



Hove Park School

"Together We Achieve"

Almanac 2024-25

al·ma·nac (ôl' mə-nāk', ăl'-)

n.

1. A register of the days, weeks and months of the year, with events, anniversaries, etc, published annually.
2. An annual publication containing a variety of factual information.

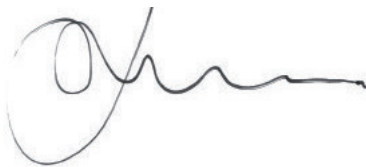
Head Teacher's Introduction

Welcome to this year's Almanac and once again we are delighted to share with you some of our accomplishments and incredible endeavours.

I've always believed it is important that our vision 'Together We Achieve' is more than just words: At Hove Park School, we believe every student is entitled to a 'whole education' that includes; great teaching, the development of wider skills and the opportunity to see, hear and do amazing things, as part of our Every Child Should initiative.

This year we have been awarded the Edtech50 award, which recognises our positive use of technology, to support teaching and learning. In the summer term, our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students undertook their assessed expedition in Dovedale in the Peak District and students undertaking the Mandarin Excellence Programme enjoyed a rich and immersive cultural experience, at Xi'an International Studies University (Yanta Campus) in China.

I hope you enjoy reading through our journey over the last year and take collective pride in what we have achieved.



Jim Roberts
Head Teacher

Contents

News	3-31
Literacy	32-33
Drama & Music	34-37
Languages	38-43
PE	44-51
STEM	52-57
Art	58-59

Challenge Partners

In 2022, Hove Park joined Challenge Partners to share practice, raise standards, and stay at the forefront of educational thinking.

Senior leaders completed two-day joint review visits at other schools to support self-evaluation and improvement. We also conduct an annual internal review. In November, four external senior leaders and a lead Ofsted inspector visited Hove Park for two days, meeting staff, students, governors, and observing lessons, assemblies, and tutor time. They were hugely impressed with the school, the culture and ethos. I've shared a couple of quotes from their report;

The school holds the Wellbeing Award, and a caring ethos runs throughout.

The curriculum is ambitious and has been carefully planned to develop the students' necessary skills, knowledge and cultural capital to succeed in life.

Technology is used effectively to enhance students' learning. All students have an iPad and access lesson notes on One Note, enabling them to revisit learning and catch up if absent.

The 'Every Child Should' enrichment offer motivates and inspires students to gain experiences beyond the classroom promoting inclusion and a sense of belonging.

GCSE Results

There was lots of celebration on Thursday 21st August 2025 as students arrived at the school to collect their GCSE exam results. All the staff at Hove Park School would like to congratulate our students on the hard work that has led to so many achieving success in their exams. They can now celebrate gaining the qualifications that will take them on to the next stage of their education at sixth form or college!



Edtech50 Award

We were delighted to hear that we received the Edtech50 award, supported by Intel, recognising positive use of technology to support teaching and learning. This recognition reflects the dedication of our staff, students, and partnerships to harness digital tools effectively for educational excellence.

Edtech UK, an independent organisation that works with schools to support education technology adoption and use, chose Hove Park School from entries across England. The Edtech 50 awards, now in their fifth edition, act as a national benchmark of the imaginative and positive use of technology in schools to support teaching and learning.



Senior Student Council

Our Senior Student Council meet regularly to share ideas, raise concerns, and plan activities. They led fundraising drives, supported well-being initiatives, and helped improve our school. The students listened, learned, and turned their collective voice into real, positive changes for everyone at Hove Park.

Fundraising activities included a range of events that raised funds for school projects and local causes, while wellbeing initiatives promoted mental health awareness and inclusive spaces.

Beyond events, the Council served as a link between students and leaders, gathering feedback and supporting practical improvements to daily routines and facilities. Through dialogue and collaboration, the Senior Student Council helped create a kinder, more responsive environment at Hove Park.

Hove Park School's Water Saving Initiative

We were proud to announce that Hove Park was featured by Southern Water for our significant water-saving efforts. Through a comprehensive water-saving audit and the installation of efficiency devices, we are on track to save over 1,135,000 litres of water annually.

Our headteacher, Jim Roberts, highlighted the importance of this initiative, stating that it not only contributes to sustainability but also promises considerable financial savings.





Every Child Should

Every Child Should (ECS) is a Hove Park School initiative, to ensure that all students get the opportunity to participate in a variety of memorable and enriching experiences, as they journey through the school, which in turn will complement and broaden their education.

Each theme is represented by a coloured star badge, that students can wear on their blazers. The challenge is for students to achieve all 8 badges by the time they leave the Valley campus, at the end of Year 8 and move to begin their GCSE courses, on the Nevill campus.

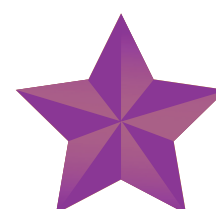
Every Child Should gives our students the opportunity to spend time with their friends, taking part in a variety of school activities and events that we know are beneficial to their wellbeing and happiness.

There are 8 ECS badges to collect:

- Contribute and feel part of their local community.
- Spend a night under the stars.
- Show an interest and understanding of the wider world, experiencing the vibrant, diverse cultures and languages of those around me.
- Reflect the ethos of our shared values in the way that I participate in the life and community of the school.
- Be captivated by live theatre, music or sport
- Make a commitment to a club or activity of my choice.
- Show resilience in taking on a new challenge.
- Take pride in representing my house and / or school in an activity or event.

As part of our ECS scheme there are a team of Year 8 Every Child Should Ambassadors. They promote the reward scheme in the school by talking in assemblies, visiting tutor groups and will be at our Open Evening and Open Morning events. They have a great understanding of how others can earn their stars and will be able to explain how they earned theirs.

The success of Hove Park's Every Child Should initiative has been so remarkable that it has been captured on film and is now available for viewing at www.hovepark.org.uk/every-child-should. This program has significantly enriched our students' educational journey by offering them diverse and memorable experiences.





Year 9 Ramadan Assembly

Students from the Year 9 Equalities group delivered an assembly to educate their peers about Ramadan. The students demonstrated incredible maturity, and the assembly was extremely informative. We have students that follow many different religions at Hove Park School, and we value the diversity we have. We hope to follow this with more student led assemblies that celebrate the different cultures and religions in our student cohort.



Rainbow Bake Sale

Students from the Year 7 and 8 Equalities groups organised a rainbow bake sale to raise money for Stonewall, a charity that advocates for the LGBTQ+ community. This followed on from student led assemblies in February, to celebrate LGBTQ+ month, where students educated their peers about how to be an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community.

There was a fantastic array of baked goods, and students raised £66, which is fantastic. Thanks to all the students and their families who supported this event.



UK Army Logistics

Thanks to the UK Army Logistics who came in to tell our Year 10 students all about working for the British Army. We learned loads! We also worked in teams to construct the tallest tower and tested our fitness levels out with some military fitness drills.

Benfield Valley Hike

Under a bright sky and the rolling backdrop of the South Downs, Year 7 students once again set out on the annual Benfield Valley Hike that has become a cornerstone of our school's calendar.

Organised as part of our Every Child Should initiative, the event begins at the Valley Campus and winds through Benfield Valley before returning home, giving students a physical challenge and the chance to build resilience, teamwork and lasting memories beyond the classroom.





Houses of Parliament and Westminster

In October, 40 students from Year 10 went to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey as part of their PRE studies, in anticipation of their Year 11 course on the long history of democracy and parliament in the UK, stretching back to when it met in the Abbey Chapter House. They had a tour of both chambers in the Houses of Parliament and took part in a seminar looking at voting issues. After lunch, we looked at statues and the Jewel Tower before touring Westminster Abbey, packed with the tombs of kings, national figures, poets and the unknown warrior. Students also enjoyed the superb architecture and art works in the Abbey. With tombs of Mary and Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots to see in situ the trip was also useful for history GCSE.



Year 8 Bake Sale

We had a brilliant bake sale led by Year 8 students and enjoyed by students and staff alike! There was a huge array of delicious treats and the students raised over £100. Well done to everyone involved!



Classical Architecture Tour

Six students from the KS4 Classics club went on a tour of Classical Regency architecture in Hove. Most Fridays, in Classics club, they study Homer's Odyssey, with forays into Roman art and culture. However, this time the students analysed the elements of Classical architecture in Hove. They studied the different orders, such as Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian, and learned to recognise other features, as well as how Classical architecture is an assemblage of parts with a beginning, middle, and end that mirror each other.

Arundel Castle

Thirty lucky Year 7 students went along to Arundel Castle – what a day! We had a fantastic time learning all about nearly 1000 years of history at Arundel (including 3 separate sieges), taking in the armoury, the oubliette and touring the castle battlements too! We even got to dress up as knights.





Extra Curriculum

Extra curricular enrichment is a key part of life at Hove Park School. Our students have the opportunity to explore a wide, exciting range of physical, creative, and intellectual activities, and they thoroughly enjoy trying something new.

There is an extensive selection of creative and physical activities, including sewing skills in upcycling, friendly competition in board games, improving our school environment through gardening, burning off energy in table tennis, football, basketball, netball, and volleyball, problem solving in Rubik's Cube club, exploring classical literature in The Odyssey through Classical Civilisations Club, unleashing theatrical talents in drama, and working towards exciting projects in art and Design & Technology (DT).



The Social Enterprise Challenge

Hove Park students participated in the Social Enterprise Challenge, the flagship program of the Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation for secondary school partners in the Sussex network.

Our students were invited to the Amex Stadium for the launch of the challenge, where they learned about the initiative aimed at empowering them to develop youth-led social action projects. These projects are focused on raising awareness about the work of the Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation in the community and fundraising for the charity, which supports over 25,000 people each year.

After creating their social action projects, the students will return to the Amex Stadium for a celebration event to showcase their efforts and the impact they have made, transforming their concepts into real-world actions.

Time To Talk Befriending / TTTB

Hove Park School was proud to announce that we became an official 'Friend' of Time to Talk Befriending / TTTB! This partnership marked a meaningful step in our ongoing commitment to supporting families within our local community.

Time to Talk Befriending offer a range of joy-filled one to one and group befriending services, intergenerational projects, seasonal events, chaplaincy and signposting services for older people experiencing loneliness.



Sea Swimming

Year 7 & 8 students enjoyed exciting Sea Swimming / Life Guarding sessions on Brighton Beach. The training days were packed with activities such as sea swimming, lifesaving skills, beach games, and first aid training. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to build their confidence in the water while learning valuable safety skills and having fun outdoors.



Careers

Some of our Year 10 students went to find out about careers in leisure and tourism, at the iconic Brighton Pier @BTNPalacePier. They had a tour, split into teams and took part in a mocked-up 'assessment centre' – just as would-be employees do in real life. They were tasked with creating a new mascot, coming up with a business plan to 'sell' the Pier to investors, and designing a new product to market to visitors. They all worked hard to come up with thoughtful ideas and to present in front of the Pier management team, and got brilliant feedback for their creativity and concepts. Well done Year 10!

Grange Rest Home

Year 8 Student Leaders had a real treat - we were invited to go to The Grange Rest Home in Hove. Our students were superb ambassadors for the school and loved every minute of the experience. They played games and chatted with the residents and it was a wonderful partnership!

The students were amazing and Taylor serenaded the residents with his delightful guitar playing! The staff commented:

'...thank you so much for coming to the home, our residents absolutely loved having the students to visit and say it was such a joy! ...it was amazing and the pupils were a joy to be around'

Thorpe Park

Year 10 went on their annual reward trip to Thorpe Park for Business students (and some worthy others in Year 10) with good ATL's. Queues were short and a good day was had by all!



Ski Trip

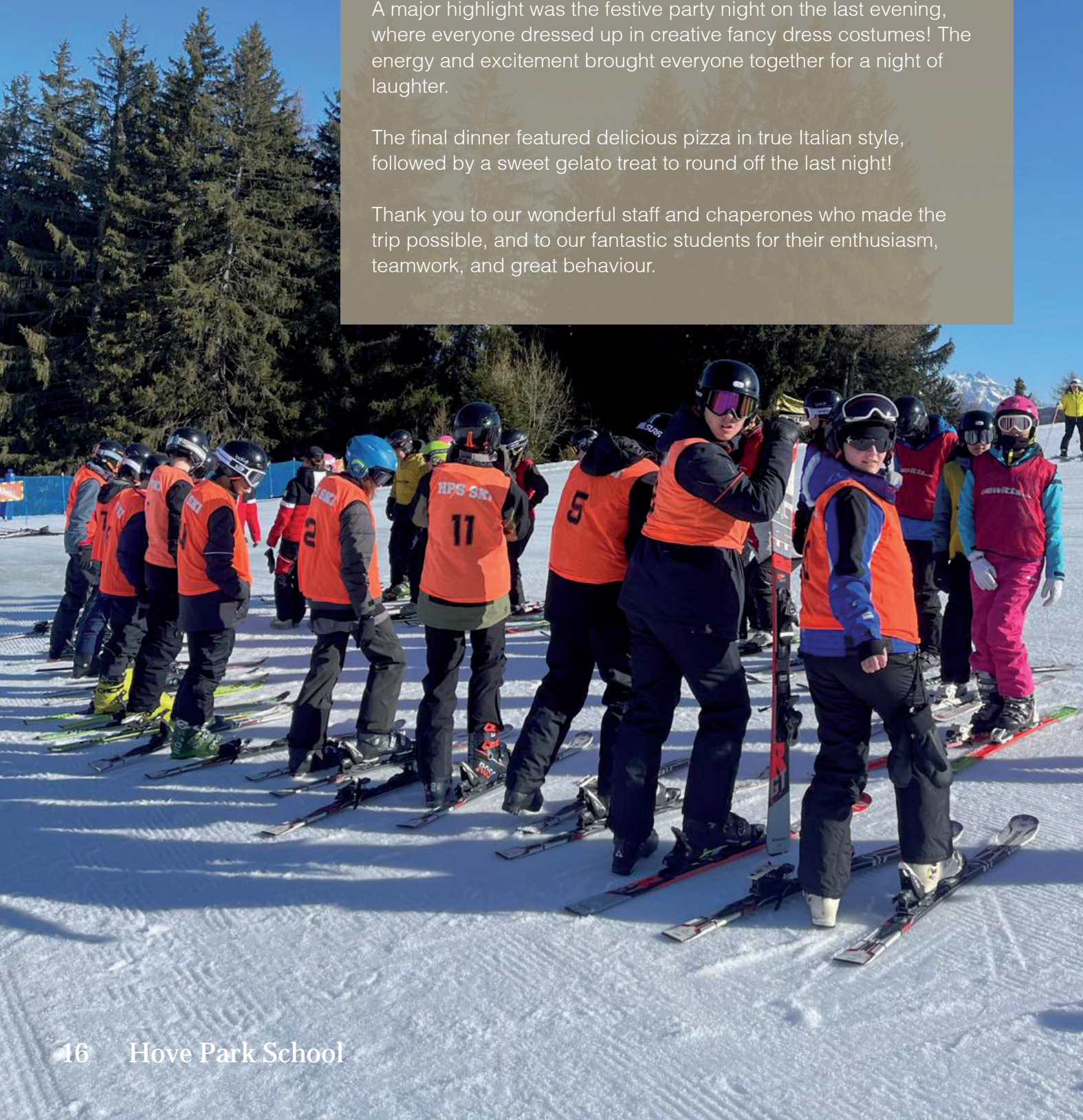
Over the April break, our students enjoyed an incredible ski trip to Aprica, Italy, making memories to last a lifetime.

The adventure began with a scenic journey across beautiful landscapes, setting the tone for an unforgettable week in the Italian Alps. The weather was fantastic with clear, sunny days provided perfect conditions for skiing and enjoying the snow.

A major highlight was the festive party night on the last evening, where everyone dressed up in creative fancy dress costumes! The energy and excitement brought everyone together for a night of laughter.

The final dinner featured delicious pizza in true Italian style, followed by a sweet gelato treat to round off the last night!

Thank you to our wonderful staff and chaperones who made the trip possible, and to our fantastic students for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and great behaviour.





Christmas Market

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who joined us at Hove Park School for our 'Together at Christmas' Market!

From our wonderful sellers showcasing their amazing goods to all the visitors who came along to support, you made it such a magical evening. The stalls were vibrant, offering handmade crafts, delicious seasonal treats, and thoughtful gifts that captured the spirit of the season.

We're so grateful for the community spirit and festive cheer that filled the air. A special thank you to the volunteers and organisers who worked hard behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly.

We can't wait to see you at the next gathering.

EcoTeam

Our EcoTeam celebrated another successful year working with other secondary schools to make our schools more sustainable. We visited Varndean School and even made smoothies from "out-of-date" but perfectly delicious fruit. We were impressed by their excellent recycling systems and enjoyed a walk through the Dorothy Stringer nature reserve, where we spotted 20 different species of butterfly and moth.

We're very excited to start our own biodiversity journey next year, supported by a £1,000 grant from South Downs Trust to Rewild Hove Park School. This funding will help us develop new habitats, run citizen science projects, and broaden awareness of environmental stewardship within our community.

Valley Challenge

Our 98 brave Year 8 students completed the two-day Valley Challenge, and what a journey it was!

They trekked through the countryside, learning map skills and pushing through wind, rain, and sore feet. Along the way, there was plenty of laughter, friendship, and memories they'll never forget. Highlights included lunch at Truleigh Hill Youth Hostel, a camp evening with dinner served just as the rain stopped, and stunning views from the top of Edburton Hill in the sunshine.

Our students summed it up best:

"Wind, rain, sore feet, laughing, friends, cold, tired, fun - life changing!"





Students Excel in DofE Award

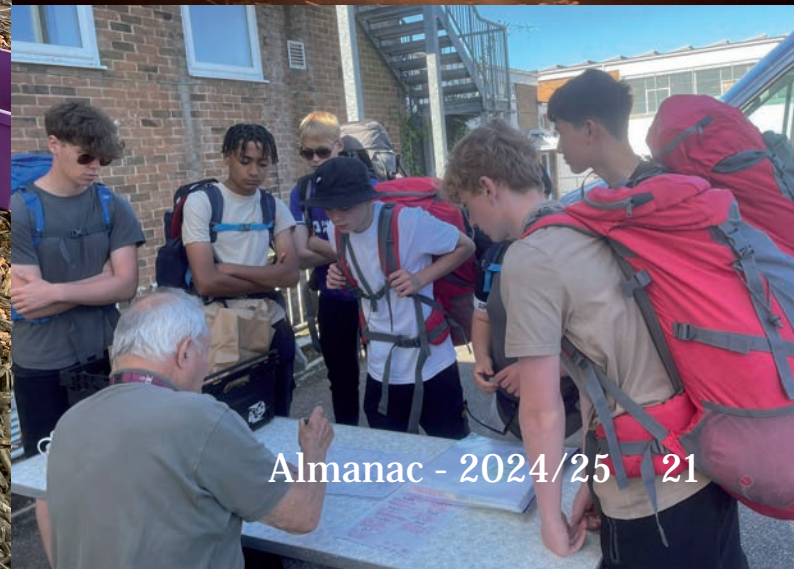
The Duke of Edinburgh award is an outstanding mark of achievement for a young person and it begins with the Bronze Award, which Hove Park offers to all students in Year 9. Nearly 100 students from year 9 took the opportunity to begin the award and have been making progress towards completion.

After enrolment in September, Year 9 students began achieving their goals in activities in three sections; volunteering, a skill and a physical activity. Many students gained credit for all the amazing things they were already doing setting their own goals to become a better goal-scorer, achieve level 3 piano or learn an instrument from scratch or learning a language.

Many students discovered volunteering for the first time working with young people in primary schools, helping on the school allotment or in after school clubs in primary schools where they had been pupils or being a volunteer with Park Run. Many students have completed some of their sections, others are still ongoing.

The highlight is the expedition which happened in June. About 90 students, half of the Year 9 cohort, took the opportunity to go on the Bronze Expedition, for many the icing on the cake of the award. After training in navigation and campcraft and help with planning, they completed a two-day hike in the South Downs National Park in perfect summer weather, showing their ability to be self-reliant, work as a team, be resilient in the face of adversity, as well as practise the life skills they had learned.

In Year 10, those who had signed off their Bronze award, began the Silver in October. They continued activities to complete the sections or started something new. In the Summer term, they went on a practice expedition to Ashdown Forest, then their assessed expedition in Dovedale in the Peak District. This was an amazing experience which has set up many of our students to go for Gold in sixth form!





Fun Run

What a fantastic day we had for our Fun Run! The weather was glorious and sunny, making it the perfect setting for an amazing event. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and made this day a success.

Congratulations to our amazing winners!

Every runner showcased incredible spirit, and we couldn't be prouder of the dedication shown! Each participant received a running number, a bespoke medal, and a delicious Cream Egg to celebrate their achievement!

We're also pleased to announce that part of the proceeds will be donated to Chestnut Tree House, a wonderful charity that supports children with life-limiting conditions.

Student Leaders

Year 8 Student Leaders are a group of exceptional students who have achieved all eight Every Child Should stars, by the end of Year 7. Their dedication and hard work have allowed them to explore new experiences and conquer challenges, that pushed them beyond their limits. From representing the school to taking on new challenges, joining clubs, assisting at parents' evenings, contributing to food fairs, and even participating in the HPS 5k race, these students have shown incredible determination and growth.

To further nurture their leadership skills, the Year 8 Student Leader Program offers a series of challenges divided into three distinct colours: blue, green, and red. Each student proudly wears a shield-shaped badge corresponding to the colour they are currently undertaking.

Year 8 Student Leaders regularly meet to plan various house activities within their tutor groups. These activities include: organising ice cream and book sales, contributing to Hove Park TV by filming club activities and conducting student

interviews, as well as assisting with tours during the Open Evening. Their commitment to making a positive impact on the school community is truly commendable.

Here are some words from the Year 8 Student Leaders:

"The student leader programme in year 8 was really fun and gave us lots of opportunities, like going to care homes to play games and primary schools to do a fun maths class. It helped us talk to new people and be more confident. I really recommend being a peer tutor."

Chole

"I loved the Student Leader Program it helped me over come my social fears and it meant I got to go to a Care Home and many different Primary Schools. I stepped out of my comfort zone and go to play games with sweet elderly people in a care home and it was so fun and relaxing. I would really love to do it again with all my friends and it would be an amazing opportunity again to build my life skills."

Lotte





Big Camp: An Enormous Success for Year 7 Students

The Year 7 Big Camp this year was once again a tremendous success. Hove Park students had the opportunity to participate in various activities, including fire lighting, team challenges and shelter building. Our students excelled and enthusiastically took part in all the activities.

After a busy day of activities, there was no time for rest as students faced the challenging Big Camp obstacle course. After working up a big appetite, Year 7 enjoyed a delicious meal.

Night time was equally exciting, with sixty tents set up across the field. Students prepared for bed and settled down after a tiring day.

The next morning, voices could be heard as early as 4am. With only a few hours of rest and tired eyes, we enjoyed the sunrise on another beautiful July day. The morning was relaxed as students emerged from their tents - some experiencing their first night under canvas and others their first night away from home.





Equalities Day

On Wednesday 27th March, our school's annual Equalities Day took place.

We welcomed many agencies into school who delivered informative sessions and workshops including LGBT, Reject Racism, African Drumming, Disability and Sport, All Sorts, Gatwick Detainees, and many more.

Our student Equalities Group also delivered sessions on Ramadan, and the younger students designed treasure hunts for other students on International Women and Disability themes. This was an extremely successful day, with many young people speaking very positively about the experience.

Dare 2 Dream

Dare 2 Dream - a group of Year 9 students went on a trip to a solicitors firm in Lewes, accompanied by Jack the Lad (former Heart Radio Breakfast host), and spent the day exploring what their futures could look like. They were introduced to careers in Marketing, Human Resources, Admin, Hospitality, and of course, Law. A great day out and a fabulous opportunity for all involved - thanks to Mayo Wynne Baxter in Lewes for having us!

Year 8 Diversity Workshops

A number of Year 8 students have been involved in Diversity workshops run by Albion in the Community this term. One of their tasks was to come up with a design that reinforces the message of inclusion. Flora's design in Year 8 was so good that the Albion have put it on t-shirts. Incredible work Flora, well done!

Martin Luther King Day

Martin Luther King Day is celebrated in January and to commemorate the life and achievements of this great man the Year 7 Equalities Group decided to design and deliver an assembly to the rest of the year group. The bravery of Martin Luther King in standing up for the civil rights of Black people in America, should never be forgotten and it was extremely positive to see the engagement and interest shown by the students for the content of the presentation. Special recognition must go to Ben Lovat who took a leading role in the creation of the resources and materials used.

Well done to all the students involved- it is not easy standing in front of your peers and presenting publicly.

The Social Enterprise Challenge

Hove Park students participated in the Social Enterprise Challenge, the flagship program of the Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation for secondary school partners in the Sussex network.

Our students were invited to the Amex Stadium for the launch of the challenge, where they learned about the initiative aimed at empowering them to develop youth-led social action projects. These projects are focused on raising awareness about the work of the Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation in the community and fundraising for the charity, which supports over 25,000 people each year.

After creating their social action projects, the students returned to the Amex Stadium for a celebration event to showcase their efforts and the impact they have made, transforming their concepts into real-world actions.





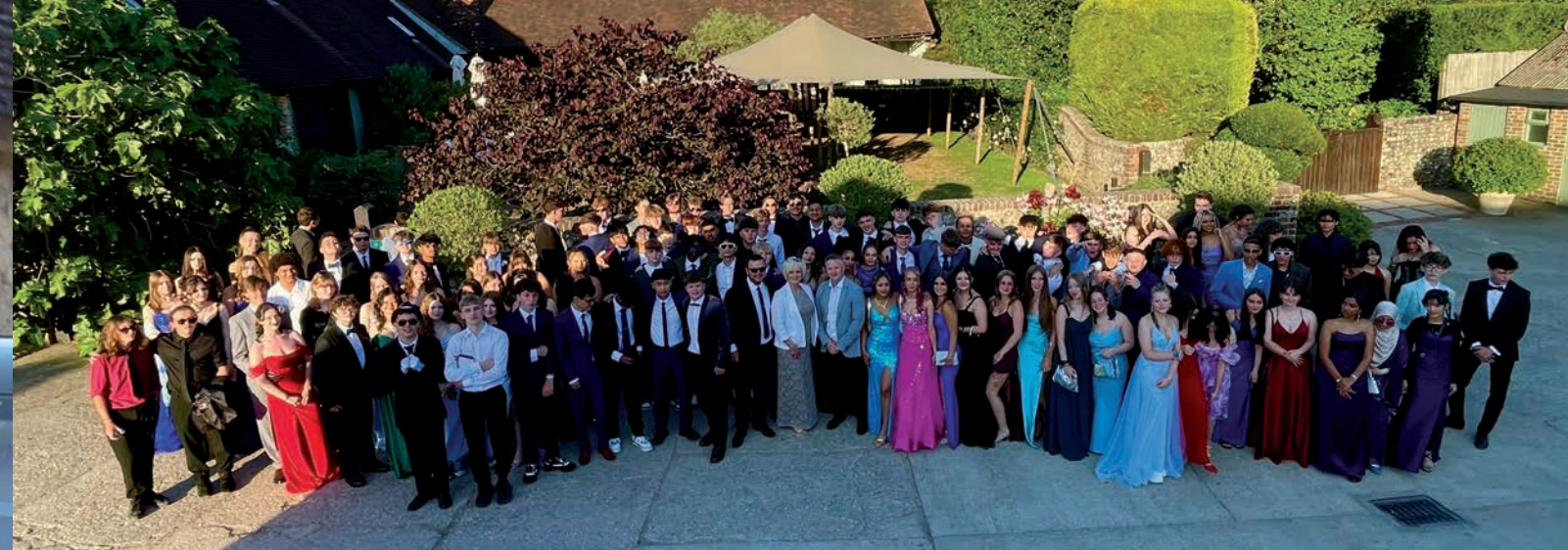
Our Prom

The Prom was a glorious event held at the stunning location of Pangdean Barn. The sun was beaming down throughout the evening and created a beautiful backdrop. Prom always marks the culmination of the Year 11 students' time at Hove Park; an amazing event put together to celebrate their time with us and all of their achievements.

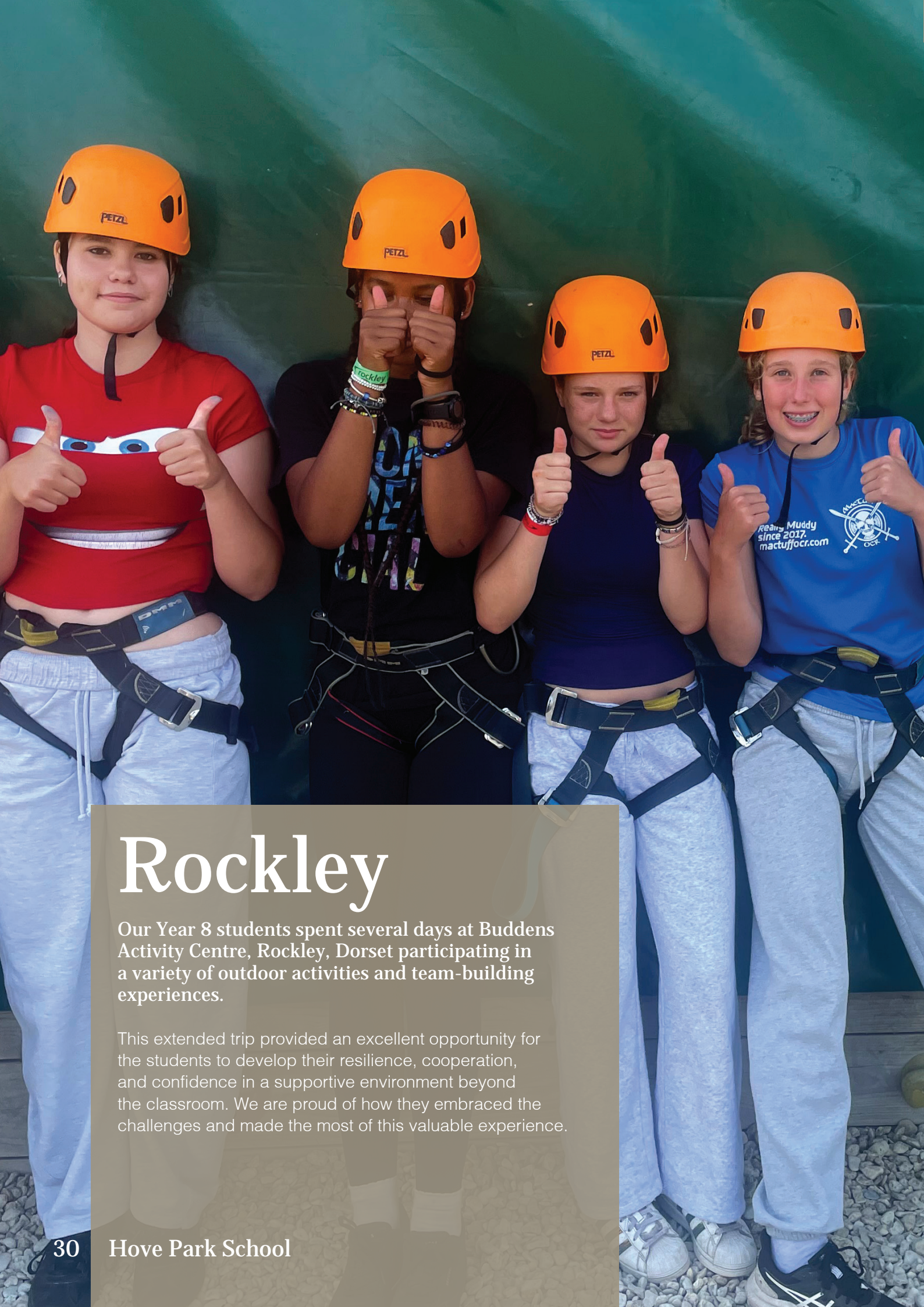
Transportation to Pangdean was nothing short of extraordinary, with an array of unique and vintage cars. As the students arrived, our staff warmly greeted them, admiring their exquisite suits and dazzling prom dresses.

Inside the venue the atmosphere continued. Students danced the night away, only taking breaks to enjoy the lovely food.

The Prom is an exceptional celebration of a student's journey at Hove Park School. It is a time to not only celebrate but also anticipate the future. We will deeply miss each and every one of our students and extend our heartfelt wishes for success on their chosen path.



OUR PROM



Rockley

Our Year 8 students spent several days at Buddens Activity Centre, Rockley, Dorset participating in a variety of outdoor activities and team-building experiences.

This extended trip provided an excellent opportunity for the students to develop their resilience, cooperation, and confidence in a supportive environment beyond the classroom. We are proud of how they embraced the challenges and made the most of this valuable experience.

The Cullum Centre

The Cullum Centre is our specialist resourced provision, it is designed to help autistic students get the help, support and guidance they need to thrive in a mainstream school setting.



Allotment

Students in Year 8, 9 & 10 worked hard to clear our allotment in preparation for autumn cultivation. Their efforts involved a lot of hard work and dedication. Over the past year, both staff and students have cut back trees and large shrubs to allow adequate sunlight.

World Autism Acceptance

In April, our students and staff organised various activities to promote understanding and acceptance of autism in school, thus allowing us to recognise and celebrate inclusivity and diversity within our school community. Special thanks to Mrs. Andrews for planning and organising the raffle, and to everyone involved in the Bake Sale at the Valley Campus. Together, we raised an impressive £335.56.

DIScover ABILITY

In May a group of students in Year 7 & 8 were invited to spend a day at the Sussex County Cricket Ground. Students took part in a range of activities including boxing, mini golf, penalty shootouts and of course plenty of cricket! The students had an amazing time and valued the opportunity to take part in sporting activities which they had never tried before, whilst also having access to all areas of the ground and interacting with students from schools all over Sussex who were also attending the day.





World Book Day

We celebrated reading for pleasure on World Book Day by rewarding our Sparx Reader students – who have over 10,000 Sparx Reader Points (SRPs) – with celebration assemblies and certificates. We also hosted a number of book related events including an after school origami hedgehog recycled book making workshop.

Did you know that one of the collective nouns for hedgehogs is a 'prickle' of hedgehogs? After school today, Year 7 and 8 students were invited to join us in a recycled book activity where they made a prickle of origami hedgehogs. A great activity to celebrate World Book Day!

The Brighton & Hove Young Speakers Challenge

Our Year 9 students involved in 'The Brighton & Hove Young Speakers Challenge' spent the evening at the University of Sussex celebrating the theme of 'In My World' and hearing each student representative from nine schools in Brighton & Hove present their speeches and spoken word. This challenge has been a fantastic experience, and we are in awe of Isaac for representing Hove Park by presenting his speech and rap called: 334 Months.

Creative Writing Workshops

Three University of Sussex undergraduate students joined Miss Caudle and the Creative Writing Enrichment group to collaborate on their 'Championing Literacy' project. They planned and delivered really informative, inspirational workshops on all aspects of storytelling. Last week, students had great fun scripting dialogue for characters and settings they created in previous sessions.

Southern Schools Book Awards

Students in Year 9 and 10 showed their commitment to reading for pleasure by being involved in the Southern Schools Book Award. The short listed books were read over a term and book discussions, book reviews and voting took place that culminated in a trip to Hurstpierpoint College for the Awards Ceremony. The evening was incredibly enjoyable with the authors of each book speaking about their writing journey, book signing opportunities and observing Chris Riddle illustrate live on stage his interpretations of the books. The short listed books are excellent recommendations for our KS4 students.





Winter & Spring Concerts

The Winter and Spring Concerts at Hove Park were both incredible showcases of musical talent and dedication.

At the winter performance the audience were treated to 21 acts of varied music, including a Nevill and Valley campus choir, solos, duets and student-run bands! The audience were really impressed and we were packed-out with a full house. It was great to get our special Hove Park Community of students, staff, friends and family together to support our performers and celebrate the festive time!

The Spring Concert took place at the Nevill Campus in March. It was a lovely evening that showcased some amazing performances! A big shoutout to all the students, teachers, and staff for their hard work in making the event a success!

Both concerts provided an opportunity for the school community to come together and celebrate student achievement.



Matilda

Our talented students took the stage at The Old Market in Hove, showcasing their incredible production of Matilda! Their hard work, dedication, and passion truly shone through, captivating the audience with their performances.

Also, the whole of Year 7 walked to the Old Market Theatre to watch a matinee performance of the school production of 'Matilda'. It was a beautiful day for the walk, but the real treat was having the privilege of seeing our students perform exceptionally and put on an incredible show!

Year 7 were a brilliant audience and have earned their Gold star badge for seeing a live theatre performance. Congratulations to both performers and audience members and a huge thanks to staff who supported the trip!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our students and made this event possible. We are so proud of our young performers and can't wait to see what they achieve next!



China Trip

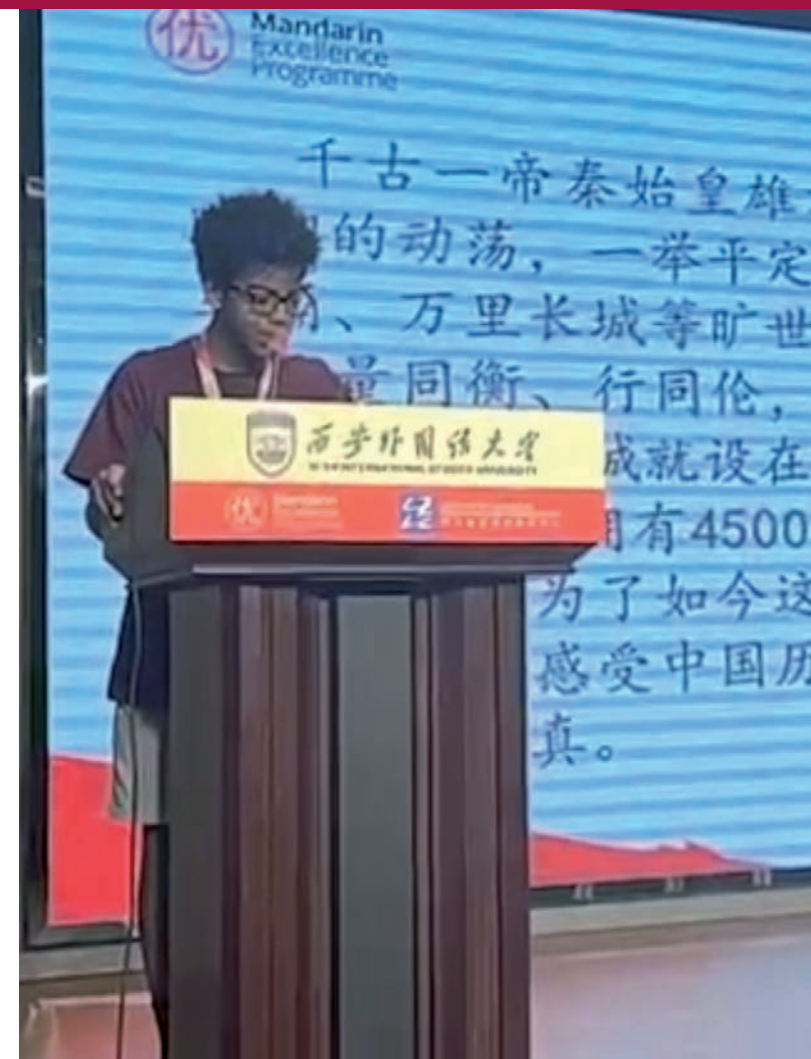
Students in the Mandarin Excellence Programme enjoyed a rich and immersive cultural and linguistic experience at Xi'an International Studies University (Yanta Campus) in China.

The programme combined daily Mandarin language courses with a variety of cultural activities, including traditional music and dance, martial arts, crafts, and local film screenings.

Our students also sampled authentic Chinese cuisine and took part in social exchange visits to iconic sites such as the Terracotta Warriors, the Great Tang All Day Mall, Xi'an Museum, and the City Wall. They engaged in meaningful activities with local Chinese students, including gift exchanges and collaborative projects, fostering cross-cultural understanding and friendships.

Highlights included the Welcome Ceremony, Closing Concert, and a vibrant cultural immersion at Yongxingfang.

Throughout the trip, students balanced structured learning with experiential enjoyment, all expertly guided by the staff and volunteers of Xi'an International Studies University. It was an unforgettable opportunity that greatly enhanced their Mandarin skills and appreciation of Chinese culture.





Belgium Trip

Students from Hove Park School visited Belgium to explore its major cultural, historical, and artistic sites. Belgium's Ardennes is a wonderful place to experience life in a French-speaking region. Our partner school welcomed us warmly in Vielsalm, and our students spent time in classrooms and daily routines, sharing lunch rituals and friendly chats that helped them pick up new words and phrases. The experience offered a genuine glimpse into life beyond their own doors and strengthened friendships across borders.

In May, our Belgian guests joined us back at home for a busy programme celebrating both schools' cultures. Our students carried out collaborative projects, took guided tours of local landmarks, and reflected on what makes our communities unique. The exchange proved to be more than sightseeing; it connected people, broadened horizons, and left our students with memories and insights that will last a lifetime. Our aim going forward will be to add in a visit to Paris to this experience for our French learners in school this year.

MEP Day

Nineteen Year 10 students took part in the MEP (Mandarin Excellence Programme) Day at the University of Southampton, participating in a variety of activities including Chinese tongue twisters and songs. They performed confidently in front of their peers and were rewarded with Chinese prizes for their excellent efforts.

After lunch, the students attended several lectures by university professors highlighting the importance of learning a foreign language. They also learned about the opportunities available to study languages at university and the different pathways they could pursue.

The students then had the chance to watch videos prepared by all participating schools, with university lecturers voting on the best entries. Hove Park was delighted to win both the first prize and a special commendation.

The Year 10 students were a real credit to the school and enjoyed a rewarding and inspiring day. Well done to all MEP students involved!

Goethe Institut in London

Students from Hove Park, Varndean and Cardinal Newman visited the Goethe-Institut in London. The Goethe-Institut is Germany's cultural institution abroad, which promotes the study of the German language worldwide and fosters international cultural exchange.

The visit focused on language skills for the new GCSE German specification and ended with a German meal in a lovely restaurant next to the Institut. Students enjoyed practical activities, cultural context discussions, and a brief tour of the center to learn about its global network and resources.





German Exchange

Thirteen students took part in the German Exchange with Meerbusch Europäische Gymnasium in Meerbusch this year. We visited the wonderful cities of Düsseldorf and Cologne visiting the Dokumentarmuseum - an old SS building and the Cologne Cathedral before eating in a lovely old brewery. Strong partnerships were made, and a number are still in contact with their German counterparts. We also had a chance to bring out our competitive side with a game of bowling!

On returning in November to the UK we all visited the Pavillion in Brighton before undertaking a treasure hunt round the lanes. Ice skating and hot chocolates were enjoyed and a lovely meal at Donatello's was enjoyed by all, after a day where German students got to experience Hove Park school and watch the films that they both produced.

Chinese New Year Trip

Students visited London to celebrate Chinese New Year. On arriving we negotiated our way to our Youth Hostel, once we had time to settle in we walked into China Town to experience the Friday-night bustle. We then enjoyed a meal with a delightful array of dishes and Chinese tea, followed by a session where Miss Qiao led the group in Chinese words and actions for things such as cutlery and words for a cheerful Happy New Year.

Once the meal was over we walked through China Town sampling the shops with students buying lots of savoury and sweet treats!

The next morning we had breakfast and headed to the British Museum, unfortunately they had an IT power outage! We quickly changed our plans and headed back into China Town and students had the opportunity then to see it in the daylight as well as at night and to buy

Seville

Year 9 and 10 Languages students had a fantastic visit to Colegio Irlandesas Bami in Seville, Spain. We received a warm welcome with prayers in their chapel, thanking us and blessing future relations. After a school tour, both schools gave presentations about their cities, and we learned about Seville's Islamic heritage.

Students enjoyed break time in the Spanish sun, with the boys playing a football match (Spain 8, Inglaterra 9) and the girls joining their Spanish partners for Just Dance. We look forward to future exchanges to strengthen this connection.

The visit concluded at the Torre del Oro, where students learned about Christopher Columbus.





A Day of Athletic Excellence and Team Spirit

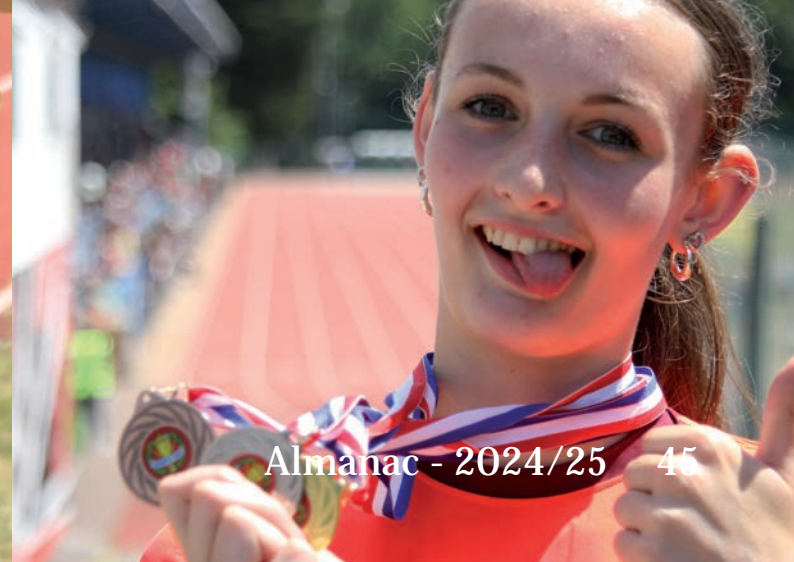
Hove Park School's Sports Day was unforgettable! Pupils from Years 7-10 demonstrated remarkable energy, teamwork, and a competitive spirit across a broad set of events, leaving a lasting impression on everyone involved.

From the opening whistle, the venue thrived with excitement as students tackled a mix of track and field events. The crowd's passionate cheer provided an extra boost to many performances.

More than just physical feats, the day highlighted genuine sportsmanship and strong camaraderie. Students supported teammates and peers alike, creating a warm, communal atmosphere that captured the essence of fair play.

A big thank you to the staff and organisers whose careful planning and smooth execution kept everything running seamlessly. Their dedication made the day both successful and memorable for all participants.

Congratulations to all competitors for giving their best, and special kudos to the top performers who achieved standout results. Your perseverance and determination are truly inspiring.





League 2 Champions

Congratulations to our Year 10 Boys Football Team!

We're thrilled to announce that they are the League 2 Champions! Their hard work, dedication, and teamwork have paid off, and they will be promoted to League 1 for next season!

Brighton and Hove Town Sports

Year 7 and 8 students were in action in the longest-running school athletics competition in the country, Brighton and Hove Town Sports. There was a fantastic team spirit and great support in the stands for all the athletes, with some brilliant performances on the track and field.

Well done to all involved, and a special mention goes to Miss Satterly, who did an incredible job organising and commentating the whole event for all schools involved, as well as to Mr Curran, who did a brilliant job organising the Hove Park team.

National Schools Badminton Tournament

Hove Park School attended the National Schools Badminton Tournament held at Lewes Priory School. This year we have been running badminton club mainly for our GCSE PE students. The club has been inspiring many who are relatively new to the sport, to enhance their skills and knowledge of the game. We thought the tournament was a great opportunity for some pupils to compete competitively.

The boys played singles and doubles matches against schools from all over the Sussex area. Some of the opponents played at county level and have been playing for years so our pupils did suffer some defeats but would have taken valuable experience from playing against high level players. Hove Park really did put in maximum effort and came away with one or two match wins.





Extra Curricular Sports

Hove Park enjoyed a fantastic season across a broad range of sports, with hard-fought games that tested character, skill, and teamwork. Netball, basketball, rugby, football, swimming, dance, cricket, table tennis, volleyball, and athletics (to name but a few) buzzed with energy, as pupils trained hard, supported one another, and chased personal bests in every fixture, gala, and meet. The spirit of fair play and resilience shone through from early-season setbacks to late-season triumphs, reflecting the perseverance and sportsmanship that define our community.

We offer a wealth of extra-curricular sport opportunities to suit all interests and abilities. Whether you're developing core techniques, competing in local leagues, or enjoying a healthy social activity after school, there's something for everyone.

Our coaching emphasises safety, technique, and enjoyment, while our supportive culture helps students at every level grow in confidence, leadership, and teamwork. From beginners taking their first strides on the track to seasoned athletes chasing new personal bests, our students find pathways to progression and success across all our sports.



Brighton Schools Gala

Well done to everyone involved in the Brighton Schools Swimming Gala at Prince Regent. A great show of the aquatic talent within the school and some brilliant performances in the pool. For many students it was their first competitive gala.

Highlights included Tegan and Juliette winning their heats in the 50m freestyle and Dylan who finished 3rd overall and Floyd who finished 4th overall in the boys Year 7/8 50m freestyle. A great team performance from everyone.



Russel Cook

Year 7 and 8 students had an inspirational afternoon talk with athlete Russel Cook as part of our enrichment programme. Russ (AKA Hardest Geezer) talked through his epic adventure where he ran the entire length of Africa!

To hear him talk first-hand about his decision to undertake such a big challenge, the planning, drive, resilience, support and grit and determination to succeed had relevance and inspiration for everyone who listened. It was a first-class lesson on achieving your dreams!



Yellowwave Volleyball

Our students had a fantastic afternoon in the sand at Yellowwave Beach Volleyball Centre. Huge thanks to Coach Neil for all the hard work on Thursdays after school, and to Katie and the entire team at Yellowwave for hosting such a great Volleyball tournament.

The Year 7s finished 3rd overall, and the Year 8 team secured second place, narrowly missing out to Blatchington Mill in the final. Huge well done to everyone involved!



Tegan's Surf Lifesaving Journey!

Tegan has been competing for Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club in the regional and national pool championships. At the Wessex Regional Nipper competition, Tegan medalled in seven out of the eight events, retaining her board, board rescue, and board relay titles. A week later, Tegan competed for the first time in the youth category at the Wessex Regionals. She gained a Gold in the manikin carry with fins, Silver in the obstacle race, and Bronze in the manikin carry without fins.



At the end of March, Tegan travelled to Cardiff for the Nippers British Surf Lifesaving Championships, where she competed against 98 other females in her age group. Tegan placed 8th in the tube rescue, 11th in the board rescue, 10th in the manikin relay, and 17th in the board and medley relay races.

Tegan had a fantastic finish to the season at the Youth British Surf Lifesaving Championships last weekend in Cardiff. Tegan placed 13th in the medley relay, 12th in the manikin carry with fins and manikin tow, 10th in the obstacle race, 5th in the manikin carry without fins, 4th in the manikin relay, and won Bronze in the line throw! We believe this is the first national medal for Team Brighton, and we are super proud!

Premier League Champions

Two Hove Park Year 8 students, Chloe and Bea, play for Lewes FC Select. In their first season playing together, they have proudly taken the title of Champions in the National Junior Premier League. The team has also reached the national cup final, where they will compete against Arsenal on May 10th!

Chloe, who captains the team, said, "I've loved playing in the JPL, and I'm so proud of how we've developed as a team. All the hard work the girls have put in has paid off, and we are all so excited to get to the final. It's so cool to play against a big name like Arsenal, but we'll treat the match the same as any team we play – working hard for each other and giving it our all. Win or lose, we'll enjoy every minute."



Primary School Racket Festival

Our fantastic Sports Leaders assisted at a Primary School Racket Festival at Withdean. The Racket Festival aimed to introduce young children to racket sports. Year 3 and Year 4 pupils attended sessions in table tennis, squash, tennis, and multi-sports to help with hand-eye coordination.

The Sports Leaders attended training sessions beforehand, where they were taught how to assist with the running of an event and learned how to officiate games in several different racket sports. This was a great opportunity for our Leaders, and all the Primary schools were extremely impressed, with lots of positive feedback.



Cross Country Championships

In January, 50 students to represented Hove Park at the Brighton, Hove and Portslade Schools Cross Country Championships.

Students showed incredible resilience and hardiness by running in very cold, rainy and then snowing conditions! There were some great performances from Joscelyn, Amelie, Blake and Otis, but everyone put in fantastic efforts to complete such a challenging event. Well done competitors!



Primary School Rugby Festival

In anticipation of the Women's Rugby World Cup, Year 8 and 9 students from Hove Park School supported a primary school rugby festival. They spent the morning learning how to run drills and develop their leadership and communication skills. In the afternoon, they helped run the festival, which involved over one hundred girls from local primary schools.

The festival was also attended by the founders of Maddy's Mark a charity set up by Maddy's parents in her memory. Maddy was a huge rugby fan, and the charity aims to support the mental health and wellbeing of young women by making rugby accessible to all who wish to play. Our students have benefited directly from this, as the charity has funded rugby sessions for our students during enrichment time. It was lovely for our girls to meet Maddy's family and show their appreciation.





CERN

Our CERN trip offered a fantastic chance to explore a world-leading research centre with peers from Longhill High School and PACA. In Geneva, CERN hosts the Large Hadron Collider, the planet's most powerful particle accelerator.

We began with an introductory session on particle physics, antimatter, and the universe's origins, then toured facilities, interactive exhibits, control rooms, and displays on breakthroughs like the Higgs boson.

A highlight was grasping the LHC's scale and how global scientists collaborate. The visit broadened our physics understanding and sparked STEM career interests.

The trip wasn't all science: downtime included a sunny stroll by Lake Geneva, a shopping trip, bowling and pizza night, and a Holy Cow Gourmet Burger visit.

Overall, it was educational and exciting, offering insight into cutting-edge research and a chance to make new friends and experience a different culture.

FermionX

14 of our Year 10 students found out all about electronics manufacturing thanks to FermionX in Worthing. They were given a tour of the production site, including a demonstration as to how a mobile phone's component parts are produced, with the students able to practise their own manufacturing and soldering skills under expert guidance!

Rampion Wind Farm

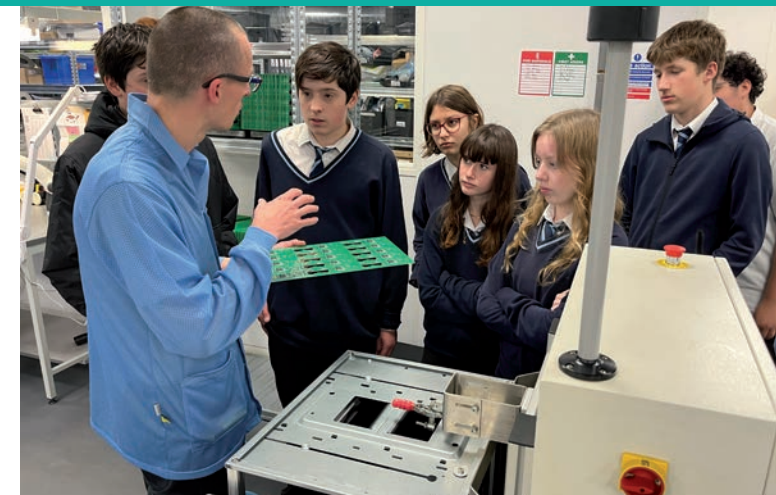
Ten of our Year10 students visited the Rampion Wind Farm visitor centre to learn about green technology. They discovered future renewable energy prospects in the UK and exciting, unfamiliar careers. The students also competed in building efficient wind turbines and took a VR journey into a wind turbine engineer's daily life.

New Scientist Live

On Monday 14th October over 30 students travelled to the Excel centre in London to experience New Scientist Live for an incredible day of thought-provoking talks, ground-breaking discoveries, interactive experiences, hands-on activities, workshops, and performances! Students were able to find out more about our brains, our bodies, our planet, and our universe, surviving the climate crisis, how our ancestors lived and how researchers are discovering new forces of nature.

Sussex University Trip

A group of Year 9 students went to Sussex University for one of their WOW sessions. They completed 3 workshops on the day exploring AI and the impact it can / will / is having on the world.





STEM and Sustainability

It has been a busy time for STEM and Sustainability. Over the course of two days, all of Year 9 participated in a series of brilliant workshops delivered by the Brighton Energy Cooperative, giving students the chance to learn about Renewable Energy, evaluate and reflect on our carbon footprint, and even design and begin building solar-powered cars. The sessions were engaging and informative, providing hands-on experiences that helped bring these important topics to life for the pupils.

Meanwhile, some of our Sustainability Leaders took part in a campaigning day alongside Brighton and Hove councillors at Cardinal Newman, as part of the Our City, Our World initiative. This event supported our ongoing mission to make our schools and our young people more sustainable and energy efficient, and offered valuable opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and practical action on local environmental issues.

Ms Lacny also took part in an event called Raising Robots, where she participated in the activities and received training. She was awarded £800 of free kit to be used in the curriculum and in enrichment clubs next term, which will help enhance STEM learning and provide additional resources for innovative projects across the school.

GCSE Maths University of Sussex Tip

To support exams a selected group of year 10's went to 'The University of Sussex' to attend a specialist group of workshops focused on success in GCSE maths. Students, learnt about university life at the same time as developing skills in ratio, getting into good revision habits, problem solving and speed, distance, time. Great fun was had applying Mathematics to real life by flying model planes in a competition in the University grounds as see in the collaged Picture.



Royal Institution

Year 7 and 8 were treated to an exciting Energy themed science show provided by the Royal Institution, offering them a fantastic opportunity to watch engaging demonstrations and learn about energy in a dynamic, accessible way.

After school, students from our primary schools also had the chance to come along and experience the show, extending the learning beyond the usual classroom setting. The event drew a large attendance, with over 700 people who were all enthusiastic about science and curious to see how energy works in the real world.





Reach For The Stars

Hove Park hosted its second annual REACH FOR THE STARS event, inspiring young women and trans students to invest in STEM and Physics careers.

Year 10 visited the University of Sussex Physics department to learn about exoplanets and the composition of stars. Year 7-9 students from 9 schools came together to take part in workshops ranging from neuroscience to microbiology, and race cars to rockets. The event culminated with a keynote talk from world renowned astrophysicist Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, talking to our students about the origin of stars.

A big thank you to the University of Sussex, St Mary's University, the National Space Centre, Pyroban and Future First for providing the free workshops which made these three great days possible.

Art & Photography Exhibition

Huge thanks to everyone who joined us for the Hove Park School end-of-year Art & Photography Exhibition! We're incredibly proud of our talented students and the remarkable creativity they shared, with the gallery filled by vibrant colours and thoughtful compositions that reflect each learner's unique perspective. A big shout-out to our students for their hard work, perseverance, and willingness to take creative risks, and to the families, friends, and staff who joined us to celebrate and support our students' artistic journeys.





Hove Park School
Almanac 2024-25