

# THE Tower REVIEW

A CELEBRATION OF THE  
2024/25 SCHOOL YEAR



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# A year in the life of Princethorpe College

Welcome to the 2024/25 edition of The Tower Review.

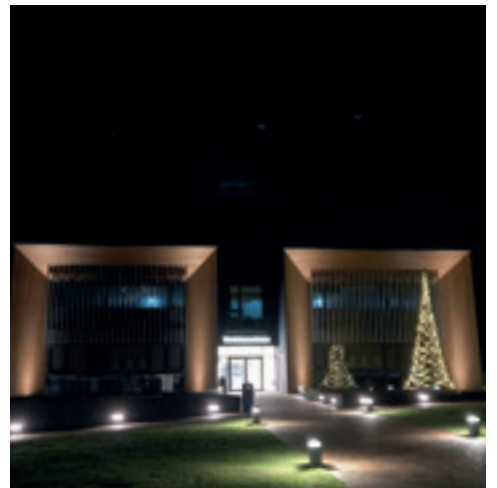
Charting the school year in words and pictures, our annual souvenir review celebrates our amazing school community and 'Spirit of Family' ethos that together makes Princethorpe such a very special place. 2024/25 was another amazing year, full of remarkable and wonderful moments and plenty of achievements and successes too. We hope you enjoy reading this year's Tower Review and reflecting on the year gone by.



Princethorpe  
College

HMC Independent Catholic School  
Co-educational 11 to 18 years







## Message from the Headmaster

2024/25 was another incredible year and as we came to the end of the academic year, I reminded our community about the importance of making memories.

**I have no doubt all of us can recall memories of our time at school and there are no shortage of opportunities here at Princethorpe for pupils to grab memory-making opportunities with both hands.**

Our calendar this year was busier than ever and it would be almost impossible to list everything that takes place. We once again stayed true to our broad approach, offering pupils many opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. I hope that every one of our young people has a highlights reel of events and achievements from 2024/25 that they are proud of.

Of course, the year had its challenges for the independent sector, and they arrived in full force. A robust and pro-active response was necessary, and I hope you would agree that we have done very well. I'm particularly grateful for the support shown towards our Annual Fund this year. Thanks to you, we'll be able to deliver a number of important projects in the year ahead, with more to follow over time. There is so much we can achieve together, and I would encourage all families to continue being part of this growing effort.

During challenging times, organisations very often close their hands and just look inwards. The Princethorpe community however is different. Together our community raised more than £14,500 for charity. Activities such as the Shoebox Appeal, Foodbank Fridays, our pupils giving time during outreach activities such as MAD Day, allow us to live the ethos of our Religious Order, the MSCs, by giving to those who have more need than us. The 24/7 Mile Walk, Danceathon and Pink/Blue/Orange Days pull us all together and we look forward to building on these charity events next year.

Outside of the classroom our programme has grown and there are now more opportunities to get involved in than ever before. With almost 900 competitive sports fixtures, and 80% of our pupils representing the College, taking part and being part of a team is more than just a culture, it is a given. 26 pupils were awarded regional colours or higher in 11 different sports, while many of our teams reached semi-finals and finals of cup and national competitions. Special mention to our Girls' Cricket and Hockey teams walking away as County winners.

This year also saw the introduction of a third school production, *Newsies Jr*, to further develop performing arts at the College. Add to these an incredible 203 Duke of Edinburgh participants, new House competitions such as Just Dance and Yarn Bombing, IAD days, Sports Day, the biggest Summer Fest ever, Performing Arts Week, Culture Week, the Art, Photography and Design Show, trips to Europe, the USA and Africa, external conferences, and more than 40 weekly clubs and activities. Princethorpe co-curricular is a way of life and it is bursting at the seams.

We also saw academic success across the pupil body. In our end of year awards assembly, we recognised achievements in Mathematics, MFL, Design Technology, Public Speaking, and the Da Vinci programme. Earlier in the year we had celebrated successes in Science, Art, and Food Nutrition competitions. Then, at the end of August, we were of course delighted with the excellent results that our Sixth Form students and Year 11 pupils achieved. They had worked incredibly hard and deserved their results. It was wonderful to see all their happy faces on their results days.

**I hope you enjoy reading through the pages of this year's Tower Review.**

**With best wishes**

**Grove du Toit  
Headmaster**

## Michaelmas News

01

### Princethorpe Sixth Former awarded prestigious Arkwright Scholarship

Lower Sixth Former, Theo Sparkes was awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. The accolade, from The Smallpeice Trust, the UK's leading STEM Education Charity, is the most prestigious scholarship of its type in the UK.

Arkwright Scholarships are highly sought after as they provide exceptional support. Pupils who successfully obtain an award have access to unparalleled opportunities. Arkwright Engineering Scholars achieve excellent academic success and are known to make enviable career progress. Theo did incredibly well and was very deserving of this recognition, and we congratulated him on his success.

03

### Year 7 explore the origins of Princethorpe College

Year 7 begin their Religious Studies lessons at Princethorpe with an introduction to the origins of the College and its predecessor, the Catholic community of St Mary's Priory. Exploring the College's history gives an excellent insight into the school and its ethos and is a really great way to bring pupils' initial RS studies vividly to life.

In their first few lessons, pupils tour the school, exploring the wealth of religious artefacts and treasures around the school site.



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### Student success in the 2024 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

Designed to stretch and challenge students studying Chemistry, the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge takes Sixth Formers significantly beyond the syllabus and encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university.

All the students who took part achieved a certificate. Louise Gambling was awarded a Silver certificate, while Charlotte Gledhill, Hamish O'Brien, Joe Jaimon Jacob, Sammie Borland, and Tom Windley all received Copper certificates.

04

### Pupils celebrate National Poetry Day

Princethorpe's pupils celebrated National Poetry Day. Our fantastic English department and College Library encouraged everyone to get involved, with themed activities in lessons that allowed pupils to express themselves in rhyme and verse. Year 7 were reading and performing poetry and Year 8 compared and contrasted poems about London, by the romantic poets Wordsworth and Blake. The Library team promoted poetry too with a poetry reading on Instagram and a big display of poetry books for pupils to choose from.

## Michaelmas News

### 05 Top Honours for former Sixth Formers in ISA Regional Art Competition

Three Upper Sixth leavers were awarded top honours in the Regional ISA Art Competition, a testament to the depth and range of talent in Princethorpe's Art and Photography Department.

Gifted artist, Lara Cutri, was awarded first place in the Painting Over 16 class. Lara's winning painting, titled *The Sky*, was a striking portrait and a well-deserved winner. Lara also earned herself a Highly Commended for her compendium of drawings in the Over 16 Sketchbook class. Her submission, *The Kiss*, was of an incredibly high standard and showcased excellent examples of a range of techniques.

Then, talented photographer, Emilia Case took second place in the Photography Over 16 class for her stunning and atmospheric photo (*In*)*Dependence*. Her picture was one part of her triptych that was presented at the College's Art Show in the summer that used high-powered LED lighting to feature the eyes.

While exceptional draughtsman, Alexander Matheson, was rewarded with a Highly Commended for his brilliant lifelike work, a stunning, photo-realistic, drawn portrait titled *Lara*, in the Over 16 Drawing class. Alexander has been a skilful sketcher throughout his years at the College and was deserving of this public recognition.



05



05

### 06 Students rise to the Senior Mathematics Challenge

Talented mathematicians from Princethorpe College participated in the 2024 UK Mathematics Trust Senior Challenge, a prestigious national competition that celebrates the top young problem-solvers in the country. Princethorpe selected 34 skilled mathematicians from the Lower and Upper Sixth to stretch and sharpen their mathematical skills.

Upper Sixth Former, Ollie Hutton, earned a Gold certificate and was recognised as the school's top performer. Lower Sixth student, Zach Hawkins, achieved a Silver certificate and was named the best-performing student in his year group. Jack Fleming, Anjola Okusanya, Sam Elden, Dylan Williams, Amelia Chard, William Gower and Blessing Katanda also received Silver with a further 16 students presented with Bronze certificates.



06

### 07 Princethorpe's FutureChefs showcase their culinary skills

Princethorpe's aspiring young chefs showcased their super cooking skills when they took part in the Springboard's FutureChef competition. The school's first-round heats took place in October with nine contestants from Years 7 to 10 tasked with cooking and serving up a main meal in just one hour.

It was a hard decision to choose between them and the judges deliberated carefully as they argued the pros and cons of first one dish and then another. Emily Divers took first place with a beautiful mushroom risotto, but the judges just could not agree on second place. In the end they decided that there would have to be a further heat to decide whether Jasper Nicholls, Chloe Iley or Mia Williams would be the second contestant to go forward to the next round.

The cook-off took place in November where Chloe Iley managed to hold her nerve and deliver a delicious dessert to take the second place in the Warwickshire final.



07

### 08 Inspiring Inter Faith Week at Princethorpe College

Inter Faith week at Princethorpe College was an inspiring celebration of our 'spirit of community' and a powerful reminder of the importance of unity, respect and understanding. Throughout the week, pupils and staff came together to explore the rich tapestry of beliefs that make up our school, fostering a deeper sense of connection, empathy and shared purpose.



08

# Michaelmas News



# 09

## Princethorpe falls silent in Remembrance

On Monday 11 November, the College community gathered outside on the playground to remember the bravery and selfless sacrifice made by so many service men and women.

At 11.00am, College trumpeter, Year 11, Henry Corbin, sounded *The Last Post* and the school observed a two-minute silence. Sixth Form students read the poignant poem by Laurence Binyon, *For The Fallen*. Then a wreath was hung at the Pupil Entrance by Headmaster, Grove du Toit, and Heads of School, Megan and Sebastian.

# 10

## Charlie and the Chocolate Factory goes down a treat

Princethorpe's amateur production of Roald Dahl's classic novel, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, told the story of an impoverished young boy who wins a golden ticket to tour the mysterious and magical chocolate factory of the eccentric chocolatier Willy Wonka. Over three nights, captivated audiences were invited to step inside our very own spectacular Chocolate Factory! They discovered delicious chocolate rivers, everlasting gobstoppers, gum that tasted like a three-course meal and many more wonders galore. Brilliantly performed in the Clarkson Theatre by our wonderful troupe of players, the show was full of larger-than-life colourful characters, heartfelt drama, slick dance sequences and magical special effects all supported superbly by our backstage pupil technical crew. A real treat for the dark November nights!



## Michaelmas News

11

### Pupils get a Buzz about Books

Years 7 and 8 were excited to choose from a list of fantastic new titles as part of the Book Trust's Bookbuzz scheme. Research shows that allowing pupils to choose their own reading material increases the likelihood that they will engage more in reading and that reading for pleasure has a real impact on their education.

Pupils chose one of 16 different books, from a range of genres, all carefully selected to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure. There was much excitement in school when the new books arrived.



11

12

### 33 pupils qualified for prestigious Oxford University Computing Challenge

Princethorpe College's Computer Science pupils, from Year 8 through to the Sixth Form, demonstrated their skills in the UK Bebras Computing Challenge. An impressive 187 pupils from across the age groups earned recognition, with 46 achieving a 'Merit' and another 46 earning a 'Distinction.' A record 33 pupils ranked in the top 10% nationally, earning themselves a BEBRAS Gold Award, as well as an invitation to take part in the prestigious Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC) in March.

Year 9 pupil, Dillon Horan, Year 11 pupil, Daniel Ovens-Gibbs, and Lower Sixth Former, Emile Gibrat, were 'Best in School' for in their age groups.



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### Year 8 pupil wins Futurechef Regional Final

Year 8 pupils Emily Divers and Chloe Iley, competed in the hotly contested Springboard Futurechef Regional Final at the Heart of Worcester College in December.

Eight future chefs from across the Midlands had qualified for the event and were tasked with producing one course in 60 minutes for a budget of just £5. Both girls had prepared thoroughly and their finished dishes were of the highest standard and beautifully presented.

The competition was fierce, with the judges complimenting the contestants for the standard and talent demonstrated and we were delighted when Emily was announced as the winner.

A huge well done to Emily and to Chloe, we are very proud of you both.



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### Year 9 pupils compete in the GCHQ National Language Competition

The 2024 GCHQ National Language Competition took place in November and over 25 of our Year 9 Princethorpe linguists gave up their break and lunchtimes to take part. The NLC is a virtual competition where teams from around the UK compete against each other to solve language-based code breaking challenges.

Over 2,000 teams participated and competition was fierce with pupils really putting their language skills to the test. The College had some excellent results and the MFL department was really impressed by the teamwork and dedication shown by pupils. Many congratulations to all who took part.



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## Michaelmas Trips



01

### 01 Sixth Form Biology Field Trip to Swanage

Our Upper Sixth Biologists visited Swanage in Dorset to complete two required assessed Biology practicals, as well as experiencing a variety of field work techniques.

The group were based at Leeson House Field Studies Centre on the Jurassic Coast. Across their long weekend, they visited the River Piddle to do a comparison between the species found in slow- and fast-moving water as well as Kimmeridge Bay to undertake work on the rocky shores. Their field trip also included studying Studland sand dune succession and a visit to RSPB Arne, where students took part in a guided ramble through heathland and woodland learning about the different habitats.



02

### 02 Climbing Club Conquer The Roaches

14 keen climbers from Years 8 to 12 travelled to The Roaches in the Peak District in September to take on one of the best gritstone crags in the country. The day trip was a great opportunity for the College's Climbing Club to put into practice the skills and techniques they have learnt on the College's own Climbing Wall.

After warming up with a bit of bouldering, pupils successfully climbed a variety of classic routes graded from 'very difficult' to 'severe'. They were rewarded with the most magnificent views from the top of the crag.



03

### 03 Lower Sixth Residential a Success

The Lower Sixth enjoyed a fabulous few days on their residential. Due to the number of students they were based across two separate sites; The Towers in the heart of Snowdonia National Park and Sealyham which is on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast.

Their three-day trip in October, offered the chance to develop leadership and initiative skills and build personal resilience. The Lower Sixth Formers took part in a variety of outward-bound activities including kayaking, rock climbing, high ropes, coastering, surfing, archery, orienteering and team building challenges. It was a great start to their time in the Sixth Form.



04

### 04 Year 9 Visit the National Holocaust Centre and Museum

Year 9 pupils visited the National Holocaust Centre and Museum in Newark in October to develop their knowledge of the events and their awareness of the causes and complexities of the Holocaust. Pupils participated in workshops learning about the Holocaust and why it happened. They heard directly from a Holocaust survivor who shared their personal survivor testimony. They explored the museum's exhibitions and saw exhibits, including real examples of the yellow stars Jews had to wear. Year 9 also had the opportunity to visit the memorial garden where they were encouraged to add their own pebbles to a stone memorial to the 1.5 million children of the Holocaust.



05

### 05 Design Technology Trip to V&A and Design Museums

In November, the Design Technology department took 32 A-level Product Design and Fashion students to London to explore, experience and be enriched by creative collections of the design and made world. Students visited the Design Museum and the V&A Museum, in Kensington, took part in workshops and explored exhibitions. It was a productive day out with plenty of inspiration, a really useful extension for pupils' learning.

## Michaelmas Trips



06



08



07



09

# 06

### Sixth Form Physics Trip to A-level Science Live

Our Sixth Form physicists enjoyed a day trip to A-level Science Live at the Emmanuel Centre in London. They heard from five inspirational scientists working at the cutting edge of their specialisms and had an informative and thought provoking time. Their day also included useful sessions led by A-level examiners, with tips and guidance on how to improve examination performance.

# 07

### Classics Trip to Warwick University

The Classics department took Upper School pupils studying the Classics at GCSE and A-level to Warwick University in November to attend the A.G. Leventis Ancient Worlds Day. Pupils experienced University style teaching through lectures and smaller seminar sessions delivered by Warwick University academics. The seminars expanded pupils' knowledge and understanding, building on what they had already learnt in their school studies, further deepening their appreciation of the Ancient World.

# 08

### Sixth Formers attend A-level Geography Study Day

A-level Geographers attended an excellent Geography Study Day at Malvern St James Girls School. They heard from Chief Examiner and Geography teacher, Cameron Dunn, and curriculum designer, fieldwork advocate and Senior Examiner, David Holmes. Across five informative sessions, students refined their exam skills and furthered their understanding of the Tectonics, Superpowers, Regeneration and Climate Change topics. They even had time for some well-deserved lunch at the beautiful nearby Priory Park.

# 09

### Politics Convention engages Sixth Formers in their learning

In December, A-level Politics students had a thoroughly enjoyable day at the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster, at an A-level Politics Convention. Students heard from a wide range of attendees including the speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, former MP Michael Gove, and Reform UK leader and MP Nigel Farage.

# Michaelmas Sport



## U13 Girls victorious at the ISA Girls' Football Nationals

Princethorpe competed in the ISA National U13 Girls' Football Championships against 12 teams from across the country. The College took a squad of nine Year 8 and Year 7 girls, who worked fantastically well together and showed great team-spirit, determination and quality.

After battling through their group stage matches, and going through on goal difference their semi-final finished in a draw. After winning the penalty shootout, Princethorpe went through to the final. The final was against Dixie Grammar and Princethorpe went ahead quickly, and then defended resolutely, winning the match 2-1.

Princethorpe's Girls, who had played exceptional football, were crowned champions and awarded the ISA National trophy.

## Boys 1st XI Football Team dominant in the first round of ISFA Trophy

In early October, the Boys 1st XI Football team delivered a dominant performance against Mill Hill School winning the match 8-1 to progress on in the U18 trophy. A subsequent walkover against Oswestry School then qualified them for the Quarter Finals.



## Outstanding success at the ESAA Cross Country Cup

Princethorpe hosted the first round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup, welcoming runners from 11 Warwickshire schools. Teams competed in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Boys' and Girls' races and we were proud of pupils' performances.

The College's Junior Boys raced their way to 1st place overall with a dominant display of teamwork and determination. In the Intermediate Boys, Will Smith led the charge with a brilliant individual 2nd-place finish, helping the team secure 2nd overall. The Intermediate Girls also delivered with Issey Cleary claiming individual 2nd in her race. Our Senior Boys put up a powerful performance to earn 2nd place, with Ben Smith and Felix Batty both finishing in the top three. The Senior Girls rounded off a strong day for our school, taking 3rd place overall, thanks to Lily Hunter's determined effort in 4th.

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The College's Junior Boys raced their way to 1st place overall with a dominant display of teamwork and determination.

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## Michaelmas Sport



### Sailing success at the ISA Regatta

Princethorpe College sent a team of four enthusiastic young sailors to the ISA National Regatta at Draycote Water. Sailing conditions were ideal, a nice dry day with a steady 10-12 knots breeze from the north and Princethorpe's pupils were competitive, with much jostling for position in very close races. The team took it all in their stride and everyone had great fun. Year 8, William Shaw claimed Bronze in the Main Fleet while, Year 10, Jasper Nicholls finished 9th and, Year 9, Jai Dhaliwal was 12th. In the Rookie class, Year 8 Alex Mulhall finished in 7th.

### Princethorpe finish first at Eventer Challenge

The College's equestrian team were in action in October at the first event of the Bloxham Eventer Challenge. Three double clears for the 90cm team saw them take first place overall. Individually Emily Glover finished 6th, Lizzie Nichols 11th and Rosie Moreton 12th, a huge well done to them all.



### Half Term saw the first leg of Annual Hopbel Hockey Tour

Over the Michaelmas half term, Princethorpe's U15 Boys' and U14 Girls' Hockey teams travelled to the Netherlands for the annual Hockey Tour. It was a great opportunity for the pupils to make friends and experience traditional Dutch family life. In addition to three days of training and tour matches the pupils and their hosts managed to squeeze in plenty of fun.

Hockey wise, the teams were up against some very good opposition. Princethorpe battled well and showed great improvement throughout the course of the tour, making use of all that extra coaching and practice.

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Princethorpe battled well and showed great improvement throughout the course of the tour.

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# Michaelmas Sport

## South Coast Sports Tour a success

Princethorpe's PE and Games Department took 36 Year 8 and 9 pupils on a four-day tour along the south coast. The 17th Annual South Coast Sports Tour included training and matches interspersed with plenty of off-pitch activities and fun

The Year 9 boys played confidently and scored plenty of tries. They first faced Portsmouth RFC where a strong performance delivered a 46-0 victory. Their second match was against Ryde School and they won 31-14. They finished their tour facing Clifton College claiming a third victory 36-14.

The Year 8 Netball girls had some good results too, their games included good ball handling and individual play. Fielding two teams, the girls first played Ryde School. The U13As secured an excellent 30-8 win. The U13Bs did just as well and their consistency throughout their fixture earned them an excellent 22-5 victory.

In their second match the girls faced Clifton College where they came up against teams that were very well practised. Despite remaining resilient in very competitive games both teams lost but they took plenty of learning away from their games.



## Cross Country Teams run well at ESAA Regional Finals

The College's cross-country runners raced in the English Schools Regional Final at Bromsgrove School in November. Princethorpe had qualified four teams, the Junior Boys, the Inter Boys, the Senior Boys and the Senior Girls, so had 24 runners competing in the event. Stand out performances came from William Smith who finished 4th in the Intermediate Boys race and Ben Smith who was 17th in the Senior Boys competition. In terms of team placings, the Senior Boys finished 6th, the Inter Boys were 6th, the Junior Boys 9th and the Senior Girls 10th.

## U13 Hockey Girls reached the ISA Nationals

After a fantastic day of play at the ISA Midlands Hockey Tournament in October the U13 Hockey Girls were crowned Midlands Champions. That qualified the team for the Nationals in November at the Lee Valley National Hockey Stadium. There, the team faced the best players from 20 schools across the country. Princethorpe's girls made a solid start and after the morning's round robin of games they finished top of table. That qualified them for the afternoon's Cup matches. A tremendous experience for them all.



## Michaelmas Sport



### U14 Hockey Girls win Midlands Tier 2 Championships

The U14 Hockey Girls triumphed in the Tier 2 Midlands Championships in November, earning a well-deserved spot at the Nationals. The team was unstoppable, winning all seven matches, scoring 16 goals, and conceding just one. Captain, Katherine Lee, was excellent, scoring some important goals against quality opposition to keep the team on track. The girls sealed the title with a hard-fought victory over Worksop College in the final.

### U14 Netball Girls reach Sisters-n-Sport Quarter Finals

The U14 Netball Girls progressed determinedly through the Sisters-n-Sport netball competition. In November they secured a 19-18 nail biting win against The King's School Worcester. They then beat Bablake School 23-21 to reach the Quarter Finals. Sadly they were then seen off by a strong RGS Worcester team 18-32. A strong and determined performance against some really tough competition.



### College Swimmers bring home 12 medals from the ISA National Swimming Championships

After another successful outing at the ISA Midlands Region Gala, six College pupils qualified for the ISA's National Championships. Together they brought home eight Gold, one Silver and three Bronze medals, a fantastic haul.

Year 10, Charlotte Gower, was on fine form winning four Gold medals, in the 100m Backstroke, the 100m Freestyle and then as part of the team in the 4x50m Medley and Freestyle Relays. Year 9, Issey Cleary, also swam brilliantly, claiming Gold in the 100m Breaststroke and in the 4x50m Medley and Freestyle Relays. Upper Sixth Former, Lottie Hunter, claimed Gold in the 4x50m Medley Relay, Bronze in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay and finished 5th in the 100m Freestyle. Year 8, Bebe Hesketh-Reynolds, earned herself a Silver in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay and a Bronze in the 50m Breaststroke. Lower Sixth Former, Julieta Ascencao Martinez, earned herself a Bronze medal in the 4x50m Medley Relay while, Year 9, Porter Tinning, just missed a medal after finishing 4th in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay.

Together, the pupils helped the Midlands team finish in third place overall at the national event.



## Prize Giving 2024

### College Prize Giving celebrates pupils' exceptional achievements



**Another exceptional year of achievement, progress, creativity and contribution was celebrated at Princethorpe College's annual Prize Giving Ceremony at the Butterworth Hall, at Warwick University Arts Centre on Friday 22 November.**

Chair of Trustees, Mrs Liz Griffin, opened the proceedings, warmly welcoming parents, friends of the College and Princethorpians old and new to the occasion.

In his formal address, the Headmaster, Grove du Toit, gave thanks to all those who make Princethorpe the special place it is. He reflected on all that has happened this last year and encouraged us to celebrate and appreciate the journey of our pupils.

All evening the atmosphere was joyful and celebratory and there were superb musical interludes from the school's String Orchestra, Concert Band and the Year 7 Chorus.

Listening to the citations for the awards was truly inspiring and humbling. The talent in evidence, the grit and determination, the passion, enthusiasm and commitment were all applauded and honoured.

The Princethorpe Shield, the oldest and most prestigious award, presented annually to the student who is seen to embody the spirit and ethos of the College, was this year presented to Connor Silvester.

Foundation Principal, Ed Hester then spoke, echoing Mr du Toit's congratulations, before the current Heads of School, Sebastian Bainbridge and Megan Shipton, gave an eloquent vote of thanks.

The evening came to a close with the singing of the College Hymn, *Here I Am Lord*.



## Prize Giving 2024



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The talent in evidence, the grit and determination, the passion, enthusiasm and commitment were all applauded and honoured.

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## Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

College Sixth Formers hosted a special Senior Citizens' Christmas celebratory lunch welcoming guests from nine local care homes as well as from the parish of St Anne's, Wappenbury. The visitors enjoyed turkey and all the trimmings, prepared by the College catering team and were waited on by College Sixth Formers. Entertainment was provided by Chloe Henderson, Robyn Shaw, Bea Taylor, Martha Harris and Grace Rushbrooke who did a sterling job singing and playing festive tunes and then leading the Christmas carols.



## Christmas



## Christmas Soiree a delight

It's traditional at Christmas for the College to host a soiree to showcase our pupils' wonderful music and performance skills and this year's joyous event saw some 30 plus acts across a range of instruments and styles, modern and traditional, some serious, some silly, but all fabulously festive and accompanied by plenty of Christmas jumpers. Hosted by Director of Music, Gil Cowlshaw, the soiree took place in a chilly College Chapel but the wonderful acts soon warmed everyone's hearts.

## Christmas Card Competition

There were two winners for the Christmas Card competition this year, with Mr Hester and Mr du Toit both choosing designs from the many stunning entries submitted by pupils.



Lower Sixth Former, Héloïse Clark's super drawing featuring the iconic Princethorpe tower on a dark Christmas night was the College's winner while, Year 7, Flora Patey's striking silhouette of Mary and Joseph approaching Princethorpe under the light of the stars was selected for the Foundation card. For the first time and to support the Foundation's drive for sustainability, the designs were turned into animated eCards which everyone enjoyed.



## Chapel Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree in the College Chapel was once again lovingly decorated with hand cut stars. In what has become an important Christmas tradition here at Princethorpe, the College community were invited to write the names of those who have touched their lives with love on a star. Each individual handwritten star was then carefully positioned on the tree.



## Jolabokafloð

We hosted a Christmas book swap at Princethorpe College in the first week of December in honour of the fabulous Icelandic tradition of Jolabokafloð, in which families all exchange books on Christmas Eve. It took place in the Limes foyer at lunchtime every day and there was a wide variety of pre-loved books to choose from.



## Charity

01

### College Supports World Porridge Day

Pupils and staff marked World Porridge Day by raising money for Mary's Meals. Championed by our Sixth Formers, pupils participated in a posse of Scottish and porridge fundraising fun. At break time pupils were invited to dig deep and purchase a steaming pot of porridge. Then at lunchtime, the Scottish theme continued out in the Orchard where the brave participated in the annual Welly Wanging Challenge. Organised by House, there were plenty of contenders lined up ready to enthusiastically fling, hurl, chuck and toss the wellies down the field. The best welly wang of the day was from Austin's Joel Nicoll who managed a magnificent 37.8m.



02

### Sixth Form Wore it Pink

The Sixth Form held its annual fundraiser for Breast Cancer Charities on the last day before the Michaelmas half term. On Pink Day, the corridors, classrooms and the Sixth Form Centre were filled with all sorts of pink frocks and fluffy onesies as boys and girls donned fancy dress to raise money. For the rest of the College, it was a non-uniform day with pupils donating a small amount to support the Sixth Form fundraising. Thanks to some star bakers, the coffers were swelled with a break time cake sale. Everyone had a fun day as the end of the half term.



03

### House teams introduced Foodbank Friday

The House teams introduced a new charitable initiative this year - Food Bank Fridays. House Prefect, Kaena Wasley challenged Tutor Groups to bring in non-perishable items to donate to the food bank. Pupils donated when it was their turn for Cake Friday, dropping off their items in the Sixth Form Centre at Tutor Time. In return, and as a thank you, the Tutor Groups earned house points. It was another small way to demonstrate the College's commitment to our 'Spirit of Family'.



04

### Valentine's Day flowers support British Heart Foundation

Individual red and white carnations were distributed to classrooms across the College for Saint Valentine's Day as a charity fundraiser in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

Led by Charity Prefect, James Reynolds, the College's Cupids, carefully prepared the flowers, red carnations for that special someone and white carnations as a thank you to a great friend, handwriting personal messages for the anonymous gifts. Nearly 70 recipients received a special delivery.

05

### Lower Sixth walk for Mary's Meals

In May, our Lower Sixth Formers took on the challenge of walking 24 miles in 7 hours raising money to feed the children of Makalanga Primary School in Malawi for the charity Mary's Meals. 30 students took on the challenge in very warm walking conditions. Henry was home first by a matter of minutes completing the distance in 7 hours and 30 minutes, but he was quickly followed over the line by the rest of the group. Everyone had completed the challenge by 4.30pm, after a really superhuman effort from them all.



## Lent News



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### 01 Nine medals for pupils in their LAMDA Examinations

Princethorpe pupils celebrated after achieving outstanding results in their London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) examinations. Between them pupils earned nine medals recognising their commitment, diligence and talent in the Performing Arts.

Congratulations went to Ethan Edwards, Alex Mold, Giorgio Kleinmann and Robyn Shaw who all achieved distinction in their Gold Medal Grade 8 Acting examination. Gold is the highest medal awarded by LAMDA and takes years of training to achieve.

Well done also to Year 11 pupils, Henry Corbin, Josh Gorbutt and Abbas Hazra-Omer who were all awarded distinctions in their Silver Medal Grade 7 Acting and to Lola Foulerton and Charlie Miller who received distinctions in their Bronze Medal Grade 6 Acting.

Their amazing results are a testament to their hard work and determination and we congratulated them all.



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### 02 Sixth Formers awarded TEFL Qualification

In January, 14 Lower Sixth Formers took part in an intensive TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) course covering topics such as teaching English language skills, identifying learning styles and creating learning materials through a series of active, engaging and fun activities.

Princethorpe's Sixth Form has offered the TEFL qualification as an extra-curricular option for a number of years, as TEFL certification is particularly useful for those students considering a gap year abroad.

All the pupils passed with flying colours, and Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Cyp Vella, was delighted to present them with their certificates.



02

### 03 Another successful Sixth Form Interview Day

123 Lower Sixth Formers took part in a very successful Interview Skills Day that was designed to perfect their interview technique, sharpen communication skills, presentational qualities and their ability to respond to feedback. Taking on the role of interviewer were senior professionals from a variety of different business backgrounds. All were past or present parents or friends of the College, with years of interviewing experience out in the working world.

In readiness for their one-to-one interviews, students had submitted their curriculum vitae to be scrutinised beforehand. Exactly like in a real interview these documents formed the basis of questions that were discussed. Then at the end of the interview the professionals provided valuable feedback with constructive suggestions for improvement.



03



04

### 04 Upper Sixth take on the British Physics Olympiad

Ten Upper Sixth A-level physicists took on the British Physics Olympiad and achieved some very impressive scores. Undoubtedly the toughest physics-related examination the students have sat so far, the physics challenge is made up of questions on a wide range of topics that test knowledge, understanding, application, problem-solving and resilience. Special mentions went to Ruby Clark and Giorgio Kleinmann, who both scored well into double figures through perseverance and a solid understanding of the topics involved.

## Lent News

### 05 Princethorpe pupils rise to the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

In January, pupils from Princethorpe College took part in the Intermediate UKMT Challenge. This year, 72 talented Princethorpe pupils were selected to participate and tackle the complex mathematical problems.

Special congratulations went to Daniel Ovens-Gibbs in Year 11, who secured a Gold certificate and the accolade of best-performing pupil in the school. In addition, Jay Patil and Oscar Rexton-Watts, achieved scores high enough to qualify for the next stage of the competition, the highly challenging Intermediate Kangaroo round.

A further 16 pupils received Silver certificates and 27 Bronze certificates. A huge well done to them all.



### 06

#### School of Rock raised the roof

The College's Musical Theatre Group's production of School of Rock was superb. The Clarkson was filled full of energetic rock songs as audiences enjoyed the hilarious musical.

It told the story of Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn a few extra bucks by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school. There he turns a class of straight-A students into an amazing rock band and eventually manages to get them to the Battle of the Bands.

School of Rock was a brilliant show, full of vibrant energy and enthusiasm. Congratulations go to everyone involved, both on stage and behind the scenes.

### 07 Year 11 tackled Intermediate Online Physics Challenge

Pupils in Year 11 put their physics skills to the test in the British Physics Olympiad Intermediate Online Challenge. Consisting of two sets of multiple-choice questions, the challenge goes well beyond the standard curriculum and is a valuable enrichment experience for pupils.

Our top Year 11 physicists tackled the challenge with enthusiasm building their confidence and problem-solving prowess. Their results were excellent with four pupils awarded Gold certificates. Congratulations to Bessie McCann, Amber Sandhu, Abbas Hazra-Omer and Daniel Ovens-Gibbs.



## Lent News



08



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# 08

### Lower Sixth take on the Senior Physics Challenge

In January, Princethorpe's Lower Sixth Physicists competed in the Online Senior Physics Challenge. All 18 students were awarded certificates. Congratulations to Zach Hawkins and Alex Lawrence who received Gold. Well done also to Oliver Dyke, Tom Leret, Dylan Williams, Joe Woodward, Sophie Nicolle and Dan Taylor, who achieved Silver certificates, and Heather Allen, Annabel Brimley, Jamie Capelett, Sam Divers, Arjen Randhawa, Murray Endenburg, Ben Heywood, Alfie Llewellyn, Emmi Parmenter and Theo Sparkes, who received Bronze.

# 10

### Princethorpe celebrated World Book Day

Staff and pupils had a great time celebrating World Book Day. One of the English department and Library highlights of the year, it is always a great opportunity to share the joy of books. We had World Book Day activities taking place all week with the Library running three competitions, 'Who's Coming To Dinner?', 'Murder In The Library' and the 'Staff Badge Hunt'.

There were also been fun activities for all at break and lunchtimes including the 'Book Wordsearch Challenge' and the 'Emoji Quiz'. Then there was 'The Big Book Trail' to follow around school and our weekly Tutor Group House Quiz was all about books. The Library team made the most of the opportunity to give away free books and across school, in lessons, staff and pupils made time to talk about and read books. Congratulations to the competition winners who received their prizes from Headmaster, Mr du Toit.

# 09

### Success for Sixth Formers in British Biology Olympiad

Our Upper Sixth Formers took part in this year's British Biology Olympiad, that is organised by the Royal Society of Biology. Designed to challenge and inspire, it offers the opportunity for biology students to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills and to test their knowledge of biology across and beyond the A-level Biology specification.

All our students were awarded certificates. Well done to Hamish O'Brien, Henry Woodrow, Layla Wolsey, Sammie Borland and Niamh Perks who all received Bronze awards but a special shout out to Ben Smith who was awarded Gold. They faced tough national competition and we congratulate them all on their success.

# 11

### Children's author Bali Rai visits Princethorpe College

Award-winning teen and children's author, Bali Rai, visited Princethorpe College to work with our Year 8 pupils. Across three sessions, Bali spoke about growing up in multi-cultural Britain and what it means to be British today. He talked about the many books he has written and how his stories feature characters that are often ignored by history. He encouraged Year 8 to overcome their prejudices and stereotypes and think of Britishness as one long process of migration and multiculturalism.

## Lent News

12

### Princethorpe's Performing Arts Week was amazing

Pupils enjoyed lots of different opportunities to engage with and celebrate the Performing Arts in the College's Performing Arts Week. Organised by Performing Arts Prefect, Ellie Alphonso, supported by Lower Sixth Former, Grace Rushbrooke, the week included workshops, activities, performances, a danceathon and even a few special surprises.

There was live music every break in the Limes Atrium where all styles and genres performed at The Spotlight busking event. There were workshops on Theatre Lighting and Sound, Just Dance Battles, Acting and Photography.

One of the best-kept secrets was the Staff Flash Mob, when teaching and support staff surprised pupils in the Refectory singing and dancing along to *Mamma Mia* to mark the start of Performing Arts Week.

The grand finale was our first ever Charity Danceathon that saw pupils, staff and parents take to the floor to raise funds for the Youth Arts Trust all while showcasing their best moves.



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### Princethorpe marked School Archives Day

In March, the Princethorpe Foundation took part in the first ever UK School Archives Day joining in with schools across the country by celebrating our rich heritage and all that our archive collections have to offer.

At lunchtime, pupils were invited to a lunchtime talk in the Library to discover strange and interesting stories from Princethorpe's past. Foundation Archivist, Jo Wong shared lots of fascinating facts and photos, including intriguing stories of Princethorpe's resident ghosts and astonishing reports of fire drills where pupils were actually lowered from the top floors by ropes.



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### Freddy takes second place at Catenians Midlands Public Speaking

Upper Sixth Former, Freddie Hadley, celebrated after finishing in second place at the Midlands round of the 2025 Catenian Association's Public Speaking Competition for students from Catholic schools. He spoke with tremendous flair, impressing the judges with his speech on the topic of 'Should the monarchy be abolished?'

Competitors were marked by the judging panel on a variety of criteria from content, delivery, elocution and appearance and finishing second overall was a fantastic achievement. His success was down to teamwork and preparation as a group of Sixth Formers had worked together to prepare for the event. Supporting Freddie were Jayden Carr, Raphi Kane, Roxy Glenn and Nika Handjani.



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### Spring Concert was a night to remember

At the end of the Lent Term, Princethorpe College hosted its Spring Concert. The Sports Hall was packed with parents eager to be entertained, with over 60 talented Princethorpe pupils treating the audience to a night to remember.

Concert Band opened the evening, performing two pieces. The College's Choir was also in fine form, over the course of the evening they performed four pieces including super medleys. Also performing were the String Orchestra and the Chamber Choir as well as other fine ensembles including the College's brilliant BTEC Musicians, the Year 11 Ceilidh Band, that had everyone's toes tapping, and there were plenty of soloists showing off their talents too, including new scholar Darcey Carroll, outgoing Music Prefect, the talented Chloe Henderson, the impressive Jorja Parris, the faultless Bea Taylor, the talented Jack Fleming and finally the incredible Robyn Shaw.

The Concert Band returned to the stage to begin the build up to the finale with a wonderful medley of Disney Film Favourites and then to round the evening off all the performers joined together to deliver a combined ensemble of Elbow's *One Day Like This*.



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## Lent Trips



01

### 01 Year 9 explored Churchill's War Rooms

Year 9 explored Churchill's War Rooms in support of their studies of World War Two. The trip provided fantastic enrichment for their history studies, bringing to life the tense days and nights of the Second World War. As well as exploring the underground nerve centre where Churchill and his generals directed the course of the war, pupils had a walking tour of Westminster discovering statues, monuments and landmarks linked to their history studies of the Suffragettes.



02

### 02 Successful Sixth Form Geography Field Trip

In January, our Lower Sixth Geographers very much enjoyed their residential field trip to the Cranedale Centre in Kirby Grindalythe in Yorkshire. They conducted field studies on coastal places and regeneration in urban areas, both key topics for their A-level studies. The weather had its moments, but everyone wrapped up well and worked hard to collect and analyse their data. The students gathered data in Scarborough and looked at coastal landforms at Flamborough Head. They also visited Skipsea, Mappleton and Hornsea to witness firsthand the brutal power of the sea and the strategies in place to combat it.



03

### 03 Art and Photography students visit Tate Britain

Year 11 Art, and Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth Art and Photography students visited the Tate Britain in London in February. Along with the main collection, the pupils saw the Turner Prize for 2025 and a vast photographic exhibition that documented Britain in the 1980s.

The trip provided excellent inspiration for pupils as they began their preparations for their externally set examination tasks.



04

### 04 A-level Fashion and Textiles visited Marks and Spencer

The College's Upper Sixth A-level Fashion and Textiles students visited Marks and Spencer's Fosse Park store in March to consolidate much of the theory they had been learning. Students were taught what visual merchandisers do, on a daily basis, to ensure windows and instore displays are current and have an individual feel, as well as clear brand identity.

They explored how M&S responds quickly to viral trends which helped them understand the importance of Production, Planning Control and Quick Response Management. They also analysed style and fabric choices across all departments, embedding why choosing the right combination of fibre, yarn and fabric structures can give a product required outcomes.

## Lent Trips

### 05 Farm Visit brought Geography studies to life

Year 8 enjoyed a visit to a local 300-acre mixed arable and livestock farm in support of their Geography unit on Farming. They learned about farming practices and innovations and were lucky enough to see store cattle and a flock of pedigree Charollais sheep as well as observing the arable winter wheat.

They explored the farm's efforts to support local biodiversity and their sustainable practices, including fields dedicated to growing wildflowers, sourcing the farm's water through a borehole and producing energy through solar panels.

Their trip brought their Geography studies to life and helped them understand the challenges that farming faces.



### 06 Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip a success

In March, our Year 10 Geography pupils visited Preston Montford, one of the Field Studies Council's specialist outdoor centres. Their two-day trip supported the fieldwork element of their Physical and Human IGCSE paper.

Pupils undertook an urban study comparing the quality of life in two differing areas of Shrewsbury as well as measuring downstream changes in Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire. They learned lots of new skills and techniques and gained practical experience in the field.



### 07 Princethorpe's Geographers explored the Land of Fire and Ice

The Geography trip to Iceland saw 31 pupils, from Year 11 and the Sixth Form, heading off for an adventure in the land of fire and ice. Their trip began with a visit to the 'Bridge between Continents' where the North American and Eurasian plates meet before a visit to Gunnuhver Hot Springs to collect lava samples.

Day two started on the Solheimajokull Glacier where pupils saw a meltwater lake, crevasses and icefield, before they visited the amazing Skógafoss Waterfall and the 'Black Beach' at Reynisfjara. They also explored Thingvellir National Park, the Gullfoss Falls with its geothermal geysers, an incredible volcanic crater, Hveradalir, as well as a lava tunnel with spectacular icicles and recent lava deposits from eruptions in 2021 in the Natthagi Valley.

On their last day, pupils explored the capital Reykjavik and visited Hallgrímskirkja, the imposing church at the top of Skólavöðustígur visible from almost every angle of the city. Iceland 2025 was an amazing trip from start to finish!



### 08 History Trip explored Berlin and Krakow

46 pupils and staff headed off to Europe in April for an exploration of two cities at the centre of twentieth century history. The five-day trip to Berlin and Krakow provided plenty of educational enrichment for their history studies as well as profoundly moving experiences to reflect on.

During their time in Berlin, pupils visited famous landmarks including the East Side Gallery and the Berlin Wall Memorial, the infamous Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz, Checkpoint Charlie and the Brandenburg Gate. The trip also toured the Reichstag Building and explored the German Spy Museum and the Olympic Stadium.

Then it was on to Krakow where pupils visited Auschwitz and the Jewish Ghetto, both incredibly painful and solemn experiences. While in Poland, they also explored the breathtaking Wieliczka Salt Mines with its huge caverns and salt landscapes.



### 09 The Easter Ski Trip enjoyed by all

Pupils from Years 10 and 12 enjoyed an eight-day trip to the fabulous resort of Sauze d'Oulx in Italy for this year's Ski Trip. The excellent conditions made for plenty of super skiing and the wide choice of runs spoilt the College's downhillers. The weather was lovely with the sunshine adding to the enjoyment for all. Everyone had a spectacular time.



## Lent Sport



### Princethorpe hosts Warwickshire Schools' Cross Country

The Warwickshire Schools' County Cross Country Championships took place at Princethorpe College in January. 32 Princethorpe runners competed against the best cross-country specialists from 28 schools across Warwickshire in what is always a well contested event. All the cross-country training paid dividends with another good set of results

Lily Hunter was 4th in the Inter Girls, Evie Marston was 5th in the Senior Girls and Felix Batty and Ben Smith were 4th and 5th respectively in the Senior Boys race. In terms of team placings, Princethorpe finished 2nd in the Senior Boys' race, 4th in the Minor and Junior Girls' races, 5th in the Junior Boys' race and 6th in the Minor Boys' race. A huge well done to everyone who took part.



### Success for College Cross Country Teams at ISA Midlands Cross Country

We entered teams in the Minor, Junior and Inter, Boys' and Girls' races at the ISA Midlands Cross Country. It was a chilly day and the course was uneven and muddy in places but the College's runners were on top form as always claiming two team firsts, two team seconds and a team third.

In the Minor Girls race, Jess Parker was first across the line for Princethorpe in 7th place, with Mila Foulerton just behind in 8th. The Minor Boys also ran well with Isaac Mainwaring finishing 4th. The Junior Boys delivered a strong performance. James Bostock ran well to finish 5th while in the Junior Girls Esme Card ran a storming race and was first across the line. For the Inter Girls, Delilah Teeton had a good run to finish 3rd with Anabel Davis 8th. Finally, the Inter Boys saw Charlie Atkins finish 5th and Maxwell Kiely 7th.

Our runners faced large fields of competitors but they delivered lots of excellent performances and it was great to see the teams do so well.



### Boys 1st XI Football Team reach the Semis in the ISFA Trophy

The Boys 1st XI Football team reached the semi-finals after a dramatic quarter-final penalty shoot-out win in the Independent Schools Football Association's U18 Trophy.

At the end of January, the team played a strong Chigwell School side away, in an evenly matched cup game. Both teams had good spells of possession, but the game finished in a 0-0 draw. That meant a penalty shoot-out where Theo Coles made two cracking saves which took the team into the Semi Final for the second-year running.

The team then faced The King's School, Chester, at home on Wednesday 5 March. Despite plenty of exciting play, and great encouragement from the sidelines, the boys struggled to find the net and eventually went down 3-0. To reach the last four in the country in this competition, for the second year running, was a truly outstanding feat, and a testament to the hard work and commitment of this talented team.



### U14 Netball Girls take Gold in the ISA Plate

In March, the U14 Girls Netball team travelled to Nottingham to play in the ISA National Tournament. The team played consistently well across the day. After the group stage they went forward to the Plate competition where their tenacity and determination reaped rewards, helping them win the Plate final and bring home Gold medals.

## Lent Sport



### U14s and U13s Enjoy ISA Rugby Sevens

The U14 and U13 Sevens squads travelled to London to play in the ISA National Tournament in March. The teams played excellent rugby delivering fantastic tries and taking lots of learning throughout the day. Congratulations to the U14 team who were the winners of the ISA Nationals Rugby Sevens Plate.



### 1st VII win the Plate at the Trent 7s

In March, the 1st VII team finished the Rugby Sevens season by winning the Plate competition at the Trent 7s. It was an excellent way to finish the season especially for Captain Ollie Farquharson who has shown great commitment to College rugby during his seven years at Princethorpe.



### 1st VII Netball Team just miss a medal at the Nationals

The 1st VII Netball team had an excellent outing at the U18 ISA National Tournament in Nottingham in March. The girls faced tough opposition from the best independent school netball teams in the country and after an exciting day of play just missed out on a medal.

They stormed through the first round winning six matches on the trot to finish top of the table. That qualified them for the afternoon's knockout Cup competition.

They confidently saw off Queen Ethelburga's College in the quarter-final 17-1 but then faced New Hall School in the semi-final in a very closely matched game. Despite their resilience and determination they just lost out 9-10. The play-off for the Bronze medal was against Wycliffe College and the girls could not overcome their opposition with the match finishing 10-12.

The girls had an excellent season and fourth place in the ISA Nationals was a real achievement.



### U13 Girls take Bronze at the Regionals

The U13 girls were fantastic at the Regional Hockey in March. They fought hard to progress through the group stages and then were delighted to win the play-off on strokes, with Ava Sheppard saving every flick. That meant they finished 3rd out of 15 schools and won the Bronze medal.

## Lent Sport



### U12 Girls Crowned Midlands Regional Hockey Champions

The U12 Girls Hockey team showcased exceptional skill and determination when they were crowned Midlands Regional Hockey Champions.

In the group stage, the team demonstrated their dominance, securing victories against all. Their impressive performance ensured qualification for the semi-finals where they clashed against Denstone. It was a tense encounter, but a well-executed goal saw the team emerge 1-0 winners, booking their place in the final. In a thrilling rematch against Repton School, the girls held their nerve to secure a 1-0 victory, clinching the championship title.



### U13 Netballers win Gold in the Shield at ISA Nationals

The U13 Netball Girls were one of 24 teams to make it through to the ISA Nationals in March. After a steady and determined performance in the group stages, they qualified for the afternoon's Shield competition. There they played a super game and were very happy to win through and bring home Gold medals and the Shield.



### U14 Girls Footballers take Gold at the ISA Midlands Tournament

Princethorpe's U14 Girls were on top form at the ISA Midlands Girls Football Tournament and were delighted to come away with Gold medals.

The tournament took place at Stafford Grammar and the College took a squad of nine Year 8 and Year 9 girls, who worked fantastically well together showing great team-spirit, determination and quality.

The team played four games in the first round and qualified for the play-offs where they faced Twycross House A. The final was a closely matched game where despite their tireless efforts they were unable to break the deadlock and were held to a draw. The match went to penalties which was nail-biting for them all but the girls held their nerve and were delighted to come out on top. A well-deserved result.



### Year 8 Girls were runners up in County Indoor Cricket

At the start of April our Year 8 Girls enjoyed a fantastic day of indoor cricket and finished as runners-up in the County event. They picked up some great wins along the way and played brilliant cricket all day.

## Winter Sports Awards

### College Sport celebrated at Winter Sports Awards

Princethorpe College's Winter Sports Awards were presented during the last week of the Lent Term. It was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the College's young sportsmen and sportswomen at all levels and across all sports.

This year, for the first time, awards were presented to the Junior (Years 7 and 8), Intermediate (Years 9 and 10) and Senior (Year 11, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth) Sports Girl and Sports Boy as well as the Boys' and Girls' Team of the Season, providing more opportunities to pay tribute to all those who show such commitment to sport here at Princethorpe.



Foundation Director of Sport, Lee Cassell, Head of Girls' Games, Carly Walton, and Head of Boys' Games, Joe Jackson, announced the teams of the season. Recognising their success across the year, the Girls Sports' Team of the Season was awarded to the U12 Girls' Hockey Team while the Boys Sports' Team of the Season went to the Senior Boys' Cross Country Team.

The individual awards were presented to:



Junior Sports Girl of The Year  
Esme Card



Junior Sports Boy of The Year  
Rufus Jones



Intermediate Sports Girl of The Year  
Lola Esler



Intermediate Sports Boy of The Year  
Angus Griffin



Senior Sports Girls of The Year  
Gemima Teeton



Senior Sports Boy of The Year  
Ollie Farquharson

Congratulations to all the award winners, it was another very successful season for the College with plenty to celebrate across the school.

# Careers Insights

## College's Careers Event provides insights into wealth of career possibilities

**Princethorpe College welcomed a capacity crowd of nearly 800 pupils and parents to its flagship event, Career Insights 2025, on Saturday 29 March.**

Nearly sixty speakers, the majority Old Princethorpians, along with some current and former parents, gave generously of their time to present on a wide variety of careers and professions. There was something for everyone with a host of advice to listen to, lessons to be learnt, questions to be asked and connections to be made. The individual presentations gave pupil attendees the chance to consider careers, research universities and explore opportunities such as apprenticeships..

The event included a truly inspirational keynote speech from guest speaker and Old Princethorpian, Tunde Olanrewaju, Senior Partner with global management consultancy, McKinsey & Co. Tunde's speech was full of encouragement, wisdom and sound advice, as well as a few tales from his time here at Princethorpe. He spoke movingly of the strength of the friendships he formed at the College and how the environment and people he met here shaped the person he has become today.

Aimed at Year 10 to Sixth Form, for many of the pupils, this was their first step on the career ladder, and it was a great opportunity to have a taste of some of the different sorts of career choices available.



# Prefects

## Princethorpe College Prefect Inauguration



The new Princethorpe College Prefect Body for 2025-2026 was formally inaugurated into office at an end of term assembly on Wednesday 2 April. The incoming Heads of School, William Gower and Francesca Kelly stressed the importance of Princethorpe's family ethos and committed to make a positive impact on every pupil at the school.

### 2025 – 2026 Prefect Body

<b>Heads of School</b>	William Gower Francesca Kelly	<b>Chemistry</b>	Emmi Parmenter
<b>Deputy Heads of School</b>	Amelia du Toit Pip Evans Anna Johnson Joe McCullough	<b>Computer Science/ Digital Leader</b>	Ben Heywood
<b>Austin</b>	Isla Berger Martha Harris Freddie Knott	<b>Economics</b>	Julieta Ascencao Martinez
<b>Benet</b>	Isabel Barnes Roxy Glenn Thomas Leret	<b>English</b>	Kirsty Griffiths Chloe Potts
<b>Fisher</b>	Samuel Divers Lim Self Tilly Southgate	<b>Environment</b>	Pip Evans
<b>More</b>	Caitlin Horan Olivia Monk Max Phillips-Gore	<b>Geography</b>	Amelia Fry
<b>Chaplaincy, Charity and Ethos</b>	Jess Lane Agatha Pitchers	<b>History</b>	Topsie Egan
<b>Performing Arts</b>	Grace Rushbrooke Bea Taylor	<b>Law</b>	Louis Yuen
<b>Games</b>	Jesse Esler Lucy Lawton Matthew Mahler Mia Webb	<b>Maths</b>	Heather Allen Zach Hawkins
<b>Art</b>	Jamie Dickens	<b>Media</b>	Cara Ridd
<b>Photography</b>	Emile Gibrat	<b>MFL</b>	Hugh Henderson Martin
<b>Biology</b>	Evie Marston	<b>PE</b>	Emily Evans
<b>Business/BTEC</b>	Bobby Chapman Emily Glover	<b>Physics</b>	Annabel Brimley
		<b>Politics</b>	Oli Passantino
		<b>Product Design and Textiles</b>	Theo Sparkes
		<b>Psychology</b>	Nell Tilstone
		<b>RS</b>	Isabella Price
		<b>Sociology</b>	Olivia Bacon
		<b>Transition Team</b>	Nika Handjani Ruby Mander Callum Wallis

## Chaplaincy



01



02



03



04

# 01

### Eucharist celebrates the start of the School Year

The College community gathered in the Sports Hall in September to celebrate a Eucharist to mark the start of the academic year. Led by Father Alan Whelan MSC, pupils and staff were introduced to the new Chaplaincy school theme for the year 'Integrity'.

It was wonderful to come together as a community, to reflect on the importance of integrity and to take time to think and pray.

# 02

### Feast Day celebrates 170th Anniversary of MSC

In December, the College celebrated Feast Day, honouring the date, 8 December 1854, when the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart was founded. This year marked the 170th anniversary of the founding of the order so at Tutor Time pupils were treated to a Princethorpe cookie to celebrate.

At lunchtime the school came together in the Sports Hall to give thanks. The assembly began with Father Alan Whelan MSC explaining the reasons why we observe Feast Day and reflecting on the history of the College.

# 03

### House services mark the Feast of Epiphany

In the Lent Term, pupils took part in House services to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, the feast that marks the arrival of the three wise men to pay homage to the new-born king. The journey of the wise men, or Magi as they were originally known, was one of hope. For the Catholic Church 2025 is a Jubilee Year with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' and Pope Francis had invited Catholics to renew their hopes.

In the services, Father Alan Whelan MSC encouraged pupils, as they settled back down to daily school life, to reflect on their hopes for the term and how they hope to achieve them.

# 04

### Pupils and parents responded generously to the Chaplaincy Food Bank Appeal

Pupils, parents and staff responded generously to the Chaplaincy's seasonal Food Bank appeal. The school community was asked to bring in items of non-perishable food and they did not disappoint, showing a sense of empathy, generosity and solidarity. All the donations were passed on to the St Vincent de Paul Society, to be packed into hampers to be given to local families in need.

The level of enthusiasm and support shown for our Chaplaincy challenge was wonderful, affirming the school's spirit of family ethos and showing that pupils embrace the communities they live in and are willing to help those who are less fortunate than themselves.

## Chaplaincy

### 05 Eight Pupils Receive Sacrament of Confirmation

Our Lady of the Angels Chapel at Princethorpe College was filled with family and friends in February when eight pupils received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each pupil participated joyfully and attentively throughout the liturgy adding to the reverent atmosphere of the evening.

Our thanks went to The Right Reverend Richard Adrian Walker, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, who led the confirmation and Father Alan Whelan MSC and Father Teddy O'Brien MSC who supported him and to the pupils' parents and families for accompanying the children on their on-going faith journey. The Mass was a beautiful occasion for our community and a very special night for all the young people confirmed.



### 06 Year Group Eucharists

Father Alan Whelan MSC celebrated Year Group Eucharist for Years 7 to 10 during the Lent Term. Pupils reflected on the importance of effort and attitude, key tenets of the Princethorpe Learner, and characteristics that underpin the Chaplaincy school theme for the year of 'Integrity'. Together as a community they prayed for the school, for their families and for all those in the world who need our prayers.



### 07 Ash Wednesday

Princethorpe College pupils and staff were invited to mark the beginning of Lent in a service on Ash Wednesday. Led by Father Alan Whelan MSC, the service took place in the Chapel and provided an opportunity for contemplation and reflection. Father Alan reminded us that Lent is a time for Christians to pray, fast and to think about others.



### 08 College welcomed visitors from MSC Generalate in Rome

In May, the College welcomed visitors from the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart [MSC] Generalate in Rome. Fathers Chris and Gene were in the UK visiting members of the congregation and spent time at Princethorpe talking to members of the Chaplaincy Team, the Headmaster and the Foundation Principal. Both visitors were thankful for the warm welcome, the tasty lunch in the refectory, the impressive campus and the continued work of the College in preserving and enhancing the ethos and spirituality of the founder of the MSCs, Fr Jules Chevalier.



### 09 Ethos sessions for Years 7 and 8

In June, our Chaplaincy team led Ethos Sessions for pupils in Years 7 and 8. Pupils gathered in the Chapel with Father Alan Whelan MSC and Deputy Head Pastoral, Beth Sharpe, to reflect on the school's ethos and in particular the Chaplaincy's theme for the year, 'Integrity'. Pupils considered what it means to be a Princethorpeian and what it means to do the right thing. It was a chance to pause and reflect for them all.



## Trinity News



01

### 01 Princethorpe Pupils shine in inaugural UK Bebras Coding Challenge

Year 8, Theo Cowlishaw, Year 9, Dami Ajagunna, Year 10s, Erik Windham and Jasper Nicholls, Year 11, Daniel Ovens-Gibbs, and Lower Sixth Former, Sophie Nicolle, all achieved Gold Certificates in the first-ever UK Bebras Coding Challenge. Their exceptional performance placed them in the top 10% of participants nationwide - an outstanding accomplishment.

A follow on to the UK Bebras Challenge and successor to the Oxford University Computing Challenge, the UK Bebras Coding Challenge was a new competition designed to stretch coding abilities. 31 Princethorpe pupils, from Year 8 through to the Sixth Form, opted to take part in the challenge, showcasing their aptitude for coding with 16 of them ranked among the top 25% nationally.

Head of Computer Science, Ed Musson, praised their achievements, saying: "These young people have demonstrated mastery far beyond their years and it's truly inspiring to see their talents recognised in such a prestigious competition."



02

### 02 Excellent results in the Senior Physics Challenge

Princethorpe's Lower Sixth physicists had their second opportunity to take part in the British Physics Olympiad's Senior Physics Challenge. Competing against over 6,000 pupils from more than 300 schools nationwide, the students sat a tricky one hour long written paper, where none of the marks were easy to get. Congratulations to Alex Lawrence who earned the highest scores of the Princethorpe contingent and was awarded a very well-deserved Gold certificate. Zach Hawkins and Sophie Nicolle both achieved Silver, with 12 students receiving Bronze awards and two Commendations.



02



03

### 03 Sixth Form success in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad

The UK Chemistry Olympiad is aimed at chemistry students in the Sixth Form and offers a unique opportunity to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills while testing their knowledge of chemistry in situations from the real-world.

Against tough national competition, all Princethorpe's Upper Sixth Chemists achieved certificates. Well done to Louise Gambling who earned the highest scores and was awarded a Silver certificate. Sammie Borland, Tom Bucknall, Albert Jackson-Bettes, Giorgio Kleinmann, Hamish O'Brien, Ben Smith, Tom Windley, Layla Wolsey and Henry Woodrow all received Bronze certificates while Charlotte Gledhill and Megan Shipton were awarded participation certificates.



03

### 04 Princethorpe Pupils excel in the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge

In April, pupils from Princethorpe College participated in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Mathematics Challenge, a prestigious national competition designed to promote problem-solving and reward mathematical excellence amongst the best young mathematicians in the country.

Tegan McLeod, Ethan Simons and Arthur Cowell, all received Gold certificates but their super scores also qualified them for the next stage of the competition - the highly demanding Junior Kangaroo round. Also receiving Gold were: Eloise Burchill, Darcey Carroll, Max Sanger, Monty Lester, Austin Newbold, Jessica Parker and Darcey Wilcox-Smith. Then 24 pupils were awarded Silver certificates and a further 31 pupils received Bronze certificates. Well done to everyone who took part.



04

## Trinity News

### 05 New Muddy Stiletto's Review of The College

In April, Princethorpe received its first review from popular online platform, Muddy Stiletto's.

An editor from Muddy visited the College, met with Grove du Toit, the Headmaster and was toured round school by two Lower Sixth Formers. The very positive review described the College as *'An idyllically-placed selective independent co-ed Catholic day school for 11-18s in rural Warwickshire with a family feel, excellent pastoral care and excellent academics.'*



### 06 Warwickshire Schools' AI Forum explored AI in Education

At the start of June, Princethorpe College hosted the Warwickshire Schools AI Forum. Princethorpe welcomed representatives from 40 local schools to the College's Sixth Form Centre, to explore the safe, secure and effective use of AI in education.

After an introduction from Foundation Principal, Ed Hester, and Headmaster Grove du Toit, the forum opened with an engaging and informative keynote speech from Richard Beeson from AI In Education, an independent cross sector body who advise schools on AI development. The forum was full of plenty of new ideas and constructive insights and provided much to reflect on including best practice for embracing AI technology. It also offered attendees the chance to share experiences, discuss challenges and provided a useful networking opportunity. It was a very productive session for all involved.



### 07 Foundation pupils make plans for a Mock Climate Conference

Pupils from Princethorpe College's Planet Princethorpe team and Crescent School's Green Team met in June to begin planning for a Foundation Schools' Mock Climate Conference that would coincide with the United Nations COP30.

It was the first time that the schools' eco teams had met so they began the session by sharing their environmental activities and achievements within their respective schools. Pupils then broke into mixed school groups to generate ideas and activities for the mock conference before reconvening to share all their suggestions.

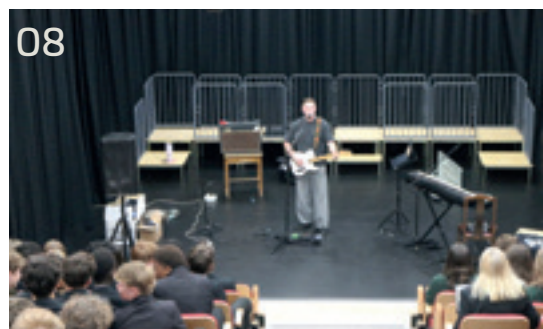
Pupils' passion for the environment was clear to see with lots of creative ideas for conference activities that would raise awareness, educate and engage the wider school communities with sustainability. It was great to see our young people engaging actively and coming up with so many innovative and great ideas.



### 08 Joel Foster performs at Princethorpe

Princethorpe welcomed the up and coming music artist Joel Foster to the College in June to deliver an important message to our Year 7 to 10 pupils. Joel performed his songs, *She's Hectic* and *Sinners*, as well as treating pupils and staff to the iconic *Teenage Dirtbag* which had everyone singing along.

Joel talked openly about growing up, the challenges young people face and the importance of staying true to yourself. His mental health message reminded pupils that everyone has hard times and you can help yourself by finding your right people. Joel was amazing and everyone at Princethorpe wishes him every success in the future.



## Trinity News



# 09

### Sixth Form Scientists take on the Foxcroft Science Quiz

A team of Princethorpe College Lower Sixth Formers visited Rugby School in June to take part in the Foxcroft Science Quiz. They joined 14 schools for an engaging, interactive competition which tested students' knowledge across the disciplines of Physics, Biology and Chemistry. At times the questions were challenging and the competition fierce, but Princethorpe's scientists were determined, enjoying the stretching experience and smiling throughout. Well done to everyone who took part.

# 10

### Regional Physics Olympics hosted at Princethorpe

Princethorpe College hosted the Regional Physics Olympics in June, welcoming pupils from the National College of Mathematics and Science to Princethorpe to take part in the competition. Pupils worked in mixed teams taking on three rounds, including an estimation challenge, a problem-solving task and a physics-themed pop quiz.

The winning team was also the smallest team, with only three members, including Princethorpe's very own Sam Divers, they scored an impressive 61 points

# 11

### Year 10 take on the Junior Physics Challenge

Princethorpe's Year 10 Science pupils competed in the British Physics Olympiad Junior Challenge which is designed to engage and stretch pupils by offering a range of problems to solve. It is the first opportunity GCSE pupils have to participate in a British Physics Olympiad event.

Princethorpe's pupils' results were excellent this year, so a huge well done to all who took part. Particular congratulations go to Jay Patil and Louis Reynolds who both achieved a Gold certificate. Pupils at the College were also awarded 32 Silver and 53 Bronze certificates.

# 12

### College marks 80th Anniversary of VE Day

On the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, we remembered all those who served during the Second World War. In school, the 80th anniversary was marked in lessons and in tutor time. The Quad was opened to pupils as a place to remember and reflect and to observe the two-minute silence at 12pm. The History department hosted a tea party for staff at break-time and the Library created a special book display.

We gave thanks to the war-time generation, to those who fought on the frontlines, to those who stayed strong at home and especially to those who gave their tomorrow for our today.

## Trinity News

13

### Newsies Jr was enjoyed by all

The College's Lower School Musical Theatre Group production of *Newsies Jr* was just superb. The Clarkson Theatre was filled full of rousing songs as audiences enjoyed the sensational show.

Over three nights, the cast of 40 talented pupils from Years 7 to 9, told the story of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of young newsies in New York, who rallied young workers from across the city to strike against unfair conditions and fight for what's right.

It was a brilliant first musical for our lower school pupils to perform.



14

### Year 8 Forensic Scientists solve a deadly mystery at Princethorpe

In their co-curricular club, our Year 8 crime scene investigators enjoyed learning forensic science techniques, from fingerprinting and blood splatter analysis to footprint evidence and soil samples, as well as how to process a crime scene and handwriting analysis.

After a body was found in the cellars, the pupils were called upon to investigate. It was a deadly mystery, but they were more than up for the challenge. Well done to all the super-sleuthing scientists who took part!



15

### College Shortlisted for Independent School of The Year Student Careers Award

Princethorpe College was delighted to be shortlisted for the 'Independent School of the Year for Student Careers' category in the 2025 Independent Schools of the Year Awards. The Awards celebrates the independent education sector, showcasing excellence in student experience.

The short-listing recognised the College's forward-looking Careers Programme that starts from Year 7 and concentrates on identifying aptitudes, developing competencies, delivering experiences and providing tailored guidance and support to pupils as they move through school and into the world.

Grove du Toit, Headmaster, commented, "We were thrilled to be shortlisted for this award. It was a really wonderful accolade and testament to the incredible work our Careers team and College staff do here at Princethorpe, which fosters personal development alongside academic excellence."



16

### Another exceptional Summer Art and Design Show

The Summer Art and Design Show opened on Thursday 26 June with a special evening reception for the artists and their families, friends and guests.

The displays remained on show until Sunday 29 June allowing visitors to the College's Summer Fest to enjoy the superb standard of work that GCSE and A-level pupils had produced. Those who know the College will be familiar with its formidable reputation for quality Art and Design and this year's show was no exception. Visitors were audibly impressed with what they saw, stopping to stare in wonder, exclaiming over the ingenuity and talent and enjoying the fine collection of work.

Our congratulations go to all our GCSE and A-level pupils for producing such a worthy display.



## Trinity Trips



01

01

### Lower Sixth Religious Studies students visit The Houses of Parliament

In April, some of our Lower Sixth Religious Studies A-level students took part in an inspiring interfaith collaborative project, organised by the United Religions UK Initiative, alongside other schools from Warwickshire and Coventry. On a gloriously sunny day, they visited the Houses of Parliament where they witnessed a live debate in the House of Commons Chamber. The students then had the amazing opportunity to meet with Lord Khan of Burnley, Faith Minister, and Coventry MP Zarah Sultana in one of the cabinet meeting rooms. We were very proud of our Lower Sixth RS students' participation in this inspiring interfaith project.



02

02

### Lower Sixth Language and Literature students visited Nottingham University

At the start of April, Lower Sixth English Language and Literature students attended a student conference at Nottingham University. The day began with an exploration of the language of dystopian fiction, focusing on the ways in which we imagine speculative future worlds in our minds. The students then looked at ways to take linguistic analysis of journalism, spoken accounts and travel writing to another level.

The third session discussed the creative writing process while after lunch the students heard from Prof Louise Mullany who examined how impoliteness is used in different contexts. The day finished with an exploration of the language and sounds of lyric by Prof Peter Stockwell.



03

03

### Year 8 went out into the wilderness

Year 8 pupils enjoyed a hugely successful three-day Bushcraft Trip where they learned survival skills while enjoying the great outdoors. They visited Boughton Woods in Northamptonshire in May and took part in a range of activities including shelter building, camouflage, campfire making, wilderness first aid and other bushcraft skills. They enjoyed wilderness walks and campfire camaraderie, developed their team working skills, made new friendships and generally all had a wonderful time.



03

## Trinity Trips



### Summer Sports Tour to South Africa was Spectacular

At the start of the summer holidays, sports' pupils enjoyed a successful 16-day sports tour to South Africa. The College took a squad of 95 pupils and 12 staff, playing four sports, Rugby, Football, Netball and Hockey. The tour travelled to Cape Town, then on to Johannesburg, Pretoria and Pilanesberg for a fortnight full of keenly contested matches and spectacular sight-seeing.

The Rugby, Football, Netball and Boys' and Girls' Hockey teams participated in six days of good spirited and competitive training and matches against school and club teams. Away from the sports field, the tour offered participants the chance to broaden their horizons with sightseeing and educational experiences that included the history of South Africa with tours of Soweto and the Apartheid Museum.

Pupils also took part in an eye-opening tour of Cape Town's oldest black township and got up close and personal with the wildlife in game drives at Pilanesberg Game Reserve. The tour party all enjoyed the spectacular scenery of Table Mountain in Cape Town and the Cape Peninsular including the charming coastal town of Hout Bay.

Lee Cassell, Foundation Director of Sport, and leader of the tour, said, "South Africa is a truly stunning country, passionate and fiercely competitive in their sport. We had an excellent trip and played some inspiring matches and I know that our Princethorpe pupils have returned home with plenty of wonderful memories."



## Trinity Sport



### Excellent results at the Warwickshire Schools' Golf Championships

In April, two Princethorpe College teams competed in the Warwickshire Schools Golf Championships at the Hearsall Golf Club in Coventry. Year 9, Bobby Emmerson finished second in the net score competition with a score of 57 while Princethorpe's teams placed second and fifth in the team competition. An excellent result for our College golfers.



### Excellent results at the Warwickshire Schools Athletics Combined Events

Princethorpe College's Inter Boys delivered top scoring performances to finish in first place at the Warwickshire Schools Combined Events. Hot on their heels were the Inter Girls, Junior Girls and Minor Girls whose determination led to second place finishes, with the Junior Boys and a second Minor Girls team finishing in overall third place. It was an excellent early season athletics outing for Princethorpe at the Warwickshire Schools Combined Events.

After a successful two days, Director of Sport, Lee Cassell, commented, "Princethorpe's athletes shone across all the disciplines delivering outstanding performances in both field and track events. Well done to them all."

### Success for Princethorpe at Two Day Event

Princethorpe College hosted the National Schools and Riding Clubs Two-Day Event. Run in conjunction with Stoneleigh Riding Club, over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, 124 competitors took part in a two-day competition.

Princethorpe College had riders competing at all heights and had good results across the classes with the school's 80cm team 'Cloisters' finishing first overall in the Schools competition and also claiming the Gold Medal in the ISA class. The school just missed out on more medals in the 70cm class where team 'Benedictine' placed fourth.

Riding for 70cm team were Darcey Wilcox-Smith, who placed 10th, Charlotte Nichols who came 13th and completing the team was Darcey Edwards. Representing Princethorpe in the 80cm team were Lucile Bell-Barth who as well as her team rosettes also took individual Silver in both the Schools' and ISA classes. Isla Edwards finished in individual 4th place overall then Emilie Bell-Barth finished in overall 5th place and completing the team was Jess Belcher. Also competing in the 80cm individual competition was Jess Hedgecock. In the 90cm class, Lizzie Nichols placed 6th she also won highest placed Warwickshire rider.

Congratulations to all the riders who took part we hope you enjoyed competing at Princethorpe.



### Super Haul of medals at the ISA Midlands Athletics

Princethorpe celebrated after finishing first overall and bringing home a huge haul of medals from the Independent Schools Association's Midlands Track and Field Athletics.

The all day event took place at the Aldersley Stadium in Wolverhampton at the start of June with College athletes joining competitors from 26 schools across the Midlands region all aiming to qualify for the National Finals later on in June.

In a dominant display, Princethorpe's medal haul included 20 Gold Medals, 11 Silvers and 12 Bronzes, helping the College to amount a huge total of points. In addition to winning the overall competition, all the teams also placed first.

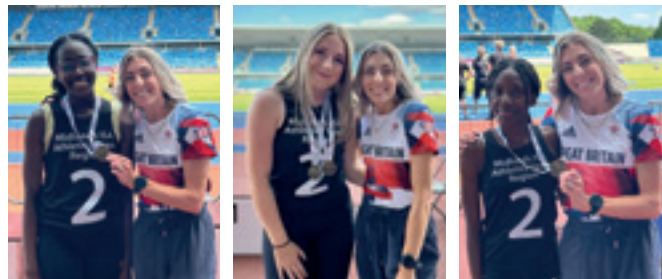
Foundation Director of Sport, Lee Cassell, was delighted commenting, "A huge well done to all of our athletes on an excellent performance. They responded so well to the competition they faced and their determination was rewarded."



## Trinity Sport

### Silver for the U15 Girls in the ISA Midlands Cricket

In June, the College hosted the U15 ISA Midlands Cricket Tournament welcoming schools from across the region. A great day of cricket was had by all with the College's U15 team securing 2nd in the competition! Well done to all participating schools.

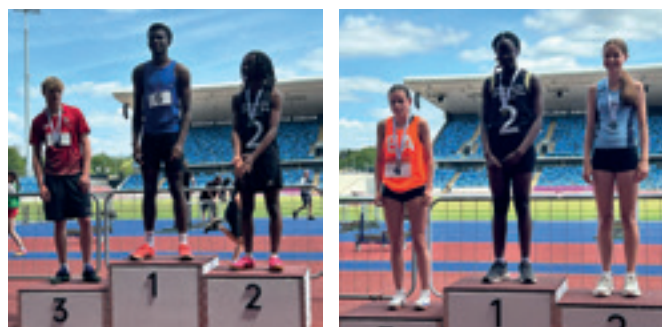


### U15 Girls' Cricket Team reach last 16 of National 100 Ball Cup

We were very proud of our U15 Girls' Cricket Squad, who had an impressive run to the last 16 of the National 100 Ball Cup - a superb achievement and a true testament to the team's talent, commitment and unshakeable team spirit. Their journey was nothing short of inspiring.

In the last 16, the girls were drawn against Rugby School, a formidable cricketing side. The original match date was interrupted by rain, and the fixture was rescheduled. Sadly, despite playing with heart and grit, embodying the values of teamwork and perseverance that defined their cup run, on that second day it wasn't to be.

Regardless of the outcome, reaching the final 16 of a national competition is an extraordinary accomplishment. These pupils not only demonstrated excellent cricketing ability but also showed what can be achieved through hard work, unity and a passion for the game.



### 12 Medals for Princethorpe at the ISA National Athletics Championships

Princethorpe took a team of 15 athletes to the ISA National Track and Field Athletics Championships at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. It was an excellent opportunity for pupils to compete against high calibre opposition at a prestigious event. Princethorpe's medal haul included five Gold medals, four Silvers and three Bronze medals, another fantastic set of results.

Congratulations to national champions, Year 9, Dani Ajagunna and Year 7, Zarah Chime who both took Gold in the High Jump, to Year 9, Marisa Lumani who claimed Gold in both the Discus and Shot and to Year 9, Maxwell Kiely who achieved Gold in the 400m. Well done also to Year 10, Stephen Upton who earned himself a Silver in Long Jump and Triple Jump and Year 9, Dax Frost who went one better with Silver in the 100m and the High Jump and then a Bronze in the Relay. Well done to Year 7, Bert Nash who took a Bronze in the Hurdles and Year 8, George Knott who took Bronze in the Relay. A number of pupils only just missed a medal after finishing fourth.

### Gold and Silver for Warwickshire in the Maston Trophy

At the end of June, seven pupils represented Warwickshire in the Mason Trophy Inter-County competition in Stoke.

Year 8, Sophie Crawford competed in the Junior Girls Javelin winning herself a Gold medal, while Year 9, Dax Frost took Silver in the Junior Boys Triple Jump.

Year 9, Marisa Lumani represented Warwickshire in the Junior Girls Shot and Discus, Year 9, Dami Ajagunna in the Junior Girls Shot and High Jump, Year 10, Stephen Upton in the Inter Boys Triple Jump, Year 10, Georgie Sowter in the Inter Girls Discus and Javelin and, Year 10, Faith Katanda in the Inter Girls Shot.

We were delighted and proud to have so many athletes selected for the Warwickshire team.



# Trinity Sport



## Pupils put in outstanding performances at Warwickshire Schools' Athletics Championships

Pupils from Princes Risborough College put in outstanding performances to win seven events at the Warwickshire Schools' Athletics Championships helping the Eastern Area take both the Junior and Inter events. College athletes claimed a further five second place finishes and four third place finishes. As a result, an amazing seven pupils were selected to represent Warwickshire in the Mason Trophy Inter-County competition.

In total, 26 College athletes took part in the competition, by far the most of any school. Competing for the Inter Girls, Grace McCollin took first place in the 100m and the 80m Hurdles with Lily Hunter claiming another first for Princes Risborough in the 1500m. Georgie Sowter placed second in the Discus and Javelin with Faith Katanda taking second in Shot. Daisy Nash finished third in the 300m and Lottie Wilson Fitzgerald third in High Jump.

For the Inter Boys, Stephen Upton took first in the Triple Jump while Max Kiely placed second in Triple Jump and third in the 400m. Then for the Junior Girls, Marisa Lumani was first in the Discus, Sophie Crawford first in the Javelin, Dami Ajagunna second in Shot and Liv Burley third in the Discus. Finally for the Junior Boys, Dax Frost was first in the Triple Jump and third in the 100m and the High Jump while Reuben Allen finished in second place in the 800m.

It was a really fantastic effort from them all.

## U13 Girls were Cricket County Champions

At the start of July the U13 Girls' Cricket team were crowned County Cup champions after a fantastic away win at Solihull School!

Batting first, the team posted a strong 299 runs, and held their nerve in the field to restrict Solihull to 294 runs off 20 overs in hard ball pairs format.

It was a brilliant team effort and the girls earned themselves a well-deserved victory making for a fabulous end to the season.



## Three Silver Medals at the English Schools National Athletics

College athletes Grace McCollin, Olivia Monk, Marisa Lumani and Dami Ajagunna competed for Warwickshire at the English Schools Athletics Track & Field Championships at the Alexandra Stadium in Birmingham at the start of the summer holidays.

It was a fantastic achievement for these pupils to have been selected for this prestigious national event and to have four pupils reaching the standard was super exciting for us all here at Princes Risborough College.

Grace ran an outstanding race to take the Silver medal in 11.18s in the Inter Girls 80m Hurdles and claimed another Silver as part of the Warwickshire team in the Mixed 4x100m Relay. Marisa won a Silver medal with an outstanding 12.09m throw in the Junior Girls Shot. Dami jumped an incredible 1.59m to finish 6th in the Junior Girls High Jump while Olivia ran 12.57s in the Senior Girls 100m heats.

We are hugely impressed by these pupils' commitment and dedication to their sports and are incredibly proud of them all.



## College hosted Australian tourers

Princes Risborough College ended their senior cricket season by hosting Knox Grammar from Sydney, Australia. Batting first in perfect conditions, Princes Risborough scored a strong 238 off 35 overs. Knox Grammar started confidently, reaching 115-1, but Oscar Reynolds took two quick wickets to swing the momentum. Knox were eventually all out for 183. It was a brilliant way to round off the season.



# Sports Day

## College Sports day was fiercely competitive

The College's Sports Day took place on Wednesday 2 July, and was a fantastic morning of friendly, but fiercely competitive sport. Field and track events took place simultaneously, so the playing fields were action-packed from the moment the starting gun fired. College staff were kept busy measuring, timing and recording all the running, jumping and throwing taking place.

Foundation Director of Sport, Lee Cassell, said, "We had a super Sports Day with plenty of excellent performances and lots of new College records set. The atmosphere was incredible, pupils were very supportive of each other, appreciating every individual effort and there was very little in it at the end."

Congratulations to Benet who were the winners on the day.



## Duke of Edinburgh



### The College enjoyed another successful year of Duke of Edinburgh endeavours.

In the Easter holidays, pupils completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expeditions, then late in the Trinity Term they took on the challenge of their qualifying expeditions.

Unaccompanied and self-sufficient, pupils trekked and camped their way across Snowdonia (a bumper group of 30 Golds), the Peak District (49 Silver) and the Cotswolds (124 Bronze), working together in teams to achieve their expedition objectives.

A huge part of life at Princethorpe, the awards provide pupils with the opportunity to get involved, explore new interests, discover talents and make new friends.

Tamsin Frost, DofE Manager, said, "I am always impressed that so many of Princethorpe's pupils embrace the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They take the opportunity to develop skills and try new experiences, pushing themselves both mentally and physically to live up to the College's ethos and be the best they can be and all with such commitment and enthusiasm."



# Duke of Edinburgh

## Bronze Award



## Silver Award



## Gold Award



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award achievements celebrated

Pupils, parents, invited guests and staff gathered in the Lent Term for the College's annual Duke of Edinburgh's Award Celebration Evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on pupils' achievements in Outdoor Education and in particular to celebrate those who have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The College was delighted to welcome special guest, Anne Grindal, Princethorpe parent and contestant on the extreme game show, SAS Who Dares Wins. Anne spoke honestly and humorously about her experiences taking part and about taking every opportunity life presents.

Across the evening, pupils were presented with their Certificates to mark the completion of their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Headmaster, Grove du Toit, commented, "The Awards celebration was a superb opportunity to get together to celebrate the achievements of our young people. I am always impressed by the breadth of their endeavour to complete their awards and to do them well!"

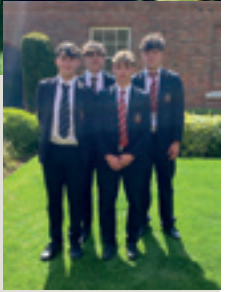
## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards presented at Buckingham Palace

In May, a number of Old Princethorpians attended presentation ceremonies at Buckingham Palace to receive their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. They joined thousands of young people and their families celebrating their success. The recipients were hosted by the charity's Patron, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, a Gold Award achiever himself.

Receiving their awards were OPs, Jess Evans, Chris Lock, Natasha Thomas and Isy Williams from the Class of 2024, and Grace Darcy and Eve Read-Jones from the Class of 2025. They all showed dedication and perseverance in undertaking the award and their final expedition to Buckingham Palace will have been a really wonderful reward.



# Celebrations



## Year 11

Year 11 enjoyed plenty of celebrations as they marked the end of their time at secondary school. After their last day of lessons, we waved them on their way with a special good luck parade. Their route through school was lined with pupils and staff clapping and cheering, wishing them well for the future and in their upcoming GCSE exams.

Pupils returned to school at the end of June to give thanks at the end of the examination season with a special Thanksgiving Service. The College then welcomed Year 11 to Walton Hall near Wellesbourne to celebrate the end of their time in Year 11. In time honoured tradition the boys, handsome in black tie, and the girls, bedecked in beautiful gowns, arrived at the venue in their choice of transport to be greeted by members of staff. The backdrop of the atmospheric architecture and grounds of Walton Hall lent an extra special magic to the air. It was, as always, an emotional occasion, but the mood was full of optimism for their next steps ahead.



# Celebrations



## Celebrations



### Upper Sixth

**We waved the Upper Sixth on their way in May when they went on study leave to prepare for their A-level examinations. They came to school in fancy dress and enjoyed one last day of fun in the Sixth Form Centre.**

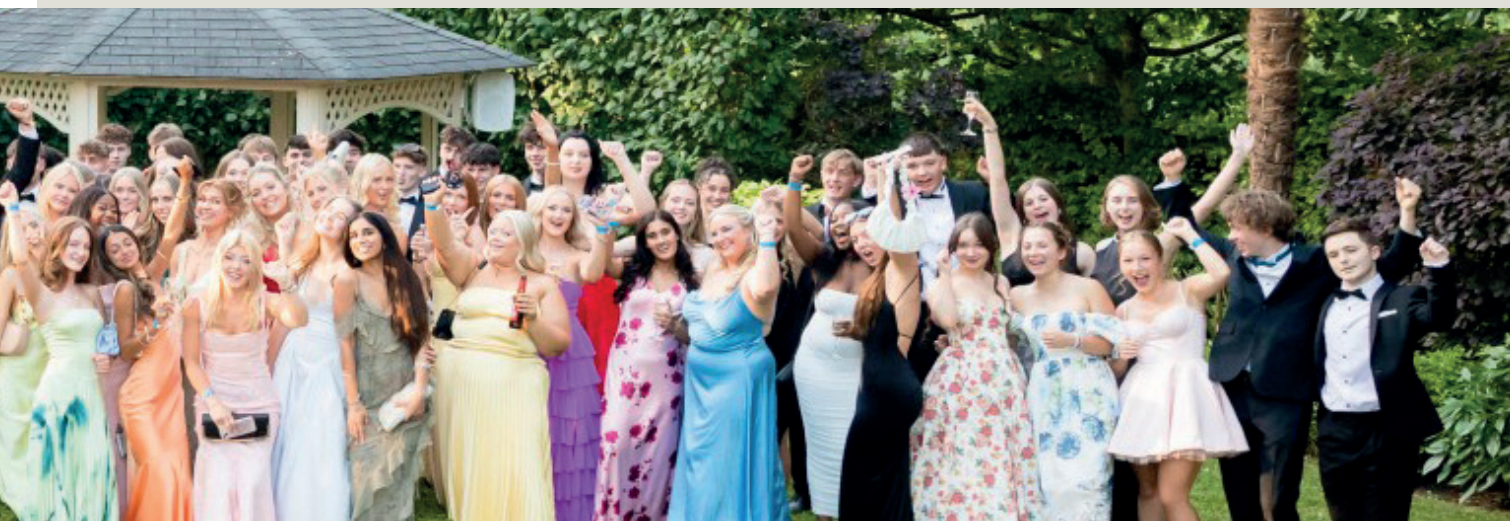
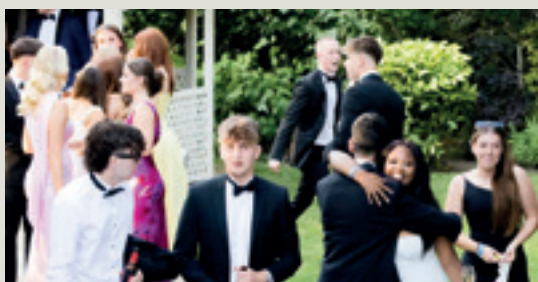
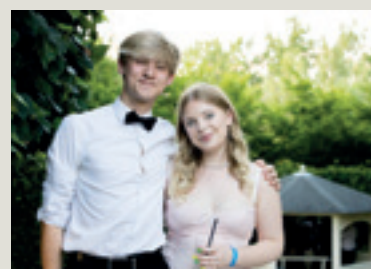
The Upper Sixth returned at the end of June to celebrate the end of the examination season and their time at Princethorpe with a beautiful Thanksgiving Eucharist and a fabulous Leavers' Ball. It was one last chance for them to gather to reminisce over their time at the College, the friends they have made and the many adventures they have had along the way.

Parents and students came together for a moving Eucharist Service in the Chapel, followed by a buffet supper afterwards in their home for the last two years, the Sixth Form Centre.

Their Upper Sixth Leavers' Ball took place one week later at Warwick House in Southam. The students, smartly attired in black tie and ball gowns, enjoyed a sparkling reception, followed by a delicious sit-down dinner, much anticipated speeches and then dancing until dark. Their celebrations were joyous occasions with lots of laughter, shared memories and plans for the future.



# Celebrations





## House News



01

### 01 Sixth Form Ready Steady Cook

Princethorpe's Sixth Form students put their culinary skills under the spotlight when they took on the House Ready Steady Cook challenge. Teams of four donned their aprons in readiness to prepare a risotto in the Food Technology suite.

The finished plates of food were lined up along the counter and, under the watchful eyes of the competitors and their supporters, the judges carefully taste-tested the dishes. The results were close with just a few points separating all. This year first place went to More, closely followed by Fisher and then Benet and Austin.



02

### 02 Escape Room task for European Day of Languages

For European Day of Languages the House teams challenged pupils to solve a series of language-linked Escape Room tasks to discover a four-digit code. Tutor Groups took on the interactive activities in their 3PD sessions and the House Captains were kept busy counting up the points. This year it was a landslide victory for Benet - 'muy bien' to them all!



03

### 03 Fisher win this year's sensational House Talent Show

The House Talent Show did not disappoint providing yet another sensational evening of entertainment for the College community. Compered by House Activities Co-ordinator, Meg O'Gorman, ably assisted by the House Captains, the show included an array of amazing vocal, instrumental and dance performances and this year even a magician.

This year's winners were Darcey and Isla Edwards, for Fisher, for their fabulous rendition of *Don't Lose Your Head* from *Six The Musical*. Taking second place was the talented Jack Fleming, for More, who played an incredible Movie Medley on piano. Then in third place was the Mixed House Band of Lara, Esme, Harper, Lila, Erin and Poppy who sang and danced to the theme from *Six The Musical*.



04

### 04 Benet won House Christmas Tree Decorating Competition

Sixth Form House teams gathered excitedly at the end of November for the annual House Sixth Form Christmas Tree Decorating Competition.

Four teams of students pieced together a jigsaw of branches, unravelled and artistically draped lights, hung decorations and one final stretch added a star.

Judges considered the originality, appearance, environmental friendliness and House qualities and this year Benet House took the title.



05

### 05 House Singing did not disappoint

An important Feast Day school tradition is the much-anticipated House Singing Competition. This year, the Houses performed colour-themed pieces. More belted out *Yellow*, Benet delivered a lively *Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer*, Austin sang *Green Green Grass* and Fisher sang *Mr Blue Sky*.

The competition was judged by OP John Dawkins (Class of 1998) and Founder Director of Various Artist Management. For the Lower School Fisher stole the show while for the Upper School it was More who took top spot.

## House News

### 06 More were House University Challenge Champions again

More were the victors in the College's annual House University Challenge competition, taking the title for the second year on the run. More House accumulated a super score of 455 points, across their three matches, finishing well ahead of their rivals.

Pupil teams faced questions on a wide range of subjects including Literature, Sport, Science, History, Maths, Art, Film, Technology, Music and Religion. Across two weeks, the House teams played each other in turn in front of an audience of Tutor groups.

The final results were as follows: 1st More, 2nd Austin, 3rd Fisher and 4th Benet.



### 07 Brilliant Benet victorious in the House Cup

Benet House celebrated after winning the most hotly contested competition in school, the House Cup. Their victory was announced by House Activities Co-ordinator, Meg O'Gorman, in the Prefect Inauguration ceremony on the last day of the Lent Term. The House Cup was presented to the outgoing Benet House Captains, Ben and Kaena, as jubilant Benet pupils cheered across the school.

As always, the House Cup was a close run affair with just five points between this year's winners Benet and second place More. The final placings were: 1st Benet, 2nd More, 3rd Fisher and 4th Austin.



### 08 College drive enjoyed a stunning makeover with House Yarn Bombing

The house teams at Princethorpe College took part in a 'Yarn Bombing' competition in June decorating the trees on the school drive. Their super efforts resulted in a wonderful and colourful 'makeover' just in time to welcome visitors to the College's Open Evening that night.

Knitters and crocheters from across the school responded brilliantly to the House teams' request for contributions, designing and creating a wonderful array of decorations to use in the yarn bomb. Assembling it all was a real community effort too, with the House teams enjoying the tricky challenge of piecing together all the donations.

Austin were pronounced the winners with a tree that the judges felt had great visual impact and had clearly got lots of pupils involved, Benet were 2nd, More 3rd and Fisher 4th.



### 09 Benet were our House Bake Off Best Bakers

We had a tantalising display of creative entries for House Bake Off. The 'Games' theme produced an incredible array of cakes with football and cricket pitches, snooker tables, golf greens, tennis courts and a whole array of board games from chess to snakes and ladders among the many different designs.

House Activities Co-ordinator, Meg O'Gorman led a team of cake enthusiasts in the challenge of judging all the entries, considering taste, skill, decoration and relevance to the theme. Our favourite though, had to be Year 8 Eloise's Princethorpoly cake which was incredible and very on brand!



### 10 House Activities Day pupils was a Wild West Adventure

Princethorpe College finished the school year with a 'Yee-haw' when pupils saddled up for a Wild West adventure on House Activities Day. The biggest event of the House year is always a real favourite and our cowboys and girls went all out in a showdown at sundown to win the house points up for grabs.

Tutor Groups roamed the prairies and plains taking part in a series of challenges and activities. After all had been completed, the school gathered around the campfire for a final sing song and to hear the results. Huge congratulations go to More who were the House wild west winners this year. It was an epic adventure, and as always Princethorpe you were amazing!



## PTA News



### Plenty of festive fun at the PTA Christmas Fair

Princethorpe's popular PTA Christmas Fair took place on Sunday 1 December and was enjoyed by hundreds of visitors who descended on a College resplendent in decorations. Father Christmas and his elves made their usual stop off at the fair, delighting children of all ages. The crowds enjoyed musical entertainment, shopping at all the artisan stalls, warming hot drinks and delicious mince pies. It was, as always, a wonderful festive affair.



### PTA Summer Fest was a great success

The College's Summer Fest was a delightful afternoon. The Orchard was transformed thanks to plenty of enthusiasm, gazebos and bunting and the British weather was wonderful, allowing organisers and visitors to relax and enjoy themselves.

The event was packed with fun, food and entertainment for all ages. From the Motoring Festival and food trucks galore, to our Art, Photography and Design Show and the wide variety of artisan stalls, there was truly something for everyone. The PTA's activity zones were buzzing throughout the day and the Tower Stage hosted an amazing line-up of local performances from our talented community.

The festival was a true celebration of everything that makes our school community special. Many thanks to the PTA for all they do to support the school.



## Development

### The Princethorpe Foundation's Annual Fund – The impact of your support

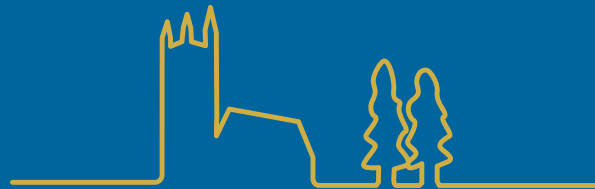
Thank you to everyone who supported the work of the Development Office over the 2024/25 school year. Whether a current parent, an Old Princethorpeian, or part of our wider community of past families and friends, their generosity continues to shape the lives of our pupils in meaningful ways.

This year saw the launch of The Annual Fund to our current parent community – and the response was hugely encouraging providing support to projects that directly benefit pupils. Our Annual Fund has, for many years, been sustained by Old Princethorpeians and former families whose generosity has helped to fund essential bursaries and hardship support across the Foundation. Such support makes a profound difference to individual pupils and their families – and we are enormously grateful to all who contribute.

Importantly, this year also saw the Annual Fund – together with personal philanthropy from generous families past and present – start to make possible a number of exciting capital projects. We look forward to seeing these come to fruition over the coming years.

The Annual Fund remains the cornerstone of philanthropy at The Princethorpe Foundation providing parents, supporters and friends in the wider community the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution to support the school. The donations providing a significant impact, touching the lives of every pupil in all our schools.

Across the year the Development team worked hard to make a difference.



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Old Princethorpians



### Honours even at the OPs Sports Day

The OPs vs College Sports Day took place on Saturday 31 August, and we were delighted to welcome so many familiar faces back to the school.

Football started the morning off, with the College First XI participating in the day for the first time; strengthened by some staff members, they gained a victory over the OP team.

Next up was the mixed Hockey game and it was fabulous to see full teams playing in the spirit of the game. The more experienced OPs took the victory. Then it was Netball, where we had three teams playing, the College's team secured victory with an outstanding performance against an OP team from 2024 and followed this up with a victory against an OP team from 2023. The OPs vs College First XV John Shinkwin Trophy match was an entertaining game, with a strong OP team of leavers from 2023 and 2024 taking the victory. That made it honours even - thanks to all who played and to everyone who made the day so special.



### VSOPs Reunion welcomed back some special Old Princethorpians

In September, we were delighted to welcome some of the 'Old Girls' from St Mary's Priory, the original school on the Princethorpe site run by Benedictine nuns before the College was founded. The group are affectionately known to us as 'Very Special Old Princethorpians' (VSOPs).

Their get-together allowed for plenty of time to chat, reminisce, and take a wander around the College, to see how it has changed over the last seventy years. Our guests enjoyed catching up and sharing memories and their day included the chance to pore over a presentation and archive display arranged by our Archivist, Jo Wong. A Zoom call allowed more distant VSOPs to join in the reunion. The day finished with a special Mass conducted by Father Teddy O'Brien MSC.



### Bumper turnout for OPs London Meet

It was great to see a bumper turnout for our OPs London Meet on Friday 27 September. A diverse crowd of over 40 OPs from across the years converged on The Clachan in central London. Every decade from the 1970s to the 2020s was represented, with the Class of 2018 having the largest number of attendees.

Guests were greeted warmly by the Princethorpe contingent, including the Alumni and Development Team, longstanding Assistant Head, Neil McCollin and former longstanding Foundation Assistant Head, Alex Darkes. The evening unfolded happily in the upstairs room of this bustling pub, with welcome drinks provided courtesy of the OP Committee, and the friendly Clachan staff laying out a tasty buffet during the evening, much appreciated by all. The whole group enjoyed catching up, networking and reminiscing about their school days.

## Old Princethorpians



### OP Committee

Our new OP Committee broadened our representation of interests across the Foundation and we thank them all for their support of the community. They met each term to agree the direction of the group, the events, activities and initiatives and to ensure the representation of the wider alumni community.

We were especially delighted to welcome James Davies (pictured here on the back row between Grove du Toit and Ed Hester), into his new position as Chairperson.

The 2024-2025 OPs Committee included: Laura Brazier, Nigel Bromley, Nick Brosnan, Chris Cattle, Alex Darkes, James Davies, Nigel Denton, Tom Gleghorn, Peter Griffin, Ed Hunter, Lottie Jones, Charlie Lawton, Toni Reszka, Peter Rollason, Melissa Symonds, Mary Wheildon, Emma White and Libby Williams. The Committee was aided by a staff team, comprising Melanie Butler, Caroline Spencer, Ed Hester, Steve Kowal, Jacqui Quinney, Grove du Toit and Eddie Tolcher.



### Super turnout for local OPs Meet

We had a fantastic turnout of OPs, current and former parents and members of staff at the OPs Local Meet at the quirky and cosy Micro Pug on Clemens Street, Leamington in March. There were OPs from every decade of the College's history, from 1966 to 2024, as well as alumni of St Bede's, St Joseph's and Crackley Hall. It was marvellous to see such a diverse crowd mingling together, along with members of the OPs Committee and Princethorpe legends, Mr Darkes, Mr Hester, Mr McCullough and Mr McCollin. The Micro Pug was the perfect setting for this relaxed and jovial occasion, with the excellent bar service and tasty buffet fuelling the conversation right up until closing time.



### Sun shone for OPs Bluebells and Brunch

It was a pleasure to welcome former pupils, parents and staff from across the Foundation, along with their families and friends, to this year's Bluebells and Brunch. It was especially lovely to see pupils spanning every decade of Princethorpe College's history, as well as current parents of Crescent and Crackley pupils, mingling and enjoying each other's company over a delicious brunch in the College's Refectory.

After a warm welcome from Foundation Principal, Ed Hester, the guests were led on a tour of the College by OPs Secretary, Melanie Butler, and Alumni Relations Officer, Caroline Spencer, where former pupils and staff enjoyed spotting themselves in the photos along the Cloister corridor, and all could take in the splendour of the Chapel. The morning was topped off by a leisurely stroll in the sunshine admiring the bluebells along the Mile Walk.



### Friends reunited at OPs Summer Supper

Alumni from across the generations returned to the College on Friday 27 June to celebrate their anniversaries of leaving - many having not been back to the College or seen each other since they left as pupils. Joining the OPs from the classes of 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2015 were former members of staff, including Geography teacher, Mike Taylor and Languages teacher, Ed MacFetridge. The evening started with an optional tour of the campus before the drinks reception began in the Quad.

Once seated in the Refectory, Fr Alan Whelan MSC said Grace and the room filled with the hubbub of chatter and laughter as guests sat with peers from the same or similar leaving decade. Over a delicious three course meal, conversations were bolstered by scrolling images curated by Archivist, Jo Wong, which featured images of many of the attendees. It was a fantastic evening, enjoyed by all.

## Old Princethorpians

### Prize draws encourage new members to Connect

Across the year the Princethorpe Connect community continued to grow, bolstered by three prize draws.



Christmas came early for Lucy Litwinko (née Hayes), class of 2000, who was the lucky winner of the Princethorpe Connect Christmas Hamper Prize Draw. Alumni Relations Officer, Caroline Spencer, hand-delivered the hamper to her home in Rugby. Lucy has a long history with the Foundation, as a former

St Joseph's Convent School pupil and was amongst the first girls to arrive at Princethorpe when it became fully co-educational in 1995.



Then Thomas Webb, a pupil from 1992 to 1999 was our Easter Hamper winner, Thomas was surprised and delighted and shared that after Princethorpe he went on to study Genetics at Newcastle University, before working in the NHS for five years and then taking the leap into consultancy.



Our Summer Prize Draw winner was Jacob Hunt (Class of 2012). He received a hamper from The Cornish Company that was delivered to his home in Edinburgh. Jacob was most surprised as he had unwittingly entered the draw! After university, Jacob found himself in the fast-growing world of electric vehicles, first at Tesla and now at Ember.

Princethorpe Connect is our online alumni community network and it continues to grow numbering 1870 members by the end of the academic year. The system allows our alumni to keep in touch with each other and with developments and events at the Foundation.



### OP Speakers

Across the 2024-2025 academic year we were delighted to welcome a number of Old Princethorpians back to school to speak to and/or work with pupils.

Nearly sixty OPs were kind enough to support our bi-annual Careers Insights event, an incredible number. Our alumni communities' engagement with the Careers Programme evidencing the value former pupils place on the school's approach and paying back the school's investment in them.

We were also pleased to regularly welcome former pupils back to school to deliver curriculum enrichment sessions, for mentoring, to provide support for school initiatives and for networking opportunities. Huge thanks to John Dawson, Molly Geehan, Josh Popham, Rich Hill, Kathryn Lavery, Ruth Magill, Jason Evans, Alice Afford, Dina Parmenter and Chloe O'Carroll-Bailey.

## Staff hellos and goodbyes

The staff at Princethorpe remain one of the key reasons we can offer the excellent and broad education we are known for. Their commitment and willingness to give extra, enriches the experiences of all our pupils and we would like to say a massive thank you to all colleagues for their efforts this year.

### During the 2024/25 school year:

#### We welcomed:

Graham Burden, Katy Burrows, Sean Curley, Lynsey Dixon, Eleanor Farr, Rachel Fox, Jessica Hart, Daniel Hogg, Rebecca Iley, David Leach, James Long, Jo Turner, Mike Kobylak, Tiegan McCann, Sion Murphy, Pieter Strydom, Holly Summers, Hannah Thomas and Gemma Tilley.

#### And we said goodbye to:

Katy Burrows, Gurvinder Cholia, Felicity Coulson, Alison Cox, Gemma Cullinane, Katharine Darwood-Bredin, Chella Franklin, Nat Hardy, Amelia Hemmings, Amanda Kelly, Michael Luis, Daniel Lumb, Wendy McCann, Tiegan McCann, Meg O'Gorman, Lydia Petrucci, Lisa Reay, Laura Rindler, Katie Smith, Ian Wassman and Camilla Wellman.

We wished Katharine Darwood-Bredin well, as she left us after 11 years to take up a role at King's High. Her impact in the History and Politics department, as well as in Games and Activities, will be missed. We also said farewell to Meg O'Gorman who moved on to become Head of Department at Myton School. As Teacher of Religious Studies, House Activities Co-ordinator and an OP, Meg's positive approach to her work and her incredible ability to manage all things "House Activities" without breaking stride had been incredible.

Head of Classics, Laura Rindler also stepped down after five years' service. Her impact especially on our GCSE and A-level pupils, as well as teaching a whole course off timetable, was inspiring and she has left a big gap. Popular Business Studies teacher, Dan Lumb left to take on a new role at Stoneyhurst. Over four years he had thrown himself into everything and we will miss him as a Business Studies teacher, sports coach, DofE member of staff, and sports tour coach.

Popular English teacher, Lydia Petrucci, left after two years to travel the world and we thank her for her support of school productions, while Katy Burrows left the MFL team.

Our Graduate Teaching Assistants successfully finished their time at Princethorpe and we wished OP Nat Hardy and Tiegan McCann good luck with their next adventures while OP Sion Murphy has stayed on with us as a Trainee Teacher.

A number of non-teaching staff made their farewells this year including Alison Cox (Science Technician), Chella Franklin (Academic Systems Co-ordinator), Wendy McCann, our Foundation Office PA, who relocated overseas after eight years' service. Learning Support Assistant, Amanda Kelly also moved on after nine years here at Princethorpe. All these staff had made such a huge difference while working in the background to support our pupils.



Finally, Felicity Coulson retired after 35 years at the College. Her most recent role as Peri and LAMDA Co-ordinator kept hundreds in music and drama lessons every week, but previous roles included being a peripatetic music teacher, Teacher of Music and Teacher of History. Her dedication and genuine care had been invaluable and we are delighted that she will keep in touch as a Peri music teacher.

We also must mention Beth Sharpe who went on secondment as Principal of Trinity School in Leamington. A fantastic opportunity for her, even though Beth is not "leaving", we miss her larger-than-life presence and incredible care for our pupils.

A huge thank you to all our leavers for all they have done at Princethorpe.

## Results Day



### Princethorpe College celebrated another year of excellent exam results

**In the Sixth Form, 108 students sat A-level and BTEC examinations and completed the Extended Project Qualification and, continuing the strong performances of previous cohorts, two thirds of all grades awarded were A\*- B, with more than a third being A\*- A. Impressively, 16 pupils achieved three or more A\* or A grades.**

At GCSE, Princethorpe pupils also performed well, from a cohort of 113 pupils, more than half of all entries were the coveted 9, 8 or 7 grades, with a quarter of pupils achieving nine or more 9, 8 or 7 grades.

Grove du Toit, Headmaster, commented, "We were delighted with the excellent results that our Sixth Form students and Year 11 pupils achieved. They worked incredibly hard and deserved their results. It was wonderful to see all their happy faces on results day. We were thrilled that our pupils received such good grades but also, more importantly, that the overwhelming majority moved on to their first choice of next step."

He continued, "We are proud of their academic achievements, but all these pupils have many other fine qualities: kindness, respect and a strong sense of right and wrong, which will be tremendously important for them in the next phase of their lives. We wish them all the very best."

“We are proud of their academic achievements, but all these pupils have many other fine qualities: kindness, respect and a strong sense of right and wrong.”

# Good Schools Guide



## Good School Guide updated their review

In January, Princethorpe College received its second review by the prestigious Good Schools Guide. The Guide, which selects schools to be included on merit alone, is famous for its unbiased and candid reviews of state and private schools and is trusted by families worldwide. The College is one of just 1,300 schools currently reviewed by the Guide, out of over 30,000 schools in the UK.

An editor from the Guide had visited the College in December 2024, interviewed the Headmaster, Grove du Toit, toured the campus, observed lessons and spoke to pupils, staff and parents.

The nearly 3,000-word review, which appears on the Good Schools Guide's website and is included in the hard copy edition, includes a pen portrait of the Headmaster, plus insights into exam results, teaching and learning, co-curricular life, pastoral care and the College's ethos and heritage.

Comments Grove du Toit, Headmaster, "After two years in post I was excited to welcome the Good Schools Guide back to Princethorpe to update their review. I am delighted with their findings, especially their recognition of our exceptionally strong pastoral care. Our 'Spirit of Family' approach shines through, along with the fact that while we are proud of our Catholic ethos and heritage, we are an inclusive community that welcomes all faiths and none. I am also heartened by the parental feedback on our positive and encouraging approach to teaching and learning, that engages creatively, sets high expectations and gently pushes pupils to achieve." He continues, "It's good to have our wonderful rural location and facilities highlighted, including our new Science Centre, and our commitment to developing our campus further, particularly in relation to improving and expanding our sporting facilities – we have very exciting projects planned. All in all, to me it feels a very fair picture of the school and I would encourage current and prospective families to read it."

The very comprehensive and positive review concludes with a Last Word, which sums up the Guide's findings:

*"Scratch beneath the surface of Princethorpe's majestic façade and landscaped beauty, and you'll find pastoral care is its beating heart. Imbuing all disciplines and endeavours, it pumps pupils with confidence as they develop and learn. A picture-perfect pastoral idyll."*





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