



ACADEMY LIFE

*Aspire
Endeavour
Achieve*



Principal's Update

It's hard to believe that we have reached the end of the school year! It's been an eventful and enjoyable first year as Principal and I have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the students' achievements each month in the newsletter.

It's only just over 2 weeks since I sent the last newsletter and it's remarkable how much has happened since then!

Sports Day was excellent. I would like to thank all the PE team for their organisation and administration of the event. Lily writes about the day in detail later and that article captures the excitement beautifully. All record breakers are listed at the end of the newsletter, but we must also recognise that often winning is not just coming first; many students showed great resilience and determination in events they took part in to support their house rather than because it was an event of choice! Thank you everyone for your house spirit.

We have had many trips and visits over the last 3 weeks – Barcelona, Battlefields, Spring Lakes, Alton Towers and Ghana. Students have written more about these later, but they were all very much enjoyed.



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The international trips spanned weekends and overnights and I am very grateful to the staff that give their time freely to enable students to have these opportunities.

This week, the Creative Arts department have put on our Summer Show. Many of you were able to watch and what a treat it was for the end of term – if a little warm! A great mixture of solo artists, bands and groups displaying their very best talents as musicians and dancers. Huge thanks to Mrs Ball, Mr Gore, Mrs Chu and Mrs Chambers for the many rehearsals that produced the polished performances, and for the back stage help from Mrs Purewal and Miss McIntosh.

We have also treated every student to an ice-cream and rewarded a group of students for their achievement, behaviour and/or progress with the opportunity to drive a full-sized car in a driving experience around the school yards. I've also had the pleasure of presenting prizes to the winners of our Art competition. It was open to all students, and staff and students voted for the winners. Congratulations Leo, Lily and Isaac in Year 9 who were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Yesterday saw our annual Colour Run – the final activity for this year.

It was another great event and it's always a real privilege to watch all the students having such fun, even though I end up a multicoloured version of myself! Mrs Hardacre oversees all the enrichment and rewards events and, as you can imagine, these final weeks are very busy for her - thank you Mrs Hardacre!

I'll speak to the students in a final assembly today and celebrate all their successes with them. It has been a fantastic year and I hope all families enjoy a wonderful summer break.

Best Wishes,



Emma Wagg
Principal



Bake-Off

This week our GCSE Year 9 and Year 10 students have completed a "show stoppers bake off" challenge.

All students were given a basic sponge recipe to adapt and develop to create their own professionally presented cakes. Students have demonstrated excellent skills, organisation and creativity with the preparation and presentation of their cakes, embedding skills they have learnt over the last year to garnish and decorate their outcomes.



Spring Lakes Activity Day

Mr Davies, Miss Barr, and several other staff had the incredible opportunity to take more than 100 students to Spring Lakes Aqua Park this year as part of Activities Day this year. All who took part were blessed with incredible weather for the day, with temperatures reaching mid-30s by the middle of the day.

Students were able to tackle a huge aqua assault course in groups, but they also had access to a beach area with warm, soft sand, as well as an area to swim during their down-time. The cold and fresh lake water was a wonderful antidote to the summer heatwave.



Staff were keen to join the students on the assault course, with Mr Boon and Mrs Cooper leading the first group. Mrs Ball, Mrs Purewal, and Miss McIntosh got involved with lake staff creating TikToks for social media before being pushed into the water from height, and Mr Davies, Miss Barr, and Mr Ablewhite took the final group through with year 10 students seeking to push them in throughout the session!

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Students and staff had an amazing time, and we look forward to returning in 2027.

Seb, Year 9, added:

On the day that we went to the Water Park we spent most of our time there enjoying our relaxation on the man-made beach which we all enjoyed. Overall there was a great experience on the beach and we had some good food while we waited.

Once on the inflatables it was perfect as there were several slides and I was able to go on every single one luckily. There were two courses set that allowed us to spend our time with 30 minutes on each one with 1 hour in total. The first course was focused on more obstacles whereas the second was more traversing. Overall, it was amazing as we could push each other in as we pleased, leading to some awesome moments and great laughs!



Trentham Tantalises Talks



Three of our amazing students had the opportunity to represent Trentham on the city circuit at the SASCAL Youth Speaks event this half-term. This event was hotly contested, with a total of 8 schools from across Stoke on Trent competing to be Youth Speaks champions across a 4-hour long competition.

The Youth Speaks event is undertaken by Stoke on Trent Rotary Club and is designed to encourage young people to develop creative and presentation skills essential to the art of public speaking. The competition is daunting- students must open the speech to the crowd, deliver the content confidently whilst engaging the audience, give a vote of thanks

to the audience and panel, receive a question that is unprepared, then close the speech formally. On top of these requirements, this speech must not take any more than 15 minutes in total. A truly mammoth task!

Lyle, Tara and Millie, all year 9, prepared and presented 'The Power of Words'. This was a thought-provoking topic that managed to enchant an audience of teachers, students, and parents. Despite facing topics such as 'Brainrot', toxic masculinity, reality dating, the upcoming social media ban, and glossophobia (the fear of public speaking), our amazing students got a rapturous applause from all. Many staff from other schools commented on the quality of responses and were taken aback at the formality and presentation of our amazing students. Despite all of this, and all of their best efforts, a win was not to be on the cards for this year.

Lyle, Tara, and Millie presented the best version of themselves and made a genuine impact on those who attended. They represented Trentham perfectly, and displayed nothing but respect, optimism, integrity, and responsibility. Well done, and well-deserved congratulations on your representation of the academy.



Battlefields trip

By Phoebe, Year 10

On Friday 10th July the Year 10 History students left school at 1.15am on the Belgium trip to visit the First World War sites. After getting the ferry from Dover and travelling from there to Ypres, we visited Essex Farm where we were able to look at the graves of soldiers who had died in the war and read the names, ages and where the soldiers came from.

We then visited Sanctuary Wood Museum where we were able to walk through the trenches and tunnels that soldiers would have used, and experience what it would have been like for soldiers fighting during World War One. We then saw the graveyard in Langemark German Cemetery and the Tyne Cote Cemetery where we visited the graves of the unidentified soldiers of the war.



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On Saturday we visited smaller graveyards during the morning and went to the Newfoundland Memorial Park of Beaumont Hamel where we saw undisturbed trench lines. The group visited Thiepval Memorial and visitor centre that honoured British and South-African soldiers with no known grave.



We were also able to take part in The Last Post Ceremony which takes place daily at exactly 8pm at the Menin Gate Memorial on the Saturday evening where we were involved in laying a wreath down and showing respect to the soldiers.



On Sunday we left the hotel and visited Passchendaele Memorial Museum where we were able to walk around and understand more about what happened during World War One. We also walked through tunnels underground which imitated what the soldiers would have gone through during their time fighting and being in the trenches.

The Belgium History trip was a great experience which improved my knowledge of World War One and has supported a lot of understanding of the Medicine on the Western Front topic which we have been studying too.



Sports Day 2026

By Lily, Year 10

The sun's blazing, exams are over, and the face paint's on; that can all only mean one thing: Sports Day's here again!

After a tragic year last year with the absence of Sports Day due to poor weather, all years were eager to compete for their houses in the 2026 Sports Day.

Field events and long-distance track began in the morning during periods one and two, and these events included: 800 metres, javelin, long jump and shot put. The day was already shaping up to be a warm one, but that didn't stop students smashing new records! There were three new record holders for the 800 metres race across Years 8 and 10; a huge congratulations to Gideon, Beau and Iris with their respective times of 2 minutes 29 seconds, 3 minutes 8 seconds and 2 minutes 51 seconds.



Each of these record-setters obviously went on to win their houses the maximum number of six points, which became five points for second place, four points for third place and so forth, with points being awarded no matter the placement!

The javelins were soaring this year, with new records in Years 7, 9 and 10! Hugo, Bella, Jude, Bella H, Mo and Iris all set impressive new records that will prove tough to beat next year!

There was a tangible sense of competition and excitement out on the field in the afternoon. There was a sea of faces adorned in eccentric face paint in their house colours, with some people even bringing handmade signs along to cheer on their house, form and friends!



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Alongside the competition, there was undeniable sportsmanship and fun in the afternoon, as each competitor supported each other, and everyone gave it their absolute best for their houses.

It was a packed afternoon, with events consisting of: 60 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, relay and tug of war. Each event consisted of two heats that went into a final, which calls for a huge congratulations to anyone who competed for their perseverance in running not once, but twice.

Despite the blistering heat, the records kept coming! All of the Sports Day records can be found on the wall by the PE office, but I'm going to take you through the events in which both the boy and the girl within a year set a new record in the same event.

For Year 7, both Kingsley and Ayva set new records at 32.68 seconds and 33.7 seconds in the 200 metres.

In Year 8, the 60 metre records were smashed by Thomas at 7.97 seconds and Harriet at 9.03 seconds.

With Year 9, Toby and Sienna set the new bar for the 400 metres at 1 minute 3 seconds and 1 minute 15 seconds.

And last but not least, in Year 10, with a time of 7.15 seconds for Addison and 8.63 seconds for Evie, both broke the record for the 60 metres.

Another set of competitors that we must congratulate are all the teachers who took part in the teachers' race! It was a tough race, with fierce competition, and after enduring a wheelbarrow walk, an egg and spoon race, a space hopper and a (questionably approached) skipping rope, Mrs Cooper and Mr Boon emerged victorious, claiming a team victory for the science department.



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Now we’ve supported competitors’ individual successors, it’s time to see how their efforts paid off for their houses!

In 3rd place, with 377 points, was Apollo! Despite this, Apollo secured some brilliant victories throughout the day: victories in 800 metres for both Years 7 and 8, victories in shot put for Years 7, 8 and 10, victories in long jump for Year 10, and numerous victories throughout the track events in the afternoon!

Taking second place was Pioneer, with 434 points - that was only 22 points behind the champion house. Pioneer set many new records throughout the day, including: Years 8 and 10 800 metres, Year 7 and 10 javelin, Year 8 and 9 long jump, Year 7 shot put, and plentiful track events throughout the afternoon.

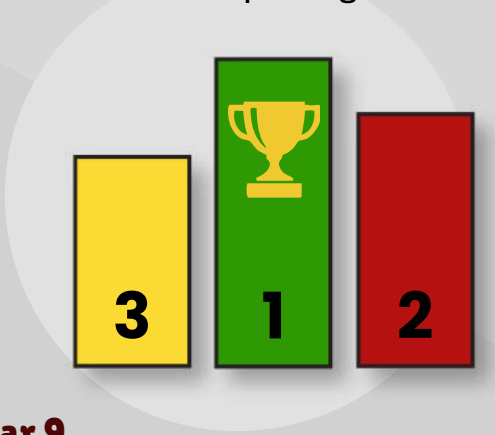
Sports Day Record Breakers

Year 8

Event	Boys	Girls
800 metres	Gideon 2.29	Beau 3.08
Long Jump	Harrison 4.00m	Amy 3.25m
Shot	Oumer 11.10m (2.72kg)	-
400 metres	Charlie 1.05.05	-
200 metres	Oumer 27.21s	Beau 32.56s
60 metres	Thomas 7.97s	Harriet M 9.03s

And then, as you may have already guessed, the winning house of Sports Day 2026 was Voyager, with a grand total of 456 points! Cheers from the forms painted in green rang across the field as Voyager House Captains Iris and Lydia hoisted the cup into the air.

If you haven’t yet figured it out, Sports Day 2026 was an epic day of sport, success and competition! No matter which house you were supporting, it was a fun-filled day that did not disappoint. A final huge congratulations to anyone who competed, no matter what place you came in, and a round of applause for Voyager, who demonstrated their sporting excellence!



Year 9

Event	Boys	Girls
Javelin	Jude 30.40m	Bella 19.00m
Long Jump	-	Harriet B 3.80m
200 metres	-	Harriet B 30.63s
400 metres	Toby 1.03.15	Sienna 1.15.57
60 metres	-	Rosa 8.82s



Sports Day Record Breakers – Year 10

Event	Boys	Girls
800 metres	-	Iris 2.51
Javelin	Mo 31.30m	Iris 16.60m
Long Jump	-	Serren 3.50m
200 metres	Joe 27.00s	Imogen 30.25s
400 metres	AJ 1.02.69	-
60 metres	Addison 7.15s	Evie 8.63s



Barcelona 2026

By Millie, Year 9

I went to Barcelona with my parents about a year ago, so when I heard about the Trentham Academy trip to Barcelona, I assumed it would be exactly the same. I am so glad to be proven wrong. This trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and completely changed my view on what it meant to take Spanish as a GCSE.

We set off on the 25th of June from the academy to the airport, had a two hour plane ride & ended up in Spain sooner than I had expected. The first thing I noticed was the heat. If you think this recent heatwave was bad, try flying to Spain and surviving a whole four days there! Luckily, due to the staff's assistance & constant reminders, we stayed safe in the sun via constant reapplication of sun cream. Top tip – a fan will save your life!



After a day of travelling and plenty of rest in the hotel, the 26th was a whole 24 hours of sightseeing. Probably the best sightseeing I've ever sight-seen. (If that's a word?) We started off with a tour of La Sagrada Familia. I expected the visit to involve a few photos of the exterior, a quick stop for a snack, and then onto the next stop. What I did not expect was to actually go inside! The views from both the outside and the inside of the basilica were phenomenal – the stained glass windows, the statues, the carvings and their hidden meanings - I'd never even thought about the pillars on the outside until we were told that they represented Jesus Christ's bones! I cannot recommend a tour of La Sagrada Familia enough.

A quick stop at the park for lunch & a walk down the shops later, we found ourselves in the Olympic Museum. Now, I've never been a sporty sort of person, but this museum was crazy! The fact that Barcelona has been home to so many different kinds of sports and events is baffling.



Poble Espanyol was our next stop. You'd expect the best part to be when we got ice cream. Treats aside, the historical buildings and gorgeous shops were certainly a sight to see. Had to get a few jewellery pieces as a memento.

The 27th wasn't as packed with Spanish history and sightseeing but was certainly extremely fun! We spent the day at Port Aventura – a huge theme park that I reckon could top Disneyland. Going on rides with my friends (and even my teachers) was the perfect way to spend our last full day in Spain. Our trip to the park was incredible and even helped me get over my fear of large rollercoasters, as I went on a ride named Shambhala, which was the third tallest ride in the whole park!



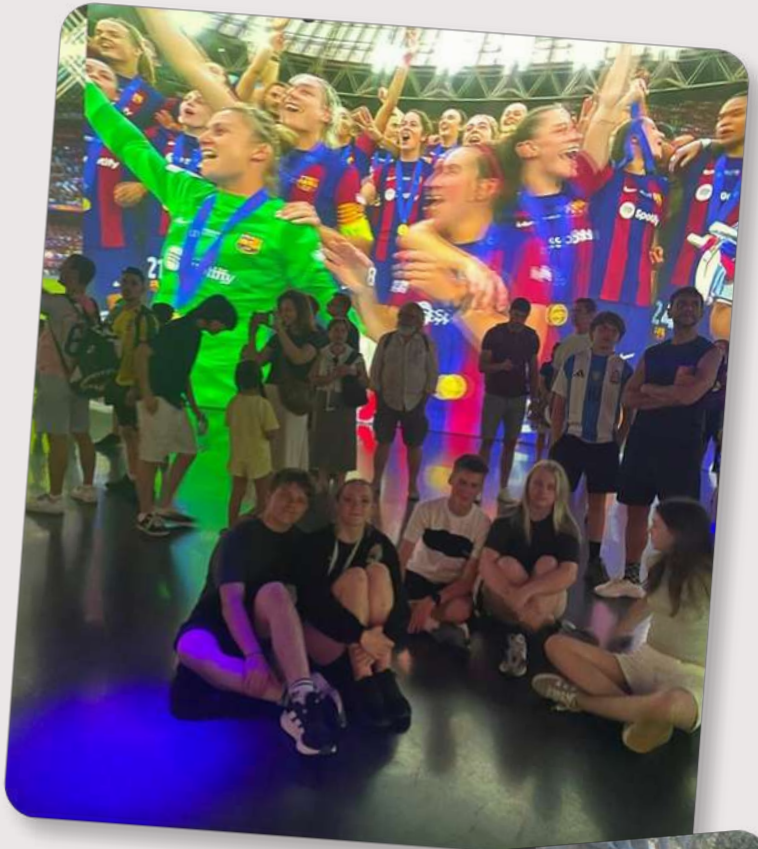


The night of the 27th involved a party in the hotel bar, where we had drinks, played games and even saw a magic show! Though it doesn't relate to the culture of Spain, seeing a man set a ball of string on fire & then turn it into a dove was incredible!

Sadly, our tour had now come to an end on the 28th. However, we had a good few hours to pack in as many visits we could until we had to head back to the airport. As I have stated, I am not a sport person, which is why our visit to the Camp Nou museum (a football stadium) did not spark much excitement into me at first. Still, it was great to learn about Barcelona's achievements in sport & learn about the players. If football is your cup of tea, this museum is for you!

Our last big stop was Park Güell. An entire park built by the artist Antoni Gaudi, who also built La Sagrada Familia. The park, while hot, was gorgeous! Packed with mosaics and the most interesting architecture I'd ever laid my eyes upon. There was even a little fountain with a colourful lizard on it! Sadly, we couldn't stay long because of the heat, but it was an amazing park with gorgeous views of the city which I would love to go back to and see again.

That brought us to the end of our trip to Barcelona. I was devastated when we left. I'm still shocked while I'm writing this article that I actually went to Barcelona and saw all of those gorgeous, beautiful sights and took part in all of those activities. I'm sure that all of my fellow Spanish students can agree. ¡Créeme, el viaje es increíble!



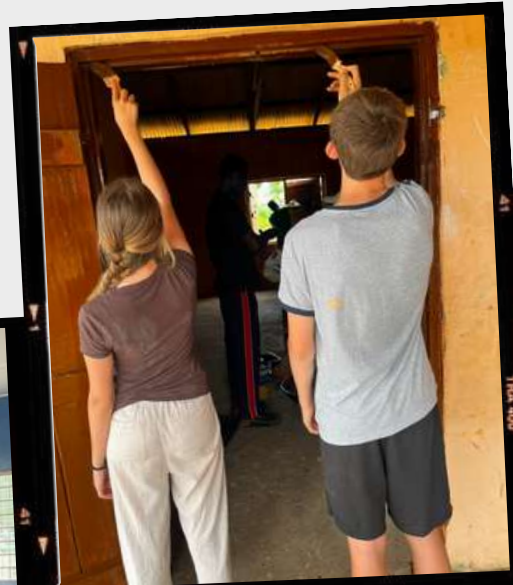
Character and Arts Trip to Ghana

By Milly, Year 10

Over the past few weeks, a group of 15 students had the incredible opportunity to spend 8 days in Ghana, alongside Mr Melin, Miss Chu, and a group from Heywood Academy. We stayed in the village of Woe, in the Volta region. It was truly an unforgettable and humbling experience, where we were able to immerse ourselves into the culture, while also giving back to the community.

The highlight of the trip was most definitely the volunteer work in the school. Students and staff carried out a range of activities, such as construction (tiling and painting), and teaching. Although we were there to make a positive impact for the children and teachers working in the school, it became clear that we were learning just as much from them.

Their enthusiasm, kindness, and joy was truly inspiring.



During the week, we embraced Ghanaian culture in many different ways - we learnt traditional drumming, made Ghanaian food, and were introduced to Ewe (the language spoken in the Volta region).

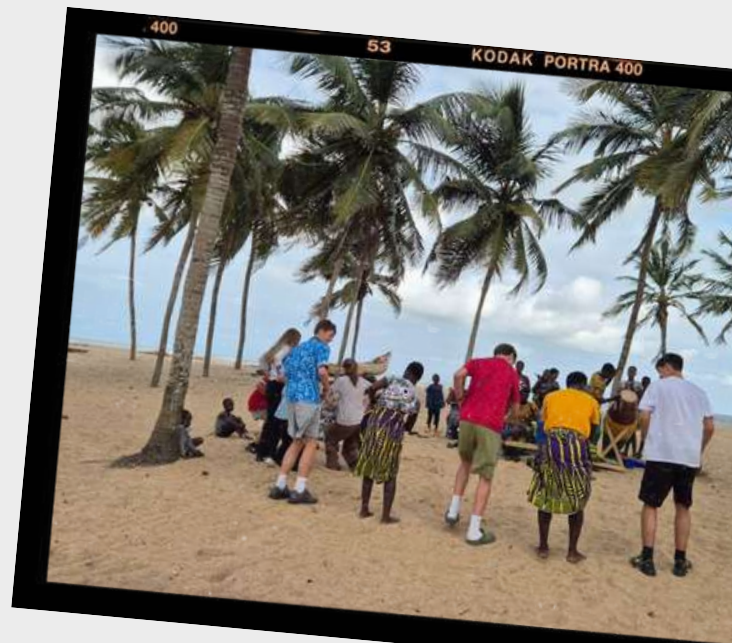
These experiences gave us a much deeper understanding and appreciation for the culture and way of life.

A particularly interesting part was when we visited one of the slave forts. This experience was quite emotional, evoking a greater importance of remembering and reflecting on the past.

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We also spent plenty of time at the local beaches which were absolutely breathtaking. The locals put on many performances for us, we tried fresh coconuts, and equally, just relaxed after the tiresome and fulfilled day we had.

Ultimately, this trip was life changing for everyone on it; everyone came home with a greater appreciation for the Ghanaian culture, and a renewed sense of gratitude. It was so rewarding to know that we've made a positive impact for all of the children at the school - it was very heartbreaking to leave them on the last day. So many incredible memories, experiences, and friends were made in the process.



We are extremely grateful to the Character and Arts Foundation for making this trip possible, and a huge thank you goes out to all of the staff that accompanied us on our voyage. Another thank you goes out to all of the people that contributed to our trip: the donations were gratefully received with disbelief and big, heartwarming smiles. These will have a huge impact for the school we volunteered in and the surrounding community.



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We are all inspired to continue making a positive impact in our own community, and I wish that we could go back and do it all over again.



Coming up in August & September

August

- 2 Save Trentham Greenbelt Group meeting at 7pm in the Trentham Community Learning Centre.

Contact savetrenthamgreenbelt@gmail.com for further information

- 20 Year 11 Results day 9am

September

- 1 Inset
- 2 Inset
- 3 Students return (Yr 7 at 8.40, Yr 11 at 10.00 and Years 8-10 at 11.25)
- 3 Academy Photographs - Year 7 & Year 9
- 10 Academy Open Evening 5 - 8 pm
- 23 Academy Open Morning 9:15 - 11 am
- 24 Academy Open Morning 9:15 - 11 am
- 29 History visit to the Houses of Parliament



Student Rewards

Congratulations to the following students who received positive phone calls home from Mrs Wagg in July:

- Yousef, Carter, Reggie and Esme in Year 7
- James, Gideon and stan in Year 8
- Lily, Isaac, Maggie and Millie in Year 9
- Mia in Year 10

Well done everyone!



Please let us know of any achievements you'd like to share in the newsletter by sending them to trentham@clt.trentham.coop, with 'Newsletter' in the subject line.