

## Annual Review - Academic Year 2023-24

What is amazing about our School is that it's possible to go all through from baby room in the Nursery to Sixth Form and it is in the Nursery that we start to instil the basics of learning and the importance of asking questions about the world around us.

Following the expansion of the Nursery a year ago, we turned our attention to the refurbishment of the Reception Classroom, and we have seen an incredible transformation. The children were so excited to see their new space, exploring the wonderful 'tree house' reading area, world map mural and home corner! The classroom is a truly innovative space that sets the benchmark for EYFS learning.

Thank you to the PTG, who agreed to part-fund the project to ensure we could put in place everything on our wish list, and especially to our Chair and Vice Chair, Mrs Miller and Mrs Gokul, and the team of volunteers who organise so many events for us.

We are delighted to say that the school continues to go from strength to strength; and this was recognised by our Inspection in February. We remain delighted with the outcome of the inspection and the many strengths highlighted. I am particularly pleased that the pupils received so much praise within the inspection report, especially pertaining to their learning, personal development and behaviour.

It's particularly pleasing that they should see that we deliver on our core promise.

In the first paragraph of our report, the inspectors identified our values of Family, Ambition, Character and Excellence as being at the heart of all we do.

They said that "Pupils are confident, polite and articulate. The school community takes pride in its inclusivity, respect for others, and overall warmth." and "Pupils exhibit confidence and actively put into effect the principles of fairness, diversity and democracy."

We are very proud of the diversity of our School community and celebrated gaining the Rainbow Flag Award in the Spring term. We also gained formal accreditation for our work in careers, through the Quality in Careers Standard.

Our success is down to the remarkable partnership we have here between staff, pupils and parents. We pull together to give each pupil every possible advantage and opportunity in life.

Thank you to all parents, grandparents, relatives and carers for their continued support over the last year.

Congratulations to all of our pupils for the way in which they approached their learning last year, from the very smallest of our pupils to the oldest, who sat GCSE and A Level examinations in the summer with great success. We have, once again, enjoyed a summer of excellent examination results.

Our Reception children completed their first year of School so successfully, with all of them reaching the Early Learning Goal (ELG) in the nine different areas of learning. In Year 2, every child made a good level of progress from their starting point and achieved great results in their end of stage assessments. The strongest areas were in Mathematics and in English reading.

Well done to last year's Year 6 pupils, who produced an excellent set of results in past assessment papers, which were above national attainment. Performance in Reading continues to be the strongest area.

At the other end of the School, there were many individual successes to celebrate, including those who achieved top grades and those who made exceptional progress. Their results are testament to their resilience, their diligence and their hard work.

Our Upper Sixth pupils were rightfully celebrating on August 15<sup>th</sup> as they collected their A Level results, which saw a 100% pass rate for all exams. Additionally, almost 1 in 4 students gained an A\* or A grade in every single subject. Special mention must be made to Harriet Miller on gaining four A\* grades in Art, English, Philosophy and her EPQ.

96% gained places on their chosen university courses, with courses ranging from Medicine to Law, to Business Management, to English Literature and many more, reflecting the many strengths of our outgoing Upper Sixth cohort.

Building on our outstanding A Level successes, Year 11 pupils were also celebrating as they collected their excellent GCSE results, which matched last year's equally outstanding results. At the important Grade 9 – 7 measurement, both years individually rank as the best results we have had since the

introduction of the numerical grading system in 2017. This year saw over 1 in 5 pupils gain Grades 9 to 7 in eight or more of their GCSE subjects.

Every day the Prep School is packed full of fun and learning and most days we are out on trips, activities or fixtures. There are too many highlights to mention them all.

During the first few weeks of the year, Reception Class enjoy visits from the Fire, Police and Ambulance Services, to explain their jobs and how they help us. They enjoy wearing the uniforms, trying the fire hoses, and sounding the sirens. They even got to climb into the ambulance and try the equipment. Later in the year they went tobogganing and enjoyed a trip to the farm.

Year 1 delighted residents as they performed at Cathedral Court care home and also loved meeting the animals at Hamerton Zoo as part of their African Adventure topic.

Year 2 visited Sandringham House and re-enacted the King's Coronation and saw where the King eats his Christmas lunch and watches television, and Year 3 enjoyed a private tour of Burghley House, understanding life as a Tudor.

One of our favourite activities is Forest School and we enjoyed lighting fires and making hot chocolate. Year 4 and 5 ventured to Fineshade for their Forest School day and the Year 6 Bushcraft residential is always a highlight of the year. Our main residential is to Hilltop and we enjoy being out of our comfort zones, whilst having fun with our friends.

One topic for Year 6 last year was Vikings and Coasts and so they visited Hunstanton with Miss Mayle, who is an expert in the local area! They learned about tourism, the geology of the cliffs and St Edmund and the wolf.

In School we celebrated Earth Day; blinds were pulled back and lights, laptops and Smartboards were turned off. We learned outside, hugged trees and wrote Earth Day raps.

Throughout the year we enjoy our themed days, which bring our learning to life. During book week; we worked with a local Artist to experiment with the power of words and letters. We dressed up, stopped and read and enjoyed senior school teachers reading their favourite books to us. The annual quiz was a great success, with our enthusiasm and energy heard across the school.

We were joined by other schools for our Science Day and enjoyed carrying out experiments in the Science labs, and an amazing show from Dr Ken on Forces and Gravity.

Congratulations to Years 5 and 6 who represented the School at the Mathematical Enrichment Conference, solving a variety of maths-related problems and to those in Year 6 who entered that National Maths Challenge, with great success.

Our annual Prep School 'Create' exhibition showcased our creative talents, with every child in the Prep School displaying a piece of artwork.

Just before the Christmas Holidays, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took to the stage for 'Lights, Camel, Action 2! The Sequin'! with a cameo appearance from Mr Anton DuBecke himself.

Year 3 and Year 4 performed The Bee Musical, with beebopping and buzzing galore from both the performers and the audiences. It was bee-riliant.

Very well done to Years 5 and 6 whose play, 'Pirates of the Curry-bean!' was excellent. The standard of the acting, singing and dancing was superb, and the many jokes were hilarious!

The Prep Dance Club performed at the Cresset Dance Festival and in Whole School assemblies, and in June we really enjoyed the annual Country Dancing Festival - 16 local schools joined together on a perfect Summer's evening in the grounds. We had loads of fun!

We welcomed our parents into School to see our work and hear about our learning and, for the first time, Years 4 and 5 invited their grandparents into School to experience a lesson and have a tour of the Prep School.

This year in the Senior School we saw a growth in clubs and enrichment. Pupils of all ages come together to play Dungeons and Dragons; think creatively through Minecraft and Coding Challenges in Computing Club and discuss intricate, intertwining matters of real-life, ethical implications, morality, politics and society in Debating Club.

Gardening Club continues to be very successful; we are now seeing the trees, shrubs and flowers planted throughout the year bloom.

Creative Writing Club helped us to improve our writing skills and gave us the chance to be published nationally. The Grapevine this year has been extremely successful, publishing newspapers with a length and quality never before seen!

Our Scholars Society expanded to include a series of lectures led by other students last year, topics ranging from British Sign Language to Land Usage, and from Artificial Intelligence to the History of Art.

In the Sixth Form we enjoyed a new wider curriculum with the option to study Art, Computing, additional Languages and Maths, and Politics, in addition to our A Levels and Extended Project Qualification. We worked towards a new Mental Health First Responder course created by Miss Johnson and Mrs Lay as part of our PSHE course, learning how to best respond to and help people. We also followed the Community Sport Leader Award, a nationally recognised qualification.

Our talented Lower Sixth Biology students achieved impressive results in the demanding British Biology Olympiad, with Emma Clay awarded a Silver medal.

World Book Day in the Senior School saw lots of pupils and staff expressing their creative side by dressing up as book characters. Year 7 were chosen as the best group outfits, for their Alice in Wonderland characters, and PE were the best dressed staff; all dressed as different characters from Harry Potter!

We also enjoy an array of trips and activities in Senior School, beginning with our new Year 7s making new friends at the Frontier Centre, enjoying climbing, raft building, search and rescue, and more.

On STEM Day, we were challenged to be creative and invent an Artificial Intelligence item in the home, presenting a prototype of our product to Mrs Taylor and a panel of Sixth Formers.

Book Buzz Breakfast is a wonderful event in the School Calendar, where Year 7 deliver readings in front of the Sixth Form, the English teachers, Mrs Thomson and Mr Meadows.

Year 10 attended a Health and Social Care Carers Exhibition to learn more about professions in medicine; they learnt how to use an intubation tube and how people with dementia struggle with eyesight, hearing and mobility. They were joined by Year 11 at the Triumph Factory learning about the process from design and prototyping, all the way to shipping.

Pupils from Years 6, 7 and 8 took part in the UK Junior Mathematics Challenge, with gold certificates awarded to Alexandra Constantinescu, Chloe Humphries, Rupert Sas and Anaiya Bathia, along with Thomas Mwai in Year 6.

Sixth Form Social Sciences students went on a much-anticipated trip to Cadbury's World and enjoyed an excellent educational talk on the history of the village of Bourneville, followed by the obligatory chocolate feast!

Our celebration of the European Day of Languages included an online careers lecture by the University of Manchester for Year 9, a GCHQ presentation to Year 11 and a dance workshop for Years 6, 7 and 8.

In March, we welcomed a group of 29 Spanish students into school to experience the English culture and educational system. By the end of the week, we found we had a lot in common and friendships were formed, as well as a love for speaking in a different language and a desire to share cultural knowledge, values, and traditions.

Our St John Ambulance Cadet Unit continues to thrive, being one of the largest, if not the largest, unit in the County, with over 50 Cadets attending each week. We celebrated their success at the Annual Presentation evening in the Spring, including Semanyaw Amonoo, Jessica Webb and Sienna Whittles who gained their Grand Prior Awards.

Our Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants did incredibly well on their qualifying expeditions and enjoyed the opportunity to support others, by volunteering in our Prep School or for charities.

And our last trip of the year was both the furthest and longest, with a group of five students completing a memorable four-week expedition to Costa Rica and the Galapagos, where they took part in charitable community-based projects as well as their trekking.

Our choirs continue to go from strength to strength. We have once again sung locally and further afield, in Cathedrals and other churches nationally, and on our tour to Tuscany. Another highlight included the Voices of Woodard Weekend, bringing together 120 students from six Woodard Schools.

We enjoyed success at the Oundle Festival of Music and Drama; the Orchestra won the Under 18s Orchestral category with Distinction. Daniel Smith, Bernie Boyd, Natalie-Tina Oppong and Laasya Pillalamarri all won their Strings Solo categories.

Young Musician of the Year was won by fellow Head Chorister, Emma Clay, whilst the Most Promising Musician of the Year title went to Anjali Khela. The Prep Young Musician of the Year this year was Henry Jiang.

Special congratulations to Milo Deem, Sienna Whittles and Rohith Varadarajan on gaining their Grade 8 in the past year.

The cast and crew of Chicago produced outstanding performances to sell out audiences, describing it as the best production they had ever seen; the standard of acting, singing and dancing was incredible, which saw new and experienced actors come together from across the Senior School, supported by an amazing backstage and technical crew.

In Speech and Drama, we work to improve confidence and our presentational skills through acting, poetry, reading for performance, mime, public speaking and spoken language, winning an incredible 11 trophies at The Peterborough Drama Festival! Congratulations to Araoluwa Aina, Robyn Cummings, Srinidhi Mohan Prasad and Ellie Swindell on gaining their Grade 8 in Drama.

2023-24 was another impressive year in sport. All pupils, no matter what their ability, are active in sport from the Nursery to the Sixth Form. It has been fantastic to see the continued growth of boys', girls' and mixed sport, with an average of 30 sports clubs per week, and 280 fixtures during the year!

Our skiers had an incredible experience in Italy, our netballers enjoyed a brilliant trip to Disneyland Paris, and our footballers ventured to Rotterdam.

In Netball, all year groups competed in the District leagues and tournaments, with Years 9, 11 and Sixth Form winning and Years 7, 8 and 10 finishing second.

Our Footballers enjoyed much success in the District leagues and in the Cambridgeshire County Cup. Cricketers competed in the Joe Root District League, and in the Cricket East Chance to Shine competition.

On the courts, TPS is now the holder of the District U12, U14 and U16 Tennis trophies.

Particular congratulations go to Molly Speechley on her National success in Hyrox, competing in Germany. Xavier Wildsmith has been offered an U18 contract to Leicester County Cricket a year early. Well done to Charlotte Aylmore who was invited to Northants County Cricket ground to bowl at the England Women in preparation for their T20 test against Pakistan. Zachariya Chaudhuri

continues to compete nationally in fencing and Aditi Sharma is currently competing nationally as part of the Cambridgeshire U14 County Team. Aarav Roy continues to compete nationally in Karate.

Well done to the large number of pupils who play for prestigious clubs, or as part of academy or club schemes, as well as those who compete at District, County, Regional or National level.

Inter-House competitions started early, with our inaugural House Day, where we competed in eight different challenges throughout the day. Throughout the year we have also had our annual favourite House Rowing, the Christmas Tree decoration competition, the pancake race, the Book Quiz and of course Battle of the Bands, in which Eliot House were victorious.

Our sports days were once again a testament to teamwork and House spirit. Enthusiasm and determination were evident as we supported. The days were filled with friendly and healthy competition and, most importantly, fun.

Well done to you all on earning an amazing **32,848** House Points, which is incredible. This year we saw healthy competition between the houses in many competitions and congratulations to **Spencer**, for winning both the House Events Trophy and the House Point Shield.

We welcomed many visiting preachers, who led Chapel Services throughout the year. In November, Canon Alban-Jones led an act of Remembrance, with staff and pupils in Years 3 to 13 gathering at the flagpole. We enjoyed a lovely family Carol Service at St John's Church this year and we are most grateful to The Reverend Dalliston for welcoming us so warmly.

In the New Year, we held a very special Installation Service for our new Chaplain, Reverend Jenny. She has involved us more in services, and helped us to think about bigger questions, values and the purpose of life.

Throughout the year we marked specific events as part of our PSHE and pastoral focus. We raised awareness of bullying, celebrated Black History Month and Children's Mental Health week, with a wealth of activities to support wellbeing and mental health.

This year's Pentecost Service was held outside; the sun was warm, the wind was gentle, all perfect as we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit in wind and flame! Students and staff read in a variety of languages, including Arabic, Punjabi, Twi, Shona, and Romanian to name but a few, showing how multi-lingual and diverse our school family is.

We are very proud of the diversity of our School community and celebrated gaining the Rainbow Flag Award in the Spring term, a national quality assurance framework for schools. It focuses on positive LGBTQ+ inclusion and recognises and celebrates our inclusive ethos.

We welcomed Mr Ian Sanderson from Afrinspire, who spoke to pupils about the charity's work in Uganda, tackling the root causes of poverty, and working to improve health and welfare, children's education, agriculture, and the environment.

Every year we support various charities by raising awareness and much needed funds. This began with a range of fundraising activities, from non-uniform days to a Sixth Form sponsored fast. Our work didn't stop there though. We supported The Poppy Appeal, Children in Need and Specs for Africa, and we ended the Spring term on a real high, with our Appeals Day - the stalls were particularly creative this year with 'The Niners Inn', busking and glitter tattoos being a few examples.

This year your fundraising has been exceptional, raising a total of £6,146 for Afrinspire. Our Charity fundraising for the year totalled £7,363, which is incredible. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and generosity.

We are delighted that Mr Sanderson is able to join us today and I would now like to ask him to come forward to receive a very large cheque towards their ongoing work.

We wish to congratulate all pupils on your many achievements over the last year.

Finally, we want to conclude this review by thanking all the staff who work throughout the School and Nursery. They continue to go above and beyond to support us in our learning.

Well done to you all!



Mr A D Meadows, BSc Hons, NPQH

11<sup>th</sup> October 2024