saying goes, 'We can't direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails', and we will adjust to changes ahead and ensure to take the Pre-Prep and Buchan sparkle with us.



THE BUCHAN SCHOOL ENGLISH

Once again, the academic year has been jam packed with reading, writing, handwriting, creativity and a double dose of imagination. This year's interhouse competition focused on handwriting. Children selected a poem to copy around the theme of Kindness. It was an extremely hard job to judge but prizes went to pupils who had taken great care and showed patience in the quality of their entry.

October meant the submission of The Buchan School Baccalaureate Extended projects from Form Four (Year 6). Every year, we as staff, are in awe of the range of topics and quality of research and presentation of the entries and are already looking forward to receiving the next cohort's entries. The projects were exhibited during our school inspection for all the parents to see and to inspire future classes. The inspector was highly impressed with the quality of the projects and the confidence with which the children were able to talk about them.

It was a delight to welcome back Manx Litfest and a visiting local author had the Form Three (Year 5) cohort creating poems about the sea. The message was simple: do not be afraid of a blank piece of paper, start with a few words, wait and watch your poem grow. A super lesson for everyone!

The highlight of the year was World Book Day. Once again everyone had fun dressing up as their favourite book themed characters, parading through the school and enjoying a host of book themed activities.

In our English lessons, Form Three (Year 5) looked at the adventures of the space travellers who went on the Apollo missions using the text, 'Where We Once Stood'. It offered a wealth of information to spark our writing from many different perspectives. We came up with our own ideas for future space tourism and the pupils faced the hard task of pitching their ideas, 'Dragon's Den' style, to a tough panel! The highlight of this topic was a visit to Peel Cathedral to look at a fabulous moon installation. The pupils had composed poems and we stood and entertained members of the public with strong imagery and metaphor as we recited the poetry.

Form One (Year 3) looked at the story 'Seen but Not Heard' and have had great fun writing instructions for Miss Goody Two Shoes; she now definitely knows how to be naughty!

The Buchan School fully embraces all that is offered by the English department, and we are very grateful for everyone's participation in all of our events and fun.

THE BUCHAN SCHOOL DRAMA

At The Buchan School we remain committed to striving for the highest standards possible in Primary Drama and this year has been no exception!

Form 4's (Year 6) Summer 2024 production of the new play 'No Time To Spy' took inspiration from aspects of their work throughout the year, from the novels of Fleming, Horowitz and Muchamore and, inevitably, the wealth of spy films from Bond to Bourne. Set in MI13, the junior branch of National Intelligence, they must once again save the world from the tyranny of the evil organisation, ACRONYM! The whole cast performed amazingly well, completely embodying their roles in the action-packed drama. Onstage they created car chases, international espionage, break-ins, shoot-outs, skiing, skydiving, and kung-fu. It was truly epic.

All of Pre-Prep have been looking at the journey of the traditional hero throughout their drama work, from journeying with Odysseus on his great adventures to travelling back in time to the origins of theatre and mask work in ancient Greece.

P1 (Reception) particularly enjoyed their work on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', performing in our open-air theatre and learning all about Shakespeare's riotous characters from Oberon and Titania to Flute and, of course, the ever-popular Bottom!

Forms 2 and 3 (Years 4 and 5) have been taking a deep dive into the works of Shakespeare, from the 'vast fields of France' in the bombastic 'Henry V' to the supernatural and those most tragic heroes, Macbeth and Hamlet. The children have

explored the complicated verse and twisting plots with energy, enthusiasm and typical Buchan bravery. They have also had the chance to perform and show off their skills in the first ever Music and Drama (MAD) evening, to everyone's delight.

Form 1 (Year 3) thoroughly enjoyed their time in front of the camera, filming their first short film. They had the experience of creating a project from the ground up, devising, rehearsing, filming and looking into the post-production process as well! Taking inspiration from Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd, they thoroughly enjoyed the anarchy and chaos of a silent comedy.

As ever, the highlight was the end of year show, and, more than ever, we have challenged ourselves to reach new heights. 'The Jigsaw House' was a new play, written especially for the children. Drawing from classic films like 'Blade Runner', 'The Fifth Element' and 'The Hunger Games', Anime and Japanese Cinema, our dream was to create something never before seen on stage. It was a wildly ambitious new take on science fiction and a dark dystopia, set in a future where everyone is in thrall to the mega-corporation, JoyMart and hopes to win a place in the titular Jigsaw House – everyone, that is, everyone except one girl, Nyx, who must face danger and her greatest fears in order to escape her fate.

The production involved special effects, multi-media and filming as well as stage work with a cast of 20. It really was a remarkable production and the joy felt by the cast of children was apparent from the moment it began to the final curtain call. Well done to all involved in this huge creative endeavour.

THE BUCHAN SCHOOL SCIENCE

During the School Inspection which took place this academic year, the Lead Inspector, whilst watching a science lesson in The Buchan School Science Lab, said “Can you tell me what a tellurium is, as it is written on your lesson plan and I’m not sure what it is?”. The Lead Inspector was a science specialist but had not come across this piece of equipment in any school that he had inspected before. During a subsequent discussion, he expressed amazement at the range and quality of the science equipment that the pupils of The Buchan School have access to, which outstripped that of many Prep Schools teaching specialist science.

At The Buchan School we are very fortunate to have such equipment; it is often commented upon as a ‘stand-out’ when visiting parents see the lab on Open Days. The equipment was purchased for the school by the Friends at Buchan parent fundraising group, to enhance the teaching of science when the current science lab was refurbished.

Since then hundreds of pupils have enjoyed taking apart anatomical models to learn about the major organs of the human body and they have learnt about the different teeth we have and how to keep them clean!

Wonderful models of other parts of our bodies have enhanced the learning about the human ear, the heart, eyes and lungs.

The pupils love to use the microscopes which are used by all year groups. One of the favourite activities is the dissection of a daffodil to examine the parts of a flower and

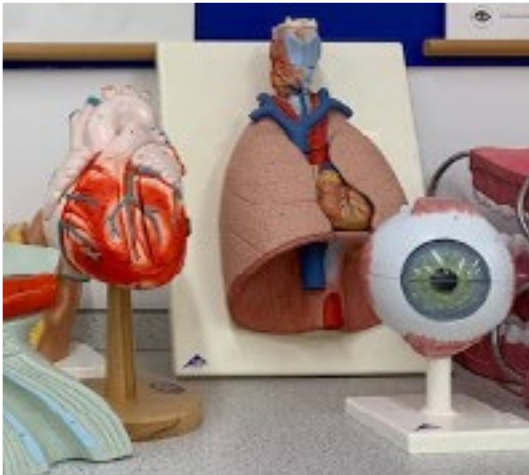
to discover the tiny little eggs which most pupils never knew existed! Pupils have access to a microscope each and investigate the wonders of nature for themselves.

Other examples of our wonderful equipment include our collection of magnets, which are great fun to explore with and often result in magnets attached to all manner of objects around the lab, and our boxes of fossils which give the pupils a window into what life on earth looked like millions of years ago. Pupils study these to see if there are similarities between the fossils and living plants and animals that are alive now.

Equipment more commonly found in a secondary school science lab allows the pupils to investigate light. With such good equipment, even the youngest pupils discover that they can make a rainbow of colours (the spectrum of light) in a matter of minutes.

Other equipment can be used to investigate forces, sound, solids/liquids/gases, making mixtures and separating them, growing plants in different conditions and much more...

Finally, what was the tellurium that puzzled the Inspector? It is one of two wonderful models which allows the pupils to see how the earth and moon move relative to the sun giving days, nights and years and even allows the demonstration of a solar eclipse! Opposite is the tellurium and a planetarium showing the orbits of the planets. Even Inspectors learn things in our science lab...



THE BUCHAN SCHOOL

FRENCH

A YEAR OF LANGUAGE, LAUGHTER AND LEARNING

This year pupils at The Buchan School have been on a vibrant and enriching journey through language and culture. From our youngest learners in Pre-Prep to our confident Form 4 (Year 6) linguists, French has been brought to life through creative themes, hands-on experiences, and a strong emphasis on enjoyment and self-expression.

Camembear – the talking teddy bear from Quimper – has continued to delight our P1 (Reception) pupils. With his help, they have confidently greeted each other, sung enthusiastically, and explored vocabulary for family members, pets and colours. They also discovered the parts of the body by completing a Camembear jigsaw, making sure everything was in the right place!

P2 (Year 1) went on wild adventures to the jungle and the circus, consolidating vocabulary and joining in with energetic songs along the way. Meanwhile, P3 (Year 2) discussed their favourite seasons and were full of enthusiasm for their superhero topic, rounding off the year learning about all the beautiful creatures, les petites bêtes, in the garden.

In the Prep department, Form 1 (Year 3) began by learning to introduce themselves, before diving into animals, musical instruments, and—much to their delight—ice cream flavours, which they even had the chance to taste! Form 2 (Year 4) explored vocabulary around family members and confidently described the contents of their pencil cases in French.

Form 3 (Year 5) took their learning into the culinary world, designing their own salon

de thé. Through role-play and sampling authentic French pâtisserie, they embraced French culture in a truly delicious way. Form 4 (Year 6) enjoyed an immersive cultural adventure, which included tasting a variety of French cheese and applying their teamwork and problem-solving skills to build a model of the Eiffel Tower as part of a STEM challenge. The solar system was explored as pupils learnt to name the planets, observe the changing night sky and gathered research in order to eloquently describe the mysterious planet 9!

A particular highlight this year was our participation in the annual Association for Language Learning (ALL) Calligram Competition. Pupils had the opportunity to combine their linguistic and artistic talents to create visually striking pieces of French word art. We were incredibly proud that the calligrams of Eleanor, Beatrice and Austin were selected for publication in this year's official ALL publication— a remarkable and memorable honour.

At The Buchan School, we strongly believe that learning another language is about more than memorising words – it's about building cultural awareness, boosting confidence, and sparking curiosity about the world. Through singing, role-play, tasting, creating and exploring, we aim to foster not only linguistic skills, but also a lifelong love of languages.

We are so proud of all our pupils for their enthusiasm, creativity, and courage in trying something new. As we reflect on a joyful and successful year, we look forward to seeing our young linguists continue to flourish and to be inspired.



THE BUCHAN SCHOOL MUSIC

"I always loved music; whoso has skill in this art is of good temperament, fitted for all things. We must teach music in schools; a schoolmaster ought to have skill in music, or I would not regard him."

Martin Luther

The importance of music cannot be underestimated and here at The Buchan School, music touches the lives of each and every pupil.

Music appreciation is experienced from Nursery age and the children are encouraged to respond and express their emotions through movement and sound.

In Pre-Prep, Music is taught using a topic-based and calendar events approach, mainly through the medium of singing and classroom instruments. Further up the school, the teaching of Music continues to follow the Model Music Curriculum, covering singing, listening, composing and performing.

Outside of the Music lesson, enrichment activities play a large part in the musical ethos of the school. Children from P1 (Reception) have the opportunity to play a variety of instruments led by the superb visiting music teachers. Both Pre-Prep (Reception - Year 3) and Prep (Year 4, 5 and 6) children can attend weekly choir sessions. This year, nearly 90 children volunteered to join these rehearsals and most were able to take part in the Manx Music Festival. Additional Prep activities include Recorder Club, Folk Group and Orchestra. Thanks to Miss Kelly for her excellent help with the Folk and Orchestra groups.

A leadership programme has recently been implemented within the Prep choir club. In September, the children in Form 4 (Year 6) were invited to apply for a number of positions within the choir. The interested children wrote letters of application, received a job description and attended interviews for three positions – Head of Choir, Personal Assistant and Music Ambassador. The successful children have been involved in the running of the weekly and bi-weekly choir sessions, collecting the children, organising resources, leading section rehearsals, and even conducting the whole choir. This has been a resounding success and the children have greatly enjoyed the experience.

Performance is an integral part of Music at The Buchan School. The children are able to showcase their developing skills on voice or instrument, either during lessons in front of their peers, during weekly assemblies in front of the whole school and also more formally, at the Autumn and Summer Serenades, which take place in front of parents. Pre-Prep (Reception - Year 3) children are encouraged to take part in the Cushion Concert which is held during the Autumn Term. This year, 27 children performed in the Summer Serenade and it was wonderful to see how much they had progressed since 2024.

Choir performances during the school year have included Christmas events – both at St. Thomas' for the annual Carol Service and at Silverdale Residential Home. A group of P3 (Year 2) children performed at the Manx Folk Awards this year, winning their class and the overall 'Folkastic' prize of the day. Prep Choir (Years 4.5 and 6) also took part in the Easter Service, again at St. Thomas' in April.



In May, Prep Choir (Years 4, 5 and 6) took part in the Manx Music Festival, placing second in the competition, whilst Pre-Prep (Reception-Year 3) gained first place again. Soon after the competition was the Lady Laura Lunch. The choir performed their 'Guild' pieces – 'Seal Lullaby' and 'There's a Power in the Music' and there was a lovely solo from Beatrix – one of the Heads of Choir. Both choirs took part in the annual prize giving held at King William's College. The audience was also given a super musical concert before the event, with Miss Kelly leading the Orchestra and Folk Group. This was followed by a selection of super vocal and instrumental soloists, showcasing the incredibly talented Buchan children.

The music calendar for June was a very busy one. The Form 4 (Year 6) choir members took part in the Sound of Mann Primary Schools Concert at the Villa Marina. This was an incredible experience for the Buchaneers - to sing along with over 500 of the Island's children. Many pieces were learned and practised, including three in Manx; the children were a credit to the school.

'This Is the Greatest School,' The Buchan School's music video, was filmed during June. Each year group featured a selection of pupils playing an instrument, linking in to the performance element of the Model Music Curriculum.

We were very sad to say goodbye to a number of staff at the end of this year. The children had worked very hard to prepare some goodbye songs for Miss Ashton and Reverend Erica. A Buchan version of

'If I were Not Upon the Stage' was written for Miss Ashton and each class gave Miss Ashton hilarious advice on possible jobs she could do. This was followed by a beautiful rendition of 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' for Reverend Erica – which remains her all time favourite blessing.

Our final musical item featured in the Form 4 (Year 6) Leaver's assembly in which they performed 'Try Everything.' This song contains a very important message to us all – to keep going despite adversity and to never give up.

Thank you to the visiting music teachers who work extremely hard to help their pupils achieve their best and to Lucy Walker and Rosie Ellwood for their incredible organisational skills. A final heartfelt thank-you must also go to Janet Billingsley-Evans who has been a huge support and a dedicated champion of excellence in music.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to teach music at The Buchan School and I wish all the staff and pupils every happiness for the future. Keep singing and making the best music!

*' Where the children shine in the bright light
Where the teachers are buzzing with life
Impossible comes true, it's now a part of you
Oh this is the greatest school
We rise up, we won't come down
And the stars can't stop us now
Learning and growing, it's all inside of you
Oh this is The Buchan School.'*

Mrs Jenni Garrett

Head of Music at The Buchan School
2020 - 2025



THE BUCHAN SCHOOL I.T

Form 3 (Year 5) have been working hard on the basics of CAD and how it can be used to improve the design process. They have evaluated existing fidget spinner designs, used a program to automatically generate one using variables, and many have gone on to create their own designs using TinkerCAD.

Pupils have been asked to create a reflective journal of their learning, evaluating ideas throughout and refining ideas to arrive at their final designs.

They have extended their technical language and learnt how software can take a very

complicated idea such as “Print a fidget spinner” and break it down into thousands of lines of code to print each layer. They have seen this visually in the slicer software and some have even looked at the gcode that runs on the 3D print!

It has been fantastic to hear the children talk about and share their learning with others. Who would have thought we’d be talking about changes in inertia as a result of moving weights away from/towards the central bearing with 9 and 10 year-olds! The finished toys went home – a mere eight years after the 2017 fidget spinner craze!

THE BUCHAN SCHOOL SPORT

NETBALL U9 UK BRILLIANCE

A huge well done to our Under 9 netballers who travelled to Packwood to play in their annual Prep School netball tournament. It was the Buchan girls' first ever competitive game of netball as a team, so there was great excitement about the trip. After a fun-filled morning of Laser-Tag, climbing towers and numerous snack breaks, the girls were ready to get on court. The girls really stepped up to the level of play and showed great movement, passing and tight defensive work, resulting in an outstanding afternoon of netball where they convincingly won all their games and conceded only three goals throughout. The day finished with a trip to the trampoline and adventure park before pizza and bed. Throughout the trip, the girls showed great teamwork, kindness and lovely manners. They were a real credit to the school. A superb sporting achievement and well done to all the girls on the trip.

NETBALL U11 UK SUCCESS

Two teams of Buchan netballers travelled to Shrewsbury for the day to play in a Prep School U11 tournament. Our U11 Black team played in the 'Cup' competition against some strong and experienced schools. With improvements made by all throughout the day, they came away with five wins and one loss: A brilliant result, building on last year's result. Despite being the youngest and smallest, our Blue team were up for the challenge of the U11 Plate competition. Their speed, movement, tight marking and super shooting led them to winning all their games. Well done to all girls on a successful sporting day away.

NETBALL U11 ISLE OF MAN CHAMPIONS

Congratulations on a super season of unbeaten netball on the Island for our U11's. The team progressed to the Isle of Man finals unbeaten and maintained this throughout all six games on finals day, with impressive wins in all games. Their fast passing, interceptions and teamwork were impressive, and the title of Isle of Man Champions is thoroughly deserved. Well done, Buchan!

SWIMMING IOM DOLPHIN TROPHY CHAMPIONS

Our Dolphin Swimming team put in superb performances in all events, scoring a massive 147 points out of a possible 156. We had 10 top 3 finishes with 6 children winning their event. The team were crowned much deserved winners and collected the oldest Primary school trophy that is still in existence.

CROSS COUNTRY IOM GIRLS' CHAMPIONS

Our brilliant cross-country runners put in superb individual and team performances at the IOM championships at Nobles Park. In a field of over 300 runners, we had three top ten runners, which is outstanding.

As a team, the girls achieved a brilliant winning total score of 52 points, a huge 40 points clear of second place. The boys were in a very strong field; although most of our runners are still only U9/U10, they dug deep for Buchan to finish second overall out of 33 schools.

Congratulations to all.

THE BUCHAN SCHOOL SPORT

FOOTBALL U11 IOM MILLENNIUM

In the IOM Millennium Tournament, the Buchan team won 7 and lost 1 game in the group stage to finish top of their league. In a tight quarter final, we were beaten by the eventual winners, Ballacottier, after conceding from a last-minute corner. As most of the team are still able to play next year, the day was great experience for them.

BUCHAN SPORTS FESTIVALS

We have run three of our popular Buchan Football Festivals at King William's College over the year, each with a good turnout from the other schools on the island. This gives our pupils the chance to use the skills they have learnt in a fun and competitive environment. We entered several teams in each Festival with boys and girls from Form 1 (Year 3) to Form 4 (Year 6), and it proved to be a great experience for all the players.

INTER HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

The Buchan School Prep Department had a fantastic afternoon of determination, resilience, nerves, excitement and parental support for their annual Cross-Country event. 76% of children achieved a personal best time after six weeks of training for the event, which is a superb result and a true reflection of all their efforts during lesson times this term. We also had two new school records. Congratulations should go to our two winning Houses, Olaf (Under 9) and Magnus (Under 11) and well done to our individual medal winners.

INTER HOUSE TRIATHLON / P3 (YEAR 2) DUATHLON

On Bank Holiday Monday May 5th, in sunny conditions, almost 100 children took part in the annual Buchan School Triathlon held at King William's College. In terms of the number of competitors, this is the largest junior triathlon held on the Isle of Man, and all the competitors managed to complete the course. The under 9 age group swam 3 lengths of King William's College pool, cycled 1,000 metres on grass and ran 600 metres, whereas the under 11's swam 8 lengths, cycled 2,000 metres and ran 1,200 metres. The emphasis of the day was on having fun and introducing the children to the exciting sport of triathlon. The aim for all was to complete the course, and although finishing positions were not recorded, the natural competitiveness of the children shone through, resulting in some dramatic sprint finishes. Our P3 (Year 2) pupils also rose to the challenge of our annual Duathlon. This involves a 400m run, 800m bike ride and a final 200m run; a great achievement for our 6 and 7 year olds in readiness for the triathlon next year.

INTER HOUSE SWIMMING GALA

The May half term finished on a high note with our interhouse Swimming Gala for all children in the Prep Department (Years 4, 5 and 6). There were six new individual school records set on the day which is a huge achievement. Just as commendable though were the efforts of all the pupils for their improvement over the year and the number of personal bests that were set.



INTER HOUSE ATHLETICS – PREP (YEARS 4,5 AND 6) SPORTS DAY

The weather was amazingly kind to us for our final big sporting event at our Westhill campus: Sports Day. All pupils participated in a variety of track and field events throughout the day, where they displayed excellent sportsmanship, determination and desire to achieve their very best; it was truly rewarding watching the children reap the benefits of their hard work. This year, we also had seven new school records. Congratulations to all children on their hard work and efforts in achieving their bronze, silver, gold and platinum standards for the ten track and field events and thank you to the parents for supporting and making it such a fantastic atmosphere.

PRE-PREP (RECEPTION, YEARS 1 AND 2) SPORTS DAY

Our 4-7 year olds enjoyed an awesome afternoon of under, over, in, out and running to the finish line in a variety of events. The excitement and smiles on their faces stole the show. Well done to all of pupils on their hard work and efforts both on the day and when practising in lesson time. Their finishing stickers and ice pops were certainly much deserved.

CHILL FACTORE SKI TRIP

It was second time lucky for 30 of our pupils who went on the biannual trip to the Chill Factore in Manchester, after fog resulted in the first trip being cancelled. With a mix of beginners, intermediate and experienced skiers, the pupils enjoyed an action-packed day of lessons on the slopes. This trip allows many of our pupils to experience the sport for the first time and sets them up nicely for school ski trips in the future. Despite an early start and late finish, the pupils had a super day.



THE BUCHAN SCHOOL – SPORT RESULTS/RECORDS

INTER HOUSE COMPETITIONS: RESULTS 2024/25

	Under 9 champions	Under 11 champions
Fitness	LAGMAN	GODRED
Cross Country	OLAF	MAGNUS
Basketball/Bucketball	LAGMAN/GODRED	OLAF/MAGNUS
Swimming	OLAF	OLAF
Triathlon	MAGNUS	LAGMAN
Athletics	MAGNUS	OLAF

NEW SCHOOL RECORDS 2024/2025

Under 8

Lorcan Cross Country

Under 9

Beatrice Fitness

Thomlyn Cross Country

Barney Swimming Breaststroke

Barney Swimming Backstroke

Maddie Athletics Javelin

Thea Athletics Ball Throw

Pippa Athletics 150m

Under 11

Grace Swimming Breaststroke

Grace Swimming Backstroke

George Athletics 100m

George Athletics 800m

BUCHAN SPORTS TEAMS – COMPETITION RESULTS

Isle of Man Schools' Competitions:

Under 11 Southern Schools Netball IOM Champions

Under 11 Isle of Man Indoor Athletics IOM Champions

Under 11 Isle of Man Cross Country – Girls IOM Champions

Under 11 Isle of Man Netball IOM Champions

Under 11 Isle of Man Millennium Football Group Winners

Under 11 Isle of Man Cross Country – Overall Runners-up

UK Tournaments

Under 9 Invitational Netball Tournament Winners

Under 11 Invitational Netball Cup Tournament Runners-up

Under 11 Invitational Netball Plate Tournament Winners



THE BUCHAN SCHOOL ADVENTURES







KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In July 2024 we unveiled our five-year School Improvement Strategy. I am pleased to be able to report progress across all five strategic priorities.

Strategic Priority 1 – Academic

This was the area which was addressed most energetically both before and after November 2024's successful ISI inspection. From September 2024 we had a superior timetable or 'shape of day' at King William's College, on the back of the curriculum review led by Mr Roberts. This gave us longer lessons (55 minutes), a different number of lessons per day (6), a new distribution of teaching time between subjects (with more time for IB HL subjects), and the creation of Faculties. The role of Head of Faculty was instituted to provide key strategic middle management and quality assurance. Annual review (Appraisal) began in January, and the vast majority of teachers completed the process by the end of the academic year.

In response to the recommendations from the ISI report, there was a focus on academic delivery at INSET at the start of Summer term, with training on classroom questioning and cognitive load theory. Also at INSET, we introduced a streamlined way of gathering information internally on how we support our SEND pupils.

In August I was delighted to announce a superb set of (I)GCSE results for 2025. Our students achieved an overall pass rate (9-4 or A*-C) of 90%, with 23% of grades being at 9/8 or A* and 41% of grades at 9-7 or A*/A. Excluding the covid years, the pass rate was the highest since 2019 and by the latter two metrics, this was the joint (with 2024) best set of results since 2016. Hearty congratulations to all U5 (Year 11) students and the small number of students in other year groups who sat (I)GCSEs this summer. Full Academic Colours were awarded to: Charles A, Oscar C, June F, Daisy M, Polina P, and Casey-Rae P.

Our IB pass rate was 94% with an average points score per candidate of 31.5. Our top scorer had a whopping 42 points. Therefore the vast majority of King William's College U6 (Year 13) had a most pleasing end to their Sixth Form journey. The full list of university destinations is on our website and elsewhere in the Barrovian Magazine as usual. Thank you to my colleagues who worked hard over the summer processing enquiries about results and UCAS.

So as to communicate more effectively with parents about their children's academic progress, from September we brought in a new reporting and assessment schedule. Under the new schedule, feedback will be sent home more frequently, roughly every three weeks, in a range of formats.

Strategic Priority 2 – Pastoral

Pastoral care has long been the jewel in the crown at King William's College and The Buchan School, and we have not taken our eye off the ball here, as our ISI 'Excellent' rating for Personal Development of Pupils attests. With the new shape of the day, House time became longer this year, which allowed for more meaningful bonding activities. Students benefited from some very effective peer leadership from the Heads of House, joined together beautifully, and had lots of fun. Also last September, PSHE delivery was brought into the timetable, with Mr Dawson leading a core team of teachers who underwent training in RSE teaching from Brook, with lessons throughout the year being supplemented by visiting guest speakers from external agencies such as Isle Listen and the IOM Constabulary.

Pastorally in boarding, we were pleased with our last Inspection Report from Isle of Man Social Care. The report was positive in all areas with only two areas of concern noted: lagging of pipes and some redecoration needed, quickly addressed. Staffing-wise, after a splendid tenure as Housemother, Mrs Wendy Lang left us at the end of Summer term. Mrs Tracey Bowrey joins us as boarding care assistant to work during the day, assisting in Medical when not busy in boarding. Mr Moss has been appointed Boys' Houseparent and he is very excited about moving into Wilson House. There is a stirring air of enthusiasm in boarding.

Regarding pastoral staffing i.e. Heads of Year: Mr Jeffers will have L5 (Year 9), Mr Davidson will have M5 (Year 10), and Mrs Titley-Brabban will take on U5 (Year 11). In the Sixth Form, Mr Dejonwo will become Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Miss Day will take on UCAS co-ordination. We are delighted that Sister Frances Bland will continue to run the Medical Centre,

providing nursing care for our boarding pupils as well as emergency care for our day pupils and staff. We are also taking this opportunity to look at where the Centre can best serve the whole school community as we plan for The Buchan School move.

In September, by popular demand (for example, from the new Praes), we will re-launch our peer mentoring scheme with Mrs Beesley at the helm as our new Assistant Head.

Strategic Priority 3 – Co-curricular

This was another wonderful year for our pupils, brimming with achievement, creativity and adventure, showing just how much our pupils flourish beyond the classroom. From island fixtures and national competitions in sport, music, drama and debating, to landmark moments such as girls joining the MCC cricket fixture for the first time and our show-stopping production of 'Matilda Jr', there was no shortage of achievement. Outdoor Education thrived through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and CCF, while a packed boarding programme and House calendar added even more colour to College life.

Our pupils also reached far beyond the island, with high-profile trips to Japan and Los Angeles giving them unforgettable experiences.

Together, these experiences on and off campus capture the heart of our co-curricular strategy: diverse, relevant and inspiring programmes, partnerships at home and abroad, expertly planned schedules, and staff who make it all possible. Whether cultural, academic, or adventurous, our programme helps our young people grow in confidence and develop the global perspective they will need for their future lives.

Strategic Priority 4 – International

Our international ethos was much in evidence this year. The take-up of flexi- and weekly-boarding by day pupils was terrific, broadening friendships and deepening the sense of community across the Houses. The boys' successful move from Colbourne to Wilson House gave them a warm and welcoming home, and new staff made their mark with energy and care.

International celebrations such as our joyful Taste of Culture evening showcased the diversity of our pupil body and the pride we take in sharing one another's traditions. Worth noting is that our ISI inspectors praised the friendliness and inclusivity of daily life at King William's College – evident in the warm welcome offered by Mrs Howland in the King William's College Reading Room/ Reception, as well as in the friendships that flourish across year groups and continents.

Strategic Priority 5 – Community

We continued to celebrate and share our vibrant community spirit. Our social media channels reflected the joy, talent, and achievements of our students. We invite you to explore our student testimonials through our Kampus24 Interactive Prospectus, which brings our school to life in a dynamic and engaging way. We're also thrilled to engage with our community in our Rooted in Legacy campaign, helping to build the future of our school while honouring its past. Our new Alumni and Development Officer, Mrs Jo Thornton, has already made a wonderful impact in strengthening these connections.

This year has also been especially poignant in Chapel, with Rev. Erica leading her final cycle of deeply moving services. Parents are warmly invited to join us in Chapel every other Friday, as well as on special occasions such as Confirmation, Remembrance, Easter and Carol Services, where visiting speakers and student reflections make each gathering truly memorable. These moments reflect our Christian foundation and our role as a warm hub of the island's community.

Over the summer, our amazing support staff facilitated an extensive programme of lettings and camps. Fans of numbers will want to know that we welcomed a total of 221 guests staying 75 nights. The catering team prepared 605 breakfasts, 377 packed lunches and 413 evening meals, plus 250 hot lunches for the soccer camp children. We hosted 3 walking groups, 5 swimming camps, a hockey camp, a cheerleading camp, and a Royal Navy adventure training camp. We greeted motorbike enthusiasts, lichen enthusiasts, a wedding reception afternoon tea, cricket matches, the sub aqua club and hockey training. All this on top of the normal summer schedule of works and staff accommodation moves, live drama in King's Court Theatre, plus ongoing preparations to welcome The Buchan School in November. It was a busy, happy campus all summer long. Thank you to all our support teams for your tremendous dedication during the often-sweltering weather.

Damian Henderson

ACADEMIC LIFE

ENGLISH

In the English Department, creativity lies at the heart of all we do. Whether we are delving into the complexities of Shakespeare's tragedies, crafting poetry that captures the nuances of modern life, or engaging in spirited debate, our goal remains the same: to cultivate curiosity, inspire original thought, and nurture a love of language in all its forms.

This year, creativity has taken many forms: on the page, on the stage, in discussion, and in performance. Our celebration of Manx Litfest at the start of the year set the tone, as students were inspired by a visit from bestselling psychological thriller author Caroline England, whose gripping readings and insightful advice encouraged them to think imaginatively and about the creative process. National Poetry Day quickly followed and provided an early showcase for student talent. In classrooms and corridors, we celebrated the power of the written and spoken word as students shared original compositions with poems ranging from the reflective to rebellious and humorous to heartfelt. The courage to write and the confidence to share it with others reminded us all of the unifying power of language and creativity to give voice to our ideas.

As winter approached, the department continued to champion reading for pleasure through our Reading Advent Calendar. Each day opened a new literary door, inviting students and staff to sample different voices, genres, and styles, reminding us all that a love of reading often begins with a spark of curiosity and a willingness to try something new.

Our Lower Fourth (Year 7) students brought both empathy and insight in their exploration of Holocaust Memorial Day through a powerful online webinar. They reflected on the enduring legacy of the Holocaust and explored their own creative responses in writing, highlighting the importance of literature in enabling us to confront the most difficult truths and begin to understand the impact on our own and others' lives.

Later in the term, creativity took centre stage during the annual Reading, Writing and Reciting Competition. With an emphasis on both voice and vision, students were invited to perform poetry, deliver powerful prose readings and to submit their own original writing. We were delighted to welcome the Manx Bard, Jordanne Kennaugh, to adjudicate. Along with offering insightful reflections on each entry, Jordanne also shared a selection of her own poetry, before facing the challenging task of announcing the winners:

Junior Reading Winner:

Eliza S

Junior Writing Winner:

Aoife C

Junior Reciting Winner:

Carter K

Intermediate Reading Winner:

Eva M

Intermediate Writing Winner:

Vinnie W

Intermediate Reciting Winner:

Seán C

Creativity continued to thrive in the spring as we marked the stories that

inspire us on World Book Day. With a flurry of literary celebrations from the ever-popular book fair to a mystery book exchange and literary themed quizzes, students across the school engaged enthusiastically in a celebration of literature and embraced the opportunity to share their favourite books with others.

The written and spoken word later took centre stage once again as Mr Lowey led the charge in preparing students for the Rotary Public Speaking Competition. This prestigious event was fiercely contested but King William's College's Dylan W and Theo H were victorious after delivering an eloquent and moving speech on 'Banishing the Blues', demonstrating the power of rhetoric and the confidence that comes from careful preparation and creative thinking.

Meanwhile, students across all year groups took part in a range of writing competitions, with entries from Fourth Form (Years 7 and 8) to Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) being recognised for their originality and flair. From dystopian visions of the future to those that reflect on the various issues facing young people today, these entries gave students the opportunity to have their voice heard and revealed the depth and diversity of student voices across the school.

Our commitment to creativity extended beyond the classroom, as the Middle Fifth (Year 10) students were fortunate to participate in a 'Mastering Shakespeare' Workshop, organised by MADF and Isle of Man Arts Council.

Led by experienced actors and educators Luke Osbourne and Richard Pryal, the workshop offered students an energetic and alternative insight into the performance and language of Shakespeare's work. These sessions, designed to support their study of the IGCSE English Literature course, not only deepened their understanding but also offered new and creative ways of engaging with challenging texts.

Of course, there is no substitute for seeing the Bard brought to life, and across the year students were invited to enjoy the beauty of Shakespeare's works on the stage. Our IGCSE students relished the opportunity to see Parodos Theatre Company's production of 'Macbeth' performed at The Gaiety Theatre, while Upper Sixth (Year 13) enjoyed a live screening of 'Othello' from The Globe. Witnessing first hand these creative productions, the performances transported these well-known texts from the page to the stage and cemented students' understanding.

Beyond these headline events, creativity has thrived in every corner of the department. Debating once again flourished, with students sharpening their arguments and challenging each other with wit and precision, while a student-centred Creative Writing Club provided a space to explore ideas freely. Meanwhile, every day and every lesson saw opportunities for students to ignite the creative spark that lies within each and every one of us.

ACADEMIC LIFE

MATHEMATICS

UKMT Mathematics Challenges 24-25

In the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls in September, Elizaveta K was awarded a merit, which was a super achievement.

In the Senior Challenge, Loki R in Upper Sixth (Year 13) received a Silver Certificate and Best in Year. Meanwhile, Nazarii L, Freddy K and Augustin R all received a Silver Certificate, with Freddy also receiving Best in School. Bronze certificates were awarded to Upper Sixth (Year13) students Benjamin K, Elisabeth O, Emily O, Lucy S, Aidan S and Luke S and Lower Sixth (Year12) students Miller C, Sam C and Dominic S.

In the Intermediate Challenge, Gold and Best in School certificates were awarded to Brodie M from Upper Fifth (Year 11).

Upper Fifth (Year11) students Rishi C, Oscar C, Ameya M and Martin V achieved Gold certificates, Gnaan D, William and James O and Eric S received Silver certificates, and Bronze certificates were awarded to June F and Amy M.

In Middle Fifth (Year10), Gold and Best in Year certificates were awarded to Alexander O and Silver certificates were awarded to Amelie G and Finlay T. Bronze certificates were awarded to Amira C, Alicia K, Halley L, Flynt O, Edward P and Zoe V.

In Lower Fifth (Year 9), Gold and Best in Year certificates were awarded to Aleksandr E, and Silver certificates were awarded to Advait M and Ella W. Hanna C, Alice H, Jaden K and Jamie R-M were all awarded Bronze certificates.

Following on from these results, some students then qualified to participate in the follow on Kangaroo challenges as follows: Aleksandr E qualified for the Grey Kangaroo and Oscar C was one of six students who qualified for the Pink Kangaroo. In the Pink Kangaroo, Brodie M received Silver and Best in School certificates, whilst Rishi C and Martin V received Silver certificates and Alexander O received a Bronze certificate.

This year's Junior Challenge saw Rohan C, from Upper Fourth (year 8), achieve a Gold Certificate and Best in School. Silver certificates were awarded to Upper Fourth (Year 8) students Sophie C, Pierre G, Carter K and Eliza S, and Bronze certificates went to Sophia G, Edward J, Bernat M-F, Felix S, Jean V and Nika V.

Gold and Best in Year for Lower Fourth (Year 7) were awarded to Luca H, a Silver certificate was awarded to Aelan M, and Ellie D, Zac M and Autumn R received Bronze certificates.

Ritangle Mathematics Competition 2024

This year was the first time a team from King William's College entered the annual Ritangle competition run by MEI. The challenge consisted of three stages: In Stage 1, one question is released every Wednesday for three weeks, and every correct answer reveals a piece of information that helps to solve the final task. The pressure begins to build in Stage 2, as students have to answer one question every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through October and November. Stage 3 sees the final challenge being released, and the winning team is the first to submit a correct solution.

In 2024, over 1700 teams entered. Out of these, 592 teams managed to unlock the final stage, and of them, only about 180 teams managed to solve at least two of the Stage 3 crossnumber puzzles: King William's College was one of those 180 teams. All of the teams can be found listed here:

<https://mei.org.uk/ritangle-2024-champions/>

The King William's College team was led by Nazarii L and the team members were Dominic S, Elizaveta K, Summer H and Amelia J.

ACADEMIC LIFE

SCIENCE

Investigating Science Day – A Taste of Discovery

On Thursday 23rd March 2025, we were delighted to welcome our new September intake for a special Investigating Science Day. Thirty-six enthusiastic students joined us to experience a full day of hands-on science, exploring the worlds of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Sports Science through practical investigations.

The students were split into three groups and rotated through each subject, gaining a glimpse into the exciting scientific opportunities awaiting them.

In Biology, students explored the differences between plant and animal cells. They prepared their own microscope slides using onion skin and cheek cells, then compared the two under the microscope. The session ended with a fun twist—a cell-themed version of the classic game Beetle Drive, where each student raced to construct a complete biological cell.

Chemistry challenged students to solve The Case of the Stolen Chemicals. Using chromatography and fingerprint analysis, they acted as forensic scientists, narrowing down a list of suspects to uncover which teacher had “borrowed” the lab supplies. It was a great way to see real science in action while developing problem-solving skills.

Over in Physics, hot chocolate became the unlikely star of the show as students investigated thermal energy and energy transfer. They then moved on to an engineering challenge: building a marshmallow structure strong enough to support an egg. Sadly for the students, no marshmallows could be eaten—this was science, after all!

Finally, in Sports Science, students undertook a series of fitness tests designed to mirror those used by UK Sport to

identify potential Olympians. By assessing key components of fitness, each student was able to see which sports might best suit their strengths.

The day was filled with curiosity and a healthy dose of competition. Judging by the enthusiasm and budding talent on display, we may well have some future scientists—and perhaps even a Nobel Prize winner—joining us in September!

Chemistry Olympiad 2025 – A Test of Talent and Tenacity

The Chemistry Olympiad is a prestigious annual competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry, designed to challenge the very best young chemists across the country. The competition involves three demanding stages, beginning with a rigorous written paper. Those who perform well advance to further rounds, where they apply their chemical understanding to complex, real-world scenarios.

This year, all students in both the Lower Sixth (Year 12) and Upper Sixth (Year 13) took part—along with one particularly brave student from Year 11. The paper was especially tough, with a strong focus on organic chemistry, a topic not yet fully covered by many of the participants.

Despite the difficulty, King William’s College students rose to the challenge. We are proud to celebrate two remarkable achievements: Brodie M (Year 11) was awarded a Bronze Award, a truly exceptional result considering his limited exposure to the content; and Millar C Lower Sixth (Year 12) earned a well-deserved Silver Award for his strong performance.

We’re incredibly proud of all our entrants for taking on such a challenging competition, and we look forward to seeing even more success in next year’s Olympiad.



STEM Olympics

A team of four Lower Fifth (Year 9) students travelled to The Grange School in Cheshire to compete in the annual STEM Olympics.

Competing against 18 other schools, they were faced with a series of tasks throughout the day and came away with the gold medal for winning the competition.

“We all had a fantastic time at the Stem Olympics; we had to do five different tasks along with a mathematics quiz and a fact sheet on our team’s name and designated scientist: Galileo. We came runner up on our scientist sheet about Galileo because we added some lyrics from the Queen song ‘Bohemian Rhapsody.’

The five different tasks were all practical and based on many different aspects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The first task we did was a physics task where we had to keep one beaker of water as hot as possible and make one beaker of water as cold as possible. The second task was a coding task where we had to navigate a maze collecting

new code inputs on the way. The third task was a chemistry task where we had to produce exactly 50cm³ of hydrogen gas from magnesium and hydrochloric acid. The fourth task was to build a rocket, launch it, and attempt to hit a target. The final task was a dissection where we had to remove specific organs from a longtail as neatly as possible.

We all worked well as a team and were consistently placed in the top groups. We came second for our research, rocket launching (engineering), the heating and cooling experiment (physics), and the mathematics quiz, and third for the hydrogen gas experiment (chemistry).

Each task gave us the opportunity to gain crucial teamwork and practical skills, making our team able to have fun whilst learning. We truly believe that this trip was an amazing experience, and although we doubted that we would have any success at first, the end result was fantastic and worth all the hard work. We all learnt a lot and are grateful to have had the experience.”

Jess W, Ella W, Yasmin H, Madeleine A.



ACADEMIC LIFE

DESIGN &

TECHNOLOGY

Soaral Chocolatiers came in to give Middle 5 (Year 10) a lesson on tempering, seeding and the use of moulds in chocolate making. Pupils prior to this had learnt about thermoform and thermoset polymers and what each one is used for in day to day life. They created their own vacuum formed chocolate moulds using CAD, the laser cutter and vacuum form machine. Soaral allowed them then to see how it would be done in industry compared with our workshop. The pupils had fun choosing their fillings and designs for the chocolates and were surprised at how many steps there were in making a chocolate. They also had great fun eating them!

Lower 6 (Year12) D&T pupils have been using precious metal clay (a smart material) to design and create their own pendant. It requires them to sculpt in clay and use heat to burn off the cellulose that binds the clay together allowing it to form a solid metal. Pupils combined their knowledge of CAD and metal to design intricate pieces that they hand crafted and hung using jump rings. They created some really unique results, one even put a heartfelt message to mum on the pendant!

ACADEMIC LIFE

DRAMA

LA Drama Trip

The school year started off strong for the Drama department, with an unforgettable trip to Los Angeles in October.

Students from various year groups had the incredible opportunity to travel to Los Angeles for a week long drama focused trip that brought the magic of film and theatre to life. Before our departure, we attended a powerful performance of 'A Raisin in the Sun' at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, setting the tone for an unforgettable cultural experience.

In LA, we explored the heart of the entertainment industry with visits to Warner Bros. Studios, Paramount Pictures, and Universal Studios, gaining fascinating behind the scenes insights into film and television production. We also strolled down the iconic Walk of Fame and explored the Academy Museum, celebrating the history and glamour of Hollywood.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to the Santa Monica Pier, where we were dazzled by a performance from Cirque du Soleil—an awe-inspiring blend of theatre, acrobatics, and artistry.

The trip was not only educational but also an inspiring adventure that deepened our appreciation for the world of drama and performance.

Matilda Jr.

A stand-out moment this year was our school production of 'Matilda Jr' in March 2025, which was met with enthusiastic acclaim from audiences. The talented cast and crew brought Roald Dahl's beloved characters to life with energy, humour, and heart, making it one of the most successful and well-attended school shows in recent years. This also included a matinée performance as a special treat for several of the island's primary schools, which was an extremely positive experience for both our audience and our performers.

LAMDA

2024-2025 was another successful year for our private Drama students, with the college receiving another round of fantastic LAMDA results in Spring 2025. 18 pupils from various year groups were entered for exams such as Acting, Speaking in Public and Speaking in Verse and Prose. 11 students were awarded Distinction, with the remaining 7 students awarded a Merit. Special mentions go to Emilia J L6 (Year 12) for achieving two Grade 8 results, and to Seàn C L5 (Year 9) for his very commendable score of 93/100!

King's Court Theatre

It's been a vibrant and transformative time for King's Court Theatre, with recent upgrades and a packed programme bringing new energy to the space. A major highlight has been the installation of a brand-new LED theatre lighting system, dramatically enhancing both the technical capabilities and overall atmosphere of the venue. This upgrade allows for a more dynamic, energy-efficient lighting design, elevating the quality of performances for both audiences and performers alike.

In addition to live performances, King's Court Theatre has continued to host a variety of live screenings, offering access to world-class theatre, opera, and ballet. Recent highlights saw the sell-out return of 'Prima Facie' from the National Theatre Live along with David Tennant's incredible portrayal of 'Macbeth', providing cultural enrichment for the whole school and local community.

With these exciting developments, King's Court Theatre continues to grow as a creative hub at the heart of King William's College.

KWC SPORT

A thank you and well done to all students who participated in school sport this academic year, every single one of you should be proud of what you have achieved. It is fantastic that such a high percentage of the school is involved in competitive sports fixtures, pushing yourselves above and beyond what you thought you were capable of. Not only have our school teams performed amazingly but a number of students have reached amazing heights outside of school in individual sports and representing the Isle of Man,

Thank you to the individuals who have offered to write reports for our key team sports this year.



FOURTH FORM (YEARS 7 AND 8) TRIATHLON

Huge congratulations to all our students who took part in this year's Triathlon – an unforgettable event with fantastic weather, brilliant performances, and an electric atmosphere. Students raised over £1000 for this year's charity Bridge the Gap.

A massive thank to the many supporters who came out to cheer on the competitors, and to our incredible helpers – both staff and our amazing Sixth Form volunteers – for making the day run so smoothly. We're also grateful to our generous sponsor Canaccord Genuity for supporting the event.

Special congratulations to our overall winners:

L4 (Year 7)

1. Aelan M and Autumn R
2. Harrison S and Elsie T
3. Luca H and Bibi S

U4 (Year 8)

1. Ed P and Phoebe C
2. Bernat M-F and Lisa H
3. Seamus H and Amelia McD

Endeavour awards

Ruben B and Miriam S

SPORTS DAY

What an incredible day, as all our pupils came together for an exciting and action-packed Sports Day. With fierce competition, personal bests, and even new records, this year's event was a true testament to the dedication, spirit, and skill of our athletes.

Winning Results:

Juniors:

1st Place: Colbourne - 466 points
2nd Place: Dickson - 444 points
3rd Place: Walters - 320 points

Intermediate:

1st Place: Walters - 498 points
2nd Place: Dickson - 448 points
3rd Place: Colbourne - 310 points

Seniors:

1st Place: Colbourne - 296 points
2nd Place: Walters - 280 points
3rd Place: Dickson - 256 points

This year's Sports Day wasn't just about house points, it was also about breaking barriers. We're thrilled to announce that three new records were set:

Finlay T broke his own High Jump record in the Boys Intermediate category, leaping to a new height of 1.77m.

Autumn R set a new benchmark for the Junior Girls Long Jump with an incredible jump of 4.53m.

Amira C shattered the record in the Girls Intermediate 100m race with an impressive time of 13.05s.

What an unforgettable day of records, achievements, and pure athleticism!



SPORT

NETBALL

LOWER 4 (YEAR 7)

The netball season was a season full of laughs and pride, with some victories and some losses. The season started with only a handful of girls having played netball before, the rest new to the game. By the end of the year the progress was amazing, all of the girls were confident in the rules and positions and we got to travel to play a fixture against Stockport Grammar.

Highlight: The highlight of the season was when we won our match against Cartmell Priory who had travelled to face us on our own turf. After that game, we all felt proud as we beat them by a good few points and we all had smiles even though it was a miserable day weather-wise.

A Team players: Esmé R (C), Bibi S, Elsie T, Autumn R, Ellie D, Ellery O, Iris M.

UPPER 4 (YEAR 8)

We did very well in all of our matches and it was lovely to see all the girls try their best. Even though our competition was tough we still did an amazing job to portray

teamwork and determination! I am very proud of the girls and for how every single one of them showed perseverance. It was lovely to see us coming together to form a team with old and new players. I can not wait to see how we do next season.

Highlight: I think that the highlight for the 2024/25 Netball season would definitely be the Manchester Netball Trip!

A Team players: Lisa H (C), Amelia McD, Sara L, Gracie E, Aoife C, Sophia G, Phoebe C, Adriana M.

LOWER 5 (YEAR 9)

This season the L5 played well in netball, despite not achieving the results we hoped for. We demonstrated resilience, teamwork and consistent improvement throughout the term. We're proud of our progress and look forward to building on it next year.

Highlight: Going away on netball tour and playing against Stockport Grammar.

A Team players: Yasmin H (C), Eva M, Flo H, Maddie A, Hanna C, Jess W, Millie C, Izzy T.



MIDDLE 5 (YEAR 10)

Our dedication and resilience turned our challenges into victories, as we pushed through our tough games, learnt from all our setbacks and never gave up. Together we all built a strong and supportive team and this just made us stronger, making this one of the best seasons of netball we have played throughout our time in school.

Highlight: Winning our last final together as a team after a very tough start to the match.

A Team players: Marzhela P-C (C), Grace T, Connie K, Amelie G, Emilie K, Annabel T, Amira C, Zara L.

SENIOR NETBALL

This season has been super enjoyable and filled with lots of laughs. Although it has not been our most successful season, we have all grown together as a team, made lots of memories and had so much fun. A big thank you to Miss Shimmin and Miss Hattersley for all your encouragement, helping us every step of the way and making this season extra special!

Highlight: The highlight of the season was going across to the UK to play Stockport Grammar School. Although it wasn't the result we wanted, everyone played amazingly and it was a great end to the season.

A Team players: Emily O (C), Mikhaella H (C), Emily K, Emilia S, Sofia T, Summer S, June F, Cleo T, Sienna M, Eleanor W.



SPORT

RUGBY

The 1st XV rugby squad enjoyed a season to remember, combining skill, determination, and camaraderie to deliver a string of impressive performances. Under the superb captaincy of Ian L, supported ably by vice captain James G, the team played ten fixtures (six on the island and four away), and secured six victories.

The campaign was marked by several notable triumphs. A strong win against Castle Rushen High School showcased the team's resilience, whilst a memorable victory over King's School Rochester was achieved in the midst of Storm Darragh. Perhaps most proudly, the side retained the Mark Richard Wheeler Memorial Cup against Liverpool College; a historic achievement that underlined the squad's commitment and spirit.

Throughout the season, a number of players distinguished themselves with outstanding contributions. Sam C in the back row brought relentless energy and commitment to every contest. Jack C controlled matches with his superb kicking accuracy and game management, while Jackson B at hooker produced a flurry of tries that lifted the team's momentum. On the wing, Miller C thrilled spectators with his pace and finishing ability. The squad also benefited from the immense physicality and skill of exchange students Danny N and Luke W, whose presence added depth and dynamism to the side.

The season concluded with special awards recognising excellence across the team. Prop Alden O was voted the Unsung Hero for his tireless work in the front row. Captain Ian L was awarded Players' Player, reflecting the respect and admiration of his teammates, while Loki R was named Coach's Player of the Year, a testament to his consistency and impact.

This season was not only about victories but also about teamwork, resilience, and pride in representing the school. The 1st XV has set a

high standard, and their achievements will inspire future squads to carry the tradition forward.

The younger years also made their mark on the rugby field, showing that the future of the sport at the school is in safe hands. The M5 (Year 10) team, captained by Jamie H, produced some impressive displays of physical rugby against local opposition. Their efforts extended beyond the island as they enjoyed a short but spirited run in the national cup, travelling to the UK to test themselves against strong competition. The experience highlighted the talent within the squad and provided invaluable lessons that will serve them well as they progress into senior rugby.

Meanwhile, the L5 (Year 9) team, captained by Theo H, demonstrated great promise and determination throughout their fixtures. Strong individual performances came from Gabriel R, Theo K, and Advaith M, each making significant contributions on the field. The squad combined physicality with skill, laying firm foundations for future success as they continue to develop within the school's rugby programme.

The U4s (Year 8s) proved themselves to be a particularly talented group, with leadership shared across the side by captains Alan G, Seamus H, Pierre G, Sebastian L, Felix S, and Jean V. Their campaign was marked by determination and skill, and they narrowly missed out on a place in the final by just one point — a result that speaks to both their quality and their potential for future success.

For the L4s (Year 7s), this season marked an exciting introduction to contact rugby. Captained by Charlie C, the squad embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, showing a great attitude to learning and a strong desire to improve. Their commitment and spirit promise much for the years ahead as they continue to grow in confidence and ability.



SPORT

HOCKEY

LOWER 4 (YEAR 7) HOCKEY

Hockey was a new sport for most of the team and to pick it up so quickly is a testament to the hard work everyone has put in. I loved captaining the team and watching the girls coming together as a unit. No doubt our first games as a team set us up for the other sports we played for the rest of the year.

Highlight: The highlight was seeing how much we had improved when we replayed some of the harder teams in the tournament.

A Team players: Autumn R (C), Bibi S, Esme R, Elsie T, Iris M, Ellery O, Ellie D, Molly C, Tallulah C, Olivia McD, Isabelle K.

UPPER 4 (YEAR 8) HOCKEY

We played well in all our matches, tried our hardest and kept pushing. As a team, we never gave up even when we were losing.

Highlight: Beating teams we had not won against before.

A Team players: Gracie E (C), Lisa H, Sophie T, Phoebe C, Sophia G, Nika V.

LOWER 5 (YEAR 9) HOCKEY

We had a rocky start as we didn't have enough players for a few games; however, we got back on our feet and kept trying. We didn't win, but we came close despite playing most games a few players short.

Highlight: Some really good goals were scored by some of our amazing girls.

A Team players: Eva M (C), Florence H, Alice H, Yasmin H, Lucy W, Hanna C, Millie C, Millie C, Jessica W, Izzy T, Maddie A.

MIDDLE 5 (YEAR 10) HOCKEY

A fantastic season! We were unbeaten on island, winning the interschool's trophy after missing out last year on penalty flicks.

Highlight: Winning our last match together as a team.

A Team players: Zara L (C), Alicia K, Georgina F, Zoe V, Aristeia O, Chloe H, Edith G, Eve S, Amelie G, Amira C, Connie K, Marczhela P C, Grace T, Emilie S K, Annabel T.

SENIOR HOCKEY

This year's hockey season has been a brilliant experience for all the girls involved and it was lovely to see new faces in the team. Throughout the season, all the girls improved after putting in their best efforts. A special mention has to be made for Mr DeWet for stepping in and coaching us. As the season progressed, the team became closely knit and friendships were made across all three year groups, making it a memorable final hockey season.

Highlight: The regional hockey trip away to play against new teams in the UK.

A Team Players: Emily K (C), Emily O, Mikhaella H, Cleo T, Zara B, Zoe B, Milly B, June F, Sienna M, Emilia S, Summer S, Sofia T, Sasha McG K.



SPORT

FOOTBALL

LOWER 4 (YEAR 7)

The Year 7 team began their football journey at King William's College with energy, commitment, and a real hunger to improve. Throughout the season, the players showed impressive development both individually and as a unit. Standout performances came from Dan F, Charlie C and Henry G – each leading by example and showcasing an excellent skill set. Key highlights included competitive wins against CRHS and SNHS, where the team demonstrated their growing tactical awareness and determination to succeed. What was particularly pleasing was the involvement of all pupils, whether playing in competitive A team fixtures or representing the school in mixed B team matches. The inclusive nature of the squad created a strong team spirit, and every player contributed to a positive atmosphere that promises great things for the future of football at this level. With talent spread throughout the group and a fantastic attitude on show, Year 7 has laid a strong foundation to build upon in the coming years.

UPPER 4 (YEAR 8)

The Year 8s had a season marked by steady participation and valuable experience, though results were mixed. There were moments where the team showed cohesion and effort, with flashes of strong teamwork and improved match awareness. While they didn't reach the heights of some other year groups in terms of results, the season was still an important developmental step. The players demonstrated enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, often battling hard against physically stronger or more experienced opposition. The coaching staff are optimistic that with continued training and game time, this group will begin to turn effort into more consistent performances next season.

LOWER 5 (YEAR 9)

For Year 9, it was a tough and at times frustrating season, where things simply didn't click. Despite putting in effort and showing determination not to give up, the team was hampered by a number of injuries to key players, which disrupted momentum and affected team cohesion. Despite the setbacks, the squad showed resilience and never let heads drop, led by Advaith M and Artie K. The players gained valuable experience through adversity. With improvements to structure and sharper finishing, there is potential for a bounce-back campaign next year.

MIDDLE 5 (YEAR 10)

Football may not be the primary sport for many in the Year 10 group, but they still managed to deliver some memorable moments over the course of the season. The team showed clear potential in bursts, with good spells of possession and intelligent play in several matches. However, the lack of consistency in performances made it difficult to build any sustained momentum. When fully engaged, the team demonstrated they could compete with most opposition, and there were encouraging signs from players stepping into leadership roles. The key focus moving forward will be building that consistency and sharpening match fitness, which will allow this group to fully express their potential on the pitch.



SENIOR TEAM

The senior football team, captained by Lower Sixth (Year 12) student Jack C, entered the season as a young side with no Upper Sixth (Year 13) players available — a clear sign of the exciting potential building for the future. The campaign began with a fiery and hard-fought clash against rivals Castle Rushen, where a slow start left the team with too much to do despite a strong finish. From there, the squad grew in confidence with each game, competing well against some of the island's toughest opposition. Standout performances came from Oscar C and Jared S in midfield, who provided creativity and control, whilst Jake T in goal provided consistency and composure throughout the season. The highlight was a deserved win over Ballakermeen High School at the Bowl. Despite not getting through to the latter stages of the season, at times we showed that we can challenge and compete with all the schools on the island, and this season sets us up for what looks like to be a very promising 2025-26 season.

COLLEGE LIFE

ART

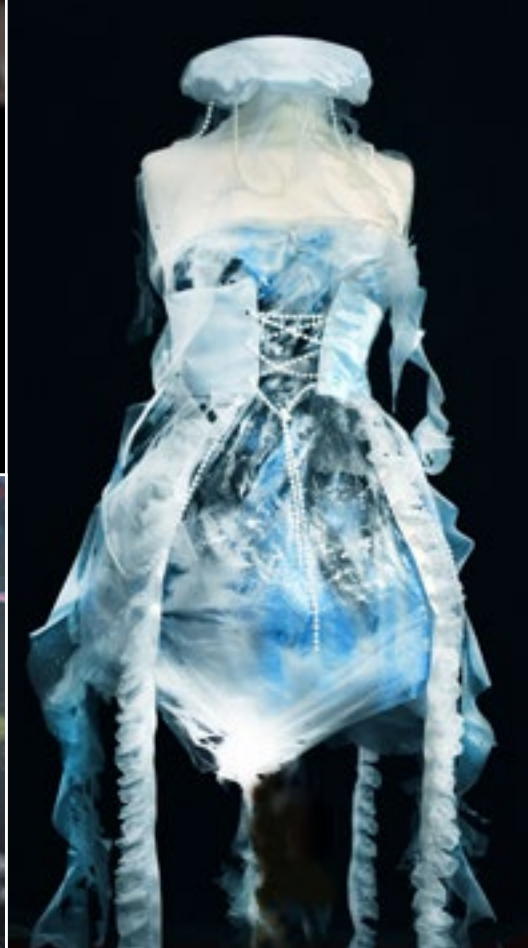
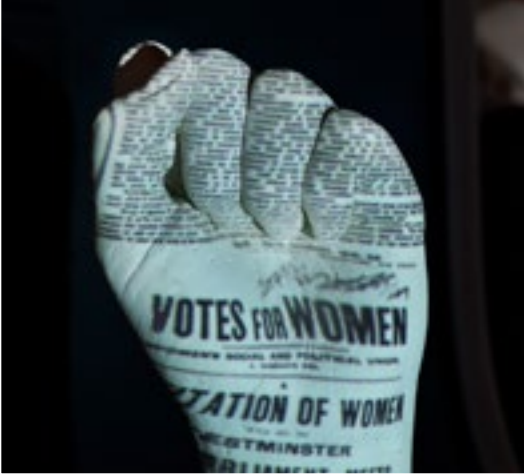
Two years in the making...

This years IB Visual Arts and GCSE Art and Photography students have met every challenge placed in their path. Each student has undertaken an individual and personal journey.

The students have mastered new skills and developed their ideas and work to a very high level. Look at some of the images to see some wonderful personal achievements – you should be amazed by the work presented.

As a department we are so proud of all of this year's students who undertook the Visual Arts course and GCSE Art and Photography courses.





COLLEGE LIFE MUSIC

A Year in Harmony: A Celebration of Music at King William's College

The 2024–2025 academic year has been filled with activities in the Music Department and every performance has been truly memorable.

Our year started with a Cabaret Evening performed by our Fourth Form students (Year 7 and 8). It showcased the musical talent of our students through a diverse programme of showtunes, classical repertoire, and contemporary hits. It also featured our newly formed Fourth Form choir (Year 7 and 8) who really shone. It was definitely a fantastic way to launch the year and a sign of things to come.

This was quickly followed by our annual Autumn Concert. From the opening notes of the brass quartet to the stirring finale, the evening highlighted the breadth of talent within the department. Solo and ensemble performances across a range of instruments were joined by moving vocal duets and performances from choirs. The Fourth Form (Year 7 and 8) and Chapel Choirs' joint rendition of "I'm a Believer" brought the house down and encapsulated the spirit of the evening: collaborative, creative, and full of energy.

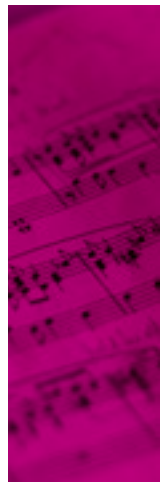
Throughout the year, we staged a series of Live Lounges in the Music School. This is such a wonderful opportunity for students to perform in an informal but appreciative setting. We have a wide range, from students who perform for the first time, to our senior students preparing pieces for exams or simply building their repertoire. These events, though small, are always well attended and the atmosphere is always supportive. They have also given opportunities for staff members across the school to showcase their musicality.

It was delightful having Reverend Erica and Mr Roberts perform at these events too.

The end of 2024 brought with it all the seasonal delights that come with the joys of Christmas. The festive season was filled with musical cheer. It started with our choir performing at the opening of The Festival of Trees, in aid of Housing Matters. This was followed by a special Festive Live Lounge and our traditional Nine Lessons and Carol Services followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Barrovian.

2025 started with a series of events in the wider community, in which both The Buchan School and King William's College were well represented. At The Young Singer of Mann competition held at the Erin Arts Centre, Frida A and Lara G were placed in 2nd and 3rd places respectively in the Junior competition and in the Senior category, King William's College students Millie C, Daniel Q, and Lizzie J gave outstanding performances, with Millie receiving a special spot prize. The competition was a testament to our students' technical skill and performance maturity, supported brilliantly by our Visiting Music Teachers and accompanist, Mrs Kelly.

This was swiftly followed by a concert at Peel Cathedral where our pupils performed under the luminous Museum of the Moon exhibition, which was a unique experience for our students. Fourteen musicians presented a varied and atmospheric programme, including a harp duet by Autumn R and Alyth B, an organ solo by Alexander O, and a trumpet ensemble that opened the evening. Head of Arts Faculty, Mr Steve Daykin, praised the students for their professionalism and artistry in such a special setting.



Our Music and Drama departments collaborated together to perform the musical 'Matilda Jr.' This featured 24 students from across all years in senior school with Alicia K starring as Matilda. We welcomed over 150 year 6 pupils from across the Island to watch the matinee performance and the pupils enjoyed performing to family and friends alike. The show was directed and choreographed by Mr Dawson, assisted by Miss Molyneux, with musical direction by Mr Daykin.

Our House Music Competition was another highlight, filled with lively rivalry and uplifting music. Guest adjudicator Angela Stewart praised the high standard of performances. Special congratulations go to Colbourne House who swept the board, winning both the Ensemble and Choir categories and being crowned Overall House Winner. Individual winners included Alicia K, Lizzy J, Autumn R, and Domonic S - a celebration of talent across the year groups.

The Spring Concert brought our students back to the Barrovian Hall for a stunning evening of music. With a programme showcasing talent from the Fourth Form (Year 7 and 8) to Upper Sixth (Year 12), it was especially poignant for our leavers performing in their final concert at KWC. From soloists to orchestral groups, the evening was a beautiful celebration of musical journeys coming full circle.

The end of the Spring term brought with it The Manx Folk Awards. This event celebrates the Island's rich cultural heritage, and our students truly rose to the occasion. Pupils participated in an array of traditional music, dance, and spoken word categories, achieving an impressive list of awards. From Alice D's multiple first-place finishes to the Pre-Prep Choir's 1st in Choir in English and Folkstastic Award, and Aelan M's string of top placements, our young musicians shone. It was a proud week for both schools, showcasing talent, heritage, and hard work.

Straight after the Easter holidays, we were into a flurry of activity that is The Manx Music, Speech and Dance Festival. With over 100 entries from students across King William's College and The Buchan School,

entries from our teachers and one of our governors, it was no wonder there was always a representative at the Guild. Huge congratulations go to Alice D, who was awarded the prestigious Heather Nicholl Award for best all-round performer aged 18 or under—an exceptional accolade reflecting her dedication and skill. She received a silver salver and a £100 scholarship, presented by The Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer.

In formal music examinations, our students excelled, achieving a 100% pass rate across ABRSM, Trinity, LCM, and LAMDA, with a very high percentage of distinctions—a testament to their hard work and to the support from our dedicated teaching staff.

Our year ended with a number of notable events including a Speech and Drama Evening for our LAMDA students, a Music and Drama Evening for our Fourth Form pupils and we were delighted to host a woodwind masterclass, in which a number of other schools participated, lead by Head of Woodwind at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Robert Plane.

As we reflect on a year filled with music, achievement, and community, we look ahead with excitement to another year of creativity and growth. Whether on stage, in competition, or in the classroom, our students continue to show what can be achieved through passion, practice and teamwork.

This year we say Valette to our Visiting Music Teacher Mr Wood and our head of Music at Buchan, Mrs Garrett along with Salvete to Mr Wright as we welcome him to our department. We also say Salvete to and welcome back Mrs Daykin who covered Mrs Craine's maternity role and is now our new teacher of music at Buchan.

Thanks goes to our Visiting Music Teachers who have brought out the best in our pupils, and congratulations to every pupil who performed, supported, rehearsed, or simply listened: your contributions have made this an unforgettable musical year at King William's College.



COLLEGE LIFE

HOUSE DRAMA

The Autumn term saw a sense of nostalgia descend on College as preparations were underway for the House Drama competition which, this year, was based on the theme of the 1990s. As a decade that saw cultural and political transformation, the audience was treated to performances that highlighted both the fun and more serious sides. We were delighted to welcome Louisa Shaw to take on the challenging role of adjudicator, bringing with her extensive experience as a musical theatre performer and years of work as an educator in performance.

COLBOURNE

This year, Colbourne presented a play written by our house's students, Augustin R and Christian B, "The Wall Between Us." Based on historical events that took place in twentieth century Germany, the construction of the Berlin Wall was significant, dividing the lives of many into before and after its existence. "The Wall Between Us" follows two main characters, Layla and Thomas, who fell in love with each other in their early youth and were inseparable. However, the play sees their love face the difficult test of the uncrossable wall and Thomas' attempts to maintain contact with his beloved. After a difficult 10 years, the wall collapses and their lives are transformed, but not in the way they would have hoped, in a story that ends with sadness.

This incredible play was made all the more powerful thanks to its exceptional backstage production and marvellous accompanying technical effects, which included a live rendition of the song "Layla". Ably guided by directors Emelie V S, Franz H and Liza K, this was a very powerful performance, none more so than that of Danny N (who played Tommy) who was awarded the Kane Cup for Best Individual Acting Performance. However he couldn't have done it without his soulmate Matilda S (Layla), along with the prize winning technical support led by Charles T D M, as well as the hearts of the audience who stood up from their seats with astounding applause and tears in their eyes. Such real emotions and reactions are much better than any reward for actors!

Elizaveta K, Lower 6 (Year 12)



DICKSON

Dickson's House Drama production, "Back Through the 90s", was a chaotic journey through the 1990s, a decade where fashion was questionable. The play went through each year of the decade, with a cast playing iconic characters who made a mark in that year. One minute you were watching Rob from Milli Vanilli's tragic lip-syncing, and the next, Voldemort was having a bad hair day.

Our fearless interviewers, Maddie (played by Eve S) and Joey (played by Sam Callister) radiated chaotic energy and somehow managed to herd this bizarre bunch through the madness, and their efforts were rewarded as Eve was awarded the Freda Jeavons Cup for Best Acting Performance. Meanwhile, the rotating cast saw everyone doubling up as '90s icons—think Wayne C sharing a stage with Simba, or Lara Croft having a chat with Ellie Sattler. Showing a unique ability to shine in multiple roles, Martin V alternated between 1990s personalities and brought energy to each of them, resulting in him being awarded the Dorothy Lowey Cup for 'Wow' Factor, while Sophia G won the Bowring Cup for Best Supporting Role.

In what was a superb team effort, the play, which was written by L6 student Alyth B and directed by Emily R, claimed the top prize of the Tatton Shield for Best Play, but the true highlights were the dances. Everyone, regardless of age or dancing ability, threw themselves into routines featuring The Spice Girls, Pokémon trainers and Disney Princesses and so, while we may not have time-travelled, we definitely captured the chaos, comedy, and questionable costumes of the 90s.

Emily R, Lower 6 (Year 12)

WALTERS

Walters' play this year was 'Smells Like Team Spirit', written and directed by L6 students Matilda B McG and Emilia J. Following the perilous and heart-warming journey of two brothers, Andrew and Michael Walter (played by Tommy F and Harrison S) the play was a blast from the past as the brothers adventured into the young lives of their parents, Jenny and Dave (played by Georgie F and Dominic S), rebuilding their broken bond as they did so. As the 90s left a poignant stain on the world of pop culture, could this community continue to foster companionship even in the modern world?

There were many standout performances, including from Lower 6 (Year 12) student Tommy H as the spectacular Dale O' B, along with Jackson B who gave an unforgettable depiction of Elton John. We also had Middle 5 (Year 10) student Zoe V and Upper 5 (Year 11) student Rishi C playing the sassy and colourful competition for the two brothers. The performance was enhanced by a wonderful guitar rendition of 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' by Lower 6s (Year 12) Jake T, which added a whole other level to the play! As well as a full cast of Oscar worthy performances, there was much help from Fourth Form (Year 7 and 8) all the way to Sixth Form (Year 12 and 13) behind the scenes; painting set, lighting, sound and makeup but a special mention must go to Miriam S, Ryan C and Nika V (actor and set painter!) for their efforts. Everyone really pulled together and channelled their team AND teen spirit to give a humorous performance packed full of giggles and iconic moments.

Emilia J, Lower 6 (Year 12)



Kane Cup for Best Individual Acting Performance
Freda Jeavons Cup for Best Acting Performance
Dorothy Lowey Cup for 'Wow' Factor
Bowring Cup for Best Supporting Role
Bowring Plate for Technical Excellence
Tatton Shield for Best Play

Danny N (COLBOURNE)
 Eve S (DICKSON)
 Martin V (DICKSON)
 Sophia G (DICKSON)
 Colbourne
 Dickson

YEAR 9, 10 & 11

(FIFTH FORM)

Lower 5 (Year 9)

The Lower Fifth (Year 9) have had a very busy year. They hit the ground running and by October were being asked to consider their IGCSE options for the next academic year; a task they threw themselves into. By the end of Autumn Term, most had made their initial choices.

The Spring Term saw them continue to work towards making their minds up about what to study next year but also brought a huge success, when Theo H and Dylan W took part in and won the Isle of Man Rotary Club's Public Speaking competition; this is the first time King William's College have won this competition.

The Summer Term, as usual, saw exam season and everyone worked especially hard. In the middle of exam week, four of our girls went off to The Grange School in Cheshire to take part in the North West STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Olympics. They took part in a number of challenges and walked away with the Gold Medal: Congratulations go to Madeleine A, Yasmin H, Ella W and Jess W.

The year group finished the year off by spending a day with Junior Achievement IoM taking part in their Eco Challenge, where they were tasked with inventing and marketing an environmentally friendly product. They all did themselves proud; we have a number of future entrepreneurs in the making – Dragon's Den, watch this space!

Middle 5 (Year 10)

Our current Middle Fifth (Year 10) group have had an action-packed year. As well as starting their (I)GCSE journey, they have begun to consider their career choices. This was helped along by a visit to the Employment and Skills Fair at the Villa Marina; a varied and interesting set of stalls gave everyone food for thought.

Our Middle Fifth (Year 10) sports teams were on fire: the girl's netball team were undefeated and our cricketers were also triumphant. Huge congratulations to Georgie F and Zara L for making history by being the first girls to represent King William's College in the annual MCC cricket fixture; Georgie was awarded Player of the Match.

Exam season brought its usual mix of triumph and tribulations and it has been great to see this cohort work hard. After a day working with Young Enterprise on their 'Money Matters' event, we finished off the year by looking to the future, as the Middle Fifth (Year 10) were given an IB taster day. Students were given a flavour of some of the topics and tasks they might hope to experience in an IB classroom. This was such a rewarding day and many students came away from the event very excited by what they can look forward

to in a year or so. Onwards and upwards!





SUMMER '25

BOARDING

EXPERIENCE

On 4th June, we welcomed five students from Italy, France and Germany to the Summer Boarding Experience. They had a mix of English as a Second Language lessons and activities on island and beyond. They enjoyed a super-busy activity schedule, which included cultural experiences such as Castle Rushen, House of Manannan, Peel Castle, Lady Isabella and Snaefell. The national holiday meant a visit to the Grandstand, watching the TT (on a sunny day, no less!) and getting low fives from the riders as they returned to the Grandstand, along with a paddleboarding session with Port Erin Paddleboards on yet another gorgeously sunny day. They left the beach reluctantly but then had great fun back in boarding in the evening.

Saturday, 14th June, saw them travel off island to Liverpool with many of the boarding community. A guided bus tour and visit to the Anglican Cathedral gave them an insight into the history and culture of the city. That weekend was followed by a full immersion week in Middle 5 (year 10) and Lower 6 (Year 12) lessons, which gave our visitors a real insight into the academic side of College. More evening boarding fun, a boat trip around the Calf of Man and visit to Cregneash were among other activities, before they left the island on 25th June with both a big smile and a tear in their eyes; our young visitors vowed to stay in touch with new friends and are hopeful of a future return.





COLLEGE LIFE BOARDING

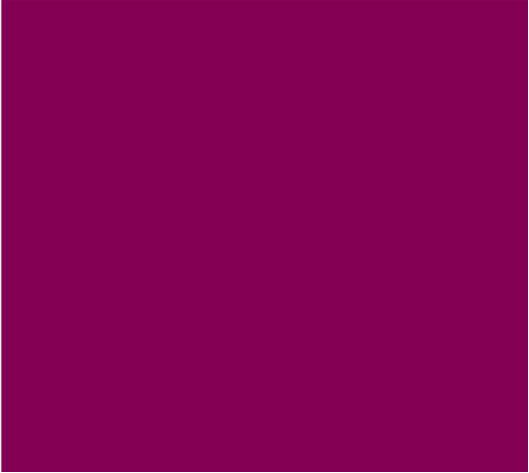
Boarding Highlights – What a Year!

This has been another fantastic year for School House and Wilson House. We've welcomed 48 new boarders over the year, including wonderful young people from the local area, and pupils from 18 different nationalities; each one has brought their own energy and stories to our vibrant community. Some of these young people joined us for a short stay, an exchange, immersion, or summer boarding experience. So, we say goodbye with a fond "farewell - we hope to see you soon" to each and every one.

From two fabulous Liverpool day trips to learning Manx National dancing, our annual Sillylympics, and a series of themed suppers — Oktoberfest and Chinese New Year, French cuisine and Eastern European delights (a clear favourite!) — there's been no shortage of fun. Add in our splendid soirées, where everyone dressed to the nines, and it's clear that our boarders have made the most of every moment together.

These photos capture just a glimpse of the laughter, friendship, and spirit that make boarding life so special. Here's to our incredible boarders — what a lovely year to remember.







A TASTE OF CULTURE 2025

This year's 'A Taste of Culture' was once again a fantastic event, comprising an eclectic entertainment programme, which showcased the great talents of our students from different countries and their cultures. You would be hard pressed to find Scottish folk music, Chinese dance, Serbian rock and Russian poetry on the same bill anywhere else.

The entertainment was followed by the food tasting competition, in which 12 countries competed for Best Savoury Food, Best Dessert and Best Presentation. All students fully embraced the spirit of the event, donned national costumes, painted their faces, decorated their tables and proudly waved the flags of their countries. A stunning variety of food from across the world had been prepared by our local and international students, making competition for the prizes very tight. Visitors voted on the night, and the winners were:

Best food

Egypt, runner-up - Germany

Best dessert

Germany, runner-up - Italy

Best presentation

Mexico, runner-up - Ireland

All proceeds from the event go to a grassroots Moldovan charity, Speranta Terrei, and our "adopted" family: Galina and her children, Cristy and Anghelina, whom we have supported since 2008.

In total we raised around £ 1,740.

Our gratitude goes out to all the students, parents, staff and visitors who performed, cooked, bought tickets, and donated. Without your support, this evening would not be possible. Thank you so much!

Entertainment Programme

Alyth B – Ghillie C

Matilda B McG - 'A touch of the Earth/
Cyswllt y Bdaear' by Gillian Clarke

Dan Q, Alyth B, Summer H and Elizaveta K - 'Kirree Fo Niaghtey'

Rita Z- Chinese traditional dance

Emilia J - 'The White Devil' by John Webster

Elizaveta K – 'Kalinka Malinka'

Kayla B- 'This blessed land of paradise'
an original poem

Elizaveta K – 'Globe's repair – nocturnal labours' by Svetlana Bondar

Milica B, Loki R, Aidan S, Benjamin K - 'Krug' by EKV

Emilia J - 'Under One Small Star' (Pod
Jedną Małą Gwiazdką) by Wisława
Szymborska

Mikhaella H, Loki R – 'Paubaya' by Moira
Dela Torre

Sophia G, Nika V, Eliza S, Amelia M Emilia C, Miriam S - 'The Pot of Gold/Aulularia'
By Plautus



COLLEGE LIFE CHAPEL

Chapel continues its tradition of being at the heart of the school. This year the Services have been weekly Tuesday and Thursday assemblies and bi-weekly Fridays as our Sabbath.

The Reverend Erica began her final year with the Service where we welcomed our new Bishop into the community. Bishop Trisha had been consecrated in York Minster in October. She came to join us on 6th of December, which is the feast of Saint Nicholas.

This was followed by the traditional 12 Days of Christmas with groups standing up to sing their appropriate days; it is always a time of laughter and joy.

Then we had the annual visit of Reception, who come to see the beautiful tree. They are each tasked with finding a sheep, a cushion and to count the angels before sitting at the Stable which is within the altar for the season. They listened carefully to the nativity story, before hearing the Reverend sing:

What can I give Him poor as I am?

If I were a Shepherd, I would give a lamb.

*If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.*

The lambs remain at the altar for the four Carol Services, reminding us of the simplicity of faith that can be witnessed even in little ones.

Carol Services took place in the final week of term. It was good once again to hear the good news of the Word made flesh. The two community Services are ticketed events and it was good to see familiar faces and rejoice at the beautiful songs of our choir.

At 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, there was the Nativity Service.

The community was cared for by Canon Margaret Burrow in the Spring Term. The Bishop returned for the Confirmation of Head of School, Emily O, James G and Ian L in Upper 6.(Year 13). This was as ever a great, memorable occasion.

The funeral of Sami B, who left the school in 2016, took place in Chapel on 8th March 2025. He was a well-loved member of the community through Buchan and onto sixth form. He died after a brave fight against cancer. His coffin was carried by friends into Chapel. They gave him a sad but dignified final Service. May he rest in peace.

Moving on to the Summer term, the marriage of Sam and Henny Games took place in Chapel on 10th May, conducted by the vicar of Castletown. Also, in the Calendar for August was the Baptism of Lyla Willow Groom, daughter of Lauren and Charlie Groom, which took place on 17th August. The marriage of Steffan Hoy to Becky Lamb also took place on August 31st.

During the ten days between these two occasions, the beautiful artwork commissioned by a former Principal and agreed by Manx National Heritage, the Bishop and Archdeacon, and created by Stephen and Trish Kelly, was installed on the Te Deum wall. It depicts the Apostles on the right and Prophets on the left of the great window.

The Valedictory Service for leavers of 2011-2025 on Founders' Day, was also the last for the Chaplain, whose dates were the same. This occasion marked their transition from pupil to OKW.





All OKWs were asked to stand for The Charge.

I charge you never to forget the great benefits you have received in your education in this place and, in time to come, as God shall prosper you, do all you can to enable others to enjoy similar benefits. And remember that you carry with you wherever you go, the good name of King William's College.

“Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of because you know from where you learned it.”

The Chaplain opened the Founders' Day Programme in the Marquee with King William's College Collect:

*Creator God, source of all wisdom,
You call us by name to live and work in
your world.*

*Shape and mould us by your grace so that
our lives may proclaim you, and our hearts
respond to you,*

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Following Founders' Day, the cycle of Friday Chapel saw only two more services. The first was a special service to celebrate grandparent relationships with their grandchildren. The readings carefully chosen to mark the occasion were the mantle of Elijah and the bestowing of even greater gifts to Elisha, and the Fruits of the Spirit from Paul's epistle to the church in Galatia. These readings illustrate the ongoing ministries exercised in our Chapel, the hopes of grandparents for their grandchildren, as well as the marks of goodness that we are called to live.

In our final service, The Bishop's Chaplain was present to mark the onward journey from St Thomas' Chapel towards the future of the ongoing ministry of the Chaplain. The choir of St Peter's College, Oxford sang the Anthem 'Set me as a seal' by Eleanor Daly.

COLLEGE LIFE

DEBATING

INTER-HOUSE DEBATING 2025

The Inter-House Debating Competition returned in the summer term as all three Houses polished their arguments and prepared points of information as part of a series of tense and topical debates. With a somewhat revised format this year, Houses battled for a place in the final which was held in front of a packed audience of their peers as they competed for the coveted title of 2025 Inter-House Debating Champions.

The Intermediates started the competition with a busy week of debates which saw each House compete against one another to debate motions addressing a ban on smartphones, if sports stars are positive role models and whether computers are better than books. There were superb performances from all Houses, with students from a range of year groups taking to the stand. Perhaps most pleasing was seeing the range of students who were entirely new to debating and yet were able to excel in their delivery of arguments and their adaptability during the debates. The competitions were closely contested but Dickson emerged from the week undefeated, meaning that they would progress to the final, while Walters came a close second to meet them again in the final and deciding debate. This time, a Walters team of Alexander O, Kye G and Zoe V proposed the motion “This House believes that the internet has done more harm than good”, which would be opposed by Dickson’s Alicia K, Sophia G and Jean V. The debate went back and forth, highlighting evidence to support both the dangers and benefits of the internet and, in the end, the teams were only separated by one point with Dickson as the winners by 182 points to Walters’ 181.

Elsewhere, the Seniors also wowed with their debating skills as they responded to a

series of challenging and contentious motions, specifically whether vaccinations should be mandatory, the impact of tariffs on the global economy and whether space exploration should cease. In these debates, the Lower Sixth (Year 12) led from the front to demonstrate just how competitive debating can be as they provided an abundance of evidence to support their arguments but also challenged one another’s arguments and posed interesting questions, emphasising their skill in this unpredictable forum. Each debate was made all the more competitive by the excellent Lower Sixth (Year 12) support who embraced the opportunity to challenge their friends further with follow up questions. Following these initial debates, Walters were undefeated, meaning they progressed to the final, while following their victory over Colbourne, Dickson also secured their spot. Set to debate the motion “This House regrets the widespread integration of Artificial Intelligence into everyday life”, Walters’ team of Tilly B, Emilia J and Sam T evidenced the many risks of AI that are already apparent, while also positing the potential future issues it could bring. Meanwhile, Dickson’s Gabriel M, Emily R and Leo T rebutted their arguments to highlight the ways in which AI can empower and enhance life for many. After many challenges and standout performances from both teams, Dickson ended Walters’ unbeaten run and claimed the victory, scoring 193 to Walters’ 188 points.

After another exciting series of debates contested by students across the school, and with the finals being on show for the whole school to enjoy, it’s clear that debating is growing in its popularity, and so we look forward to another exciting competition next year.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

This year our Summer Camp was at Altcar in Merseyside. Twenty-five intrepid warriors from all three sections left the Island for a week of adventurous activities with 350 other cadets from around the North West. The camp did not disappoint. We came in the top 5 of schools for the competition phase and managed to secure two marksmanship badges for outstanding shooting.

All three sections have been busy this year. The RAF Section have had two trips away to RAF Woodvale for single prop flight training, the Royal Navy Section have had several sailing Field Days, and the Army Section have honed their green skills in readiness for Summer Camp.

Shooting Club on Tuesday lunchtimes has grown considerably with more and more cadets getting extra practice in, on our purpose built indoor 25 metre range.

We laid down our old CCF Standard this

year and have been lucky enough to be able to procure a replacement with the help of parents; Mr and Mrs Atkinson. A special thank you to them for their support.

The Contingent came runner up in the Charles Wilson Memorial Trophy this year with an outstanding model made by RN Cadet Jenkins.

It is great to see our new training syllabus tying in with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Cadets can now complete most of their Bronze, Silver and Gold sections with support from CCF.

We are looking forward to the spring and our planned Field Days which will be full of fun and surprises for the cadets.

We welcome all new Upper 4 (Year 8) students to give CCF a try on Wednesdays at 1630hrs. We would also like to wish all our CCF leavers for 2025 the very, very best for the future!



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a personal development Award. As with many other Certificates and Qualifications, the personal approach and dedication towards it is essential; however, nobody can achieve a Duke of Edinburgh Award on their own.

One can choose any activity to complete their Physical, Skills or Volunteering Sections but without a coach, a teacher or an organiser, the activity won't happen. Likewise, one can walk, cook and camp on his or her own in the countryside but that won't be the same as doing it with a group of friends, school mates or even new acquaintances with the help of supervisors. Sometimes, doing things on your own is nice, easy, and uncomplicated... but doing things as part of something bigger is

always exciting, challenging and memorable!

This year has seen another successful cohort of participants at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. The Bronze participants had a good time rambling around the Isle of Man in the Autumn Term. The Silver and Gold did their training and Practice Expeditions in the Isle of Man in the Spring Term before heading off to Wales in June for their Qualifying Expeditions. The presentations prepared by all the groups were very informative and original. Well done everybody.

Now, to the real stars of the Award... let's see what they have to say about their DofE experience this year. Enjoy!
DofE Manager

BRONZE AWARD

We took part in our bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition in October 2024, and, we must admit, it was one of the highlights of our year. Our route from Ballaglass to the NSC was split into two parts for the two days; we did get lost on the second day in Archalagan for a good 40 minutes, but with help from Dan, who was our supervisor, we made it out...on the wrong side of the forest. We made it to our destination nonetheless; it will always make us happy to look back on these memories that we will cherish for life.

The experience taught us many life skills such as putting up a tent, using a stove to cook and how to read and follow a map, for which we are very grateful. Although it was challenging and very tiring, with aching backs and legs, we really enjoyed the whole experience and even managed to finish too early and had to walk further. We were given the chance to trek through places on the island we've never seen before, broadening our knowledge of where we live and seeing just how beautiful the island is. We feel we worked well as a team which made the experience so much better. We can't wait to do it again for the silver award

By Eva Moore and Alice Hemensley

SILVER AWARD

For our Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition we travelled to the Snowdon area in Wales. As we were accompanying the Gold group but didn't need to begin our own expedition right away, we had a free day to explore Caernarfon. We took full advantage of this opportunity by walking around the town, enjoying the local atmosphere, and visiting the impressive Caernarfon Castle. It was a great way to ease into the trip and get a feel for the area before setting off on our journey.

The next day, we officially began our expedition. As part of the DofE requirements, each group had to choose an aim for their journey, and our group decided to investigate the local scenery and wildlife. Unsurprisingly, we came across a lot of sheep, hills, and grass (just as we had expected), but we were also struck by how breathtaking the Welsh landscape was. The lack of mobile phones, which we initially saw as a negative, turned out to be one of the best parts of the experience; this allowed us to disconnect from distractions and really engage with nature and each other.

Although the expedition presented many challenges such as tired legs, unpredictable weather, and heavy rucksacks, we worked together as a team and encouraged one another to keep going. Our group spirit and determination helped us overcome every obstacle. By the end, we felt a huge sense of accomplishment. The experience brought us closer together, and many of us are now seriously considering completing the Gold DofE award as well.



During June 2025, I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to complete my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. It was a physically demanding and emotionally challenging expedition, but it was all made worth it by the amazing views in Snowdonia, the company of friends old and new and the rewarding feeling after completing a long hike.

One of the highlights for all the gold participants was climbing Tryfan on the third day, a mountain in the Ogwen Valley in Snowdonia. We began the morning with an extremely steep climb up to the summit, where there is an interesting rock formation that we could sit on (as many visitors often do). The afternoon saw us making our way down; after the descent, we were all very proud of ourselves for accomplishing it.

Now we have completed the expedition successfully, we are looking towards the

volunteering, activity and skills sections to complete the award in full. Everyone has a wide range of activities they are using to complete these and it is one of the most unique and individual parts of the award; it really gives you a chance to do something you really enjoy and gives you a reason to remain committed.

Overall, I'm glad I did the expedition, as it was very fulfilling after having done bronze and silver as well. It builds a lot of confidence and endurance, but you also have your friends around you which keeps you motivated and comfortable when you make a mistake or things don't go as planned. It was an excellent opportunity to connect with nature, including hiking the paths of Snowdonia and sleeping on the ground of Wales.

By Emilia Jenkins



On May 12, 2025, I had the incredible honour of attending the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award celebration at Buckingham Palace, marking the culmination of my DofE journey.

The Buckingham Palace gardens were transformed into a vibrant, festival-style setting, complete with giant deckchairs, bunting, and various garden games. The atmosphere was electric, filled with excitement and pride. As we gathered in front of the West Terrace Steps, HRH The Earl of Wessex, in his role as Trustee for the DofE Award, delivered a heartfelt speech, welcoming us and acknowledging our dedication and perseverance in completing the challenging Gold Award programme.

Adding to the inspiration, there were several guest speakers, including Dame Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Bill Bailey and others.

Reflecting on this experience, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities the DofE programme has provided, and the memories it has forged. Attending the ceremony at Buckingham Palace was a moment I will cherish forever, serving as a reminder of the hard work, determination, and community spirit that define the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Thanks goes to Mrs Ganzo-Perez for being alongside us the whole way. It was a blast doing DofE with everyone involved.

By Arthur Owenson



SCHOOL TRIPS

JAPAN

Day 1 in Japan.

Despite our jetlag, we thoroughly enjoyed our first 24 hours which included a cable car ride to view Mount Fuji, a boat cruise on Lake Ashi, and an amazing sumo experience in Tokyo which included having a chance to go up against some newly retired sumo wrestlers to test our strength. We stuffed our tummies with sushi, shabbu shabbu and chanko nabe.

Day 2 of our tour saw us exploring Tokyo, one of the world's most dynamic cities. With a population of 37 million in the greater Tokyo region, it is divided into many neighbourhoods, two of which we explored. First, we headed to Asakusa, a traditional area which is home to the sacred Senso-ji Temple. Whilst there, we learned about Buddhist prayer and had an opportunity to shop for amulets, kimonos, and other traditional handicrafts. After lunch, we jumped on the train to visit Akihabara, otherwise known as Electric town, where students enjoyed the chance to shop for electronic goods, Pokémon cards and much more. We then attended an earthquake simulation at the Rinkai Disaster Prevention Agency where we experienced what it would feel like to be in a lift when an earthquake occurred. After an all you can eat buffet, we were ready to rest.

Day 3 was our final morning in Tokyo. We made the most of it by visiting the Meiji Shrine: a peaceful forest haven in the middle of Harajuku. It was built to honour Emperor Meiji, the first ruler of Japan to really open the country to the West. Afterwards, we had some free time in Harajuku for lunch before making a quick visit to Shibuya crossing: the busiest in Japan. When the lights turn

green for pedestrians, hundreds of people cross at the same time. A sight to behold!

We then said 'sayonara' to Tokyo and caught our bullet train to Hiroshima.

Day 4 in Hiroshima.

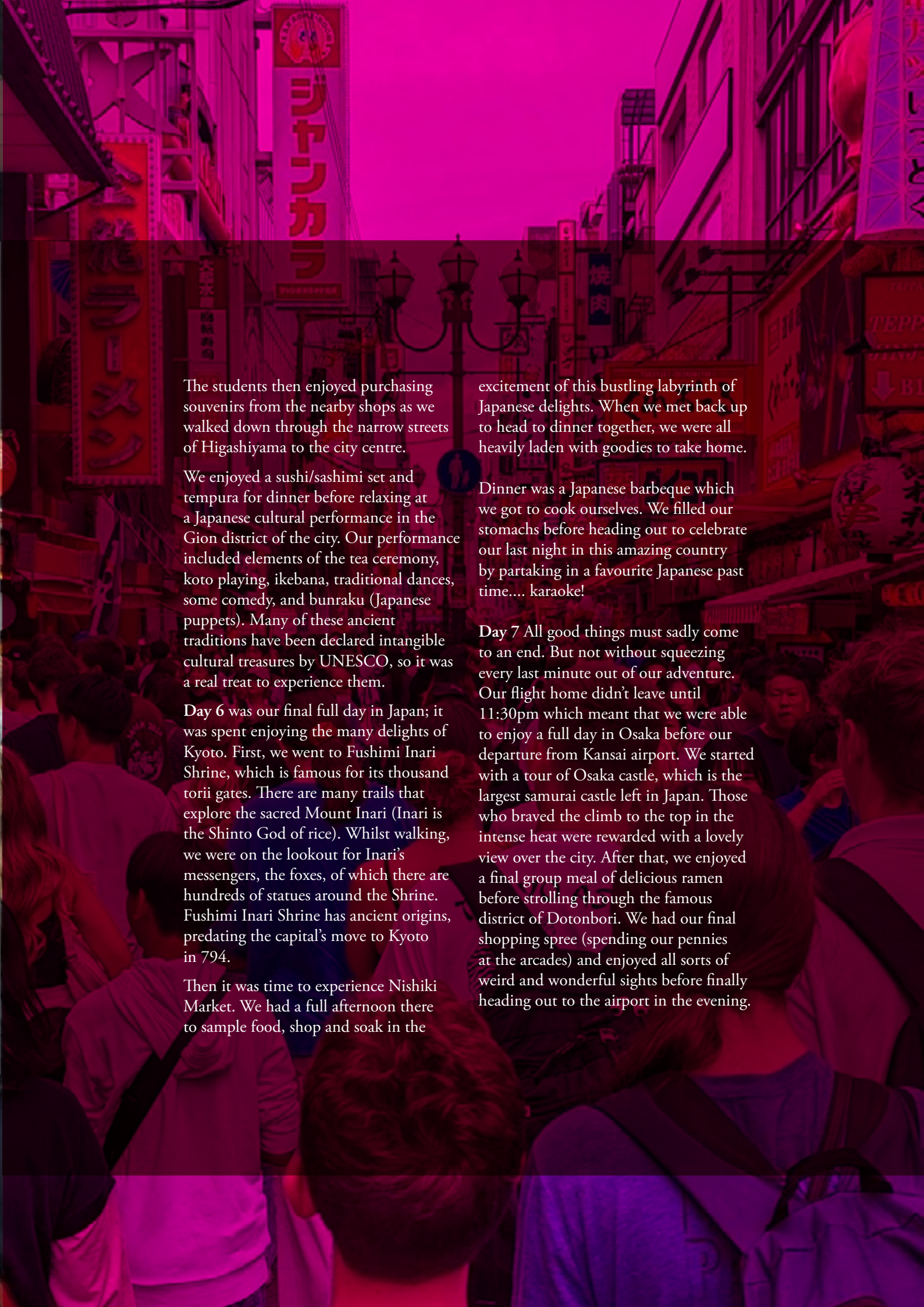
In the morning, we honed our business skills and visited the Coca Cola factory. We had an entertaining tour followed by samples of some of the many types of drinks produced by the company in Japan. After some lunch, we had a thoughtful and reflective visit to the Hiroshima Peace museum. It was difficult and emotional to hear about the suffering endured by the people of this city in the aftermath of August 6, 1945. After the museum, we were given a tour around the peace park by a Japanese volunteer. We saw ground zero, the atomic dome and the memorial to Sadako Sasaki with thousands of beautiful paper cranes.

After a brief rest, we tested our cooking skills by making okonomiyaki on a hot plate.

Day 5 in Kyoto. We had an early start as we were back on the shinkansen (bullet train) heading to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan.

Our first stop was Kiyomizudera: a Buddhist temple with a fantastic view of the city. Kiyomizudera translates to "Pure Water Temple" and the students had the opportunity to drink from the Otowa Waterfall; there are three streams to choose from and each will bring the receiver good fortune in either love, longevity of life or success at school. However, drinking from all three is considered greedy and frowned upon...





The students then enjoyed purchasing souvenirs from the nearby shops as we walked down through the narrow streets of Higashiyama to the city centre.

We enjoyed a sushi/sashimi set and tempura for dinner before relaxing at a Japanese cultural performance in the Gion district of the city. Our performance included elements of the tea ceremony, koto playing, ikebana, traditional dances, some comedy, and bunraku (Japanese puppets). Many of these ancient traditions have been declared intangible cultural treasures by UNESCO, so it was a real treat to experience them.

Day 6 was our final full day in Japan; it was spent enjoying the many delights of Kyoto. First, we went to Fushimi Inari Shrine, which is famous for its thousand torii gates. There are many trails that explore the sacred Mount Inari (Inari is the Shinto God of rice). Whilst walking, we were on the lookout for Inari's messengers, the foxes, of which there are hundreds of statues around the Shrine. Fushimi Inari Shrine has ancient origins, predating the capital's move to Kyoto in 794.

Then it was time to experience Nishiki Market. We had a full afternoon there to sample food, shop and soak in the

excitement of this bustling labyrinth of Japanese delights. When we met back up to head to dinner together, we were all heavily laden with goodies to take home.

Dinner was a Japanese barbeque which we got to cook ourselves. We filled our stomachs before heading out to celebrate our last night in this amazing country by partaking in a favourite Japanese past time.... karaoke!

Day 7 All good things must sadly come to an end. But not without squeezing every last minute out of our adventure. Our flight home didn't leave until 11:30pm which meant that we were able to enjoy a full day in Osaka before our departure from Kansai airport. We started with a tour of Osaka castle, which is the largest samurai castle left in Japan. Those who braved the climb to the top in the intense heat were rewarded with a lovely view over the city. After that, we enjoyed a final group meal of delicious ramen before strolling through the famous district of Dotonbori. We had our final shopping spree (spending our pennies at the arcades) and enjoyed all sorts of weird and wonderful sights before finally heading out to the airport in the evening.

SCHOOL TRIPS

ARDÈCHE

Watersports trip to Ardèche

30 June – 5 July 2024

On 30th June, thirty-four Upper 4 (Year 8) and Lower 5 (Year 9) students, together with four members of staff, embarked upon a watersports trip to the sunny south of France. The trip was packed with many activities that were sure to draw us out of our comfort zone.

On the first day, we took a bus into the Ardèche mountains to do some canyoning. First, we equipped ourselves with wetsuits and helmets. A few minutes later, we were jumping off cliffs, walking through rivers, climbing up rockfaces and shooting down natural waterslides. Finally, we went down a huge zip wire across the valley. The canyoning instructors were so impressed with the King William's College students, as not one student was scared to jump, slide or climb. After a nice meal to recover from the adrenaline rush, we visited the little town of Vallon Pont d'Arc to sample crêpes, gaufres and delicious ice-cream.

On day two, we packed a few things into watertight barrels, as for the next two days

we would be canoeing down the river Ardèche and spending a night camping by the river. The scenery was breath taking; it was so much fun going down the rapids (without capsizing). The instructors gave us all plenty of opportunities to stop for a swim, a slide or a jump into the river from high rocks. In the evening we camped; we were all happy to go to sleep by 10pm as all this action had already taken its toll on us. The following day we canoed up to St Martin; we were delighted to return to camp, have a proper shower, and a nutritious meal.

On day four we went to the one of the biggest treetop adventure courses in France. All of the students were eager to go round, most of them going up to the top of the most challenging high ropes.

On our last afternoon, we were able to chill by the camp's swimming pool before a very entertaining silent disco.

A big thank you to Mr Cope Jr, Madame Howland and Madame Beswick who accompanied me on this trip.





2025

RACE THE SUN

We had the pleasure of being a part of the combined Buchan and King William's College team "Knees Won't Cooperate" for the Children's Centre fundraiser, Race the Sun. A lap of the Isle of Man in 10 consecutive legs, aiming to leave Peel at sunrise, and return before sunset.

Here is our race report:

Leg 1, Peel to The Cronk - Owen Bevan

An early start for Owen, and despite a recently twinged back, he ran well, taking 15 minutes off the estimated time, perhaps because he was on a flight at lunchtime! Conditions were perfect: a warm morning - but a little chill in the air given the time of day and the coastal breeze. Owen made his way north, making it to The Cronk to handover to Damian in 1 hour 47 minutes.

Leg 2, The Cronk to Point of Ayre - Damian Henderson

Taking on one of the two sand legs after a throw away challenge of "I'll put your name down, yeah?" from a colleague during INSET, and not one to shy away from a challenge, Damian took on what is arguably one of the hardest legs of the race from The Cronk up to the Point of Ayre. Battling a headwind and on the constant hunt for hard sand, Damian fought north up to the Northern most point where Alan was waiting.

Leg 3, Point of Ayre to Maughold - Alan Macnair

Alan is on a personal mission to complete RTS 10 times, each on a different leg (that's the only way he's ever going to be able to say he's run the entire coastal footpath!) Alan took the baton south, across the shingle for 15 minutes before finding hard sand with the low

tide and a good rhythm into Ramsey. With enough in the tank to enjoy the undulating Maughold Head section, he made it to Maughold Church in good time and handed on to Gwen Smith's husband, Simon, who was running for the team.

Leg 4, Maughold to Laxey - Simon Smith

A seasoned road runner, Simon has completed many marathons and decided to change things up with a leg of RTS. The Maughold to Laxey section isn't entirely marked with the blue Raad ny Foillan signs and after getting directions from members of the public, and retracing his steps a few times, Simon appeared on Laxey promenade (with an extra 3k run!) where Stuart was limbered up and ready to go.

Leg 5, Laxey to Douglas - Stuart Headon

"Keep the coast on your left." Stuart had a tough start to his leg, up the never relenting road section towards Baldrine before the sharp descent to Garwick Beach. Pulling up the other side and off around Clay Head, Stuart's race plan of placing the coast on the left started to be questioned as the footpath looped back on itself suspiciously. Running through the hottest part of the day, conditions were tough for this leg. Stuart was soon back on track down into Groudle then a long slog up and around Onchan Head before dropping down on to the Prom to meet Lucy Veale's husband.

Leg 6, Douglas to Port Grenaugh - Lewis Veale

A seasoned fell runner, Lewis could have run any of the legs with confidence.

Lewis ran a mostly road section for the



team, making good time along Douglas Prom, up the steps, and south along Marine Drive. The clifftop views must have been spectacular as he ran into Port Soderick before the up, around and down non-coastal section, finishing back on the trail before descending the coast to Richard on the beach.

Leg 7, Port Grenagh to Port St. Mary - Richard Torpey

One of the longer sections of the race, Richard traversed the coast southwards, around Soderick Bay and making the enforced mile detour around Santon Gorge and down past the airport. A lengthy road section followed through Castletown and around Gansey, broken by Scarlett Point. Richard was running with good form through Scarlett, even declining a jelly baby so things must have been going well! A consistent leg, Richard ran 17km to make the change with Kate at PSM promontory.

Leg 8, Port St. Mary to Port Erin - Kate Head

After some convincing in the staff room, Kate agreed to this leg after her first recce. Kate looked good coming round Clifton Road towards the climb to the Chasms. Headphones on, determination on her face, Kate put in a great performance, heading all the way around The Sound and back up towards Port Erin. Kate shouted members of the public 'out the way' on a busy Port Erin prom as she charged the unexpected extra 400 meters past The Bay to the beginning of James' leg.

Leg 9, Port Erin to top of the Sloc - James Mylchreest

Described as a 'safe pair of hands', James was set off with other teams at 5.30pm, a cut off to ensure the event finishes around sunset in Peel. Taking on the leg with the most elevation gain, including Bradda, Lhaittee ny Beinnee and Cronk ny Arrey Laa, James ran strong, jogging the gentle inclines, somehow passing spectators at the road join with a smile on his face! "There's some elevation gain in that one", slightly understated there James, well done! Descending from Cronk ny Arrey Laa summit, James passed on to our final runner, Ross.

Leg 10, Top of the Sloc to Peel - Ross Mann

The Mann, the myth, the legend. Waiting to start your leg by watching some of the Island's faster fell runners take off down a dirt track could have been a little off putting, but not for Ross! Earning Garmin badges along the way, Ross completed his fastest kilometre and fastest mile in the opening 10 minutes of his run, whilst dropping to the bottom of Kerroodhoo plantation. Ross ran the Dalby Road past Niarbyl (helping towards his fastest 10k), down to Glen Maye and then he enjoyed a jolly little climb up to Corrin's Hill. Ross aptly descended into the Sunset City.

Greeted by cheers along the prom, 'Knees Won't Cooperate' finished Race the Sun in 16hrs 59minutes and 2seconds. Well done to everyone in our team and perhaps we'll see you next year.



SUCCESS
STORIES

SUCCESS IS BEST WHEN IT'S SHARED



KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE STUDENTS SHINE AT THE ISLE OF MAN LINGUISTICS OLYMPIAD

This year's Isle of Man Linguistics Olympiad saw an outstanding performance from King William's College students, who made up more than half of the total participants. Out of 47 students from secondary schools across the island, an impressive 27 were from King William's College, showcasing the school's strong enthusiasm and talent for linguistic problem-solving.

The Olympiad, a challenging two-hour paper, tested students' logical reasoning and analytical skills through a series of complex puzzles based on unfamiliar languages. This year's paper featured a fascinating mix of linguistic challenges, including the Devanagari script (used to write Hindi), Darmiya (a Sino-Tibetan language spoken in the Himalayas), 21st-century Icelandic, two ancient Coptic dialects from Egypt, and Santali, a Munda language spoken across parts of South Asia. With no prior knowledge of these languages required, students had to rely purely on logic and pattern recognition to decode grammatical structures and vocabulary.

King William's College students rose to the occasion with remarkable success. Five of our students were placed in the top ten across the island. Special congratulations go to Brodie M U5 (Year 11) and Summer H Lower 6 (Year 12), who both achieved Gold Awards. Their exceptional performance earned them invitations to represent the Isle of Man as part of a four-student team at the International Linguistics Olympiad in Taiwan this summer; it is a tremendous

honour and opportunity to compete on the global stage.

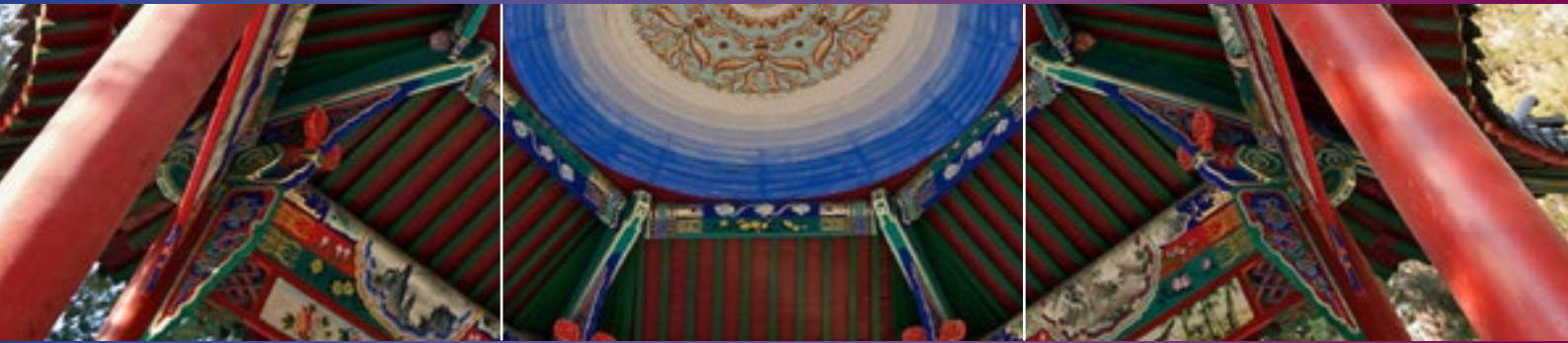
Further accolades go to Martin V Upper 5 (Year 11) and Alexander O Middle 5 (Year 10), who were each awarded Silver, and to Nazarii L Lower 6 (Year 12), who earned a Bronze Award for his strong performance.

In addition to these top awards, several King William's College students received honourable mentions for their impressive efforts. These include Dominic S, Elizaveta K, and Tim G Lower 6 (Year 12); Ameya M, Charlotte T, Rishi C, and Gnaan D Upper 5 (Year 11); and Aristeia O and Zack H Middle 5 (Year 10). Their recognition reflects the depth of talent and commitment across all year groups.

The Linguistics Olympiad is not just a test of language knowledge: it's a celebration of logic, curiosity, and the ability to think outside of the box. Students tackled problems that spanned continents and centuries, from ancient Egyptian scripts to modern Icelandic grammar, all without the aid of dictionaries or translation tools.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Robert Teare, Manx Language Officer, for organising and supporting this fantastic opportunity. His dedication to promoting linguistic learning and excellence continues to inspire students across the island.

Congratulations to all our participants for their hard work, determination, and excellent achievements.



BARROVIAN FOUNDATION

NICHOLAS KITTO

On Tuesday 20th May, we were lucky to have the opportunity to welcome Nicholas Kitto to College to give a lecture about China's treaty ports. The whole of Lower Sixth (Year 12) was in attendance, in addition to other guests.

Nicholas Kitto is an OKW, who studied here between 1968 and 1972 and was a member of Dickson House. Following a long and successful career in accounting, he retired to fully commit himself to his passion: photography. He was enrolled as a Licentiate of The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain in 2013, became an Associate in 2022 and is a board member of The Photographic Heritage Foundation in Hong Kong – a place he has called home since 1983. His interest in visual arts led to his generous donation to College in 2015, which contributed to the refurbishment of the art studio - the Kitto Studio. In addition, he also endowed a photography prize which is awarded to a King William's College student annually.

Nicholas' interest began early, at the age of 8, when he was first introduced to photography at school; however, he began to focus on the photography of buildings whilst on a quest to find his father's house in China. Since then, he has sought out and photographed specific architecture all over the country and has explored the lives of the people who lived in those places and the history that those buildings represent. These stories gave rise to his book 'Trading Places' - a photographic journey through China's treaty ports.

We were supremely lucky to have Nicholas at King William's College to give us a glimpse into China's immense history. It was fascinating to hear about China's former treaty ports, which enhanced our understanding of global trade today. The photographs were illuminating and everyone thoroughly enjoyed hearing about Nicholas' family history and seeing the impressive architecture of the ports.

BARROVIAN ALUMNI

AIDEN STRADLING (1973-1980)

Former student Aiden Stradling's journey began with our Chapel Choir, eventually progressing to The BBC Symphony Chorus.

Aiden Stradling laid the foundations for his musical career in the King William's College Chapel Choir, where he sang tenor and quickly developed an interest in creating harmonies around the tune. On joining the Manx Youth Choir, he discovered a huge repertoire of choral classics, Manx songs, and found that 8-part harmony was even better than 4!

Whilst continuing his studies in the UK, he again established links with local choirs and choral societies and developed his skills in harmony. He also built a repertoire as a 'rent-a-tenor' and joined a barbershop quartet which performed at concerts and released a CD of favourite songs. At this point, whilst living and working in London, he successfully auditioned for the Royal Choral Society who performed mainly in the Royal Albert Hall, whose circular design and high dome made it an acoustic dream in which to perform.

Encouraged by this experience, he auditioned for a semi-professional choir and was accepted into the BBC Symphony Chorus as a First Tenor. This opened doors to a much more technically challenging and niche classical repertoire. He sang regularly at The Proms, on radio and television, took part in frequent overseas tours, and performed in many amazing concert venues. Singing Beethoven's 9th in the Beethovenhalle in Bonn was a particular highlight. The BBC engaged top conductors including Claudio Abbado, Leonard Slatkin and Sir Andrew Davis. What amazing training!

Currently, he finds that a busy family life leaves less time and energy for such pursuits, but he still enjoys singing in the local church choir, where his wife is a Minister.

Aiden recently enjoyed revisiting his King William's College Chapel roots, where he briefly re-tested the acoustics and pronounced them 'still good!'

2024/2025

MEMORIALS

FATHER DAVID WALTER BARNES

1956 – 1963

David died aged 80 on 23rd December 2024. He was a valued member of King William's College, taking part in Athletics, Music and CCF. David went on to read for a BA at the University of Durham. David was Senior RC Chaplain at The University of London, City University and the Polytechnics of London. He went on to St Mary's, Moorfields, and the Church of St. Anselm and St. Cecilia at Holborn.

MICHAEL DIXON

1955 – 1960

Michael passed away on 13th October 2025 after a short illness.

SUE ETCHES

1962 – 1964

Sue passed away peacefully at age 80, after a short battle with cancer.

She attended The Buchan School from January 1962 – July 1964 and was a boarder. She then went on to University of York and studied Economics.

JOHN NORMAN WILLIAM FLEMING

John, who taught History at King William's College at the start of the 1980s, passed away on 31st December 2024, aged 73.

John was born on Boxing Day 1951, the first and only child of Norman (Norrie) and Vera (Vee) Fleming (née Camaish).

The Flemings were of proud Westmorland stock (Grasmere and Kirkby Lonsdale), and the graves of John's ancestors can be seen in Kirkby Lonsdale churchyard.

John's mother was born in Peel, on the Isle of Man, and she retained an extensive first-hand knowledge of Manx culture and traditions. John derived much of his interest and enthusiasm for history from his mother.

John was educated at Kendal Grammar School and in 1971 was awarded a place to read Modern History at Merton College, Oxford. After graduating in 1974, John undertook a teacher training course which included a term's teaching practice at Stonyhurst College. His first two teaching posts were at Repton and King William's College.

In 1983, John moved to Bedford School where he became a House Tutor and taught History for the rest of his career; he rose to become Head of the History department. He retired in 2013.

John is remembered as an excellent and enthusiastic teacher who really inspired his pupils.

ROGER STUART GARRETT

1955 – 1963

Roger, a scholarship student of King William's College, died on October 18th 2024 after a late diagnosis of Stage 4 lung cancer. He is survived by his partner, Alison, and daughters Lucy Garrett KC and Anna Garrett.

STEPHEN F. B. GUEST

1964 – 1969

Stephen was the oldest of three brothers to attend King William's College. Stephen passed away on 24th December 2024, aged 74 years, after a brave battle with cancer.

Whilst at King William's College, Stephen achieved Head of School House and captaincies in shooting and sailing.

After leaving school, Stephen trained as a Quantity Surveyor. He later married and had two children, David and Helen.

Later in 2004, with his 2nd wife Loraine, he purchased Maldon Court Preparatory School.

DR PETER HONEY

1951-1956

Born in Oxford, Peter was the son of Margaret (née Hinton) and John Honey; when he was 13, the family moved to the Isle of Man. His father was bursar at King William's College, where Peter also went to school. He studied Psychology at Hull and Oxford, and did his national service in Singapore, where he met Carol Lewis, the daughter of an army chaplain. They married in 1964.

STEPHEN MITCHELL

Stephen died peacefully on 6th June 2025 at the age of 74, following a life devoted to education, literature, and the joy of connecting with people.

Stephen joined the staff at King William's College in the 1980s, where he spent many years as a dedicated English teacher. His passion for storytelling, critical thinking, and language left a lasting impact on generations of students. With a sharp wit and a deep love of the written word, Stephen could light up a classroom, inspiring pupils to think independently and engage deeply with literature, and with life.

Stephen is survived by his four children, who remember him as a brilliant man: intelligent, independent, and fiercely principled. Those who knew him well recognised his deep loyalty, sharp intellect, and outgoing humour.

His legacy will live on in the minds of those he taught and the friendships he forged over decades of dedicated service.

STEWART N THOMPSON

1963-1969

Stewart passed away on 22nd March, 2025 following a serious illness and leaves a wife (with whom he celebrated 48 years of marriage in January), son and daughter. He was 75 years old.

Stewart was a regular attender at the Liverpool OKW Society dinners and even travelled over from Harrogate to join a fellow OKWs for lunch every year at the Artists Club in Liverpool.

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