

LENT TERM 26

VOL. 02

RISHWORTHIAN

MAGAZINE

CELEBRATING
EVERY SUCCESS

The Spirit of Rishworth, Captured in Print

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



As we step into the final term of the academic year, there is a familiar sense of momentum and purpose across the school. For our senior pupils, the countdown to external examinations brings its own mixture of pressure, anticipation, and determination. These weeks are never easy, but they showcase the resilience and aspiration that define our community, and I have every confidence that our pupils will rise to the challenge with the same commitment they have shown throughout the year.

Yet, alongside the focus and hard work, this term brings so much to look forward to. Our calendar is full of opportunities to celebrate talent, dedication, and the joy of school life; performances, sporting fixtures, exhibitions, and of course our Prize Givings. These events remind us that education is not solely about outcomes but also about the pride we take in each other's achievements and the spirit that carries us through every stage of school life.

This term will also be a bittersweet one, as we prepare to say farewell to our Prep School. Its closure marks the end of an important era, and while the transition is undeniably emotional, it offers us a valuable opportunity to honour its lasting legacy. Generations of pupils, families, and staff have shaped the Prep School's story, and their memories, traditions, and values will remain an enduring part of who we are. Over the coming weeks, we will create and cherish opportunities to celebrate its history and the many lives it has touched.

On a personal note, this final term will also mark the end of my own chapter here before I move to the Lake District. It is a privilege to share these final weeks with our community, and I am deeply grateful for the warmth, trust, and partnership I have experienced during my time at Rishworth.

I continue to be impressed every day by the professionalism and positivity of our staff, who have approached this period of change with unwavering dedication. Equally, the steadfast support of parents has been both humbling and deeply appreciated. Times of transition can test a community, but they can also strengthen it, and I believe we are seeing that strength more clearly than ever.

As we begin this last chapter of the year, let us hold on to all that is meaningful: the successes still to come, the memories we carry forward, and the sense of togetherness that remains at the heart of our school.

Jessica Sheldrick

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS OF THE TERM

George and Harry (Y8) have been selected to represent the Yorkshire and North East ISFA team, an exciting honour for both students. George has also been named team captain, a fantastic recognition of his leadership and skill. As part of their preparation, the team has competed in friendly matches against professional academy sides including Leeds United and Hull City, gaining invaluable experience ahead of the regional ISFA tournament at Shrewsbury School.





Jacey-Mae (Y9) did something truly inspiring as part of her Duke of Edinburgh's Award, using her talent for singing to make a real difference. By performing and generously donating the money she has earned to charity, she has raised an incredible £17,000 so far. Her dedication, generosity and commitment to helping others make this a fantastic achievement that we are all very proud of.

Luke (Y8) has achieved fantastic results in recent outdoor karting competitions. He finished 4th out of 40 competitors in the Club 100 Northern Championship, followed by an impressive 2nd place out of 60 drivers in the Southern Championship. His skill, focus, and determination have really shone through, and we can't wait to see what he accomplishes next.



THIS TERM IN SPORT: FIXTURE HIGHLIGHTS



Under 13s Netball

Our U13 girls are through to Calderdale Finals Night! They showed incredible fight and determination in every match, winning 3 of their 4 pool games to reach the playoffs. In an exciting knockout, they beat Calder High School to secure their place in the finals. Well done to all the girls for their hard work and team spirit.



Under 16s Football

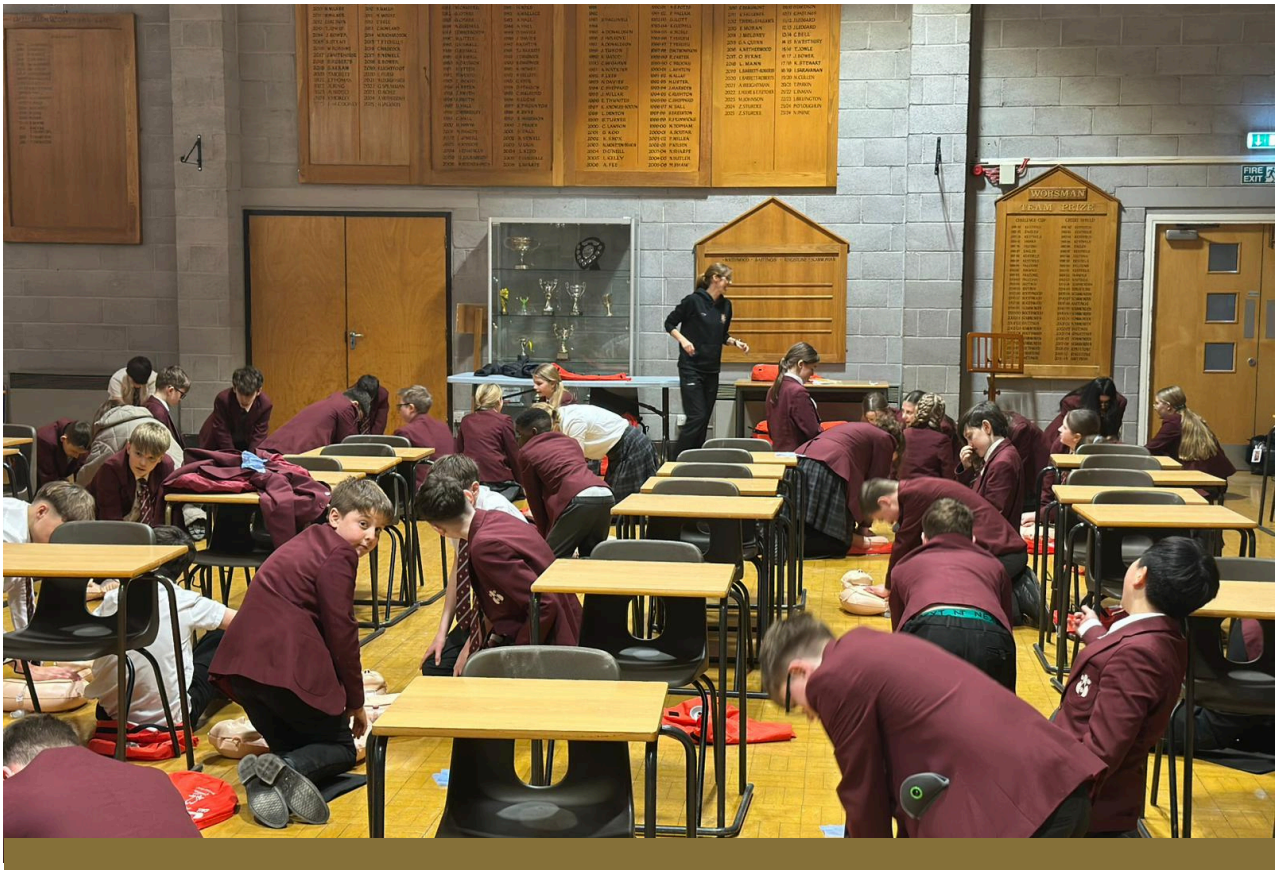
The U16s produced a fantastic performance in a thrilling game, emerging victorious in an exciting Cup match. Trailing 1-0 with less than ten minutes remaining, the team fought back to score a well-deserved equaliser. With the momentum on their side, they went on to score two brilliant goals in the closing minutes, securing their place in the next round. A superb display of determination, skill, and teamwork from all the lads.



Under 14's Netball

Congratulations to our U14 girls who went undefeated in the Calderdale Championships to earn their place at Finals Night! Their skill, teamwork, and consistency throughout the tournament were exceptional. We wish them the best of luck in the finals.

LIFE-SAVING LESSONS IN YEAR 8



As part of their PSHCE curriculum, Year 8 students at Rishworth School have been learning CPR, a life saving skill that can make the difference between life and death.

Through hands on training, pupils are gaining the confidence and courage to act in an emergency. CPR education empowers young people with the knowledge to respond quickly and effectively when it matters most.

This learning has special significance at Rishworth. One of our students saved his father, Neil Davidson MBE, after he suffered a sudden cardiac arrest using the CPR skills he had been taught in school. That brave moment not only saved a life but inspired Neil to raise thousands of pounds to promote awareness of sudden cardiac arrest, CPR training and the importance of defibrillators.

We could not be prouder of the impact this education can have, proof that what students learn in school can truly save lives.





YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR – A CELEBRATION OF TALENT

Our Young Musician of the Year competition was a spectacular three day celebration of music, dedication and performance. With four sections including Prep, Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors, the event showcased the remarkable breadth of talent across the school.

Each day was filled with outstanding performances, as pupils demonstrated not only technical skill but creativity, expression and real courage in stepping onto the stage. The standard throughout was exceptionally high, making the judges' decisions no easy task.

At the end of the week, we held the grand final, bringing together finalists from every section to compete for the overall titles. It was a wonderful evening of music and a fitting finale to an inspiring week.

Huge congratulations to all of our finalists and winners. You should be incredibly proud of your achievements. We are also immensely grateful to the staff, organisers, accompanists and volunteers whose hard work behind the scenes ensured the competition ran so smoothly. It truly was a celebration of passion, commitment and pure talent.

YEAR 3 EXPLORE THE UNDERGROUND AT STUMP CROSS CAVERNS!

Year 3 pupils recently visited Stump Cross Caverns as part of their Stone Age topic, taking their learning beyond the classroom and into a remarkable natural setting. From the moment they arrived, they were eager to explore the underground landscape and deepen their understanding of early history.

Inside the caverns, the children examined impressive rock formations and considered how such environments may have connected to life in prehistoric Britain. They also took part in practical activities, including learning about fossil formation and searching for fossils and crystals.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in a real context, while encouraging curiosity, collaboration and thoughtful discussion. It was a memorable and worthwhile experience that strengthened their understanding of the Stone Age.

VIEW THEIR TRIP HERE!

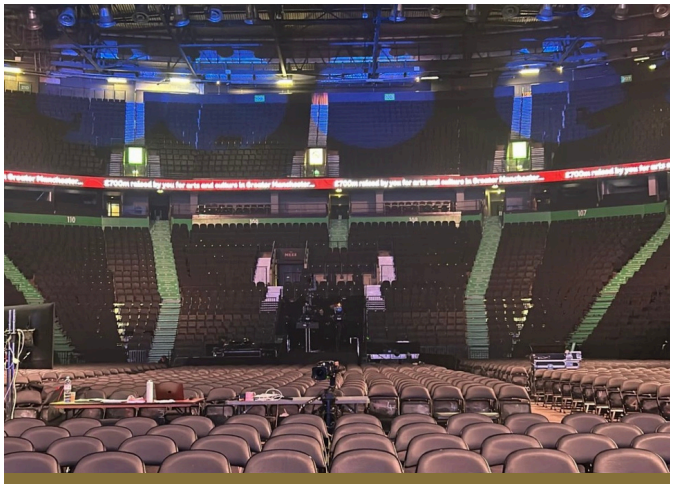


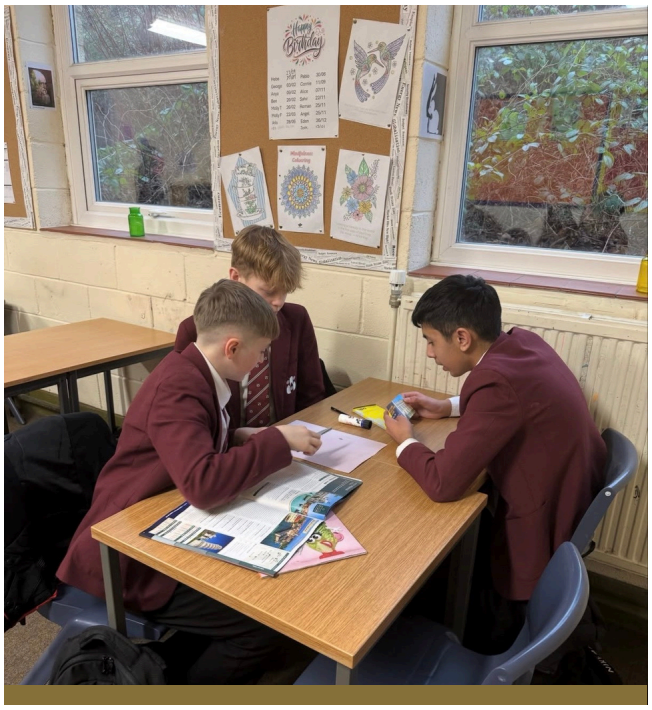
WILD THINGS SHINE AT AO ARENA FOR BIG NIGHT OF MUSICALS



Some of our Prep students in the Wild Things Performing Arts group experienced a truly unforgettable evening performing at the AO Arena as part of The National Lottery's Big Night of Musicals. Sharing the stage with the cast of Annie and the incredible Strictly star La Voix, our students showcased their talent on one of the UK's most iconic stages.

A huge thanks goes to Wild Things and of course The National Lottery for making this extraordinary opportunity possible for our students. The performance recently aired on the BBC, where we got to see the remarkable skills and energy of our students in action.







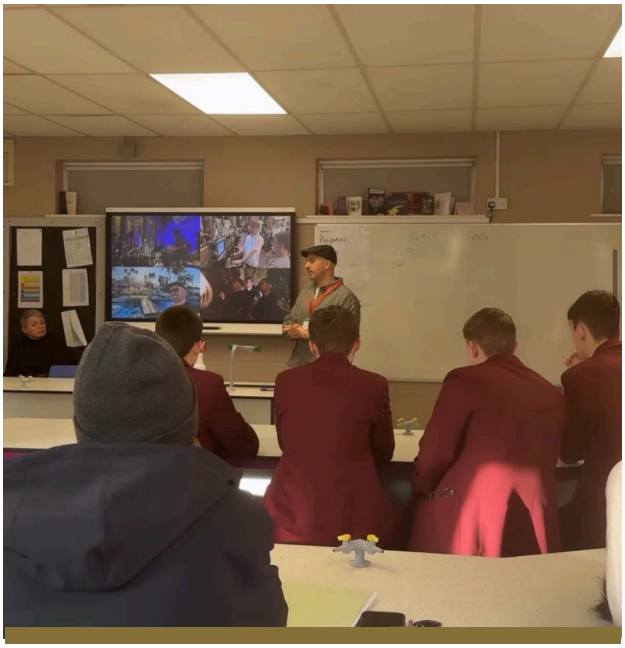
In February, our Year 9 pupils stepped into the shoes of Year 10 students for an exciting GCSE Taster Day. The experience gave them a valuable insight into life at the next stage of their education, helping them begin to consider their subject choices with greater confidence and enthusiasm.

STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE: YEAR 9 EMBRACE GCSE TASTER DAY

Students explored a range of subjects, including Business, PE and Psychology, gaining a real feel for GCSE-level learning. They also attended an informative talk on the HPQ and EPQ, learning how these qualifications can develop independence and strong research skills.

It was a fantastic day filled with curiosity, discovery and ambition, leaving our pupils feeling inspired and ready to look ahead to the next chapter of their learning journey.

INSPIRING FUTURES AT CAREERS MORNING

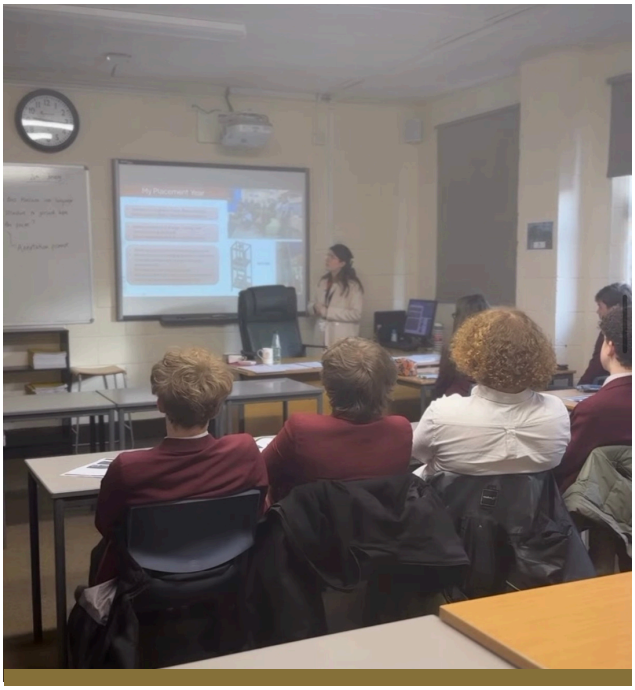


Our annual Careers Morning provided an invaluable opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students to hear directly from 11 inspiring guest speakers about their professional journeys. The event was designed to broaden horizons, raise aspirations and help students gain a clearer understanding of the many pathways available to them after school.

Students heard from professionals across a diverse range of fields, including Finance Directors, Solicitors, Sports Mentors, Social Workers and Teachers. Each speaker shared personal experiences, insights and advice, offering an honest and engaging look at the skills, dedication and resilience required in their respective careers.

In addition to the talks, students took part in university and apprenticeship workshops focused on interview skills, choosing the right university course and exploring apprenticeship opportunities. These practical sessions ensured that students left not only inspired, but better equipped to plan their next steps with confidence.

Careers Morning is a key part of preparing our students for life beyond school. We are incredibly grateful to all of our guest speakers for their time and commitment to inspiring the next generation.



VIEW THE MORNING HERE

RACING TO SUCCESS: PREP FORMULA 1 TEAM SHINES AT REGIONAL FINALS

Our Prep Formula 1 Club travelled to the National STEM Learning Centre to compete in the F1 in Schools Regional Finals this term. The event brought together schools from across the region for a day, celebrating innovation, teamwork and engineering excellence.

The competition featured a range of challenging assessments, starting with the high-speed race of the teams' custom-built F1 cars. Students were also required to present their work to judges and talk through their detailed design portfolios.

Their hard work was rewarded with fantastic success, as the two teams brought home four awards between them. This achievement reflects the dedication and commitment they have shown throughout the project.

Throughout the day, our teams showed impressive confidence, teamwork and technical understanding. They responded thoughtfully to judges' questions and represented the school with professionalism and pride.

A special congratulations goes to The Leopard Racers, who secured a top-five finish overall and qualified for the national competition.We are extremely proud of their success and excited to see what they achieve next.



YEAR 7 READERS TAKE THE LEAD: JUDGING THE ROYAL SOCIETY YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOOK PRIZE!







Our Year 7 students stepped into the exciting world of literary judging as part of the prestigious Royal Society Young People's Book Prize. Working alongside schools from across the UK, they reviewed six shortlisted books, exploring stories that sparked imagination, curiosity, and a love of reading.

The students did not just read; they evaluated, debated, and voted, ultimately selecting their favorite to represent their voice in the final round of the prize. Their thoughtful insights and enthusiasm highlighted the power of young readers in shaping literary recognition.

A huge congratulations to our young judges. Their dedication and passion not only made this experience unforgettable but also contributed meaningfully to a national celebration of science inspired literature.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT AT THE D OF E CERTIFICATE BREAKFAST



Recently, we came together to celebrate our Rishworth School students as they were presented with their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The D of E award is intentionally challenging and our students showed remarkable commitment in completing each section. They developed new skills, contributed to the community and navigated some tough moments, all of which speak volumes about their character, resilience and determination.

To mark the occasion, students enjoyed a celebratory breakfast full of pastries, fresh fruit and refreshing juices, setting the perfect tone for a morning of recognition and pride. It was a chance not only to acknowledge their achievements but also to reflect on the personal growth each student experienced throughout the programme.

We also want to highlight the staff whose dedication makes the DofE possible. Their guidance, encouragement and quiet persistence behind the scenes ensure students can approach these challenges with confidence and support. The breakfast was a fitting tribute to a programme that fosters perseverance, teamwork and meaningful progress, a morning full of celebration, accomplishment and inspiration.

A FISHY TAIL COMES TO LIFE: YEAR 3 AND 4 SHINE IN JONAH







Year 3 and 4 made a real splash on stage with their lively and heartwarming production of Jonah. Full of energy, colour, and confidence, the performance brought this well-known story to life in a way that captivated the audience from start to finish.

From the opening scene, pupils demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm, delivering their lines with clarity and expression. The musical numbers were a particular highlight, with catchy songs performed with great rhythm and joy. The children's confidence shone through in every scene, whether they were acting, singing, or dancing.

Costumes and props added a creative touch, helping to transform the stage into a vibrant storytelling space, and of course, the "big fish" proved to be a memorable moment that had the audience smiling.

What stood out most was the teamwork and commitment shown by all pupils. Every child played an important role in making the production a success, supporting one another and performing with pride.

Well done to Year 3 and 4 for such a fantastic achievement, and thank you to the staff who helped bring this wonderful production to life. It was truly an unforgettable performance.

WELCOMING BOB TAIT FOR EYE-OPENING TALK ON SUBSTANCE MISUSE



Our school recently had the privilege of hosting Bob Tait from Substance Misuse Education, who delivered a powerful and thought-provoking session for our students. Focusing on the law, consequences, and real-world realities of drug use, Bob's presentation gave students a clear understanding of the challenges and risks associated with substance misuse.

The session was not only informative but deeply engaging, encouraging students to ask questions and reflect on the choices they may face in their own lives. Following the student session, Bob also delivered an after-school presentation for parents and staff, providing valuable guidance on how to support young people and address this critical issue within our community.

We are incredibly grateful to Bob Tait for sharing his expertise and experiences, helping to empower our school community with knowledge and awareness about the serious realities of drug use.

CHARITY DAY SUPPORTS THE ENDEAVOR PROJECT

Hannah and Amiee, two of our Sixth Form students, organized a fantastic charity day in support of the Endeavor Project, a charity dedicated to temporarily caring for pets when their owners are unable to do so.

Students across Prep and Senior joined in the fun by coming dressed in their own clothes with a small donation. At the senior site, a bake sale and a variety of games gave everyone the chance to enjoy treats while raising money for a great cause.

At Rishworth Prep, the younger children went all out, arriving in their own clothes, animal-themed outfits, or even full animal costumes. Hannah and Amiee joined in the fun, leading games for Years 1 to 4 and hosting a raffle to win a giant dog.

The day was a wonderful success, combining community spirit, creativity, and compassion for animals, all while supporting a charity making a real difference.







FOUNDATION STAGE EXPLORES TESCO



The Foundation Stage enjoyed a fun and educational trip to the local Tesco in the school minibus. The visit was part of their learning about Chinese New Year and Pancake Day, giving the children the chance to collect all the ingredients needed for their themed activities.

Staff praised the children for being exceptionally well-behaved and helpful throughout the trip. The outing combined hands-on learning with real-life experience, helping the children explore food, culture, and teamwork outside the classroom.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to bring their learning to life while having lots of fun along the way.







This term, our Prep School proudly took part in Children's Mental Health Week, focusing on the theme of Belonging. The week began with a whole-school assembly exploring what it means to belong and why feeling connected to others is so important for our wellbeing.

PREP SCHOOL SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Throughout the week, children created thoughtful "Belonging Maps," highlighting the places and people where they feel most connected, whether at home, in a club, with friends, or at school. It has been inspiring to see them reflect on the people and spaces that make them feel safe, valued, and included.

Although the planned whole-school walk was postponed due to the weather, one of the week's highlights was coming together each day for five minutes of dancing. These joyful moments filled the hall with energy and smiles, showing the power of movement, fun, and shared connection in supporting wellbeing.



RISHWORTH PREP SHINES AT YOUNG VOICES

Our Young Voices Choir represented Rishworth Prep in Manchester as part of the world's largest choir event. Thirteen children from KS2 performed at the Co-Op Live Arena alongside almost 8,000 other young singers from schools across the country.

The journey began in September when the choir signed up and started learning songs, medleys, and dances during the EE club with Miss Eastwood. Weeks of practice culminated in an exciting day in Manchester, travelling by minibus for rehearsals, a packed tea, and finally performing for an enthusiastic audience.

The concert was a memorable experience filled with music, energy, and teamwork, leaving everyone proud of their achievement. Well done to all the children for their dedication and enthusiasm.

WORLD BOOK DAY AT RISHWORTH







Rishworth came alive with imagination and creativity as students and staff celebrated World Book Day in style. From classic characters to modern favourites, the school was filled with an array of fantastic costumes, showcasing a shared love of reading and storytelling.

A highlight of the day was a special visit from local author Niyla Farook, who spoke to students in Years 7 to 10 in the Performing Arts Centre. She shared her passion for books and her journey to becoming a published writer, inspiring many aspiring authors in the audience.

Students also enjoyed browsing a dedicated book stall from The Book Stop in the library, while the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed tuck shop, created by the PTA, added a touch of magic to the day, complete with Wonka bars and the exciting chance to discover a Golden Ticket and win prizes.

A huge thank you goes to the PTA and the English Department for their hard work in making the day such a fun and memorable celebration of reading!

YEAR 9 AND 10 GIRLS EXPLORE WOMEN IN STEM



Recently, our Year 9 and 10 girls spent an exciting and inspiring day at the Women in STEM event at The Engineering Centre in Brighouse, discovering the wide range of opportunities available in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Through engaging talks, hands on activities and the chance to meet industry professionals, students gained valuable insight into the diverse and rewarding pathways that STEM careers can offer.

It was a brilliant experience that inspired curiosity, built confidence and encouraged the next generation of women to see themselves in STEM.

LEARNING LIFESAVING SKILLS WITH FLAT STAN



Our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils recently took part in interactive first aid sessions with Flat Stan, gaining important skills in a fun and engaging way.

Through practical activities, students learned how to respond to everyday emergencies with confidence, staying calm and making sensible decisions when it matters most. It was fantastic to see how focused and responsible everyone was throughout the sessions.

We hope they have been sharing their new knowledge at home, so be sure to ask what they learned!

A big thank you to Simon Ferris for delivering such an enjoyable and valuable experience for our Prep students.





Our Year 2 pupils recently enjoyed a first class day at Manchester Airport, packed with excitement, discovery and unforgettable experiences from start to finish.

READY FOR TAKE OFF: YEAR 2'S AIRPORT ADVENTURE!

During their visit, students had the incredible opportunity to watch planes take off and land up close, sparking curiosity about how airports operate and how aircraft travel across the world. The experience was brought to life even further as pupils dressed up as pilots, stepped into role play scenarios and even had the chance to sit in the captain's seat, making them feel like real aviators for the day.

There were plenty of excited faces, lots of thoughtful questions and big imaginations at work throughout the trip, with many pupils already dreaming about future careers in aviation. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and engagement as they explored such a fascinating environment.

It was a fantastic day of learning beyond the classroom and an experience they will remember for a long time!

A FANTASTIC MARCH OPEN DAY AT RISHWORTH



We were delighted to welcome so many families into school this March, giving them a real opportunity to experience life at Rishworth first hand. The day was filled with energy and enthusiasm, as visitors explored everything our school has to offer.

From stepping into classrooms and seeing lessons in action, to discovering our excellent facilities, guests were able to gain a true sense of the vibrant learning environment we are so proud of. Many also enjoyed sampling our freshly prepared school meals, while taking the time to speak with both staff and students about daily life at Rishworth.

It was wonderful to see such genuine interest and excitement throughout the day. Our students were fantastic ambassadors for the school, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to making the event run so smoothly.

VIEW THE DAY HERE

A VISIT TO REMEMBER: RISHWORTH HOST ITALIAN STUDENTS



We recently had the pleasure of hosting students from BEST Middle School Torino for a short stay visit at Rishworth and what a fantastic experience it was.

Each visiting student was paired with a Rishworth buddy, allowing them to dive straight into daily school life. They followed a full timetable, taking part in a wide range of lessons including English, PE, Food and Nutrition and Art.

It was wonderful to see how enthusiastically they embraced every opportunity. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field or exploring campus life, the students showed great curiosity and a genuine eagerness to learn. They truly immersed themselves in the full British school experience.

Our Rishworth students were excellent hosts, making their partners feel welcome and supported throughout their stay. Experiences like this are invaluable, building friendships, confidence and cultural understanding.



VIEW THEIR VISIT HERE



INSPIRING FUTURE MEDICS AT RISHWORTH

We recently had the pleasure of welcoming Dr Sophie Newton to speak with our Year 8 students about careers in general practice, delivering an engaging and insightful session that offered a valuable glimpse into life in medicine.

Students were captivated throughout the talk, gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to work as a GP and the many pathways into the medical profession. The session concluded with a fantastic Q and A, where students asked thoughtful and curious questions, showing real enthusiasm and interest in the field.

Alongside her work as a GP, Dr Newton also runs her own Instagram page and regularly appears on TV as a consultant doctor, making her visit even more inspiring for our aspiring medics.

A big thank you to Dr Sophie Newton for giving her time and inspiring our students. We hope her visit has sparked ambition and excitement for future careers in medicine.

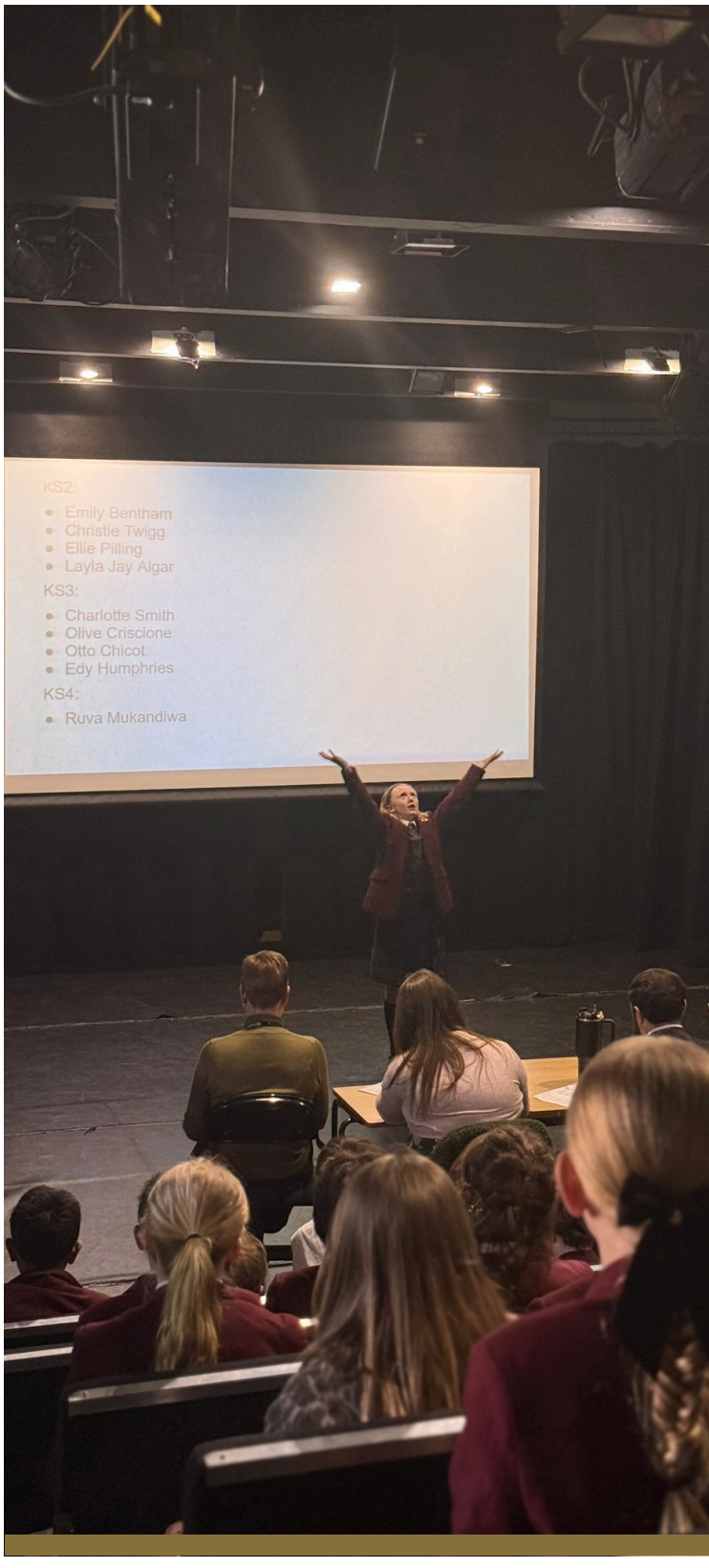
POETRY BY HEART RETURNS TO RISHWORTH

For the third year running, Rishworth students took part in the fantastic national Poetry by Heart competition, helping to celebrate and promote a love of poetry across our whole school community.

This year also saw members of staff leading by example by entering the staff competition. Following the same process as the students, participants selected a poem, learnt it by heart and performed it aloud in front of an audience and in house judges.

The standard of performances was incredibly high, with both students and staff showing confidence, creativity and real passion for poetry. The top performances were recorded and submitted to the official Poetry by Heart judges, with the opportunity to progress to the Grand Finale at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

We are proud to share that many of our students and staff performed exceptionally well, continuing Rishworth's strong track record in the competition. Events like this highlight the talent within our school and the power of poetry to inspire and bring people together.



EGG-CITING EASTER CELEBRATIONS AT RISHWORTH PREP

It has been a joyful and festive end to term at Rishworth Prep, with pupils celebrating Easter in a variety of fun and memorable ways.

The celebrations began with a special Easter assembly, where students came together to reflect on the meaning of the season and enjoy the sense of community that makes Rishworth so special.

Our youngest pupils in Nursery and Reception delighted everyone with their wonderful Easter bonnets, proudly showing off their creative designs in a colourful and cheerful display.

To round off the term, pupils enjoyed a lively Easter Disco, filled with music, dancing and plenty of excitement. The disco was kindly organised by our PTA, and we are very grateful for their hard work in making the event such a success. The highlight of the afternoon was a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny, who brought smiles and laughter to all.

It was a fantastic way to celebrate the end of term!





