

NEWS LETTER

SUMMER 26



LIFE
IN ALL ITS FULLNESS



THE BISHOP FRASER TRUST

MORE THAN A WINNING MOMENT



WELCOME

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Parents and Carers

As another academic year ends, I would like to thank you for your support and wish you and your families a happy and restful summer. It has been an incredibly busy term, with public examinations followed by one of the hottest weeks in recent memory. I am immensely grateful to our staff, whose hard work kept our schools open safely throughout the heatwave.

There has been much to celebrate. Whilst we await examination results, the summer series has gone smoothly. Our primary schools have also achieved encouraging outcomes in phonics, multiplication tables and Early Years assessments, reflecting the commitment of pupils, staff and families.

One highlight was our inaugural Bishop Fraser Trust Music Gala, where more than 300 pupils performed to a packed audience. It celebrated talent, collaboration and the opportunities our family of schools can provide. Pupils have also enjoyed visits, residentials, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, sport and enrichment that bring learning to life and help us fulfil our vision of enabling every child to experience life in all its fullness (John 10:10). We were also delighted to celebrate the Ofsted success at Bury Church of England High School, recognising the tremendous work of staff and the character shown by pupils.

As we look ahead to September, I would

like to ask for your continued support with one issue that makes an enormous difference to every child's success: attendance. I understand that reminders from schools can feel relentless and that holidays outside term time may cost considerably less. None of this is lost on us. However, schools cannot secure strong attendance without parents and carers. We can provide strong teaching, care and opportunity, but we rely on families to ensure that pupils arrive each day ready to take part.

Every day in school matters. Regular attendance supports learning, friendships, confidence and belonging. By ensuring children attend whenever they are well enough, families give them the best chance to benefit from every opportunity available.

Thank you once again for your partnership. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September as we continue working together to ensure every child thrives within our Trust family.

Tuesday Humby
CEO

I am delighted to write to you at the end of a very successful year for The Bishop Fraser Trust, and to introduce myself for the first time to parents and carers in the schools that joined us this academic year.

Trustees undertake much of their work behind the scenes, so it has been particularly special to see our young people in action. I had the privilege of attending the Trust's first Music Gala at Victoria Hall. What a fantastic evening it was. Parents, carers and staff should be incredibly proud of the young people who performed so magnificently.

I was equally delighted to join Year 5 pupils from Walmsley CE Primary School on their

residential in the Peak District. I was blown away by their energy, enthusiasm and bravery — that climbing wall was high!

Experiences such as these are possible because staff across the Trust go above and beyond to help every pupil live life in all its fullness. They are also strengthened by the encouragement and support pupils receive from their families.

Thank you for the important part you play in our school communities. I wish you and your families a blessed and relaxing summer.

Lesley Durosomo
Chair of Trustees



Confidence, Creativity and a Shared Stage

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Across the Trust, the performing arts have brought pupils together in ways that feel joyful and significant. The inaugural Bishop Fraser Trust Music Gala was a particular highlight, giving pupils from different schools and age groups the opportunity to share a stage, support one another and contribute to something larger than their performance.

For some, this meant singing as part of a choir or performing before a large audience. For others, it was the quieter experience of rehearsing, listening carefully and learning how their part fitted within the whole. Pupils from across the Trust

represented their schools with confidence and pride, reflecting the commitment shown over many weeks of rehearsals.

The Gala formed part of a wider picture. At St James's, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory brought together performers, with the art department supporting the production through its work on props. Bolton St Catherine's Academy brought Shrek the Musical to life, while pupils at Edgworth joined schools across the country through Dance for Rights, using performance to highlight children's rights.

What stands out is the range of ways pupils have been able to take part. Not everyone wants to be centre stage, but productions and performances depend equally on teamwork, preparation and the confidence to contribute. These experiences allow pupils to discover new strengths, develop their creativity and feel part of something shared.

Long after the final applause, it is often that sense of belonging, achievement and possibility that remains for pupils.





Every Step Matters

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has continued to give pupils across the Trust the chance to challenge themselves, contribute to their communities and grow in confidence through experience.

At Canon Slade, participation has remained strong, with 89 pupils taking part at Bronze level and 56 at Silver. Expeditions through Tockholes, Anglezarke, Rivington and the Forest of Bowland brought changing weather, long days and, for some, the added challenge of completing their journey during the heatwave. What stood out was the positivity pupils maintained, the way they supported one another and the determination shown in seeing each expedition through.



At Bolton St Catherine's Academy, Year 9 pupils also successfully completed their Bronze expedition. Their experience continued with the volunteering section, where pupils collected 40 bags of litter from around the school perimeter. It was a practical contribution to the local environment, but also an example of the responsibility and commitment that sit at the heart of the Award.

The expedition is often the most visible part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, but it is only one element of a much broader programme. Through volunteering, physical activity and developing a skill, pupils learn that progress is built gradually. It depends on organisation, consistency and a willingness to keep going when things do not go to plan.

These opportunities also rely on staff and volunteers who give evenings, weekends and time beyond the school day. Their encouragement allows pupils to take on challenges that may initially feel beyond them and discover what they are capable of.

By the end, the distance travelled is only part of the achievement. What remains is greater independence, stronger relationships and the confidence that comes from completing something difficult together.

Sporting Success Across the Trust



Sport has continued to give pupils opportunities to compete, work together and represent their schools with pride. There have been some outstanding achievements, including Turton and Edgworth's historic Lancashire hardball cricket title, alongside success in netball, football and athletics across our schools. What stands out most is not simply the result, but the resilience, discipline and encouragement shown along the way. These experiences build confidence, strengthen relationships and help pupils discover what more they can achieve together.





National Recognition for a Lasting Impact

It is always special when the work taking place every day in our schools is recognised beyond them. Rachael Robinson, Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning at Bolton St Catherine's Academy, has received a Silver Award in the Pearson National Teaching Awards for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School. The awards panel recognised her impact on classroom practice, her exceptional subject knowledge and her ability to bring history vividly to life. They also highlighted the care and compassion she shows pupils, particularly those needing the greatest support. Known by many families as "the teacher who made a difference", this recognition reflects the lasting impact Rachael has made on pupils, colleagues and the wider school community.



Learning Beyond the Classroom ...

Across the Trust, visits and residential have taken pupils beyond familiar routines and brought learning to life in memorable ways. From exploring Roman Britain in Northumberland and discovering wildlife at Martin Mere and Blackpool Zoo to residential in the Isle of Man, Willersley and Barcelona, pupils have developed independence, curiosity and confidence.

These opportunities often become the moments pupils remember most: discovering somewhere new, trying something unfamiliar and realising they are capable of more than they first thought.



In Our
Schools
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Ready to Lead

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From running their own enterprise event to presenting a case in a mock courtroom, pupils at St Catherine's CE Primary School have taken on responsibilities that brought learning vividly to life.

In Year 6, pupils showed real independence through their Enterprise Summer Fayre, planning and running the event themselves. From budgeting and marketing to organising stalls and managing money, they took responsibility for every stage and raised £429.48 for charity, their leavers' celebrations and improvements to the school.

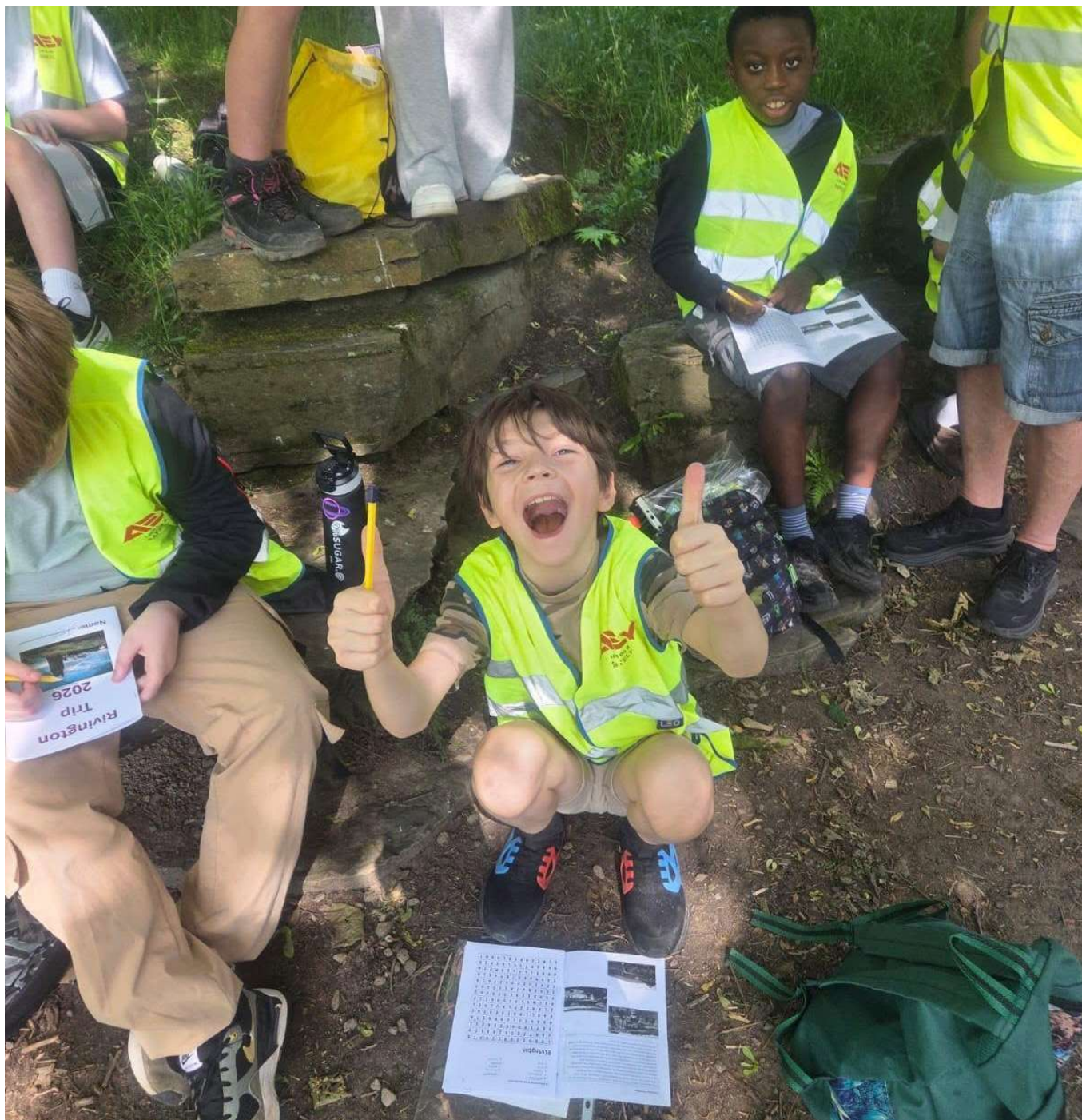
Confidence was also evident in the Greater Manchester Magistrates Association Mock Trial finals. Pupils presented their case with maturity and professionalism, gaining a valuable insight into the justice

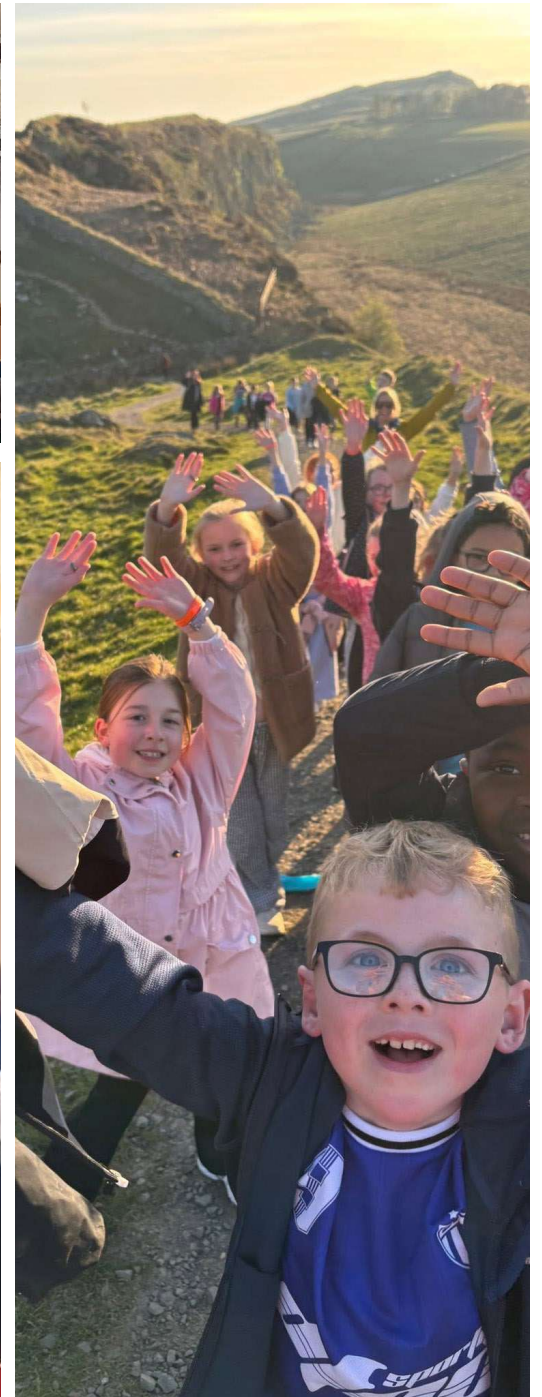
system while strengthening their speaking, listening and teamwork skills.

Learning beyond the classroom has remained an important part of the term. Year 4 explored Roman Britain during their residential in Northumberland, visiting Hadrian's Wall, Housesteads, Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum. Year 5 also connected local history with the landscape through their study of Lord Leverhulme and a visit to the Pigeon Tower.

Sport has provided further opportunities to represent the school with pride. Pupils achieved third place in the QuadKids competition, competed in netball and the inclusive Panathlon, and celebrated the end of primary school through the Year 6 Colour Run.

Creativity has flourished too, from striking Black Shuck clay sculptures to hearing the BBC Philharmonic perform and the Key Stage 2 Choir's appearance at the Trust Music Gala. Together, these experiences have helped pupils discover new strengths and grow in confidence.









Rooted in Community ...

Pupils at St Margaret's CE Primary School have enjoyed a term shaped by curiosity, community and opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

Key Stage 2 pupils took part in the Generation Wild project at Martin Mere, exploring woodland trails, pond habitats and wildlife in their natural environment. These experiences encouraged pupils to ask questions, develop confidence outdoors and think more deeply about stewardship and the importance of caring for God's creation.

The new Beeyond Project has also become an important part of school life. Bringing together current pupils, former pupils, families and members of the wider community, it has created space for friendship, belonging and service beyond the

school day. What began as a small gathering has continued to grow, strengthening relationships and helping people feel more connected to the school.

A partnership with FareShare through the Delicious Vegilicious programme has supported families while also reducing food waste. Fresh vegetables were made available to families, with visiting chefs showing how the vegetables could be turned into healthy and affordable meals. The project brought together practical learning, wellbeing and community support in a simple but meaningful way.

Alongside Spanish days, trips, outdoor learning and environmental activities, these projects have given pupils opportunities to explore new experiences and contribute positively to the world around them. Together, they reflect a school community rooted in hope, aspiration and service, where pupils are encouraged to flourish, build strong relationships and understand that their choices can make a difference, both within school and in their wider community.







Progress and Pride ...

This term has brought significant recognition for Bury Church of England High School, alongside a wide range of opportunities for pupils to develop confidence, ambition and a stronger sense of their place in the wider community.

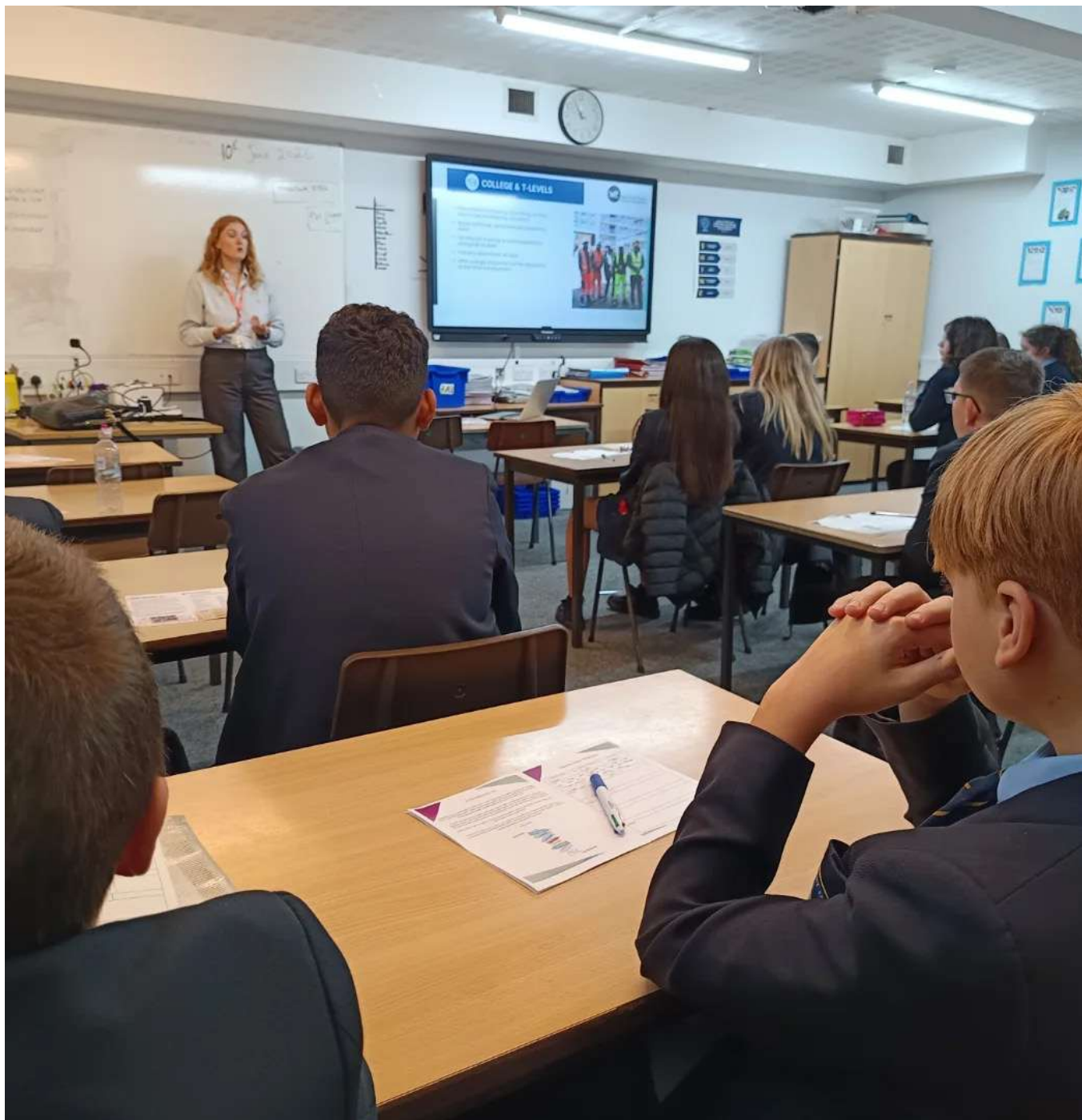
The school's recent Ofsted inspection recognised the progress made across all areas of school life, with personal development and wellbeing judged at the strong standard. The report highlighted that pupils are happy, behave calmly and respectfully, and are supported by leaders who act in their best interests. This reflects the sustained work of staff, pupils and families over time.

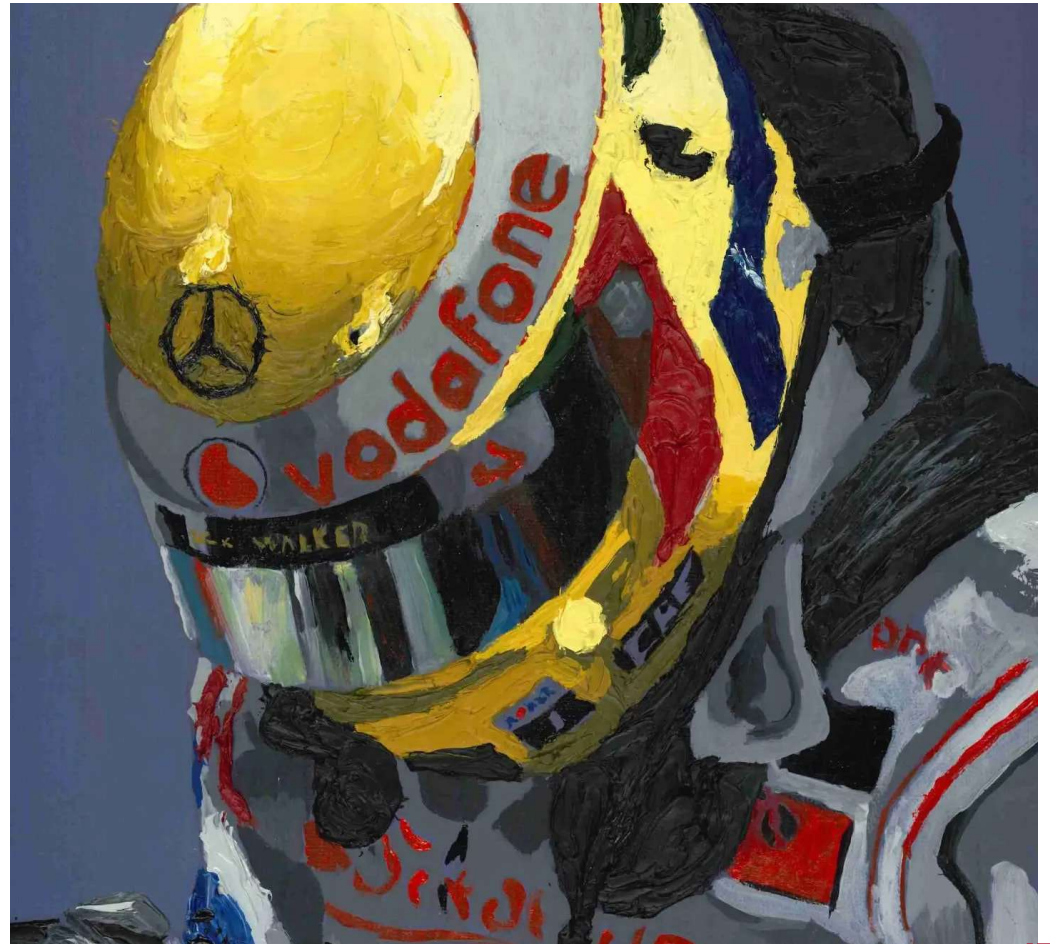
Beyond the inspection, pupils have continued to engage in experiences that connect learning with future possibilities. Year 9 pupils represented the school at the Holy Cross College Science Challenge, tackling robotics, forensic science, engineering and medical diagnosis. Two pupils were part of the winning team and will now progress to the regional finals.

Careers education has also helped pupils look ahead. Year 8 met professionals from a range of sectors through a World of Work event, learning more about different pathways and the skills employers value.

Creativity has remained an important part of school life. Year 9 artwork exploring identity, community and diversity was displayed publicly in Bury town centre, giving pupils the opportunity to share their ideas with a wider audience. Pupils also represented the school at the Trust Music Gala.

Across these experiences, pupils have shown resilience, maturity and pride in their school. It has been encouraging to see them recognise what they can contribute and begin to imagine what may come next.







New Places, New Perspectives

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Pupils at Walmsley CE Primary School have enjoyed a term filled with opportunities to explore, take responsibility and build confidence beyond their usual routines.

Residentials and visits have played an important part. The Willersley weekend gave pupils time away together, developing independence and strengthening friendships through shared experiences. Year 6 travelled to London, combining sightseeing with a visit to Chessington and a performance of the musical Hercules, while other pupils enjoyed a day at Gulliver's World.

Learning has also been brought to life in ways that connect closely with the curriculum. Year 1 began their science work on animal groups at

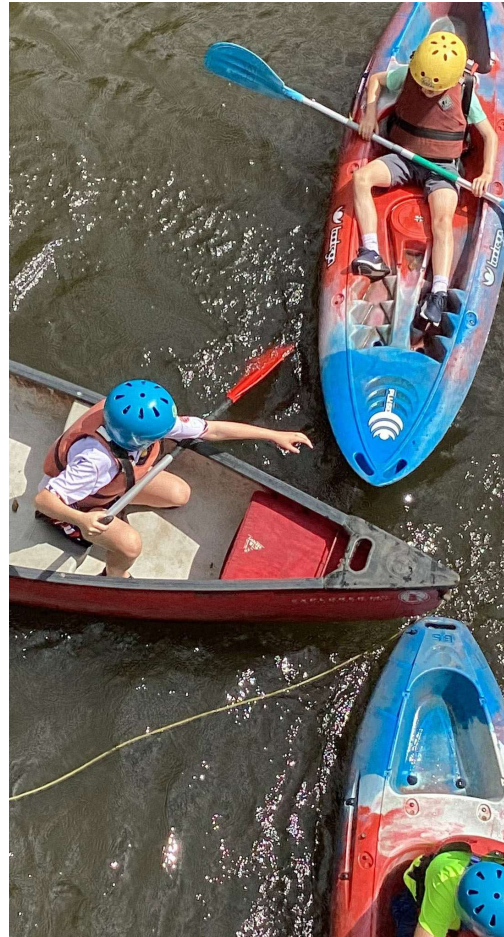
Blackpool Zoo, taking part in a practical workshop before exploring the zoo. Reception pupils continued to develop curiosity and confidence outdoors through their woodland sessions.

In English, pupils reading *Someone Swallowed Stanley* explored the impact of plastic waste on wildlife. They turned old T-shirts into reusable bags, wrote personal pledges and considered how everyday choices can help protect the environment. It was a thoughtful example of learning leading to practical action.

Sport has provided further opportunities to represent the school. The Year 6 boys' football team competed at the Bolton School tournament, while the Year 5 / 6 netball team achieved second place at the Bolton Games competition, demonstrating skill, teamwork and determination.

Across these experiences, pupils have been encouraged to try something new, work with others and see their learning in a wider context. These are often the moments that build independence and remain with pupils long after the term has ended.









Making Their Mark

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Pupils at Edgworth have enjoyed a term shaped by achievement, curiosity and a strong sense of what can be accomplished through working together.

Sport provided some remarkable moments. The school's cricket team became Lancashire Primary Schools Hardball Champions, defeating Bolton School in the semi-final before securing a nine-run victory over Kirkham Grammar School. As the first state school to reach Finals Day and win the title, it was a historic achievement for the pupils and the school. The netball team also enjoyed significant success, becoming Darwen Primary Schools tournament champions through a series of performances built on determination, skill and teamwork.

Learning has extended far beyond conventional lessons. Pupils in Year

5 and 6 combined engineering and football through a LEGO Spike Prime programme delivered by Blackburn Rovers Community Trust. Designing, building and programming robots required creativity, problem-solving and perseverance, while showing pupils how science and technology can be used in unexpected ways.

Other experiences have encouraged pupils to connect learning with the world around them. Year 4 explored the local landscape during a walk along Bradshaw Brook, while Year 5 received practical first aid training covering injuries, wellbeing and emergency response. Careers and aspirations activities introduced pupils to a wide range of possibilities for their futures.

Creativity has remained equally important. Pupils developed sculptures from initial prototypes through to completed pieces, while the juniors joined schools nationally for Dance for Rights, using performance to highlight the importance of children's rights.

Across these experiences, pupils have shown confidence, humility and a willingness to keep trying. Their achievements reflect not only individual talent, but a school community committed to helping every pupil flourish.









Ambition in Action

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Pupils at Bolton St Catherine's Academy have approached the summer term with energy, ambition and a willingness to take on new challenges across both the primary and secondary phases.

There have been many opportunities to develop confidence beyond the classroom. Year 6 pupils spoke before a wider audience through the Youth Speaks competition and strengthened their independence during a three-day residential on the Isle of Man. In the secondary phase, Year 9 completed the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition, while four Year 10 pupils were selected for the Rotary Young Leaders Award residential following a competitive interview process in

which all applicants were praised for their maturity and thoughtful responses.

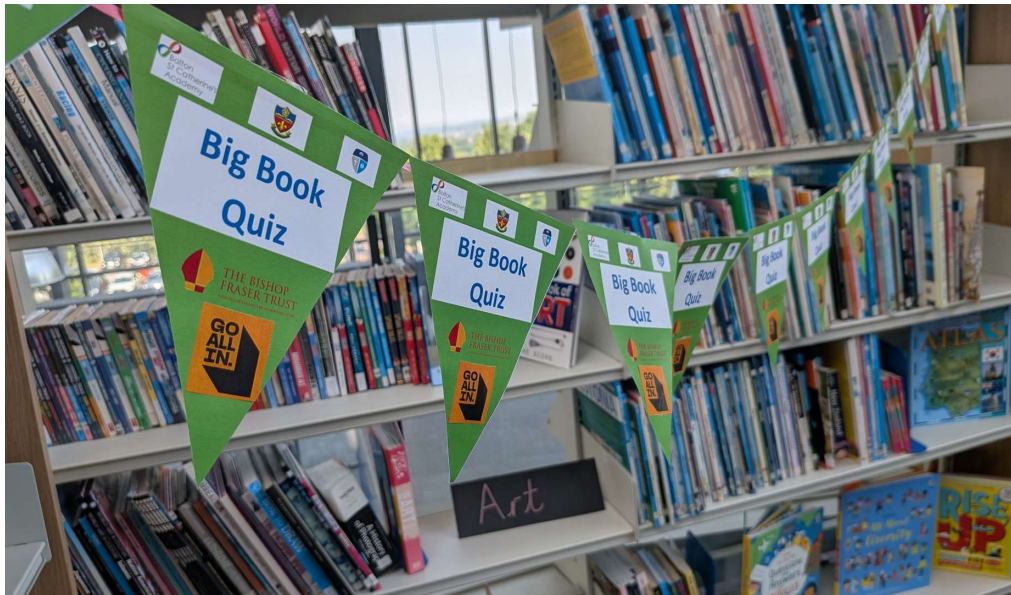
Academic achievement has also been recognised. Three pupils achieved Gold in the UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge and progressed to the Junior Kangaroo, while two others received James Eden Foundation awards for excellence in English and mathematics. The school also hosted the Trust Book Competition, bringing pupils from across the Trust together through a shared enjoyment of reading.

Creativity and community have remained strong threads throughout the term. Shrek the Musical brought performance, music and teamwork together, while the Year 11 Art and Photography Exhibition gave pupils the opportunity to share work developed through sustained effort and personal expression. BSCA Fest provided a very different kind of shared experience, filling the site with activities, laughter and celebration as the school year drew towards its close.

From residentials and competitions to performance and community action, pupils have repeatedly shown the confidence to step forward, contribute and make the most of the opportunities available to them.











Opening Up Possibilities

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From the factory floor at JCB to research conferences, workplaces and even the banks of a fishing lake, Canon Slade pupils have spent the term discovering where their interests and learning might take them.

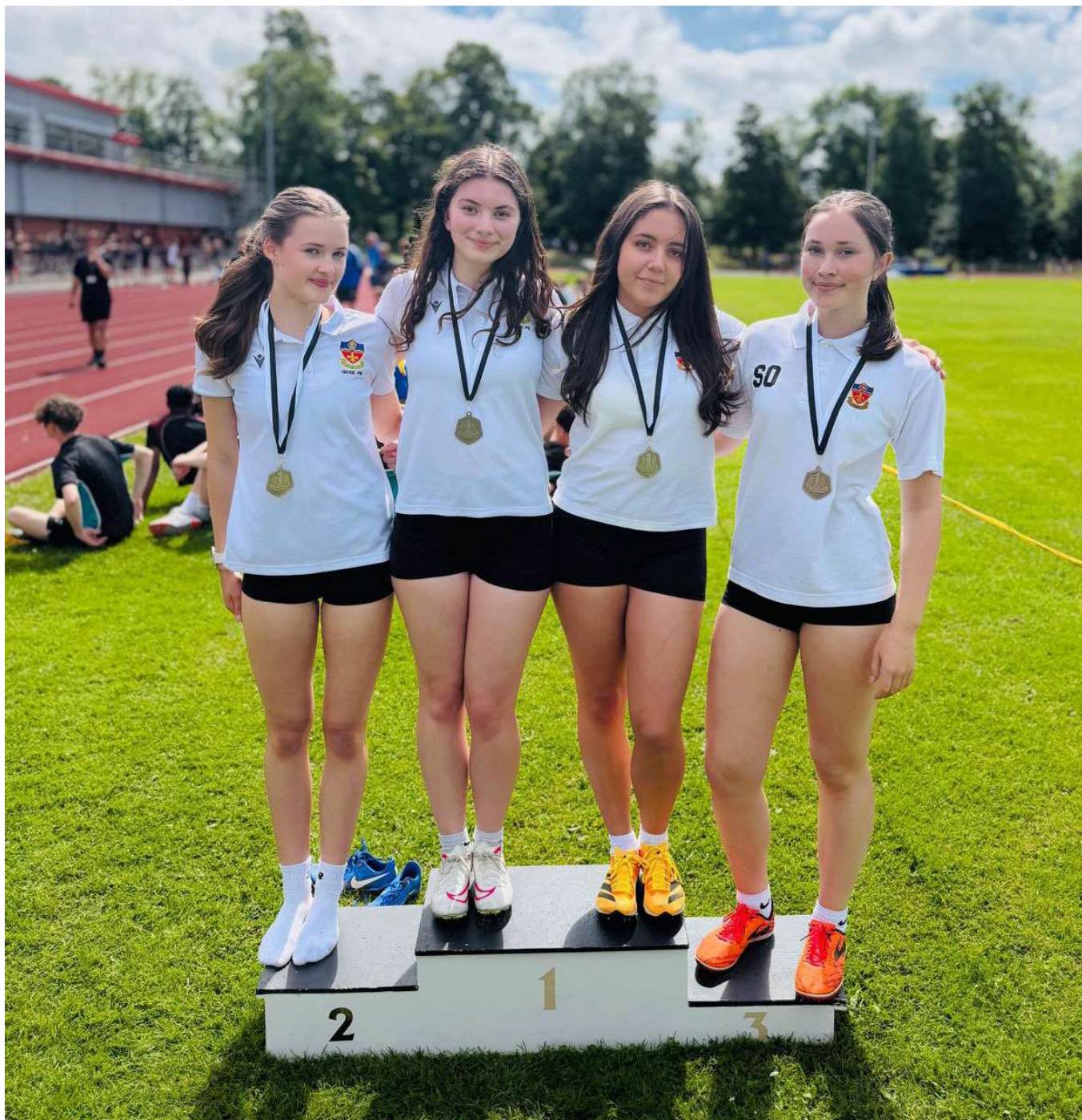
Careers activity has been particularly strong. Almost all Year 10 pupils completed work experience, gaining insight into settings ranging from animal care and engineering to the Crown Courts. Employers consistently praised pupils' enthusiasm, professionalism and attitude. Sixth-form students also completed placements, while younger pupils met local employers, explored college routes and began using Unifrog to think more carefully about future pathways.

Classroom learning has been

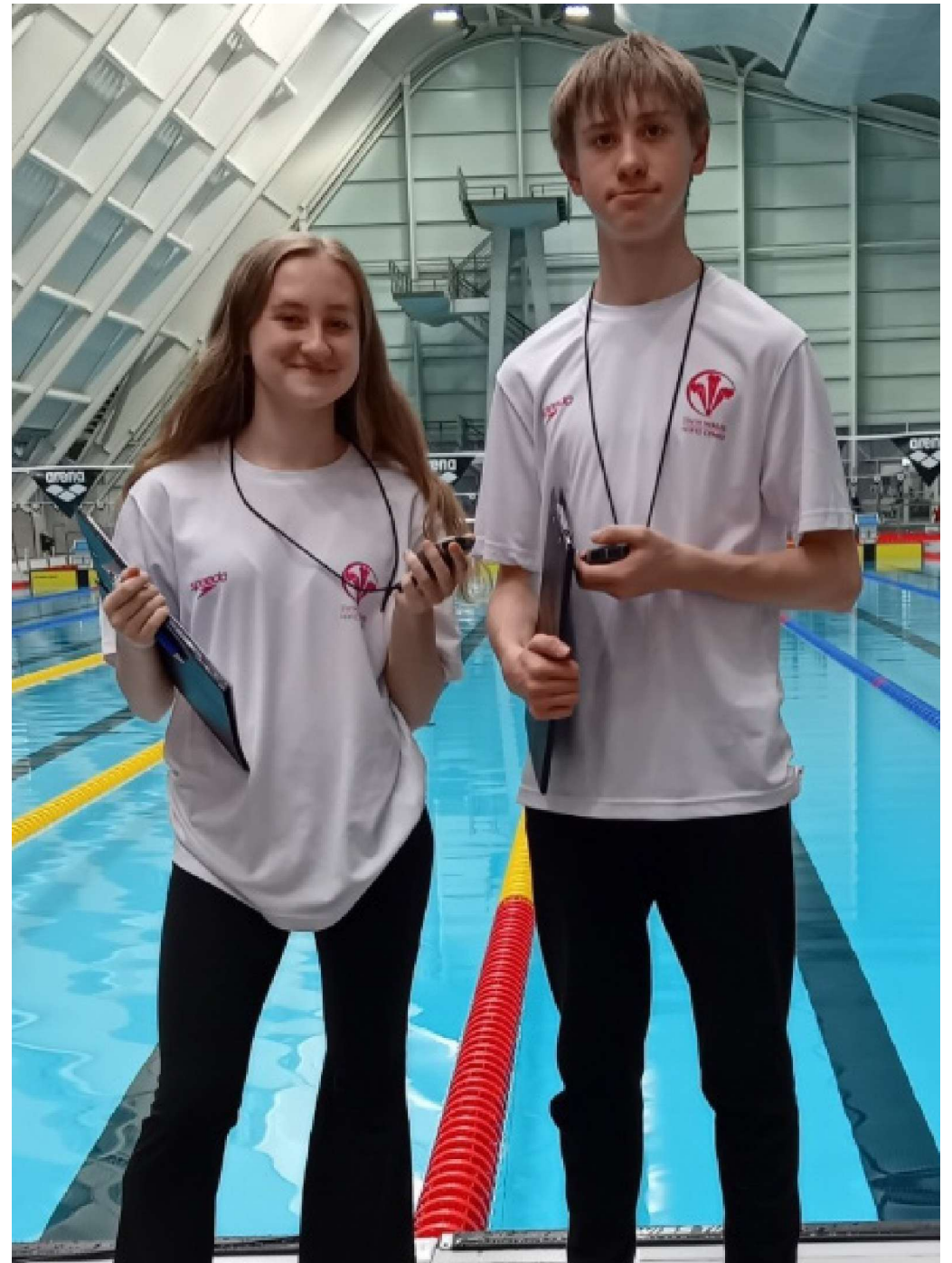
taken into the wider world too. A-level Product Design and Business students visited JCB, seeing robotic welding, laser cutting and modern manufacturing in action. Pupils in Years 10 and 12 completed a seven-month scientific research programme before presenting their work at the Institute for Research in Schools conference in Manchester. Their projects explored Future Flights, Greener Fragrances and Earth Observations, giving pupils experience of the kind of research carried out beyond school.

Other opportunities have grown from pupils' own interests. After months of lunchtime meetings, the Fishing Club completed its first trips to Bradshaw Hall Fisheries, where many caught a fish for the first time. Language Leaders planned and delivered lessons to younger pupils, while Year 7 explored music and culture through a lively Eurovision language project.

What connects these experiences is the chance to move beyond theory. Pupils have been able to test their skills, encounter unfamiliar environments and begin to see themselves differently. For some, that may shape a future career. For others, it may simply be the confidence to try something new.









Taking on New Challenges ...

Pupils at St James's CE High School have embraced a term filled with opportunities to perform, explore, compete and develop practical skills.

The school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory brought together pupils and staff from across different departments. Alongside the work on stage, the art department created props and scenery that helped bring the story to life. The production reflected the preparation, teamwork and confidence needed to turn many individual contributions into a shared success.

Learning has also extended well beyond the school site. Year 9 and 10 pupils visited Barcelona, experiencing

a different culture and exploring the city together. Duke of Edinburgh activities provided a different kind of challenge, encouraging pupils to take responsibility, work as a team and persevere when plans did not always unfold easily.

Sport has remained an important part of school life. The Year 9/10 cricket team reached the District Cricket final following a strong performance against Thornleigh, while Sports Day gave pupils across the school the chance to participate, compete and support one another.

Within lessons, pupils have continued to learn through practical and imaginative experiences. Year 7 explored the characters of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* through freeze-frame drama, while pupils in religious education created their own island civilisations, beginning with the challenge of constructing shelter. Year 8 also learned the lifesaving skill of CPR, and science pupils investigated the sugar content and acidity of fizzy drinks.

Together, these experiences have encouraged pupils to participate fully, approach unfamiliar situations with confidence and recognise the value of learning through doing.













... Life in all its fullness