



Hove Park School

"Together We Achieve"

Almanac 2025-26

al·ma·nac (ôl' mə-năk', 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.

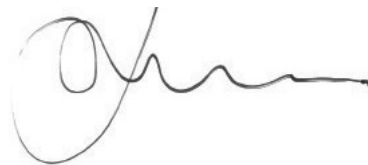
Head Teacher's Introduction

Welcome to this year's Almanac. 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.

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 in Kunming, China. We also had students supporting local communities and trekking in Eswatini in Southern Africa—all this in addition to all the trips, visits, and opportunities that have taken place a little closer to home!

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

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Ofsted

In January 2026, Hove Park School was inspected under Ofsted's new framework. The inspection recognised the school's commitment to providing a broad, ambitious education where every student is known, supported and encouraged to thrive. Inspectors praised the strength of relationships across the school, the culture of respect and inclusion, and the richness of opportunities available beyond the classroom. It was a proud moment for our whole school community.

"Inclusion is at the heart of the school's work."

"The curriculum is broad and ambitious. Pupils work towards challenging end points."

"Pupils behave very well. They are polite and courteous and show high levels of respect to their peers and adults."

"The school has designed an ambitious programme that extends beyond the classroom."

GCSE Results

All of us at Hove Park School were incredibly proud of the achievements of our Year 11 students in their GCSEs. Their hard work, determination and resilience were rewarded with a fantastic set of outcomes across a wide range of subjects. They celebrated gaining the qualifications that took them on to the next stage of their education at sixth form or college.

The results reflected not only the commitment of our students, but the support of parents and carers and the dedication of our staff.

Head teacher Jim Roberts praised the hard work of both the students and staff. He said:

'I am very proud of the students and their achievements. These results are a true reflection of student resilience, determination and commitment to their studies. We wish them all the very best and look forward to hearing about their future successes.'



Peer Tutors

Our Peer Tutor programme trains students in all years to support younger children in local primary schools. Peer Tutors help across the curriculum, from maths and English lessons to sports coaching and creative projects. They receive training, a badge and a certificate, and develop leadership, empathy, confidence and subject knowledge along the way.

Our Year 9 Peer Tutors visited The Grange care home, where they reconnected with familiar faces and brought real joy to residents. Research shows these intergenerational connections reduce loneliness and build communication skills on both sides. We are incredibly proud of our Peer Tutors and the impact they make beyond our school gates.

Year 8 Student Leaders

Our Year 8 Student Leader Programme recognises students who demonstrated outstanding commitment in Year 7 by earning all eight Every Child Should star badges. These students are invited to take the next step in their leadership journey, working towards the coveted blue Student Leader badge.

Their role includes helping at parents' evenings, supporting the running of the Every Child Should scheme across Years 7 and 8, and acting as role models for younger students. It is a programme built on the belief that leadership is earned through action, not given by title. We were proud to see so many students step up this year and take an active role in the life of the school.



Charleston and other Bloomsbury sites Year 11

Seventeen Year 11 students explored sites linked to the Bloomsbury Group in the Sussex countryside. The day began with a Vanessa Bell exhibition at Charleston Gallery in Lewes, followed by a muddy walk along the Downs to Charleston Farmhouse, the historic home of Bell and the heart of Bloomsbury life.

The trip ended at Monk's House in Rodmell, the home of Virginia Woolf. It was a stimulating and thought-provoking day for our Humanities students.





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.

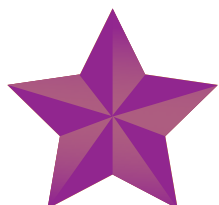
Every Child Should gives our students the opportunity to spend time with their friends, taking part in a variety of school activities and events that we know are beneficial to their wellbeing and happiness.

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.





Jamie's Farm

A small group of SEND students visited Jamie's farm where they were able to practice animal care, general farm work and cooking the very food they were helping to produce. As part of the week's lifestyle swap the children didn't eat any processed food or sweets and we're without devices for the whole time!

Coffee Making Workshop

Year 10 students took part in a coffee making workshop with Howie from Barista Bros. After an inspiring assembly about the world of coffee and barista culture, students learned how to make an espresso, froth milk and create their own latte art designs.

It was a hands-on, engaging session that gave students a taste of a real-world vocational skill. A great workshop, enjoyed by all who attended.



Connors 5 Charity

Daz from Connor's 5 charity delivered a thought-provoking presentation on kindness, care and looking out for one another. Students were left with a powerful message: be brave, be bold and be kind.

Year 10 Student Voice students followed up with a breaktime fundraiser, raising an impressive £158 for the charity. Well done to Year 10, who engaged with maturity, respect and care throughout.



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.





Time to Talk Befriending Christmas Card

Angelique Sabine from Time to Talk Befriending visited Hove Park this week to meet the students who won a competition to design a Christmas card for the charity.

Angelique presented gifts to the winning students and then joined them to write Christmas cards for older members of our local community who are alone at Christmas.

We are very proud of our students for their creativity, kindness and commitment to supporting others, and we are grateful to Time to Talk Befriending for their continued partnership and the meaningful opportunities they provide for our young people.



Annual Food Fair

We hosted our annual Food Fair at the Nevill campus, celebrating the wide range of cultures and backgrounds represented across our school community. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 prepared delicious dishes at home, filling the Sports Hall with an incredible array of food, delicacies and desserts for the rest of the school to enjoy.

At Hove Park, we are proud to be a school where diversity is embraced and celebrated. Events like the Food Fair bring our community together, giving students the chance to share their heritage, learn about different cultures and traditions, and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Thank you to all the families who supported the event and well done to every student involved.

Arundel Castle

Year 7 students visited Arundel Castle, where they toured the grounds, explored the Keep and battlements, and bravely peered into the oubliette. They learned about the castle's history from 1067 onwards and the Howard family, visited the armoury, and even tried on heavy chain mail. The trip ended with a picnic lunch in the gardens during the tulip festival, making it a lovely day all round.

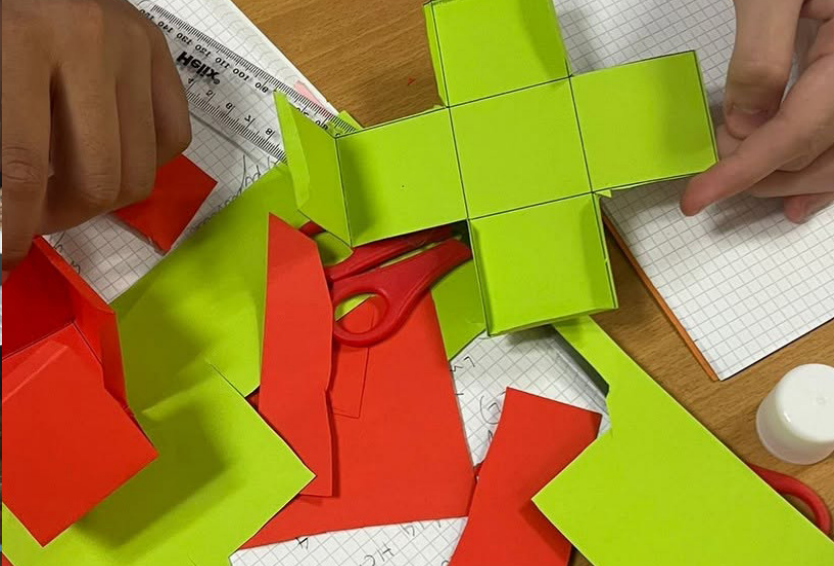




Extra Curriculum

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).



Valley Challenge

Year 8 students took on the Valley Challenge this year, blessed with sunshine from start to finish.

The challenge is one of the highlights of the Year 8 calendar, pushing students out of their comfort zones through outdoor activities that test teamwork, resilience and determination.

As a key part of our Every Child Should programme, the Valley Challenge helps prepare students for the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Year 9. Well done to everyone who took part.



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.



Equalities Day

Equalities Day was a great success, with students in Years 7 to 10 taking part in a wide range of activities both in and out of the classroom. The day included an LGBT assembly, lessons on the Windrush generation, a disabled volleyball session in the gym, and opportunities to learn about the challenges faced by those with sensory processing needs.

We were also pleased to welcome external organisations including All Sorts, Gatwick Refugees and Detainees, and Equaliteach, whose workshops supported students to think critically about equality, inclusion and the importance of rejecting racism in all its forms.

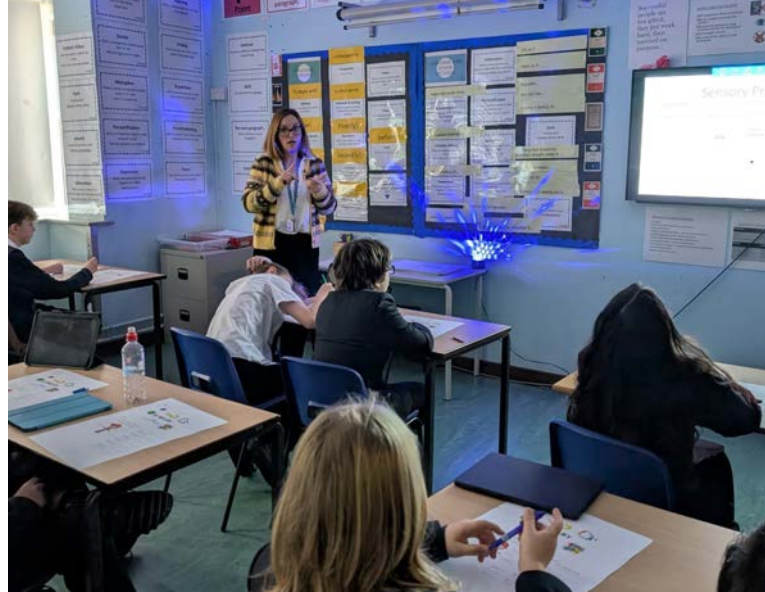
We were proud of how thoughtfully our students engaged with the day and the important themes it explored.

Harry Potter Studios

Year 10 and Year 11 Creative iMedia students visited the Harry Potter Studios, bringing the theory behind their course to life. The day began with a classroom session where the studio team revealed how mise-en-scene, continuity, costumes, props, camera angles, lighting and special effects were crafted for the films.

Students then stepped into the magic themselves, experiencing green-screen action shots, broomstick flights, the Hogwarts Express and the Death Eater processions, as well as getting up close with some of the tour's best interactors.

It was an early start but an unforgettable day, packed with magic, memories and real learning.





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. Over 100 students from year 9 took the opportunity to undertake the award and all have been making progress towards completion or have completed.

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 learn a language.

Many students discovered volunteering for the first time working with young people in primary schools, helping on the rewilding garden or school allotment or in after school clubs in primary schools where they had been pupils or being a volunteer with Park Run.

The highlight is the expedition which happened in June. Over 100 students, more than 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!

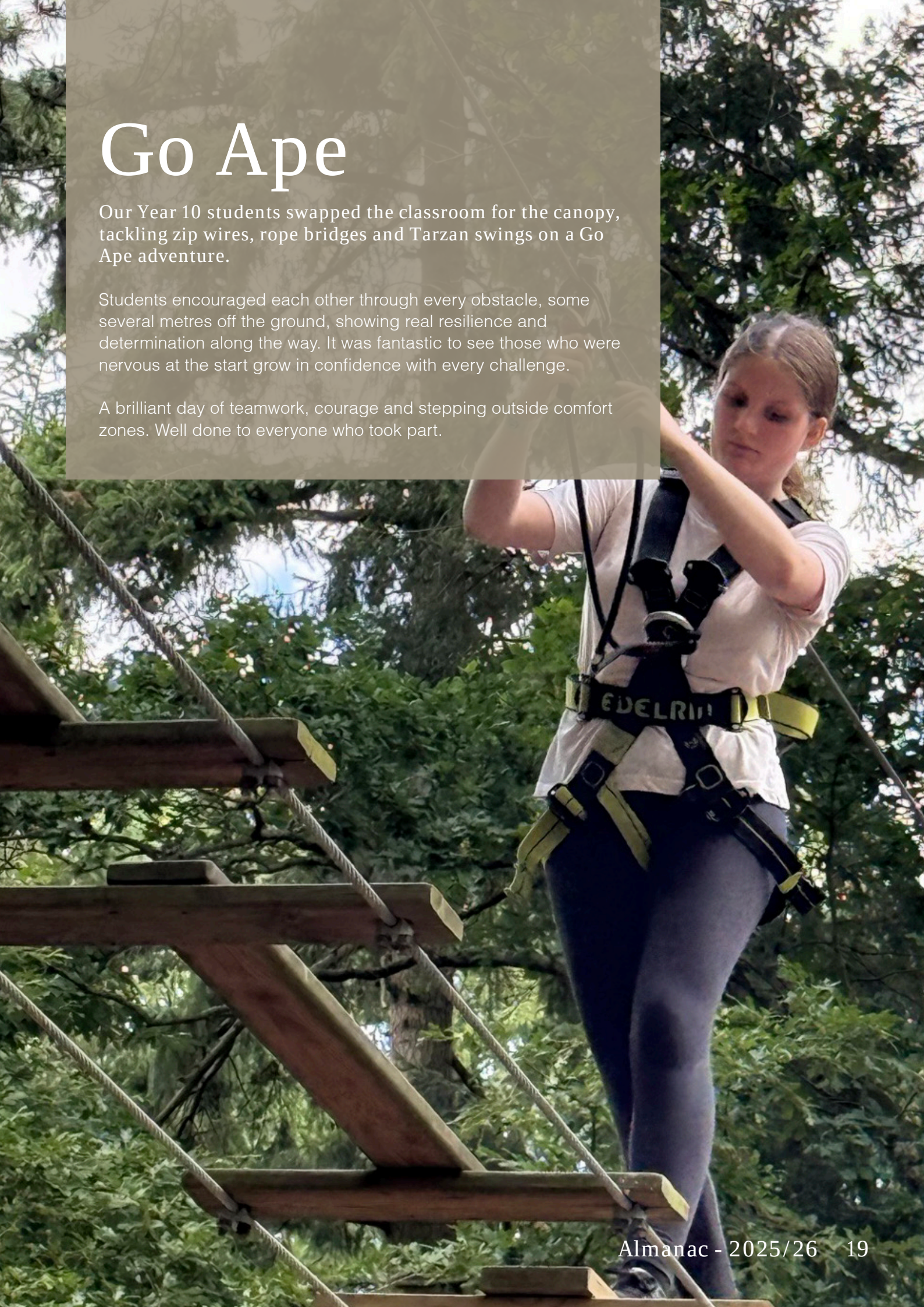
We're also pleased to announce that part of the proceeds will be donated to Chestnut Tree House, a wonderful charity that supports children with life-limiting conditions.

Go Ape

Our Year 10 students swapped the classroom for the canopy, tackling zip wires, rope bridges and Tarzan swings on a Go Ape adventure.

Students encouraged each other through every obstacle, some several metres off the ground, showing real resilience and determination along the way. It was fantastic to see those who were nervous at the start grow in confidence with every challenge.

A brilliant day of teamwork, courage and stepping outside comfort zones. Well done to everyone who took part.





Eswatini Expedition

Twelve Year 10 and 11 students travelled to Eswatini for an unforgettable expedition. They explored national parks, encountering lions, elephants, rhinos, hippos, giraffes, zebras and crocodiles, before spending three days supporting a rural primary school by repairing the pre-school, painting classrooms and teaching lessons.

Throughout the trip, students showed incredible resilience and determination, finishing with a challenging trek to one of Southern Africa's most spectacular waterfalls. An amazing experience from start to finish.



A photograph of two young women standing outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a long, flowing, light yellow or cream-colored strapless gown with a fitted bodice and a full skirt. She has long, dark brown hair styled in a high bun with loose curls. The woman on the right is wearing a dark green, strapless, V-neck gown with a fitted bodice. She has long, straight blonde hair. They are both smiling at the camera. In the background, there is a stone building with a brick archway and a dark car parked behind them.

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 Story Trail: BookBench & Amaze

Hove Park was proud to take part in The Story Trail, a free city-wide art adventure brought to Brighton and Hove by Amaze, the local charity supporting families with disabled children, in partnership with Wild in Art.

Between September and November, over 30 BookBenches designed by talented local artists appeared across the city's streets, parks and open spaces, alongside smaller benches lovingly decorated by local schools and community groups.

Our students threw themselves into the project, raising almost the entire £950 target through sponsored fun runs, non-uniform days, the World Book Day bake sale, fidget toy sales and tuck shops.

A Key Stage 3 design competition produced some truly fantastic entries, with the winning designs combined to create our final BookBench, entitled Brighton Your Day.

A huge thank you to the dedicated students who worked incredibly hard to bring the bench to life: Liyana, Nyla, Thomas, Ezra and Bella. The finished result was something the whole school could be proud of.





World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day in style this year, with activities across the school encouraging students to share their love of reading. A highlight was our bake sale, which raised an incredible £326.82 thanks to the generous donations from students, parents and carers who filled the tables with homemade treats.

World Book Day is always a favourite in the school calendar, reminding us that reading opens doors to new worlds, new ideas and new possibilities. Thank you to everyone who got involved and made the day so special.

Pride Month Poetry Workshop

To mark Pride Month, Year 7 and 8 students took part in a creative after-school poetry workshop. Students explored themes of identity, belonging and self-expression, each creating their own Colours of Me rainbow poem.

The poems contributed to a vibrant display celebrating what makes our school community special. No poetry experience was needed, and students could choose to keep their work anonymous. It was a thoughtful and creative way to celebrate Pride at Hove Park.

BookBench Project

The Charity Bookstall at our local Tesco in Hove raised over £1,000 this year, with proceeds distributed to various causes. In July, the funds went towards supporting Hove Park's BookBench project as part of The Story Trail with Amaze and Wild in Art. A huge thank you to everyone who donated books and supported this brilliant community fundraiser.

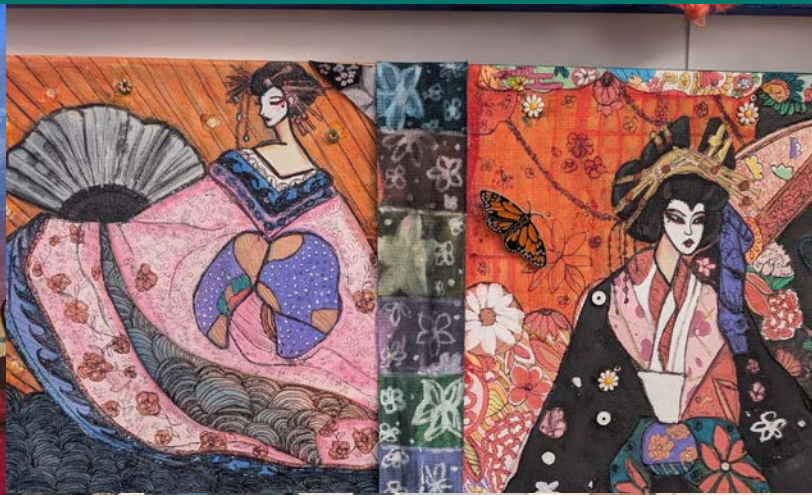
Star Books Bundle

Hove Park was the lucky winner of the LoveReading Star Books Bundle – and all these books are now in our school library! Thank you LoveReading.

AFTER-SCHOOL

PRIDE MONTH POETRY WORKSHOP







Arts Festival

Our Summer Arts Festival was a fantastic celebration of creativity at Hove Park. Held at the Nevill campus, the evening showcased the incredible talent of our students across music, drama, dance, art and photography.

From confident performances on stage to stunning work on display around the venue, students demonstrated real skill, passion and dedication. It was an evening that reminded us just how much creative talent exists across every year group.

A huge well done to everyone who performed, exhibited their work or supported behind the scenes. Thank you also to the families, friends and staff who came along to celebrate. Evenings like these are what a whole education is all about.



Annie

Our students lit up the stage with a vibrant and heartfelt production of Annie. The show was the result of months of dedication, creativity and teamwork from a talented cast and crew.

Summer and Hatty charmed audiences with a confident and spirited portrayal of Annie, while Harry and Taylor brought warmth and authority to Oliver Warbucks. Eleanor and Obiani earned plenty of laughs as Miss Hannigan, and the supporting cast, including the orphans and ensemble, added energy and personality to every scene.

Behind the scenes, the technical and design teams created imaginative sets, colourful costumes and seamless lighting and sound. Under the direction of Miss Henry, Mr Barbour, Miss Craven and Miss Mulvenna, the whole production came together beautifully.

A huge thank you to everyone involved, including staff, volunteers and families. The entire cast and crew should feel incredibly proud.





China Trip

Our Year 9 MEP students enjoyed an unforgettable visit to Kunming, where they were warmly welcomed by their hosts and quickly immersed themselves in Chinese language and culture. From the moment they arrived, the trip offered a wonderful mix of new experiences, memorable encounters and opportunities to develop their confidence in a completely different environment.

During their time in China, students took part in intensive language lessons, practised songs and dance, and worked alongside local students and other MEP groups. They experienced a range of traditional activities, including Chinese archery, lion and dragon dancing, bamboo weaving, clay modelling and dumpling making, while also learning more about music, games and customs that are an important part of everyday life in China.

The group also enjoyed a number of visits and excursions that brought their learning to life. Highlights included spending time at the affiliated middle school of Yunnan Normal University, where they were welcomed with performances and activities alongside student buddies, and visiting the remarkable Stone Forest and the ethnic village, where they learned more about the history, traditions and communities of the region.

Throughout the trip, students embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity and maturity. They tried new foods, built friendships, deepened their understanding of Chinese culture and represented the school superbly. It was a truly enriching experience and one that will leave the group with lasting memories for many years to come.







Seville

Year 9 students travelled to Seville for an immersive language and cultural trip. Highlights included a guided tour of the city, a visit to The Alcazar and the Cathedral where they saw Christopher Columbus's tomb, and a warm welcome at partner school Colegio Irlandesas Bami complete with a flamenco show.

The students loved practising their Spanish and experiencing the culture first hand. A brilliant trip all round.



Brazilian Assembly

Students aged 16 to 17 from the São Paulo area of Brazil visited the school to deliver an assembly all about Brazilian life and culture. They introduced our students to the five regions of the country and covered many aspects of their way of life, finishing with an energetic demonstration of capoeira. With Brazilian Portuguese now the second most popular home language in school, it was a particularly meaningful connection.



German Exchange

Following our students' visit to Düsseldorf earlier in the year, we were delighted to welcome our German partners to Brighton for the second leg of the exchange.

The visit began with a tour of the Royal Pavilion and a treasure hunt around the Lanes, followed by an evening of ice skating and indulgent hot chocolates. The German students explored London before spending a day at Hove Park, where the highlight was watching the short films they had produced together in Düsseldorf, rounded off with a meal at Donatello's.



Düsseldorf

Our students enjoyed a fantastic German exchange, packed with cultural immersion and hands-on learning.

On the first day, they visited the partner school, sat in on classes and brainstormed film scripts with their new friends, followed by an evening of bowling. Day two took them to the Black Box and the German Film Museum, where they produced their own short films before exploring Düsseldorf on a landmark treasure hunt.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who welcomed our students so warmly. The trip showed what students can achieve when they collaborate across cultures.





Outstanding Contribution to Chinese Teaching

At the 22nd Annual Chinese Teaching Conference, held at the UCL Institute of Education, our own Min Qiao was honoured with a 2025 Excellence Award for her outstanding contribution to Chinese teaching across the UK.

The award recognised Min's ability to engage and sustain students' enthusiasm for Mandarin from Year 7 through to Year 11 and beyond. Her teaching is built on consistency, mastery of language fundamentals and strong spoken and written presentation, with digital learning platforms further elevating student achievement and confidence. Beyond her own classroom, Min contributes as a specialist teacher with the NCLE Language Hubs, supporting the professional growth of fellow educators.

We are incredibly proud of Min and all she does for Mandarin education at Hove Park and beyond.

Chinese New Year Celebrations

Our Mandarin Excellence Programme students embraced Chinese New Year with a fantastic mix of in-school activities and a cultural trip to London. Year 7 MEP students celebrated the Year of the Horse through paper cutting, drawing and cultural workshops in after-school clubs, learning to speak and write Chinese New Year greetings along the way.

Year 8 students took the celebrations further with a trip to London, visiting the Chinese and Korean galleries at the British Museum, where several students impressed by reading the Chinese captions beneath the exhibits. The group then enjoyed a generous meal in Chinatown, explored a Chinese supermarket and rounded off the day with bubble tea.

Hove Park is proud to be the only state secondary school in the local authority offering Mandarin from Year 7 through to Year 11.

Events and trips like these give students the chance to experience Chinese culture first hand, connecting classroom learning to real traditions and celebrations.





A Day of Athletic Excellence and Team Spirit

Sports Day was another brilliant occasion at Hove Park, with students from Years 7 to 10 competing across a wide range of track and field events. The energy was infectious from start to finish, with plenty of cheering from the sidelines pushing performances to the next level.

What stood out most was the sportsmanship. Students celebrated each other's efforts, supported teammates and rivals alike, and showed exactly what "Together We Achieve" looks like in action.

A huge thank you to the staff who organised and ran the day so smoothly, and congratulations to every student who took part. Special mention to those who achieved standout results, your determination was a joy to watch.







Let's Dance 2026

Thirty-two Year 7 and 8 students performed in the Let's Dance 2026 show at the Brighton Dome.

After weeks of rehearsals, they delivered a confident and polished group routine in front of a sold-out audience, demonstrating excellent timing, coordination and teamwork.

The event brought together schools from across Brighton and Hove, giving our students a fantastic opportunity to perform on a professional stage. Staff were incredibly proud of how positively they represented the school.

Sports Leaders Shine at Netball

Our Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders visited Hangleton Primary School to support the Hove and Portslade primary netball tournament. They welcomed 13 teams on arrival, distributed information packs, umpired every match, kept scores and guided schools to the correct courts.

Despite extremely cold conditions and even a hail shower, they maintained high levels of enthusiasm and professionalism throughout. Staff from many of the primary schools commented on what a fantastic job they did and have already asked for our Sports Leaders to support future events.

A great example of our students giving back to the local community and developing real leadership skills in the process.





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 students 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.





Tegan's Surf Lifesaving Season!

Tegan has had a fantastic pool lifesaving season.

In February, she competed for Brighton Surf Life Saving Club at the Wessex Regionals in Poole, winning medals in every event, including golds in the Manikin Tow, Rescue Medley, Line Throw and Medley Relay.

In March, she won silver in the Manikin Tow at the RLSS National Speed Championships in Birmingham, before returning to compete for Brighton at the Surf Life Saving National Championships in Cardiff, where she won bronze in the Line Throw for the second year running.



South East Dance Workshop

Year 7 and 8 students took part in a free contemporary dance workshop run by South East Dance. Students impressed throughout, picking up choreography quickly and throwing themselves into every exercise.

The workshop also introduced students to South East Dance's Propel sessions, one of many classes they run for young people outside of school. Well done to all the students involved, they were incredible.

Basketball Tournament Success

The Year 10 basketball team represented Hove Park in a tournament featuring 15 teams. Both our A and B teams played some of the best team basketball on the night, finishing second in their respective pools before progressing to the play-off group. Both teams beat Varndean's B side to secure 4th and 5th place overall. A strong showing across the board.



Brighton Schools Swimming Gala

A brilliant effort at the Brighton Schools Swimming Gala saw Hove Park shine. The Year 9/10 boys' freestyle relay – Percy, Simon, Floyd and Dylan – finished 4th in a competitive 200m relay. Year 7 girls Amalie, Ava, Maebh and Bea swam superbly against Year 8 opposition and stepped up to support the Year 9/10 relays. There was also a standout heat win for Tegan in the 50m freestyle. Wonderful to see such aquatic talent and positivity from the team and parents poolside.





Netball Tournament Success

Hove Park hosted the Year 9 Netball Tournament, welcoming eight teams from across the city for a sunny afternoon of competitive netball. Two Hove Park teams took part, giving 18 Year 9 players valuable match experience.

Supported superbly by our Year 10 Sports Leaders, who helped organise, keep scores and officiate, the tournament ran smoothly from start to finish. The standard of play was excellent, with our students showing determination, resilience and impressive sportsmanship.

Primary School Rackets Festival

Our Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders took part in the Brighton and Hove Primary School Rackets Festival at Withdean.

The festival gave primary students the chance to try badminton, table tennis, tennis and squash, with our Sports Leaders helping to run the event and support the younger children throughout.

They did an amazing job, praised by coaches and teachers alike for their enthusiasm.



Primary School Rugby Festival

Hot on the heels of England's Red Roses winning the Women's Rugby World Cup at Twickenham, Sports Leaders from Hove Park led a primary school rugby festival for eleven local schools. Over one hundred Year 6 girls spent an afternoon playing touch rugby, with our Sports Leaders coaching and officiating the games.

They did a fantastic job motivating the younger students, showing real maturity and enthusiasm throughout. With women's rugby inspiring the nation, it was the perfect time to get more girls on the pitch. Well done to our students for being such brilliant role models.



Faraday Challenge

Three teams of Year 8 students travelled to BACA to take part in an engineering competition. The challenge was to build a battery-powered car that could travel three metres and launch an air-powered rocket, putting teamwork, project management and design skills to the test.

All three Hove Park teams led the pack, with one taking the top spot. A special commendation went to Rich, whose speed control device wowed the judges. The Lego trophy went straight into the display cabinet.



NeuroRobotics Project

We launched an exciting NeuroRobotics project in partnership with BACA and the University of Sussex, funded by a generous grant from the Royal Society. Students worked alongside the university's Neuroscience department to investigate the use of neural interface technology to control an RC car and design and build prosthetic arms.

This was groundbreaking work, bringing together real-world problem solving, collaboration across schools and access to university-level research. An important stepping stone for the scientists and engineers of the future.

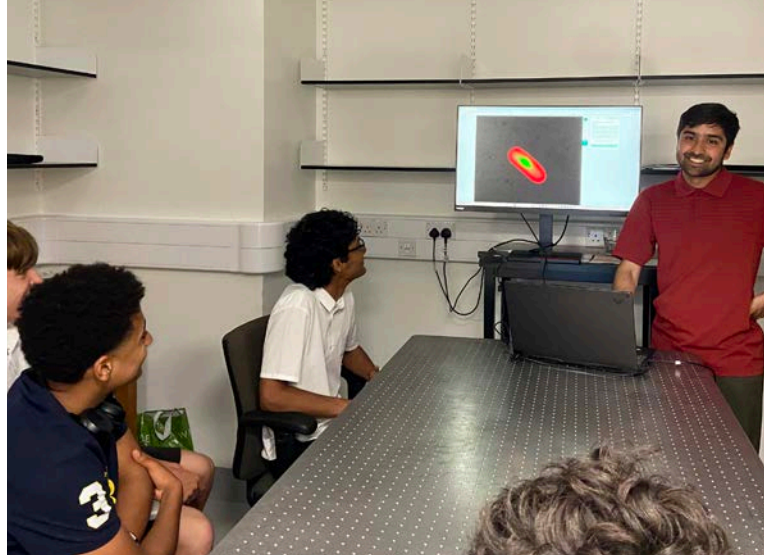
Oxford Uni Physics Visit

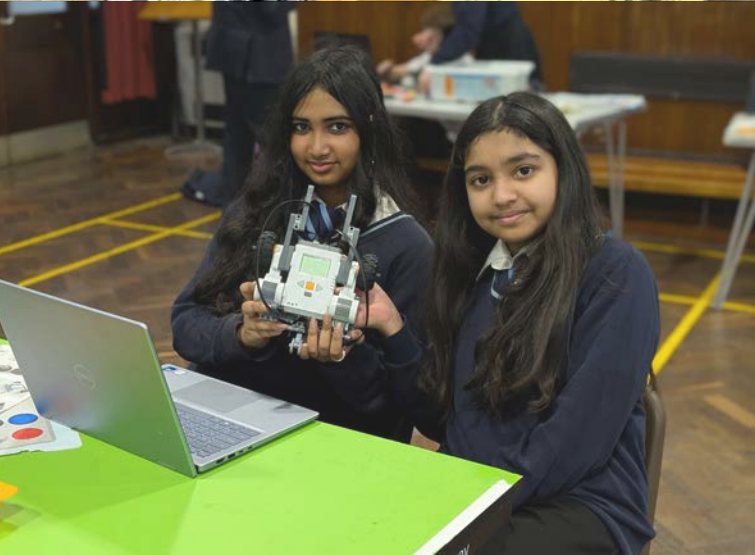
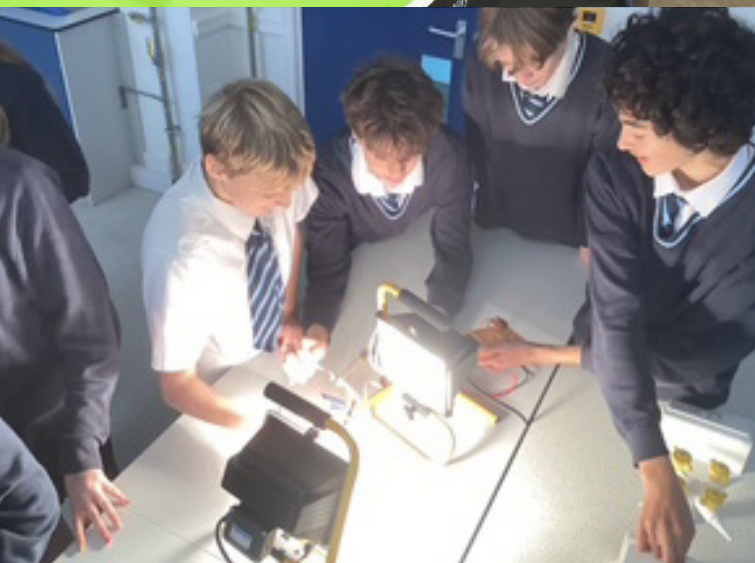
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World Bee Day

To mark World Bee Day, our Gardening Enrichment students worked alongside a team from Willmott Dixon to build bee hotels for the Valley Garden and the Rewilding area at Nevill campus.

The bee hotels are part of a scientific study led by the University of Sussex, investigating which colours make the best nesting habitats.





Lego Robotics Challenge

Year 8 students took part in a Lego robotics coding day linked to the upcoming NASA Artemis expedition, as part of exploring their possible GCSE options. Working in pairs, they built and coded robots to complete a navigation task across the hall before moving on to a Challenge Mission of eight tasks, including crossing an uneven 'crater', rolling a 'space rock' to a target, and securing and relocating a 'satellite beacon'. As well as strengthening their coding, the day tested scientific skills in investigation, adaptation and engineering. Every student showed different strengths, but all demonstrated resilience and aspiration. The event was made possible by a Neon grant secured by our STEM coordinator, Charlotte Lacny.

Brighton Energy Cooperative

Brighton Energy Cooperative, the community-owned organisation behind the solar panels on our own school roof, visited to deliver a hands-on renewable energy workshop. Students learned how electricity is generated from different energy sources and why each method creates a different carbon footprint.

The highlight was designing and racing solar-powered toy cars, bringing renewable energy to life in the most fun way possible. A brilliant example of real-world STEM learning, right here at Hove Park.

Ecoclub

Hove Park's Eco Club launched with a brilliant first meeting, full of energy and ideas. Students came together to plan the year ahead, discussing projects to make our school more sustainable.

The session finished with a litter pick around the school grounds, a reminder that looking after our environment starts right on our doorstep. Thank you to all the students who got involved.

Rewilding

We completed our Rewilding project this summer, working in partnership with the charity Action Through Conservation. Thirty-five students took part, developing their love of the natural world and understanding of biodiversity.

With £5,000 of funding, the team created an outdoor classroom, built habitats for amphibians, birds and solitary bees, and began transforming a grass monoculture into a thriving biodiverse ecosystem. Slow worms were already spotted in the area, a great sign of progress.

Two students also earned fully funded places at week-long summer camps, including star-gazing, woodcraft skills and immersion in the natural world.





Reach For The Stars

Hove Park hosted our Girls in STEM 'Reach for the Stars' event for the third time, made even bigger and better with the support of the University of Sussex.

Twelve schools from across the city joined us for workshops designed to engage and inspire our young scientists and engineers of the future. Activities ranged from neuroscience and the physics of the light telephone to rocket and helicopter-building workshops with Cardinal Newman and Brighton College sixth formers. The day rounded off with two amazing keynote speakers – Dr Ele D'Elia and Dame Helen Sharman, Britain's first astronaut. We were over the moon!





Art & Photography Exhibition

Our annual Art and Photography Exhibition was another wonderful showcase of student talent. From bold, expressive paintings to carefully composed photographs, the work on display demonstrated real skill, imagination and individuality.

It was a proud evening for students, staff and families alike. Thank you to everyone who came along to support our young artists and celebrate their achievements. The creativity and dedication on show were truly inspiring.







Hove Park School
Almanac 2025-26