INSIDE PRIOR

Prior Park
Gibraltar

ISSUE 17



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 17th edition of Inside Prior!

This term, we shine a spotlight on the spirit of travel and the transformative power of new adventures. At Prior Park, we are proud to offer our students opportunities to explore the wider world—experiences that require careful planning and dedication behind the scenes. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who makes these journeys possible.

In this edition, we celebrate the joy of seeing life through many lenses. Our students and teachers have embraced curiosity as they venture across the globe, discovering diverse cultures and perspectives. At Prior Park, we believe every adventure shapes character, builds resilience, and inspires growth. These experiences remind us that learning extends far beyond the classroom—it's about courage, exploration, and the shared joy of discovering the world together.

"To travel is to live." – Hans Christian Andersen

"Not all who wander are lost." – J.R.R. Tolkien

"The journey not the arrival matters." – T.S. Eliot

"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." – Lao Tzu

"Blessed are the curious, for they shall have adventures." – Lovelle Drachman

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing." -Albert Einstein

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Thank you to the teachers and the students who have contributed articles and a huge thank you to the Magazine Team: Olivia, Luca, Gema and Mrs Rotimi.

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HEAD'S FORWARD: TRAVEL AS A TEACHER

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." — Saint Augustine.

Each edition of the Prior Park School magazine is as varied, engaging, and creative as the students and staff who help shape it. This term's edition is no exception, with articles ranging from reflective essays to artistic showcases, from sporting achievements to community events. But in reviewing draft copies and speaking with the editorial team, one theme emerged more clearly than any other: travel.

Reading through the contributions, I found myself thinking back to my own childhood. I was fortunate enough to grow up overseas in the Middle East during the 1980s and 90s. Shortly after my first birthday, my family moved to Abu Dhabi, and later to Dubai. It gave me a different outlook on life than I might have had growing up in the North West of England. Living overseas not only shaped the way I saw the world, but it also allowed me to travel widely from a young age. Something that was less common at the time. Based in the UAE, destinations like Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent were just a short(ish) flight away. By the time I was ten, I had already experienced a variety of landscapes, cultures, and ways of life.

Why share this reflection? Because I recognise the profound value that travel had on my own development, both then and now as Head of Prior Park. It fostered empathy, adaptability, independence, and curiosity. And it reminds me of the importance our school places on travel, not just as enrichment, but as an essential part of a child's education.

This term's magazine celebrates many of these opportunities. Our Year 11s recently completed their Adventurous Journey as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award: a three-day, two-night hike near Ronda covering 60km. One teacher remarked that unless you witnessed it first-hand, it would be hard to comprehend just how impressive their teamwork, stamina, and attitude truly were.

No sooner had they returned than our Year 7s set off for their residential at Wakana Lake. It was heartening to see our new pupils return, no longer defined by which primary school they came from, but simply as members of one united Prior Park community - the photos say it all.

And it doesn't stop there. As I write, we've just welcomed parents for a pre-departure briefing on the upcoming Winter Sports trip to Austria. In the months ahead, more journeys await: GCSE and A Level Geographers to Barcelona, MFL and Science students to Granada, Lego Robotics competitors to London, Humanities students on pilgrimage to Rome, and of course, the once-in-a-lifetime trip to Japan in June.

I really must figure out how to get myself on one of these trips because, after all, travel is an education in itself. It shapes who we are and expands how we understand the world. It teaches young people to listen, observe, reflect, and adapt—skills that will serve them not just in school, but in life. As Hans Christian Andersen put it, "To travel is to live."

I hope you enjoy this edition of the magazine and that it takes you on a journey through the rich, vibrant, and outward-looking life of Prior Park.

Warm wishes,

Paul
Head





FROM GIBRALTAR TO UGANDA: A JOURNEY OF SERVICE, CULTURE, AND DISCOVERY

For two weeks, we travelled from Prior Park School in Gibraltar to Uganda on a charity trip. We stayed at Kira Farm Development Centre, run by Amigos Worldwide, just outside Kampala. The trainees greeted us with a warm welcome, in which they performed traditional songs and dances from their native tribal areas of Uganda. Within minutes, we were up on our feet, joining in with the trainees on something that quickly became a theme for the whole trip: we were constantly learning, joining in, and laughing together.

At Kira Farm the trainees consist of fifty young adults who undertake classes in vocational skills, such as carpentry, farming, hairdressing and tailoring. After their one-year residency at the farm they are able to take transferable skills back to their villages to teach others and develop their livelihoods. One of our favourite things was experiencing a day in the life of a trainee, which we jumped straight into on the first day, including their classes, farm duties, and helping prepare a dinner for the whole farm. Aggie, now a year 13 student, especially loved the farming side of things and says she hopes to return to Kira in the future.

We all quickly adjusted to life on the farm and food became one of the highlights of each day. The traditional Ugandan foods like matoke, chapati, and many vegetable dishes had such rich flavours, and even though some of us were sceptical at first, we really enjoyed the meals. Sebbie, Joshua, and Noah definitely made the most of every plate and also managed to master the art of carrying bananas on their heads, which the locals found pretty amusing.

During our time at Kira, the older students, Amy, Ariella, Ozi, and Aggie, got involved in the Amigos' Menstrual Health Matters programme. This project helps girls stay in school by giving them access to reusable pads and providing proper menstrual education, which is crucial in a country where so many girls drop out due to a lack of access to sanitary products, as they are not only unaffordable for many, but the single use sanitary towels that we are accustomed to cannot be properly disposed of in rural areas. We saw how this project doesn't just support education, it also plays an important part in improving health and preventing the spread of HIV among young people in Uganda, as it is a growing issue.

One day, we visited a nearby village and tried our hand at traditional brickmaking using just mud and water. While we were probably more of a hindrance than a

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help, the workers were patient with us, and it turned out to be a good laugh. Later in the week, we met Esther, a former Kira Farm trainee now running her own tailoring business near Masindi. She recalled the lessons of hope she was taught throughout her time, and the 'Inspire' programme that runs every November. Amigos recently installed a borehole in her community, and hearing Esther's story showed us how real and lasting the impact of the charity's work is.

Another meaningful part of the trip was our visit to Real Standard Primary School. We spent the morning teaching and playing games with the children, using some of the donations from our school community. The energy and excitement from the kids was unforgettable, it was amazing to see how something as simple as colouring books, bubbles and footballs could bring so much joy.

Towards the end of the trip, we set off on a few days of travel through Uganda's national parks and reserves. Our first stop was Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, where we saw seven white rhinos and learned about conservation and how the name "white rhino" actually comes from a mistranslation of the word "wide." From there, we headed to Murchison Falls National Park for what ended up being some of the most memorable experiences of the trip.

We went on both a day and a night safari, which was a rare opportunity. During the night safari, we were incredibly lucky to see a mother lion and her two tiny cubs, just two weeks old. Dilan said seeing a leopard on the day safari was one of his favourite moments. During the daytime game drive, we managed to spot the remaining members of the 'Big Five' (rhino, elephant, lion, leopard and buffalo), along with giraffes, hyenas, and many more.

We also took a boat safari on the River Nile where we saw elephants, hippos, crocodiles, and a huge variety of birds. We travelled to Murchison Falls, which is considered the most powerful waterfall in the world. To wrap up the trip, we spent a day in Kampala, navigating the city streets and markets, soaking up the atmosphere, and picking up souvenirs. On our final afternoon, we relaxed at the Speke Hotel pool, taking time to reflect on everything we'd seen and done.

Looking back, the trip wasn't just about travel or volunteering, it was about connection. We learned so much from the people we met, from the culture, and each other. It's hard to put into words how much this trip meant to us, but we all left with a deeper understanding of what it means to serve, to share, and to grow.

If you're interested in this trip or in learning more about Amigos Worldwide and their work, visit:amigos.org.uk























SUMMER BY LUCA

Hello and welcome readers! This is Luca Mensah coming in straight from the studio with the PPSG's newest article! Today I'm going to be talking about the summer break that we've just had. So, what are you waiting for? Let's dive into this article!

Personally, my summer was great! I went on a big 2-month epic trip of a lifetime around Asia including China, Japan and Hong Kong. Now I'll be introducing each of these countries from my experience, presenting you their culture, history and customs. So why don't we start?

We began the trip by taking a plane we boarded from Manchester, UK (well technically we had initially flown to UK from Gibraltar Airport a few days earlier so we could catch up with my grandparents first). The Manchester flight destined for Hong Kong was via Helsinki, Finland. Unfortunately, this trip we never got chance to explore Finland but that's I guess a trip for another adventure!

As we descended from our 50,000ft cruising altitude and 1000+mph speeds we caught a glimpse of several small yet beautiful islands amidst a thick fog this was our first look at Hong Kong, though it would turn out to be very different from these few Islands, but we will get on to that a bit later. Anyway, as I was saying, we then landed in the HK airport from our long 12-hour flight where we were picked up by one of my dad's friends!

It was the first time meeting in person his Chinese friend and as his guest of honour he treated us extremely well. When we arrived, he met us at arrivals and took us straight to the VIP car pickup. This is where we a luxury limousine whisked us away (Honestly the seats in that car were probably better than first class!) to one of the most famous fish restaurants in Hong Kong. Known for the best sea food, which I cannot deny was extremely good. What really caught me off guard about this restaurant was that they had a bunch of living fish, mussels and crustaceans most of which we had never heard of or seen in tanks outside. It really was like a culinary aquarium of the weirdest sea dwelling creatures you can imagine. Luckily since we didn't really know what we were eating my dad's friend chose a few dishes for us and they tasted quite nice (despite looking a bit strange) and that was the end of the first day in this new continent. From the restaurant we arrived late to the sanctuary of Hotel Icon, a five-star luxury accommodation of which I'd never experienced before, it had everything from an amazing roof top infinity pool to electronic toilets which are warmed and even wash and clean you – just incredible.

Our family had booked a suite with lounge access so I got to play chess which made me think about Chinese chess and what the differences might be.

Now I'm going to summarise the things I did while I was there and what were some of the highlights of HK. This included going to the best hotel I have ever been to, seeing the sights (Like the Peak Tram and some of the historical Buddhist temples) as well as Hong Kong Disneyland. We also visited a local area close to Hong Kong called Macau which was taken over by the Portuguese back in the day and is now known as Chinese Las Vegas, as it is the only place the only place in China where gambling is legally allowed so all the big casinos are there. We got to Macau via a high-speed catamaran ferry crossing which took about an hour. When we arrived in Macau, we used a local tour guide to take us around all the best sights and even pick the best restaurant to eat at. It genuinely felt in some places in Macau like we were transported to Portugal, with cobble stones on the floor and typical Portuguese food. We even managed to visit a panda bear park, but timing was not on our side, and we didn't get to see the actual pandas. Never mind, the gift shop had plenty of toy versions!

Now it's time to talk about mainland China (and for those wondering Hong Kong and Macau aren't really classed as China as they have their own government and laws but are still owned by China, so if you think about it, it's really like Gibraltar and England ironically) here I visited the famous Shanghai and the lesser known Jiaxing (that I honestly personally prefer over Shanghai).

Some of the highlights of these places were Jiaxing's ancient town which is an old historic Chinese town that has been preserved to retain its original characteristics. Nobody lives in the historical quarter anymore, so it is now all about tourism and shopping. It has many nice shops and restaurants, and its rivers are intertwined amongst all the buildings. It's very beautiful and fascinating in equal measures. You can even take a boat trip (which we did) along its river side and drink Chinese tea as you see all the sights.

Jiaxing is the home of a famous Chinese glutinous rice dish which are known around China and can be made with all kinds of fillings. These are called Zongzi, they are stuffed with a range of fillings and wrapped in bamboo leaves and can include both savoury and sweet fillings and they taste quite delicious. The factory of my dad's friend produces more than 27 million of them every year and we even got to visit the museum and learn all about their history and origin. I left there thinking of ways to bring them across to Europe as they are just so tasty!

It was in Jiaxing where I just happened to mention to my dad's friend that I wanted to play Chinese chess and just like that, in less than half an hour, thanks to a Chinese app he had installed on his phone we had a knock on the hotel door, and a fresh game arrived. This was at 10pm at night, my parents were in shock. It literally arrived within 30 minutes of ordering it, direct to our hotel door, wow!

Shanghai was about an hour drive away from Jiaxing, here we saw the world-famous Shanghai tower and Oriental Pearl tower, they are the tallest towers in Shanghai. I had afternoon tea in there and we went to the top of the Oriental Pearl tower where they have an area in which underneath you is glass floor showing you a vast drop below and at that height as well as the amount of people standing on it you could imagine I didn't stay on it for long. It was quite scary!

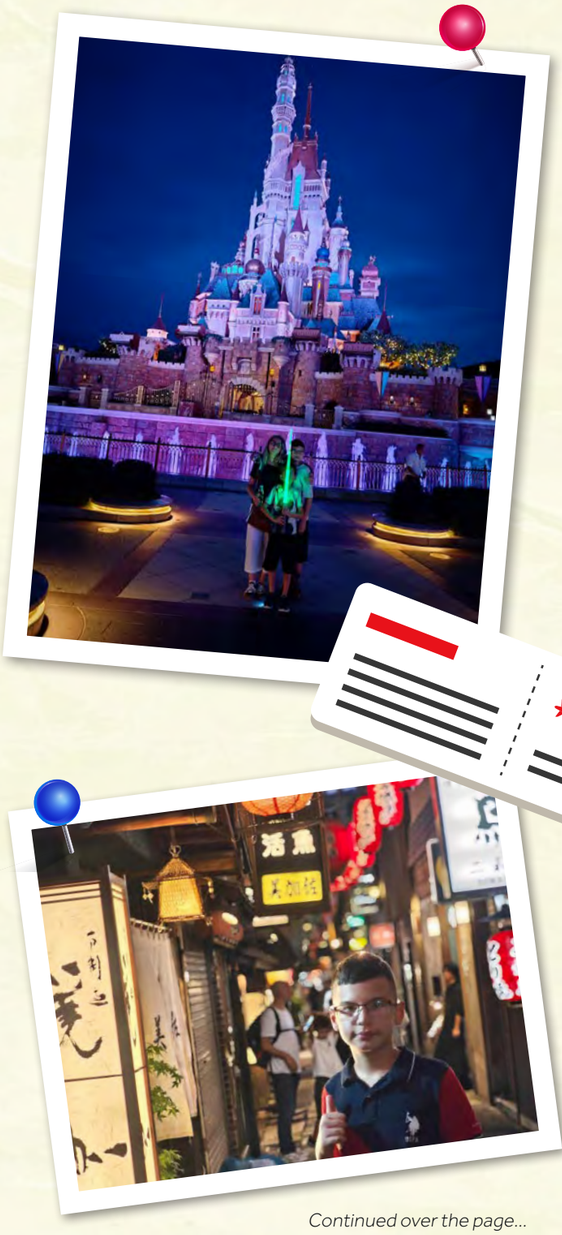
Another paragraph another country, I'm now talking about Japan where we went to Osaka, Kyoto and Tokyo. We did many exciting things in these cities, and I'll show you the best thing we did in each place. It all started in Osaka where the best thing from my perspective was going to visit Universal Studios Japan, which had fun and fast rides, my favourite one being called "The Flying Dinosaur". It was the fastest ride there and it was such a good ride I went on it twice! (Also, because the wait time wasn't too bad.)

In Kyoto I saw Mt. Hiei (that my dad playfully named Mt. Hehe) This mountain was originally a mountain that Buddhist monks would go to travel up during their pilgrimage (and it still is). It also has a temple up there because of this along with many myths and legends. When I went up it was very foggy, eerie and mystical up there, I visited the temple and had lunch.

On the cultural elements of being in Japan, while walking around outside it is expected that you shouldn't be too loud, you should not talk in elevators (out of respect) and honour is very important too. A quirk which took our family by surprise was one of the hotels had swimming baths, not a traditional swimming pool. There is a difference. Japan has a long tradition of valuing their baths. Taking a leisurely soak is said to raise the body temperature and help with sleep. So, it has become a kind of ritual to purify their spirits, what we didn't know is that this pursuit is done entirely naked in public with everyone(!), suffice to say we didn't participate!

Finally in Tokyo I went to Ueno Zoo which was a really fun time with all the animals, my favourite area was the reptile house and small mammal house with a lot of interesting little critters, the bad thing was we didn't get to see the tigers (because we arrived too late) and the polar bears (due to it being too hot for them in the blazing summer).

While I've only covered a fraction of the things we did overall, my summer break was a gigantic swell journey through the magnificent continent of Asia! I do hope you enjoyed your break too, anyways that my 2025 summer break story so... see you next time! Peace out!



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A SUMMER OF TRAVELS: ADVENTURES ACROSS SOUTH AMERICA

BY MS ROBLES-BLANCO

Anyone who knows me a bit will know that I love travelling and that, above all, I am completely in love with South America and its breathtaking landscapes, culture, and people.

So far, I have explored Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba, bits of Chile and Bolivia, and my great love, Colombia. This summer, inspired by some A Level students heading off on their gap year, I felt that familiar itch to put my backpack on once again. I had been dreaming of visiting the Amazon for years, even though the idea of snakes—and jungle creatures in general—terrified me. It felt like the right moment to face those fears and finally make my way to Peru... and see where the adventure would take me from there.

Some time ago, during another trip, a fellow traveller told me about a cargo boat that crosses the Amazon—slowly—stopping in different riverside communities while carrying goods and passengers. People slept in hammocks for days as the boat made its way along the river. It sounded like exactly the kind of adventure I love, even though others warned me about potential thefts and told me to be cautious. Despite my nerves, I knew I had to try it and, of course, it turned out to be one of the most beautiful experiences of the entire trip.

It took me three days to travel from Leticia (Colombia) to Iquitos (Peru), and somewhere along the way, the crew and all the passengers became one big family. Life on the boat was slow and incredibly peaceful. My days were filled with reading, sketching, chatting with people onboard, and watching the Amazon drift by—plus, we had full moonlit nights, which made it even more magical!

After spending a few days in Iquitos—a lively, chaotic city that felt like the complete opposite of the calm boat journey—I flew to Cusco to explore the Andes and the Inca culture. Yes, I made it to Machu Picchu! (book way in advance if you go!). From there, I headed to Copacabana to discover Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world at 3,812 metres. It's an extraordinary, deeply special place. I spent several days on Isla del Sol, a small island with no vehicles, home to three Indigenous communities who live off agriculture and now, also off tourism. The only sounds were those of animals, the wind, and the occasional footsteps. I think it's the quietest and most peaceful place I've ever been!

Since I was already in Bolivia, I decided to visit La Paz, where I unexpectedly ran into a former student from my school in London. The world really is tiny! After that surprise, I continued my journey into the Bolivian jungle toward Rurrenabaque, before finally making my way back to Colombia for a few last days before returning home.

In total, I travelled for two months and, although I travel alone as a backpacker, the truth is that I am almost never actually alone. I meet so many wonderful people along the way; we share parts of the journey, create memories together, and often stay in touch long after. Little by little, with each encounter, a kind of traveller's family forms—a community of people following their own paths, which somehow keep crossing at the perfect moments.

One of my favourite encounters this summer was with a Colombian woman of Gibraltarian descent named Patricia Vásquez. She owned a small café in Villa de Leyva, a beautiful colonial town located in the department of Boyacá, Colombia. I ended up there and noticed the decoration of the place, with some photos and paintings of Gibraltar. When she found out that I work there, her face lit up with excitement. She told me the story of her family, shared how much

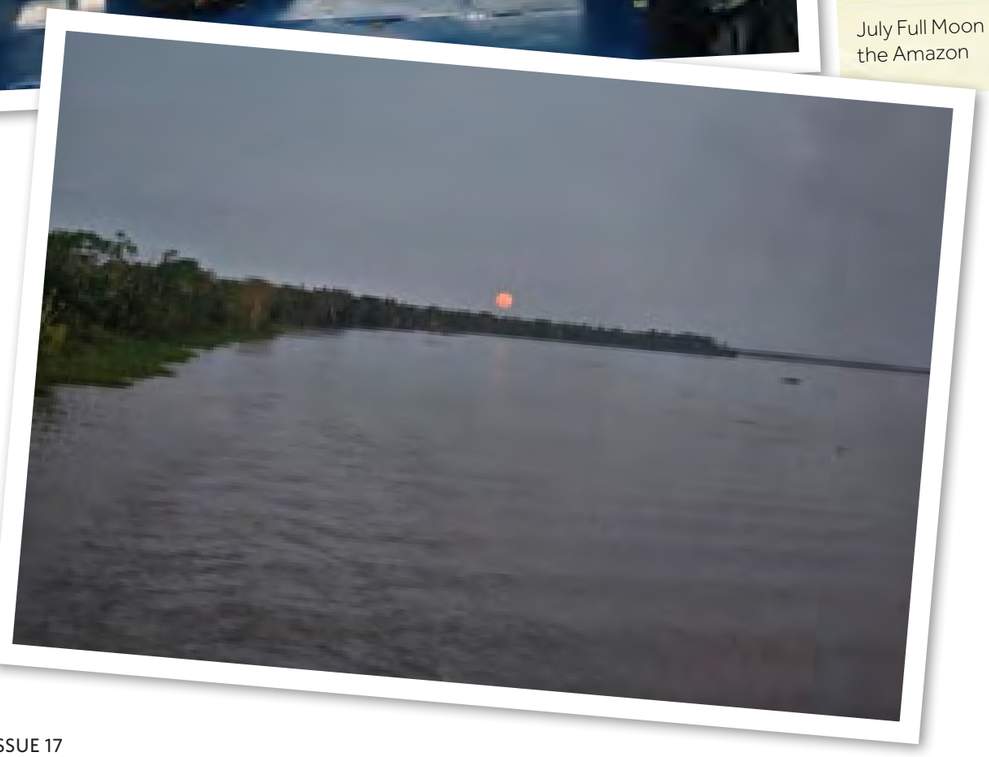
Gibraltar means to them, and confessed that visiting is one of her biggest dreams. We have stayed in touch, and I truly hope she can visit us one day.

There are countless memories and little stories like this that make travelling so special and enriching. I am already looking forward to the next adventure, any recommendations?

Settling into my new home for 3 days



July Full Moon in the Amazon

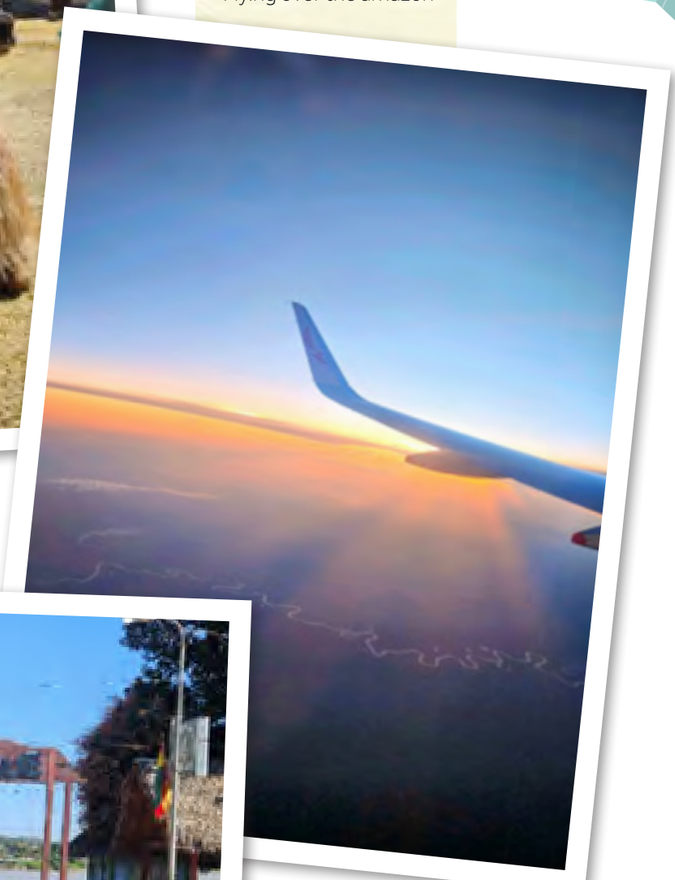


Mis amigas las Alpacas





Flying over the amazon



Arriving in “Rurre”



MEET OUR HOUSE & SPORTS CAPTAINS

This year's House and Sports Captains have stepped into their roles with enthusiasm, leadership, and a shared commitment to school spirit. From organising events and inspiring teamwork to representing their houses with pride, each captain brings their own talents, ideas and personality to the table. Whether they are leading on the sports field, encouraging participation in charity projects, or motivating their house on Challenge Day, they play an important part in making our school community stronger.
Here's what they had to say about their roles, experiences, and hopes for the year ahead.

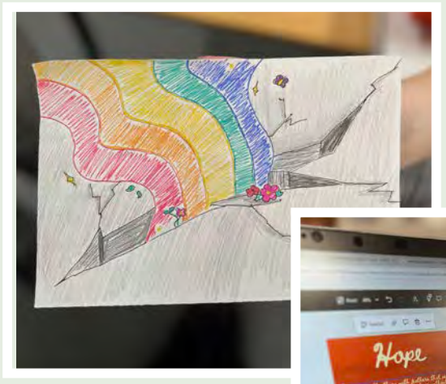


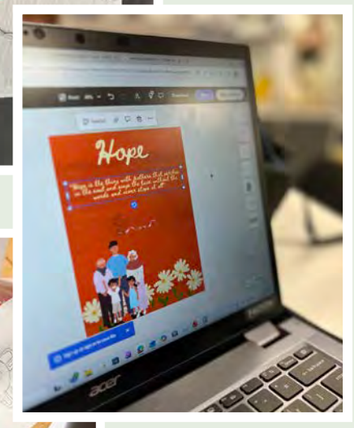




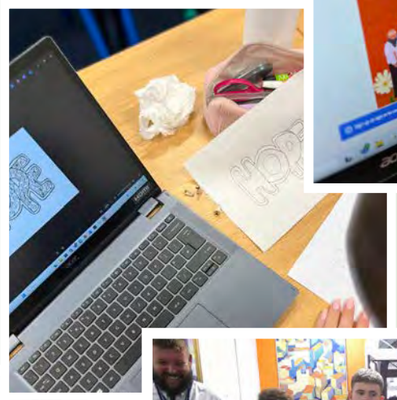






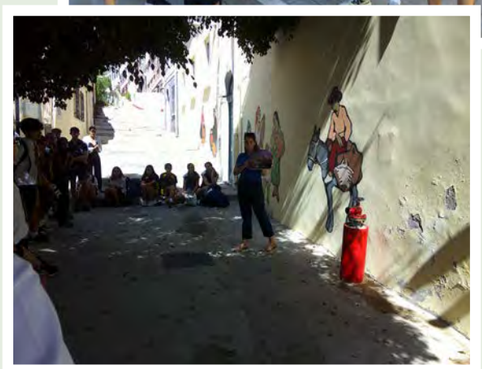














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ELIZABETH HOUSE

House Captain – Miriam Ramagge

The beginning of this year has been challenging for me. I am now in Year Ten and the GCSE pressure is on. I try my hardest to meet deadlines, succeed in my studies, and not let any stress get to me. I also enjoy competing at sports such as tennis, padel and netball in my free time outside of school. I am proud to have been selected as House Captain for Elizabeth House. We are a united group, and I enjoy working with our team to raise money for charity, organise fun events to gain house points and raise awareness of issues such as school uniform, lunches and extracurricular activities.

Our chosen charity, the Growing Arts Programme, is a wonderful initiative to help develop creativity in the community, inspiring us to paint a mural in one of the locker areas this coming term. At Elizabeth House, we enjoy helping to foster local talent by raising funds for collaborative art projects, art fairs and creative workshops for children of all ages.

For challenge day last Thursday, we visited a variety of street art around Gibraltar, continuing to support the showcasing of local talent. We also very much enjoyed a series of Harry Potter themed activities: making props inspired by the novels and devising new Harry Potter spells.

At Elizabeth House, we have fun together, raise money for worthy causes, and aim high. We're going for the trophy!

House Captain – Javier Oriol Holliday

As House Captain, I'm really looking forward to helping lead my house and help everyone feel motivated and included. My experience as being head boy in my previous school has helped me develop leadership and teamwork skills that I bring to my role. Last year, our house won the Arengos Cup, which was an amazing achievement, and I'd love to see us bring it home again this year. I'm confident that with teamwork, determination, and enthusiasm, we can carry on our streak! I aim to lead by example, support my team, and make sure we all work together to achieve our best.

ELIOTT HOUSE

House Captain – Jamie Holliday

As House Captain, I'm really excited to lead our house this year and especially to prepare for Challenge Day, where I want to make sure, we go in with determination, teamwork and the belief that we can achieve something great together. Taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh programme has helped me develop resilience, organisation and the ability to work well with different people, and I see those skills as essential for bringing our house closer as a team. One of my passions is going to the gym, and I make the effort to wake up early before school to train, which has taught me discipline and consistency, qualities I want to bring into my role. What matters most to me is encouraging everyone to get involved, creating an atmosphere where every person feels valued, and making our house one that people are proud to be part of.

Sports Captain – Harry Whitmore

I am an avid football player, keen to play any sport. I have really enjoyed this role so far. We have already started action as our head of house set us to find out the first and second favourite sports of everyone in Eliott house. This sounded like a challenging task at first however we were able to achieve it swiftly as all the captains took part. One activity that I had taken part in to help me achieve my role of sports captain was the sports leadership extracurricular club. I did this throughout years 7, 8, and 9 acquiring the bronze, silver and gold awards along the way. I feel like this helped me gain my role of sports

WELLINGTON HOUSE

House Captain – Erin Duncan

Back in primary school, being Sports Captain was my first real taste of leadership. Now, as the new House Captain, I'm excited to take on a bigger challenge and represent Wellington.

Sports Captain – Emily Peat

I am the new Wellington sports captain. I am very excited to have this new role and to start thinking of ideas we can arrange for the house. When the opportunity for the role first came up, I was very excited to put myself forward as outside of school I thoroughly enjoy coaching young children in athletics. I thought that this would help me in being a good sports captain as it has given me great communication skills. I am very excited for the next year to help support my peers in sport related activities.

ROOKE HOUSE

House Captain – Penny Hill

Becoming House Captain has been one of the proudest moments of my school life. It's more than just a title, it's a chance to represent my house, inspire teamwork, and help build a house where everyone feels seen, heard and supported.

During challenge day I was chosen to do the art challenge. We were split into three groups, each with a different focus. My group was assigned to design a quote poster, and we chose the motivating words of Dr. Seuss: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." With the clock ticking and pressure weighting us down, we raced to bring our vision to life sketching, colouring, and arranging every detail with precision. It was a true test of teamwork and creativity, and we managed to finish in the very last second. The adrenaline, laughter, and determination made it a moment I'll never forget.

As an individual, I try to lead by example. I'm someone who listens, motivates, and stays calm under pressure. I believe that every person in our house has something unique to offer, and my job is to help bring that out. Whether it's cheering someone on during break or helping them find their confidence, I'm here to support and uplift them.

Being House Captain isn't just about leading, it's about learning, growing, and making sure no one gets left behind. I'm excited for what's ahead, and I'm proud to stand alongside such an incredible school and house.

House Captain – Ishaan Samtani

Here is a brief introduction about me: I play lots of racquet sports like badminton and tennis. When I first got house captain, I was extremely happy as I had so many different ideas for the house like a Connect-Four competition. During mission day me and my friends did dodgeball, and we worked on the origami project. I also did the public speaking which our house did very well in.

Sports Captain – Isabella Bottaro

I am incredibly happy and proud to be chosen as one of the sports captains for Rooke House. It's amazing to represent such a strong spirited group of people through sport, during this school year. I have a feeling that this year as a house we will be able to succeed and encourage each other in everything we participate in.

BELLA WEIR AND THE DANCE WORLD CUP

From her very first dance class at the age of three to performing on an international stage, Bella Weir has spent most of her life dedicated to dance. After moving to Gibraltar at six, she began competing regularly and has been attending the Dance World Cup since she was just eight years old.

"My favourite style is contemporary and lyrical," Bella said. "The feeling of being there surrounded by the world's best dancers is amazing."

This year, Bella and her team achieved something extraordinary, winning Best Overall Large Group at the Dance World Cup Gala, as well as a gold and silver medal. Performing in front of thousands was a thrilling experience. "It gives me loads of adrenaline," she said. "When we won, it was a massive achievement because we beat some of the top countries like England, Australia, and the USA. It proves that even though Gibraltar is small, we can still be better than everyone else."

Behind the glamour and trophies, however, lies hours of hard work and commitment. "We train around 15–20 hours a week," Bella explained. "It's tough, but we always try our hardest and have fun together. We're all really good friends because we've grown up and gone through so much together."

Looking to the future, Bella hopes to keep dancing while studying. "I want to carry on in university and join the dance team so I can keep competing," she said. Her advice for anyone who wants to follow in her footsteps is simple:

"Be committed, work hard, and don't give up."







EMANUELLES RACE

Emanuelle placed second at the women's 1500m heat at the Brazadas Solidarias race at Sotogrande, spiking the curiosity of a radio journalist, following a gruelling summer of open water racing in Portugal in between surf sessions.



SOFIAS YOUTH NETBALL COMPETITION

From picking up a netball at just five years old to proudly representing Gibraltar on the international stage, Sofía Simpson has come a long way in her sporting journey. Inspired by her sister and the Gibraltar Champions senior team, she dreamed of one day playing at the highest level, and she's already making that dream a reality.

"I first got into netball when I was about five or six years old," Sofía said. "I really enjoyed watching it and wanted to follow in my sister's footsteps."

Her passion grew quickly, driven by admiration for the Gibraltar senior team. "I really looked up to the Gibraltar Champions," she explained. "I knew I wanted to be part of that and play the best netball I could to achieve it."

When Sofía found out she'd been selected to represent Gibraltar, she couldn't believe it. "I was so excited and honoured to represent my country and see international-level players," she said. The experience didn't disappoint, the atmosphere during the tournament was unforgettable. "The support from the people watching was amazing," she recalled. "It was something I've never seen before."

Facing teams from around the world proved both challenging and inspiring. "The different styles of play and learning about other cultures was a big eye-opener," Sofía said. One of her favourite moments was meeting players from different countries, especially the England team, and celebrating together. "The most memorable part was dancing with all the players and the whole tournament in general."

Team spirit played a huge role throughout the experience. "We had pep talks and encouraged each other to do our best," she said. "Off the court, we made sure to do team bonding and have fun."

The tournament has had a lasting impact on her as a player. "Now I'm able to train better and know more training techniques," Sofía said. "It's motivated me to play my best and create special bonds."

Her advice to younger students is simple but powerful:

"Carry on playing your sport, be motivated, and always try your best, because you will achieve your outcome."

THE TRIATHLETES OF THE FUTURE





Sophie , Olivia and Ben Roberts Patterson competed in several trail races in Andalucia this year. Sierra Blancas Rangers in Marbella Olivia 1st and Sophie 2nd, Ben 5th. Vibro trail race in Algondales Olivia 1st , Ben 1st and Sophie 2nd.

An Ecotrail in Madeira (we were on holiday..honest!) Olivia 1st , Sophie 2nd and Ben 2nd

The Andalucian Triathlon Championships consisted of 7 events over the season.Competing in Sevilla, Pozo Alcon, Baza, Chiclana and Benalmadena they all had a great 1st season, Olivia finishing 3rd, Sophie 6th and Ben 10th. Amazing grit and determination shown by them all!

Olivia won the first Sam O'Shea Gibraltar Junior Triathlon award for most promising triathlete.

They also raced 2 Aquathons in Torrox and Cadiz consisting of a 500m run a 200m sea swim and 500m run , Olivia coming in 2nd and 1st, Sophie 9th and 3rd, Ben 6th and 5th

And lastly they ran a road race 5km in La Linea (Policia Locale) with Olivia being 1st Female and Sophie 3rd overall , a great first 5km race for them all!









SIXTH FORM INDUCTION

Sixth form can be a complicated thing to navigate, especially for new Year 12 students, such as myself. To ease this and ensure a smooth transition, year 12 got to enjoy an induction week that prepared us for the next two years ahead.

Our week began in the Europa Retreat Centre, where we explored motivation and resilience. Three guest speakers were invited to give three very different, yet compelling, talks. The first, Dr Karl Alvarez spoke about motivation: things that motivate him, different motivational factors, and ways we can find things to motivate ourselves. The second, Eric Rowbottom, spoke about his life as someone with a disability, and what different things motivate him, as well as his passions and challenges he has managed to overcome, like climbing up Med Steps. The final speaker, Tony Dennis, helped year 12 learn about the VESPA academy, and how we could set goals through long-term and short-term vision.

The following day, we explored possible careers and universities we could be interested in, as well as getting a feel for careers on offer at the University of Gibraltar. Our morning started with a talk from Amy Colquhoun about different post 16 opportunities and career planning. Next, came a talk from Dr Karl Devincenzi about UCAS applications and university life, where he explained what life and admissions was like at the University of Exeter. As well as this, we spoke to former students Anmol and Maryam who gave us an insight on how to stay on top of your studies, and their personal experiences in university, and received a tour of the University of Gibraltar. Finally, Julia Jarwoska from Unifrog introduced the platform, and allowed us to explore the website and become familiar with it.

To end our packed week, we had a two-day trip to Malaga. Day 1 was challenging, as we had tasks to complete, such as tasks around the market, and in Calle Larios, where we later did some shopping. After an early dinner, we made our way up to the Alcazaba, where the views made the walk up worth it. After a long day, we made our way back to the hostel for some downtime. The next day, we woke up early to do a guided tour of Malaga, that also included a couple of challenges. After this, we had some downtime until we went back home.

Overall, the week was informative, but also a really great opportunity for us to bond as a year group and get a feel for what sixth form life will be like.

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THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPERIENCE

Challenge, resilience, and unforgettable memories – that's what the Duke of Edinburgh Award brings to Prior Park School.

September was a proud moment for our school as we celebrated the achievements of 20 students who received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The ceremony highlighted the commitment and resilience these young people showed in completing their challenges, and it was fantastic to see their hard work recognised in front of peers and staff.

Just a few weeks later, in October, we embarked on the Silver Adventurous Journey – an unforgettable experience. Over three days, students covered 60 kilometres on foot, camped for two nights, and faced a range of challenges along the way. It was tough, but the sense of accomplishment at the end was incredible. For anyone who didn't see what these students achieved, it's hard to imagine just how big a challenge this was. It demanded not only physical endurance but also determination, teamwork, and resilience.

One student summed it up perfectly:
"I think the Duke of Edinburgh Award has taught me a lot of valuable life skills, like communication on top of the camping skills. I also believe I've gotten closer to the people I did this with, and I'm sure they would say the same. The bonds we already had were strengthened, and we always empowered each other. I made memories I will never forget, and I highly urge people to do this – I'm sure they won't regret it."

As these words show, students have gained far more than the practical skills we initially expected. They've developed communication, organisation, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities that will serve them well beyond school. This reflects the ethos of the Duke of Edinburgh Award: preparing young people with the skills, confidence, and resilience they need to be world-ready.

Looking ahead, our new cohort of Year 10 students is already preparing for their own Bronze Award adventure in February. It's exciting to see their enthusiasm and commitment as they start planning routes, learning skills, and getting ready for what promises to be another memorable experience. We can't wait to see more students take on the challenge – are you ready for the adventure?











PPSG JOINS GIBRALTAR'S CLEAN UP THE WORLD CAMPAIGN

On Saturday 20th September, a dedicated team from PPSG proudly took part in Gibraltar's Clean Up the World initiative—an annual global campaign focused on environmental action and sustainability.

Our team, made up of Sixth Form students, two representatives from the Nautilus team, Mr Foreman, Mrs D, and myself, gathered behind Victoria Stadium early that morning, ready to make a difference. Armed with gloves, bags, and determination, we set to work among the rocks along the shoreline, focusing on removing waste that might otherwise end up in the sea—posing serious risks to marine life and, ultimately, human health through the food chain.

Over the course of two hours, we collected a significant amount of rubbish, filling numerous sacks with everything from plastic bottles to discarded packaging. The effort was both physically demanding and incredibly rewarding, reminding us all of the importance of protecting our local environment.

The collected waste was later picked up by the Clean Up the World team, who praised the efforts of all involved. A heartfelt thank you goes out to every student and staff member who gave their time and energy to this important cause. Taking part in initiatives like this not only helps our planet but strengthens our sense of community and shared responsibility.

Small actions lead to big change—thank you for helping us do our part!

HUMANITIES WEEK

Humanities week is a chance for these subjects to be spotlighted, and from the 29th of September to the 4th of October, students at our school were able to enjoy a wide range of activities and discover new things about the subjects they love.

Throughout the whole week, year 7 prepared their "Humanities Holiday Dream", a project that required them to work together to plan and design a perfect two-week holiday in their assigned countries. "It's based on all the humanities," said Ms Wilkins, head of Humanities. She later explained that including all the subjects into one project would be extremely beneficial for year 7, as they would strengthen their "resilience, problem-solving and team-building skills," as well as being able to identify different places of worship and historical significance within a country, and the facts behind these. "They're working out costings, and mileage," said Ms Wilkins, explaining how this challenged the students.

As well as this, Monday's tutor time session was centred around different challenges and activities. "Some were designing a festival, one person who is making an ancient Greek statue," said Ms Wilkins. This went hand in hand with the starters in humanities lessons. "Ms Auld has put together a fantastic selection of things to do," said Ms Wilkins. These amazing activities included analysing ABBA's "Money Money Money," and "looking at different aspects of the wider business and economics world," as well as reading an article to go along with it.

Year 12 BTEC Business also got to go out into Gibraltar and "study the sustainability" of two restaurants. "It was very interesting seeing how different places managed this," said Patrick, BTEC Business student.

Assembly and house takeovers were also a highlight of the week. Year 13 explored meta ethics, "what it means to be good," Ms Wilkins explained, whilst different humanities teachers took over different houses and explored "different aspects of the subjects" and possible career paths for these. Both these assemblies were engaging and interactive and gave an incredible insight into specific parts of the humanities subjects.

Posters designed by students are also now covering the walls of humanities classrooms, as a way of celebrating what best represents each of the humanities.

This week once again proved how useful and important these subjects are in our lives, and why they deserve this week to be highlighted.



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Rosh Hashana

ROSH HASHANA A SWEET NEW BEGINNING.

As the leaves begin to turn and the school year gets into full swing, Jewish communities around the world prepare to celebrate Rosh Hashanah — the Jewish New Year. But this isn't just a countdown to midnight or a fireworks display. Rosh Hashanah is a time of reflection, renewal, and hope.

WHY DO JEWISH PEOPLE CELEBRATE ROSH HASHANA?

Jewish people celebrate Rosh Hashanah to mark a joyful and sweet beginning to the Jewish year. During the festive dinner, they eat apples dipped in honey or sugar to symbolize their hopes for a sweet year ahead. It's a time to start fresh and let go of past mistakes. From Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur, there are ten days known as the Ten Days of Repentance. During this period, individuals are encouraged to seek forgiveness from those they may have wronged, as Yom Kippur is believed to be the day when God judges each person and decides whether they are inscribed in the Book of Life. These ten days are a chance for everyone to reflect, make amends, and begin the new year with a clean slate.



On Rosh Hashanah, synagogue services feature special prayers about creation, judgment, and renewal. A key moment is the blowing of the shofar —a ram's horn—with distinct blasts that serve as a spiritual wake-up call, urging reflection and change.The shofar is blown in a series of blasts, each with its own meaning: Tekiah – one long blast, Shevarim – three short, wailing blasts, Teruah – nine quick bursts

YOM KIPUR

Yom Kippur is one of the most important day in Judaism. It is known as the Day of Atonement and is a time when Jewish people reflect on their actions over the past year. They ask for forgiveness from God and from others they may have hurt. Many people fast for 25 hours, pray in synagogue, and try to make peace with others. It's a serious and quiet day, focused on saying sorry, making things right, and starting fresh. Yom Kippur helps Jews feel closer to God and reminds them to live kindly and honestly. Many Jewish people take part in a special Rosh Hashanah tradition called Tashlich, where they gather near a river, lake, or ocean to symbolically cast off their sins by throwing pieces of bread or small stones into the water. As they do this, they recite prayers and reflect on the past year, hoping for a fresh start and a clean slate in the year ahead.



ROSH HASHANA DINNER.

Rosh Hashanah dinner celebrates the Jewish New Year with symbolic foods and family traditions. Sweet apples dipped in honey wish for a sweet year, round challah represents continuity, and pomegranates symbolize abundance. It's a time for reflection, gratitude, and connection.





SHANA TOVA UMETUCA !!

By Eyal Kanfi, Eitan Grauer and Itamar Sibony

CAREERS FAIR 2025

Hello there! Welcome to this new and dashing PPSG article by yours truly, Luca Mensah. Today we will take a look at the PPSG Careers Fair and its fun interactive stalls. This is a great way to get inspired for us all to begin thinking about what they would like to do in the future and a great glimpse into the lives of people living these careers already. Without further ado, let's apply for the job of reading this article!

When I arrived at the venue the first thing I did was go see the Ibex Insurance stall (since it was the first thing you see when entering the area). As with my friends, we were all given a snazzy blue and white lanyard and an insulated lunch bag which will definitely be getting some use!

As I progressed through the event, I also saw a stall about Buildings Architecture. I recall seeing this one from last year too, it's quite fun, you get a sticky note and write something you wanted to put in Gibraltar. I chose a go kart track (which I believe would be very fun and popular with my friends I'm sure). Talking about friends, funnily enough one of them chose the exact same thing by accident, spooky huh?! I guess great minds do think alike, in fact not just one but several of my other friends did the same, hopefully it will show that it's in demand (except one of my friends who chose a nuclear silo to be in the middle of main street because why not? Erm...).

I also talked to one of the guys running a stall about Star Wars (now we are talking because I love Star Wars). I then set off to another stall this time it was about engineering, this stall was very fun one of my favourites along with the architecture one. I really liked this one because you got to build a circuit for a fan, also I had to place AC units in a house plan schematic which also was quite cool. Furthermore, doing all of this also entered me in a prize draw for £25 which is a nice bonus.

There was also a popular GHA medical stall, and I got to use the CPR practice equipment which was cool and had a look at some of the gadgets and apparatus. They had an inflated rubber machine which helps patients re-learn their balance during recovery after broken bones, and a sponge stick that help patients itch hard to reach places while on the medical beds!

Finally, I went to the to the police stall where I wore the police uniform (because why not?) and had a citizen arrest forced on me by another one of my friends (don't worry I arrested him back though). This was quite a cool experience to test the gear out and imagine being in the police force.

On the whole, this was a very fun event and I'm glad to have taken part in it, and perhaps this experience will help me with a career in the future, well anyways I do wish that this reading this article was a nice part time job for you, and see you in the next article in this issue, til next time.











"I'm always very happy to give talks or workshops. I believe education goes beyond traditional subjects and my aim is always to inspire, motivate and educate. The talk went well- I had 6 very enthusiastic students, and we had a great chat. Well done!". Karen Jacobson, Nutrition Coach.



"We are grateful to be invited and it was a pleasure to take part. We would most certainly be interested in taking part in the future". Sharon Berini, Police Constable



"It was an absolute pleasure to attend the Prior Park Careers Fair and to see such a great level of interest from students across all age groups". Sofia Baglietto, Learning and Development Coordinator at Hassans.





YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

BY URBAN

I did work experience at Isolas LLP, which is a Law firm. I did many things within the company, such as watching lawyers at court, helping at reception and doing activities for all the different branches of law. I did mock mitigation exercises, wrote cover letters to people selling their properties, found social media ideas online and helped answering phone calls and taking mail. The days were long, but I feel as though I was learning lots of skills and general information about the world of law that I didn't know beforehand, such as the differences between a solicitor and a barrister, and the process of how an argument makes its way into being spoken in court. I also learnt a lot about the policies regarding selling properties and the information that goes into creating and referencing an underlease. The people were all very kind and welcoming and never hesitated to give me a helping hand when I needed it. I plan to do another work placement with them during their summer programmes next year. This experience has given me a valuable insight into the industry and has reaffirmed my want to study law at a high achieving university and go on to work as a barrister in Gibraltar one day.

U14 FOOTBALL





Strong Performances and High Spirits at this week's matches...

This week's competitions brought impressive performances, plenty of excitement, and even a few memorable snacks. The boys' team opened strong by winning their first two matches. Although they dropped the next couple, they closed the day with a well-earned draw—possibly powered by four packs of cookies and some questionably warm sushi that kept team morale high.

The girls' team also delivered excellent results, securing multiple wins, including a standout 5–0 victory that had the whole group cheering.

Students voted Olivia RP and Victor C as the Most Valued Players of the day, recognizing their leadership, skill, and consistency on the field. Special mention also goes to Seb NN, whose boundless energy amazed everyone watching.

Both teams showcased teamwork, determination, and great sportsmanship throughout the event—making it a day worth celebrating. Let's keep the momentum going into the next matches!

PRIOR PARK AT THE U16 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Prior Park's U16 boys' and girls' teams recently took part in the interschool football tournament, an event that many students describe as one of the most memorable parts of the school year. With exciting matches, impressive teamwork, and standout individual performances, both teams showed dedication and pride from start to finish.

Girls' Team
For Sophia, the interschool tournament represents everything she loves about football. "The football interschool is definitely one of my favourite things about Prior," she said. She explained that she has always loved the sport, and getting the chance to represent her school is something she looks forward to each year.

She described the energy on the bus to the stadium, with different year groups chatting, laughing, and preparing together. "Football really brings us closer together," she added. Sophia also highlighted how much she enjoys seeing players from other schools, many of whom she already knows, and how each game teaches her important skills like communication and patience.

The girls' team finished 6th overall, with goals scored by Sophia Risso and Isabella Bartolo. Hayley reflected proudly on the team's performance: "This was definitely our best U16 tournament yet! With two wins and one draw, we showed just how far we've come as a team." Her outstanding effort on the pitch earned her MVP of the day, a well-deserved recognition of her leadership and determination.

The girls' team success was summarised by one of our sports captains - "This was definitely our best U16 tournament yet! With two wins and one draw, we showed just how far we've come as a team. The competition was great, and I had such a good time playing with everyone." – Hayley Cerisola

Boys' Team
The boys' team also had an unforgettable tournament, competing in Spain and securing 3rd place, the furthest Prior Park has ever gone. Harry explained: "Throughout this tournament, we only lost 1 game, drew 1 and won the other 3, beating schools like SIS, who we had never beaten before in my time at Prior Park."
Although the team narrowly missed out on the semi-final on goal difference, the players remained proud of what they had achieved. "The whole team were very proud of each other on the bus back," Harry said, calling it "one of the best tournaments we have ever played."

Harry also highlighted how these tournaments help unite the school: "These tournaments bring the year groups together as one team, which I feel is beneficial for the school community. Representing my school is always an achievement and I hope this will carry on."

Special mention goes to Fernando, who was an excellent striker throughout the competition, consistently creating chances and putting pressure on opponents. A huge well done to Oscar as well, who delivered a standout performance in goal and helped keep the team competitive in every match.

Both teams represented Prior Park with passion and pride, showing strong teamwork, sportsmanship, and resilience. From memorable goals to historic wins and inspirational leadership, this year's tournament was an experience the students will be talking about for a long time.



EXCITING INTER-SCHOOL FOOTBALL MATCH FOR YEAR 7 BOYS

Yesterday after school, our Year 7 boys showcased their talent and teamwork in an exhilarating inter-school football match against Bayside School. The game was a thrilling encounter, ending in a 6-6 draw — a result that truly reflected the exciting and competitive spirit on display.

Throughout the match, all players demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and respect, making us proud of their conduct both on and off the field. Let's congratulate our boys for their hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship!

Well done to everyone involved!



INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF LANGUAGES 2025

BY MARIE H

The International Week of Languages was packed with various fun and exciting activities to celebrate the beauty of languages and to encourage language learning. The week kicked off with students tackling various fun language challenges, such as learning the Happy Birthday song in French and learning how to write a phrase in a language that has a different script during tutor time. On Wednesday, we were joined by a guest speaker who delivered an engaging and interesting assembly on the importance of learning languages. On Thursday, the annual International Food Festival took place. Students and teachers brought various delicious dishes from around the world for everyone to try. It was truly enjoyable to come together as a community to celebrate and learn about different cultures and cuisines. Pupils from Loreto Convent School also joined us for the event. The week concluded with the annual Voice competition. Bianca Personeni, Allegra Provasoli, Luca Mensah, Isabella Ruiz Escamilla, Lou-Andréa Mamou, Leonora Rose Sacramento and Luna Lee participated in the competition. They sang songs in various languages, including Italian, Spanish and Danish, in front of a panel of judges and a group of students who had come along to support the event. The winner of this memorable competition was Luna Lee. Read more about her experience and the involvement of the Loreto students below.



WHAT IS THE VOICE COMPETITION LIKE? BY LUNA L

I've participated in the voice since I was in year 7. In year 7 I decided to try out the competition as it was a great exposure to different languages. When I arrived in the competition in year seven I quickly realized it was only me who had entered the competition but it was still really fun to preform. In year 8 I re-entered the competition hoping there would be more contestants and it was me and one other person. In year 9 it was the same. Until this year, where it was nearly 10 new contestants all singing in different languages.

This year, the languages classroom where the competition takes place was packed with performers and contestants all supporting each other. This year it felt so triumphant to win because there was very strong competition this year. The judges must have had a difficult choice. There were so many memorable moments from this year, from the roaring crowd after every performer, to the amazing voices that were completely unexpected. I also formed new friendships with people I'd never thought to speak to over the fact that I though we didn't have much in common but little did I know that they could sing. So that was a great bonus. Hopefully next year there will be even more performers and maybe we will have to include 2nd and 3rd place prizes for the amazing performers!

It is such a great experience, and I imagine all contestants had a fantastic time no matter the age group. I will definitely keep competing in the voice for many years to come as it has become my favourite part of languages week!

HOW DID THE LORETO STUDENTS GET INVOLVED?

The Year 6 students from Loreto joined our school for a full day of activities to participate in our festival celebrations.

The Year 11 Spanish students conducted Spanish-only language workshops for Loreto students as part of the festival activities. The students organised multiple games and speaking activities which allowed visitors to learn new words while practicing their language skills through enjoyable experiences. The Year 11 students demonstrated excellent leadership skills by serving as young language representatives who led the activities with confidence.

The Loreto students participated in a food tasting experience which featured all the international dishes prepared dishes from the festival. The students experienced worldwide flavours through food while discovering traditional food customs from different cultures.

The Year 7 students at our school got to meet Loreto students while they shared meals and celebrated together.

The department maintained an excellent atmosphere which combined vibrant colours with friendly people who laughed together.

MFL becomes most effective when students learn languages through real-world experiences which match the authentic nature of language learning.

The day brought together people through food and cultural exchange and teamwork which created an unforgettable experience.

We are grateful for the time our Loreto friends spent with us and we eagerly anticipate their return visit.

PPSG FOOD FESTIVAL

BY LUCA M

Greetings dear reader, welcome to this scrumptious article written by me, Luca Mensah. This one is about the PPSG 2025 Food Festival, an annual event which recently took place during the international week of languages. It celebrated the diverse culture of all the different students attending our school through their national cuisine.

These amazingly delicious dishes make me start to mumble out nonsensical words at the sight (and smell) of them that I could only hope to replicate here, anyway, I should stop dawdling let us take a bite into this article my friends (trust me you won't regret it!).

When I first stepped into the court I was met with exotic smells, rows upon rows of food and a big crowd all awaiting to get their mouths chock full of tasty delights both savoury and sweet. It's a very popular event!

Firstly, I looked for my parents and asked them where they had put our dishes (since I couldn't seem to find them in the sea of different choices). My mum told me that they were at the very front entrance and led me to them, honestly, I felt a bit embarrassed that I didn't see the things, they were the VERY first things you see when you come in. Despite this, I still gobbled them up with much joy and satisfaction, since my mum is Polish, she of course makes Polish cuisine and this year she made a plate full of "Rogaliki with rose marmalade filling". They are small croissant shaped pastries with some sort of filling on the inside and she also made racuchy (Pronounced rahtz-oo-hih) are yeast pancakes filled with cooked apple from northern Poland. For the Rogaliki I rate them a 10/10 (but I'm biased of course) and for Racuchy I rate them a 9.5/10.

Then after consuming such munchies I had a look around at some of the foods and found this Welsh

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caramel cheesecake which looked quite interesting, so I tried a slice and it was so good it knocked the socks off me, it was HEAVENLY the caramel flavour complimented the gorgeously fluffy cheese cake extremely well, and normally I only give 10/10s to my mum but this time I have to give it to this dish. I felt like I was eating a Picasso artwork in food form, I'm sorry that I've been glazing it but it was just that good. Also, funny story, one of my teachers thought he could put more caramel sauce on the cheesecake than what was already there and next to where this cheesecake was there was a dish with gravy, so he accidently took a jug of gravy for the other dish which he had thought was caramel inside and poured it out on the cake... disgusting!

Well anyways, then I went around and found this Australian guy who was giving out a sort of layered cakey kind of food that had frosting on top and a filling depending on the flavour (them being strawberry, chocolate and caramel) with coconut bits on the top. I had a try of a caramel one and I've got to say that it was pretty tasty especially because of the caramel and coconut, also from what I could recall it was sort of fudgy, this dish is getting a 9/10 because it was not only delicious but also very different from most deserts.

Overall, it was a fantastic event with amazing foods and its testament to all the effort of the parents that we are able to experience this event yearly. It's just one of those times on the calendar that nobody wants to miss and everyone looks forward to. I really enjoy seeing the flags on food too as it helps everyone to understand the origin of the food and get a better appreciation of the culture. Every time we travel I feel that eating the food is a big part of the experience so trying food from different places we've previously visited is a wonderful way to reminisce and bring those memories flooding back.

Well, this seem to be the end, all in all I believe that this year was another smashing success of representing all the culinary cultures of the school and I also hope that this article was delicious to you as was the food from this event, well see you next time... toodles!



























YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL ADVENTURE AT WAKANA

Written collaboratively by Y7s

On a bright Monday morning during the half term break, our Year 7 adventure began as we boarded the coach to Wakana. The journey flew by, and before we knew it, we had arrived at the beautiful lakeside site. The weather was warm and dry—perfect for outdoor activities—and we were all excited to get started. Our rooms were spotless and welcoming, and after unpacking, we jumped straight into our first activity: a rock-themed treasure hunt that had us exploring the area and working together in teams.

Lunch was a highlight, with a delicious meal of Russian salad, pork fillet, and chips that gave us the energy for an afternoon of games and singing, led by Mr Harris who brough his guitar. As night fell, we played hide and seek in the dark using torches—an unforgettable experience that quickly became the most talked-about moment of the day (especially as Mr Worths hiding place was EPIC!) Once everyone was found we had an astronomy lesson, shame Mr Matthews wasn't there to confirm the names of each constellation.

The second day began with a hearty breakfast, followed by some tie-dyeing fun then games before heading out onto the lake for kayaking. Gliding across the water was amazing, but the real favourite of the day was the Spartan Race. Everyone gave it their all, cheering each other on and enjoying the challenge 'muddiest child' competition. Later, we took part in another treasure hunt, showcased our talents in a lively talent show, and finally settled down for bed at 11:00 p.m.—tired but happy.

On our final day, we tried our hand at archery (and got to shoot the teachers) then took part in a relaxing yoga session to wind down after an action-packed trip. The Wakana residential was a fantastic experience full of laughter, teamwork, and new friendships—one we'll all remember for years to come.



















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"The Wakana residential was a fantastic experience full of laughter, teamwork, and new friendships—one we'll all remember for years to come."

INTO THE BLUE

By Mrs Rotimi

Over the October half term not everyone was studying hard for their mock exams... well that mainly applies to us teachers! I am about to take you on an exciting adventure of harrowing experiences that may have given me feelings of intense elation but also in some circumstances, extreme anxiety! This week involved an epic trip on a scuba diving liveaboard where a small group of us (organised by the local dive company, Dive Charters) travelled around 1,000 km on a boat in the Red Sea. When the trip was booked, I had no idea what would be in store. I definitely didn't expect the opportunity to dive with many varieties of shark or turtle. Imagine being woken up by a bell at 6am every morning and then finding out that day, within the next hour, you are about to dive with the most notorious sharks in Egyptian waters. All I could fixate on was that fact that I would need to dive to 5meters as quickly as possible to make sure I wouldn't be in their feeding ground!

This is how that experience went... that morning I awoke to the bell as always but felt particularly seasick after a horrendous night's travel to our destination with very choppy water. Imagine trying to keep your calm, listening intently to the safety brief about these sharks and all the necessary actions you should undertake. Then imagine this whilst feeling very delicate and like you might throw up at any moment. Well, I didn't imagine it, I lived it. Trying to get yourself kitted up on a boat that felt like it might tip me overboard any moment was no joke! Squeezing into a wetsuit is bad enough as it is but then trying to hop around one footed and then adding all the weight of the gear to that, it was pretty horrendous! I felt desperate to jump in the water, just to not feel the seasickness anymore. So, in I jumped. Straight into the blue. What a feeling! I have dived in quite a few places, but never into a deep sea. Diving into the blue is something else entirely. In all honestly, not being able to see the sea floor was more nerve wracking than seeing the approach of sharks. We began the dive with our group of 7, swimming into the blue and seeing nothing but that. It was a surreal experience, but then to get closer to a deep stretching reef and seeing our first white-tailed reef sharks, just wow! White-tailed reef sharks are the more inquisitive of sharks, they like to get in your face and have a good old look at you. The sharks I saw that dive, definitely weren't afraid. What astounded me more than anything was not these cheeky sharks, but the sheer number of people who had paid to come and visit the area in the hope of seeing them too. Whilst swimming around the reef, the number of other divers in the water grew and grew. At one point, we had a diver join our group for a while and I honestly don't think he even knew where he was. There must have been over 200 people all just hoping for that special glimpse. That scared me more than the sharks. Many divers meant an increased risk, almost all fatalities that happen in the scuba diving community are usually down to the diver making an error. A panicked diver is a dangerous diver. Any of you who have completed a scuba course will know this. So, most of that dive I felt hyper aware of my surroundings and the people in it, rather than these amazing sea creatures.

As the week progressed, I began to relax more and enjoy the experience. One of the last dive's I did was in 'Turtle Bay'. We were told that if we were really lucky, we would get to see these old giants. As the dive commenced, visibility was quite poor. There wasn't much to see other than a sandy bottom. As the dive progressed, I began to think we were just going for a long swim, until our guide started to point up with excitement. There, right above me, was a large sea turtle taking a breath at the surface. I watched as it then slowly descended with grace and elegance. I can't describe how happy I felt at that moment. From then, we kept seeing turtles of different sizes. I had such an amazing buzz seeing them in their natural habitat. Then to top it off, just before the end of the dive, a smaller turtle began to swim alongside me. I felt elated! As we got back on the boat, they had music playing and the whole crew were dancing along with us as we celebrated having such an amazing dive. That just summed up the week for me. I will never forget or appreciate just how lucky we are to experience seeing life blooming in the Red Sea.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2025



MATTHEW MENEZ

Matthew, you embody Elizabeth House values of responsibility and kindness. You are reliable and hard-working. You apply yourself to tasks and take an interest in many different topics, not all curriculum-focused - you have wide ranging and eclectic knowledge, which also, combined with your high-level vocabulary, make you an interesting conversationalist. I am very proud that you have this award and pleased that you have the recognition, well done.

Mrs Easter (Head of Elizabeth House)

Matthew has made an excellent start in Maths this year. He approaches lessons with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a real desire to understand the bigger picture. He asks thoughtful questions, often making connections to real-life situations and other subjects, which shows his strong imagination and interest in the subject. Well done, Matthew. Keep up the fantastic effort!
Ms Coen (Teacher of Mathematics)

I would like to nominate Matthew Menez, for he has spent a good amount of time supporting a new student which has really helped him get to grips with our school, both physically and digitally!
Mr Cruz (Head of Eliott House)

Matthew fully embraces the ethos of Prior Park School. He works hard and he is kind to all those around him. He has been courageous in my music lessons and has performed many times in front of peers, parents and at concerts. He is generous to his classmates and other students in the school. He is always willing to support and help in form class, he leads by example, with a positive attitude, he contributes to activities and gives his honest views in a professional and kind way. He is always keen to be involved and is curious to learn and push himself to be the best version of himself.
Mr Harris (Teacher of Music)

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2025



GEMA MARTINEZ CORRALES

Gema, you have taken to sixth form life incredibly well, rising to the challenges and continuing to be involved in House activities. You are a great role model for Elizabeth - kind, generous with your time and responsible. Your enthusiasm and maturity show your personal growth and how you are becoming a young adult with a great future ahead of you! Well done on getting SOTM. we are all proud of you!

Mrs Easter (Head of Elizabeth House)

Gema, a solo musician studying an ensemble unit is never easy. Gema has opted to learn a new instrument and with only a couple of weeks has mastered two songs, performed it to her peers and teachers, delivering professional standard quality and proving to herself and others if you work your socks off you can achieve anything.
Mr Harris (Music Teacher)

Gema has undertaken a solo course at Prior park and as part of the BTEC course has taught her self to play the piano and perform two accomplished and technical songs in under two weeks. That reflects real endeavour, motivation and commitment. Her performance was spell-binding. Beyond that she is a real all rounder, involving herself in all aspects of the school. She embodies the spirit of a Prior Park student.
Mr Martyn (Head)

Gema is an exceptionally proactive learner who demonstrates genuine enthusiasm for theatre and a strong commitment to expanding her knowledge of the subject. She consistently seeks out opportunities to challenge and develop herself beyond the curriculum, including attending summer schools and even teaching at a Drama School this half term. Her curiosity and eagerness to learn are truly admirable. Gema approaches every lesson and collaborative task with maturity, positivity, and an open mind, making her a highly valued member of the class.
Mrs Alborn (Drama Teacher)

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER

2025



ARJUN JANI

Arjun is a student who embodies the community spirit of Prior Park. He is always kind and incredibly helpful no matter the task. His personality and work ethic make Arjun an integral part of the school community.

Mr Foreman (Head of House)

Arjun is kindness incarnate. His amiable personality shines in everything he undertakes, be it academic or pastoral. He is modest and humble, and rarely takes credit for any of his numerous wonderful achievements. A true spirit of Prior and a fantastic role model.

Mrs Ledesma & Mrs Gillingwater (Tutor)

Arjun is an all-round excellent student who always tries his best in lessons, seeks support when he needs it and works really well with other students too. He balances his time phenomenally well, completes his school work to a really high standard and has been attending clinics as often as possible. He is also taking part in the Winter Arts Showcase with the band, is in the cast of Grease AND is working towards his Silver Duke of Edinburgh. A phenomenal (and amazingly humble) young man!

Miss Gillespie

Arjun is an incredibly hard working and diligent student who contributes so much to the school community and never shies away from a challenge. He truly embodies the school's values of curiosity, generosity and courage.

Miss Ribbon

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER

2025



LIHI AKAD

Lihi has always been a role model to her peers - so much so that I was a little disappointed when she decided to not be a House Captain again, and instead wanted to focus on her GCSE studies for Year 11 - who can argue with that? A very mature student, that always leads with kindness and is always generous with her time for school events and activities. She is precisely what Prior Park students should aspire to be!

Mr Cruz (Head of House)

Lihi shows complete dedication through her outstanding achievements, consistently surpassing expectations in my subject and across all school activities. She excels in every setting, including DOE and anti-bullying programmes, where she demonstrates exceptional leadership, maturity, and a strong commitment to creating positive change. Lihi maintains a positive attitude in all her interactions, showing genuine support, empathy, and respect toward classmates and teachers. Her caring personality, kindness, and dependable nature make her a standout student. Thank you, Lihi, for being yourself.

Mrs Debenham

Lihi demonstrates exceptional focus and determination in all aspects of her work. She consistently goes above and beyond expectations, working independently with confidence and resilience. When faced with challenges, she approaches them with persistence and never gives up. Her curiosity and eagerness to understand concepts deeply are truly admirable. Lihi is not afraid to ask thought-provoking questions, which shows her commitment to learning and keeps lessons engaging and dynamic.

Mr Tottman

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER

2025



ALLEGRA PROVASOLI

Joining the school midway through year 10 has meant that Allegra has had a huge amount of academic work to catch up on, but she has not let this faze her and always get with things with a smile and a positive attitude. Takes a leading role in tutor activities. An excellent role model for those in the tutor group and in the wider school community.

Mr Kennedy (Tutor)

Allegra has had an incredible start to Year 10, especially considering the big transition of joining Prior Park. She has worked hard to catch up on classwork while also navigating new routines, expectations, and friendships, all with a level of resilience and maturity that truly stands out. Every morning she greets me with a smile that genuinely brightens my day, and her enthusiasm to help with anything she can never goes unnoticed. I especially appreciate the way she takes initiative, often messaging with thoughtful ideas and ways to improve the school. Her Catholic faith is evident in her weekly commitment to attending chapel, and this dedication further reflects her strong character and values. She has quickly become a valued member of our school community and is already a role model to so many of her peers. I am extremely proud of her progress and feel very lucky that she is part of Wellington house.

Miss Martinez (Head of House)

Allegra joined the school in Sept and has taken every opportunity to get involved in tasks and help the wider community. She is an asset to Team Wellington and we are so pleased to have her.

Mrs Rotimi

Allegra has embraced life at Prior Park with admirable composure and quiet confidence, letting her natural strengths shine. She has shown remarkable dedication to her studies, attending after school chemistry clinics, being honest about concepts she hasn't yet mastered and consistently pushing herself to improve. I am eager to continue to see her grow and flourish here.

Miss Figueras

Poppies

By Sebastian NN

As the flames die down and the smoke clears, down by trenches we respect the dead. They fought for our future and our lives, they fought and fought and yet we take it for granted. No need to cry, no need to weep they are in a better place above the sky we can't reach.

As we stay quiet we remember what they have done. We remember the struggles they went through. We remember the tears they shed. We remember, remember and remember. We keep remembering till we can't any more. They will have a special place in our hearts for the things they have done for our today.

We will always have the poppies to remember them by. Down by the poppies the dead lay, fighting a cause we all know today. Down by the poppies, down by the poppies, the red flower covered in blood from all who have fallen. Now let's join hands and remember, and let the silence speak for us today. Making sure the fallen can hear our prayers. This only happens down by the poppies. The flower that changed the world...



COBIS POETRY COMPETITION PPSG WINNERS



The annual COBIS Poetry Competition is a brilliant opportunity for young writers to compete internationally and showcase their talent. The competition is open to all COBIS schools, and Prior Park School competes every year.

This year's competition theme, "Through Another's Eyes", invited students to explore empathy and imagination by writing from someone else's perspective.

All PPSG students were invited to write a poem based on this year's competition theme, "Through Another's Eyes", and as each school can submit one entry per category, we ran an internal competition to select the entries.

Congratulations to our PPSG winners whose poems were selected to compete worldwide:

Ollie Lang - Key Stage 3 winner.

Javier Oriol-Holliday - Key Stages 4&5 winner.

Both Oliver and Javier were awarded certificates and a novel as a prize for winning the competition.

You can read their winning poems below.

Through Another's Eyes

The plains below lay stained with blood
His steed perched proudly as a gust of wind
Blew the reeds revealing the corpses and mud

The air thinned, the lights in their souls dimmed
How he galloped onward, his sabre by his side
While some birds squawked and some hymned

Kings would fall to his blade and oh how they cried
"have mercy" while cowering and trembling in pain
Was he a legend or had his soul simply died?

His men, loyal as they came, cherished his reign
Yet some saw him as the devil incarnate
A demon, a scoundrel or their bane

His ambitions and desires tempted the world's fate
If only I could see through his eyes
Would I act differently? Would I simply bear the weight?

Oliver Lang

Through Another's Eyes

I tried to see through another's eyes,
Where silence hums and mercy dies.
Where smoke becomes a second skin,
And every loss becomes our kin.

Two lands beneath a wounded sky,
Both asking their God the reason why.
Two mothers whisper a desperate prayer,
Each breathing in the same despair.

The child that once played with cherished toys,
Now sifts through dust instead of joys.
The ground remembers every name,
But sorrow writes them just the same.

One heart beats East, another West,
Yet both hold grief within their chest.
For pain knows neither foe nor friend,
It finds us equal in the end.

I tried to see through another's eyes,
To trade my truth for their replies.
And what I found, beneath the cries,
Were hearts that break the same disguise.

No faith, no flag, no endless war
Can hide what mercy's meant for.
If love could cross the blood and rise
We'd see the world through other's eyes.

Javier Oriol-Holliday

ACCELERATING LANGUAGE SKILLS

By Gema

Fast track programs are one of the great things about our school, and as a native Spanish speaker, being given the chance to do my A-level a year early is an opportunity I am extremely grateful for.

Though 4 A-levels sounds challenging, and it is, the fact that one of these is my native language allows me to worry a little bit less about it. This will prove especially helpful next year when I will have already done my exam and gotten it out of the way, allowing me to focus solely on my other subjects.

Since I did my AS (half the A-level course) last year, this year so far has been about consolidating past knowledge and slowly incorporating new content, which has led us to have very insightful discussions in class and learn about different aspects of Hispanic society and culture. As well as this, we study a movie and a book, which explore interesting themes.

So far, the biggest challenge has been getting used to the A-level exams as opposed to the AS. Though they are not very different, the A-level exams include more content and are generally a bit more challenging. However, the guidance and resources from the teachers make this challenge easy to overcome.

Some benefits of doing this course a year early are, apart from not having so much content in year 13, having an extra grade to put on university applications, and feeling challenged in lessons you might have previously founds a bit more boring. In order to succeed in this, it is essential to stay on top of work and complete all deadlines, as well as making sure you know your content.

Overall, having done my GCSE and AS Spanish courses early has been an unusual experience, but one I would recommend to those who, like me, are native speakers, or simply those who want to feel more challenged in Spanish.



Who am I?

1. I am not a twin, but I share a birthday with a sibling.

2. I was born on August 12th, which in the UK is called the Glorious Twelfth, which suits my ego perfectly. I grew up in Abu Dhabi from the age of one. I have performed (Irish Dancing) in front of the UAE royalty as a child. I refused to speak until I was about 6 years old, having to fly from Abu Dhabi to the UK for speech therapy sessions. I still have a stammer, which comes out when I am nervous or trying to get my words out too quickly. I am a sweet-aholic, able to finish a packet of Haribo in minutes and still want the second pack. I own way too many shoes - mostly handmade and Goodyear-welted. I own dozens of ties and give a few away each year to 6th formers, so that I can buy myself more.

3. I knew Brian Cox at University in Manchester. I've partied with a Beatle and a member of Queen. I've narrowly missed being blown up three times by terrorists. I had to climb a tree to avoid being killed by a Rhino. I ate chips so many times in a week in my late teens and early 20s my nickname was Lee Chips.

4. When I first came to the UK, I worked as a cleaner in a hotel in Scotland while I was still learning English. From there, I worked my way up and eventually discovered my passion for teaching. I trained in Norwich to become a teacher, and life has since taken me on an incredible journey that's brought me here. I've lived and worked in different countries, which gave me the chance to really immerse myself in new cultures and languages. Travel has always been a big part of my life, both for work and for pleasure- I love bringing those real-world experiences into the classroom. One of the most exciting trips I've been on was South America and New York to see Beyonce.

5. The only thing I was sure of at school is that I definitely didn't want to be a teacher.

Answers: 1. Ms Porro 2. Mr Martyn 3. Mr Matthews 4. Ms Debenham 5. Ms Rozario



ADVENT FAIR 2025: A CELEBRATION OF GIVING AND COMMUNITY

The Advent Fair this year brought together students from all houses in a shared mission to support our chosen charity, Animals in Need. The evening was filled with a warm and generous spirit, perfectly capturing the essence of giving during this festive season.

Guests enjoyed an impressive array of stalls offering mouthwatering baked treats that disappeared in no time. Beautiful handmade items were also on display, including intricate structures crafted by Allegra and a variety of creative Christmas card designs.

The photo booth proved to be a popular attraction, with many striking their best poses for cheerful, festive snapshots.

In total, the event raised an incredible £2,147.62, with Elliot and Wellington House making the largest contributions. What an outstanding achievement!

Continued over the page...













PRIOR PARK SCHOOL GIBRALTAR - THE CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

The Winter Arts Showcase 2025

This December we saw one of the most exciting creative events of the year! The Winter Arts Showcase returned to the Sunborn, bringing together the very best of student talent from across the Creative & Performing Arts Faculty. We saw an evening filled with music, drama, media, dance, and stunning visual art, an unforgettable way to begin the festive season.

This year's showcase featured an exclusive preview of our upcoming school production of **Grease**, offering a tantalising first glimpse of what promises to be a show-stopping musical. Audiences were also treated to the premiere of our **GBC Open Day 2025 festive video**, created in close collaboration with our students.

Throughout the evening, the **Friends of Prior raffle** ran with a fantastic selection of prizes on offer, adding even more excitement to the celebration.

Behind the scenes, our students and staff have worked tirelessly to bring this magical night to life. Their passion, dedication, and creativity were highlighted in every performance of the night.

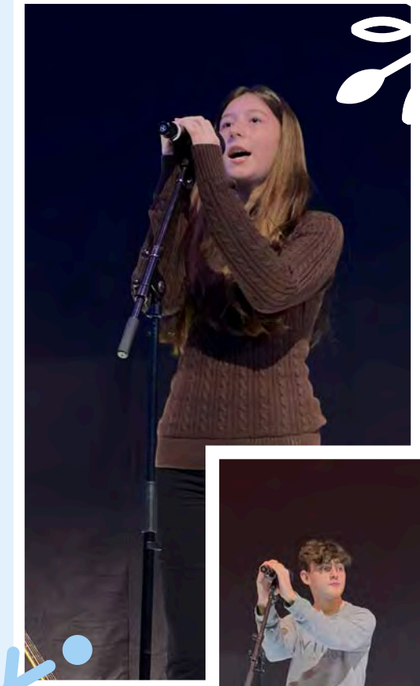
We were joined by friends and family for a wonderful night that celebrated the arts, ignited the festive spirit, and showcased the extraordinary talent within our school community.

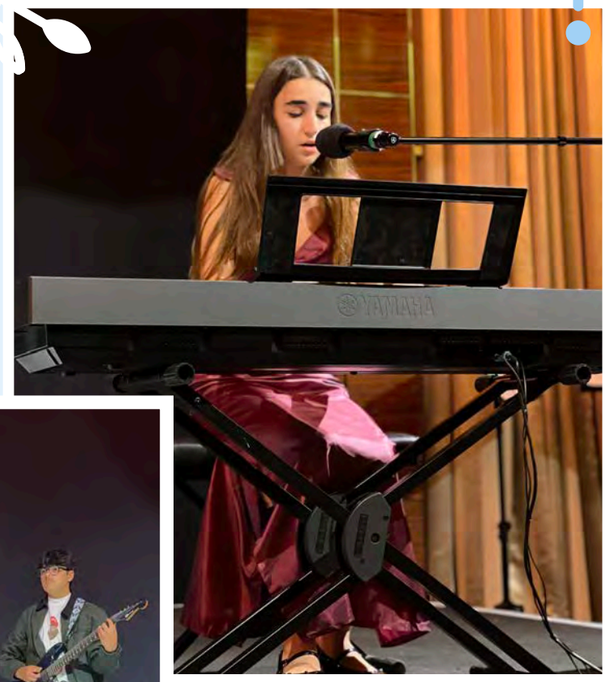


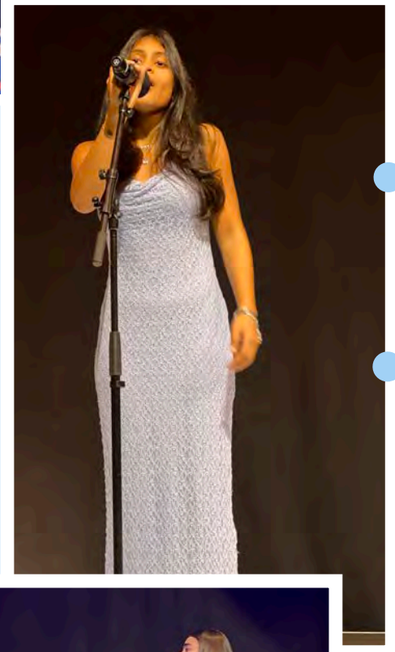



2025
sunborn
WELCOME DRINK
FOP RAFFLE
WINTER
ARTS
SHOWCASE
CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

















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11-18 Day Co-educational Catholic Senior School