



THE SMITHDONIAN



Summer 2026 Edition

Work hard, be kind and smile

Welcome to SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL



As we reach the end of another successful academic year, we also begin a new chapter for Smithdon High School. Having served as Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Robinson has now taken on the role of Headteacher. Already well known to our students, staff and families, she brings a wealth of experience, commitment and a deep understanding of our school community.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Robinson every success in her new role. We know that the months ahead will bring both opportunities and challenges and we look forward to continuing to work together as we build on the many strengths of our school. As this is our final magazine of the academic year, we'd also like to thank everyone who has contributed to another year filled with achievement, creativity and success. We wish all our students, staff and families a relaxing summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Congratulations to our newly appointed Head Students, Pippa and Sam. We are delighted to see them take on this important role and know they will represent the school community with enthusiasm, integrity and pride. Becoming Head Student is a tremendous achievement and a reflection of the commitment, leadership and positive example they have shown throughout their time at Smithdon. We wish them every success as they begin this exciting new chapter and have no doubt they will make a lasting impact on the school community. We are also looking forward to hearing from them throughout the next academic year, as they share their experiences, achievements and reflections in future editions of the school magazine. Congratulations to Sid, Archie, Iris and Mollie, who have been appointed as our Deputy Head Students. We wish them every success in their new roles and look forward to seeing all they achieve over the coming year.

Rewarding a Golden Effort

In May, students in Years 7–10 enjoyed special Golden Ticket Reward mornings to celebrate their fantastic achievement of maintaining 100% attendance and receiving zero C points.

The reward mornings gave students the opportunity to relax and socialise with friends while enjoying breakfast and spending time playing Nintendo games together. The events were a well-deserved recognition of the students' excellent commitment, positive behaviour and dedication throughout the term.

Their pastoral teams were delighted to celebrate the hard work and consistency shown by so many students and the mornings created a fun and positive atmosphere across each year group.

Congratulations to all students who earned a Golden Ticket - a brilliant achievement that reflects the high standards and positive attitude within our school community.



William was happy to start that day with a hot chocolate and pastry.





Ink, Imagination and Success

Congratulations to Freya, Indie, Lexie, Freya and Poppy, whose creative writing talents have been recognised in the prestigious Young Writers – *I Have A Dream* poetry competition.

The students impressed the judges with their inspirational and imaginative poems, earning the exciting opportunity for their work to be published in the anthology celebrating young writers from across the country. This is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful recognition of their creativity, effort and originality. The students were delighted to receive the news and everyone at Smithdon is incredibly proud of their success. Their certificates and commemorative postcards were presented during assembly in recognition of their accomplishment. Their poems demonstrated thoughtful ideas, strong expression and real inspiration, showcasing the excellent talent we have within our school community. Adding to these literary successes, congratulations also go to Year 9 student Abi, whose story, *Run, or Not*, was selected for publication in the *Stranger Sagas* anthology. Having her work chosen for publication is a fantastic achievement and highlights the strength of creative writing across the school. Well done to all of our published writers on these outstanding accomplishments.

Mrs Faulkner's Writing Group meets in the library – a welcoming space for creativity and inspiration. Whether you enjoy poetry, stories or creative writing, it's a chance to develop your skills and share ideas. If you dream of seeing your work published, come along and let your words shine.

Oh why, oh why

Oh why, oh why

Must the animals die?

All sad and alone,

Without a home.

Oh why, oh why

Are we so horrible

To the animals that are adorable?

Oh why, oh why,

Are we so malicious

When animals aren't ever vicious.?

Oh why, oh why,

Do we sin against animals that swim,

And put their corpses in the bin.

Oh why, oh why,

Do we hurt the animals on land?

Try to understand.

Oh why, oh why,

Do we kill the animals in the sky,

They just want to fly.

Oh why, oh why,

Must our animals die?

By Indie, Freya and Lexie - Year 9

Day or night

Reality or dream

Every time the sun sets

Always look for the light

Midnight skies will guide you

Poppy - Year 7

Day or night,

Red or blue,

Every minute of everyday,

Anytime or anywhere,

My dream or yours, all we can do is hope.

Freya - Year 7

Run... Or not...

A single word appeared on the screen. Run. I think to myself ...

"Run?" "Why?".

My golden orb danced around my head, impatiently. She also wanted me to run.

I looked outside, the world seemed to be holding its breath.

The colour was draining from the world, bright colours, to pastels, to water washed grey.

"Run, I need to run, NOW". The sky flashes red. As if by magic the sky turns back then blue. Then flashes black. Then back to blue again. Then a lightning strike shoots through the sky. I step out the door and the ground falls in...

Abi - Year 9

A Year of Performance

Celebrating talent, creativity and opportunity...

By Mrs Proctor

As the curtain falls on another busy academic year, we can proudly reflect on an incredible year of creativity, performance and achievement within the Performing Arts department. We were delighted to welcome so many families and friends to our annual Summer Concert on 1 July. Their support helped create a wonderful atmosphere as our talented students showcased the hard work, dedication and musical progress they have made throughout the year. Alongside an outstanding programme of musical performances, we were also delighted to be supported by the Art department, whose exhibition showcased a wonderful selection of work from our feeder primary schools and Key Stage 3 students. It was a real pleasure for visitors to admire the creativity and talent on display throughout the evening.

The concert itself was a fantastic celebration of our students' musical achievements. Audiences were treated to an impressive variety of performances, from confident ensemble pieces and instrumental numbers to brave solo performances, with several students taking to the stage on their own for the very first time. Their courage, commitment and talent were truly inspiring. The evening was a tremendous success, and we are incredibly proud of every student who contributed, both on stage and behind the scenes, helping to make the event run so smoothly. The concert concluded with a spectacular performance of *Friend Like Me* by the cast of *Aladdin Jr.*, offering audiences an exciting preview of this year's school production. With its energetic choreography, vibrant vocals and infectious enthusiasm, it was the perfect finale to a memorable evening. We can't wait to bring the full production to the Town Hall on 9 and 10 December.

We have been fortunate to offer a wide range of co-curricular theatre trips throughout the year, all of which have proved incredibly popular with our students. Students from every key stage have had the opportunity to experience professional productions, enjoying unforgettable performances



Rosie hit all the right notes with a brilliant guitar performance.



of *Hamilton*, *War Horse*, *Aladdin*, *the Hippodrome Christmas Spectacular*, *Wicked* and *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. Experiencing live theatre allows students to witness every aspect of stagecraft in action, from lighting and sound to set design, costume and performance. These visits deepen their appreciation of the creative process and enrich their understanding of how the many elements of theatre combine to create truly memorable productions. They have also provided invaluable inspiration for our own young performers and have been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

As another successful year draws to a close, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our students in 2026/27. With more performances, productions and theatre experiences already in the pipeline, there is plenty to look forward to. From everyone in the Performing Arts Department, we wish all of our students and their families a wonderful, restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting year of music, drama and dance.



Wands, Wonder and the West End

There was magic in the air as students from Smithdon High School travelled to London's West End to experience the spellbinding production of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. The unforgettable trip saw 44 students from Years 7 to 11 immersed in the wonder of live theatre, watching the internationally acclaimed production brought to life with breathtaking special effects, dazzling staging and moments that left the audience completely captivated.

Accompanied by Head of Drama Mrs Proctor, Drama Teacher Miss Brown, and Learning Support Assistants Mr Britton and Mrs Burrows, students enjoyed a truly magical day in the capital. For some, it was their very first visit to London, making the adventure even more exciting.

Mrs Proctor said: "It was an incredible opportunity for students to see live theatre at its absolute best. The magic, illusion and storytelling were unlike anything they had ever seen before, and the students were completely mesmerised from beginning to end.

"With the original two-part production finishing later this year, we were so pleased that students had the chance to experience *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* exactly as it was intended."

The trip was made possible thanks to the support of Heacham Youth and Community Trust, helping students enjoy not only an outstanding theatre performance, but also the excitement and atmosphere of London's famous theatre district.

From jaw-dropping magical moments on stage to the buzz of the West End itself, the experience created memories that students will treasure for years to come. The group also enjoyed time together during the intervals, including a much-appreciated stop at McDonald's.

Smithdon is proud to provide opportunities that inspire creativity, confidence and a love of the arts beyond the classroom and this magical theatre trip certainly did exactly that.



Last month, our Year 9 students took on their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award expedition to Southwold, setting off for a two-day adventure filled with challenge, teamwork and unforgettable memories. With their backpacks packed and a sense of excitement (and perhaps a little apprehension!), the students headed into the Suffolk countryside, ready to test their resilience and independence.



Throughout the expedition, students navigated their routes using maps, explored the beautiful coastal landscape and enjoyed the fresh sea air and stunning views along the way. They worked together to pitch their tents, prepare meals on camping stoves and support one another through every step of the journey. The expedition provided much more than just a physical challenge. Walking miles each day, carrying everything they needed and spending a night under canvas encouraged students to develop confidence, problem-solving skills and a greater sense of independence. Away from their usual routines and surrounded by their friends, many students reflected on how proud they felt of what they had achieved and how rewarding it was to complete such a demanding experience.



We are incredibly proud of all our Year 9 students for their determination, teamwork and positive attitudes throughout the expedition. Completing a Duke of Edinburgh expedition is no easy achievement, especially when the sun is shining, the miles are adding up and the comfort of home feels a long way away. Tired legs, rumbling stomachs and a night without the usual comforts are all part of the challenge - but overcoming these moments is what makes the achievement even more special. We are excited to see many of our students continue their Duke of Edinburgh journey next year as they take on the Silver Award and embrace their next challenge.



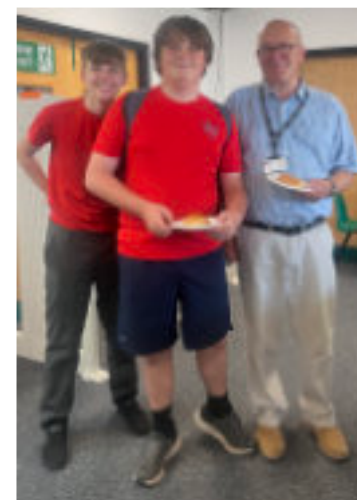
Forest School has once again been a fantastic success this year, giving students the opportunity to learn, explore and grow in the great outdoors. Throughout the year, they have developed practical skills, built confidence and resilience and embraced new challenges through a wide range of hands-on activities. From working together to solve problems and create woodland projects to learning about nature and the environment through every season, every session encouraged teamwork, communication and independence.

To celebrate everything they have achieved, students were invited to a special Forest School Breakfast Celebration with Mrs Smith, Mr Britton and Mrs Burrows who has supported and accompanied them on their Forest School journey each week. The celebration provided an opportunity to reflect on a year of adventure, learning and personal growth while enjoying breakfast together with friends. Each student was presented with a certificate in recognition of their commitment, enthusiasm and the progress they have made throughout the year.

During the celebration, Ms Moat asked students to share their favourite memories from the year. Alexis enjoyed "having fun without technology", while Reggie said his favourite part was "meeting new people". Tommy reflected on how he had "made more friends", and Alex shared that Forest School taught him that "it's OK to be different". Dominic loved making popcorn over the campfire, Jenny's highlight was creating a dream catcher, Aurora said that "your imagination runs wild in the forest", Darcey enjoyed learning "how to cook food on the fire", and Lewie was proud of learning how to light a fire safely.

Ms Moat praised every student for how far they had come over the year, highlighting the remarkable progress they had made in confidence, positivity, teamwork and their understanding of both themselves and others. A special congratulations went to Dominic, who received a special award in recognition of his outstanding progress in communication and teamwork.

Congratulations to all of our Forest School students for their fantastic achievements. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished and look forward to seeing their confidence, curiosity and love of learning continue to flourish.



Exploring future pathways

Year 10 Sixth Form and College Experience

Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed an exciting and inspiring day at the College of West Anglia, where they had the opportunity to experience a range of vocational courses and discover what further education has to offer.

Throughout the day, our students took part in practical, hands-on sessions across a variety of subject areas, including Cabin Crew, Beauty Therapy and Carpentry. From learning about customer service and aviation careers to trying professional beauty techniques and developing woodworking skills, the day gave everyone the chance to step outside the classroom and explore new interests.

Experiences like these are an important part of preparing our students for the future. They allow young people to see the wide range of pathways available after GCSEs, helping them to make informed decisions about their next steps. Visiting a college environment also gives students greater confidence, encourages independence and helps them understand the skills and qualities that employers and further education providers value. For many students, the visit sparked new ambitions and opened their eyes to careers they may never have previously considered. Whether they left inspired to pursue a vocational qualification or simply with a better understanding of the opportunities available, the day was a valuable step in helping them plan for their future.

A huge thank you to the College of West Anglia for providing such an engaging and informative experience. We hope our Year 10 students came away feeling motivated, inspired and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.



There was also the opportunity to experience life as a sixth former during a visit to Springwood High School Sixth Form in King's Lynn. The Sixth Form Experience Day brought together around 350 students from across the Trust, giving them an insight into what studying A Levels is really like. Throughout the day, Smithdon students selected three A-Level taster sessions from more than 30 different subjects, allowing them to explore areas of interest and experience learning in a sixth form environment.

Alongside the lessons, students attended a welcome presentation, met current Sixth Form Ambassadors and took part in a question-and-answer session, where they were able to ask honest questions about sixth form life, balancing independent study, and preparing for the challenges of A Levels. They also had the chance to use the dedicated sixth form facilities, including study areas and social spaces, helping them gain a real feel for life beyond Year 11.

The visit forms an important part of our careers education programme, helping students begin to think about the choices they will make after completing their GCSEs. By experiencing a typical day in sixth form, students were able to consider whether A' Levels could be the right pathway for them, while also understanding the commitment, organisation and independence that further study requires.

For many students, the day provided valuable insight into the opportunities available after Year 11 and helped them begin to consider their future aspirations with greater confidence. Experiences such as these are invaluable in supporting young people to make informed decisions about their next steps and ensuring they are well prepared for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

Our students were excellent ambassadors for Smithdon throughout both visits, with their exemplary behaviour, enthusiasm and willingness to engage earning praise from staff at both venues.

CHECKMATE

Smithdons Chess Team Achieves Gold Victory!



There were plenty of tense moments and strategic battles as 26 students competed in this year's school chess tournament. The tournament was once again expertly run by Martin Walker, a professional chess player and internationally qualified instructor who holds the prestigious title of FIDE Master (FM). His knowledge, guidance and organisation helped create a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their skills, confidence and love of the game.

Over a series of challenging matches, players demonstrated impressive concentration, skill and determination as they battled for a place in the WNAT Trust tournament. Every move mattered, with several closely fought games keeping everyone watching closely. The tournament ended with an exciting three-way tie at the top between Zane, Harrison and Lucas, who all finished with outstanding performances. Congratulations go to the ten highest-placed players, who secured their places in the Trust Chess Tournament.

On 24 June, the chess team travelled to Marshland to compete against the other WNAT Trust schools. Despite it being an extremely hot day, and with several Year 10 players away taking part in their college experience days, the team showed fantastic commitment. With reserve players stepping up, they demonstrated teamwork, determination and a real ambition to succeed.

For the first time ever, our school achieved Gold at the Trust Chess Tournament! Each team member received an individual medal and the school will proudly display an engraved trophy celebrating this fantastic achievement.

We are incredibly proud of the whole team. Their hard work, resilience and determination to win made this a tournament to remember. A huge well done to everyone who took part, your dedication has made school chess history!



A Winning Half Term for Science

By Mrs Pike

What a fantastic and busy half term it has been for the Science Department! Our students have enjoyed an incredible run of success, beginning with our *Race to the Line* team, who were crowned winners at the Trust Final held at Springwood. This achievement was followed by another triumph when one of our teams won the *IET Faraday Challenge Day*. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved and can't wait to receive our trophies in the new academic year.

The *IET Faraday Challenge Day* challenged teams to think like real engineers, racing against the clock to design and build a prototype to solve a genuine engineering problem. This year's challenge, *Remote Operations*, required students to design and construct a device capable of remotely moving two objects representing a human heart (a tennis ball) and a human kidney (a ping-pong ball) into the correct positions within a model human body. To make the task even more realistic, students were unable to see the model directly. Instead, they had to control their device using only a live video feed, replicating the challenges faced in modern remote engineering and surgical operations.

Working within a budget of 150 Faradays (the event's currency), teams had to carefully manage their spending, purchase materials and refine their designs through testing and teamwork, demonstrating excellent problem-solving, communication and resilience throughout. A group of ten Year 9 students also travelled to Springwood to take part in the *UEA Bringing Science to You* event. They enjoyed a hands-on day of programming robots, extracting DNA and creating their own potions, giving them an exciting insight



into the wide range of opportunities available within science. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

Back at Smithdon, excitement continued as our current Year 7 students took part in the annual *Race to the Line* event. After designing and building their own rocket-powered cars, they spent the afternoon racing them in the Sports Hall, where there was plenty of friendly competition and impressive engineering on display. After an exciting afternoon of racing, *Rad Bell* claimed first place with team members George, Reuben and Jesse. *Lightning McTeam*, made up of Leo, Zayne and Jaxon, secured second place, while joint third place went to *Lightning The Queens* (Jessica, Julia, Eden, Alivia, Elisia and Delilah) and *VIP* (Lewis, Hayden and Asa). Well done to everyone for their fantastic teamwork, creativity and engineering skills.



Outside the classroom, Miss Soper and her Year 7 class have been hard at work in the school garden, caring for the plants and ensuring they survived this summer's hot weather! The garden continues to flourish, helped by the addition of a shelter purchased through a Tesco grant, which has become a valuable feature of this outdoor learning space.

We can't wait to welcome everyone into our fantastic new facilities in September and look forward to another year of inspiring scientific discovery, innovation and success.



Racing Towards STEM Success

A team of talented Year 8 students from Smithdon recently took part in the exciting West Norfolk Academies Trust "Race to the Line" STEM Challenge, putting their engineering and problem-solving skills to the test against other students from across the trust. The competition, held at Springwood, challenged students to design, build and race their own CO₂-powered cars. Teams from Smithdon, Springwood and Marshland competed to create the fastest and most effective racer.

The challenge required students to think like real engineers. Working together, they designed and constructed their vehicles, carefully considering both appearance and aerodynamics. Teams also had to make adjustments and repairs throughout the day to ensure their cars were ready for the high-speed races. Once complete, the racers were powered by small CO₂ canisters, launching them down the track in a thrilling head-to-head competition. The event tested not only engineering skills but also teamwork, creativity and resilience.

The Race to the Line initiative was coordinated by Springwoods Science teacher Ms Colley, with support from staff across all participating schools. The trust-wide final brought together the top-performing teams from previous Year 7 competitions, giving students the opportunity to compete against their peers from across West Norfolk. Although the overall winners were a team from Springwood, our students represented the school brilliantly throughout the event, demonstrating enthusiasm, determination and excellent STEM skills.

Events such as Race to the Line provide valuable opportunities for students to apply their classroom learning in practical, hands-on situations. They encourage creativity, innovation and collaboration while helping to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and designers.

Congratulations to all of the Smithdon students who took part and represented the school with pride!



PROM

A Farewell in Style



If there were awards for prom arrivals, our leavers would certainly be contenders! This year's lineup featured everything from luxury cars to vintage classics, with Reese's Ice Cream Van making its debut - a welcome addition that proved just as popular as

The 2026 leavers Prom at Knights Hill in King's Lynn was an evening to remember, celebrating the end of an important chapter and the start of an exciting new journey. The evening brought another dose of summer sunshine, making it the perfect backdrop as students arrived in style. From impressive outfits to some seriously cool vehicles and horses, the arrivals created plenty of excitement and gave everyone a chance to admire

the effort and creativity that went into the evening.

Once inside, students enjoyed a fantastic celebration filled with delicious food, laughter and memories being made. Reese's ice-cream van was a definite highlight, offering a welcome treat and helping everyone cool down after another very warm day.



Of course, no prom would be complete without the traditional photo booth, this year we had the marvellous *Magic Mirror*, where the students captured plenty of fun moments, big smiles and a few questionable poses that will no doubt be remembered for years to come! The dance floor came alive as the disco got underway, with students and staff enjoying the music, celebrating friendships and making the most of their final school event together.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Green, their Pastoral Manager, who once again did a fabulous job organising the event and ensuring everything ran smoothly. Mrs Gibbins also came along to watch the students arrive and to wish them all well, creating a lovely and special moment as they marked the end of their time at Smithdon. A huge well done to all of Year 11 for making the evening such a success. We hope you look back on your prom as a night full of friendship, fun and fantastic memories - and perhaps a few photos that might make you smile for years to come!



Prom night with a twist — glamour met horsepower in the most wonderful way. From elegant horses to mighty tractors and beautiful vintage cars, our leavers created entrances full of personality, style and memories to last a lifetime!





From Hot Wheels to high fashion — Marley was ready for the red carpet!

The perfect finishing touch, a beautiful bouquet to complete Geo's prom look.



Vintage wheels, modern style – Corey made quite the entrance!

A dazzling blue gown, with sparkling details, Holly made a beautiful entrance to prom. Arriving in a red Mini, she perfectly combined elegance with a touch of fun!



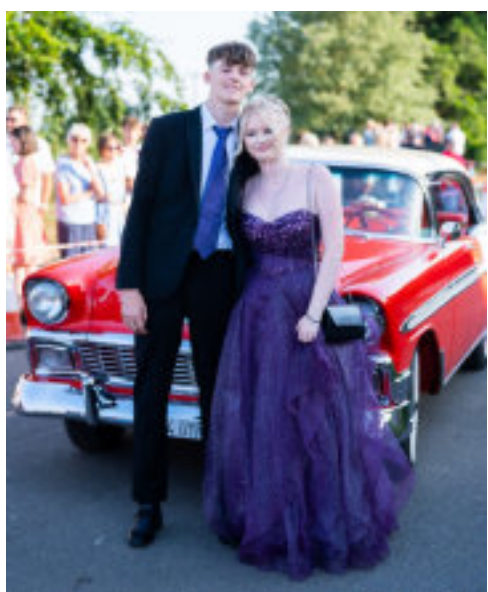
Blue was definitely the colour of the evening for Anya and Freya!

Red car, sharp style and plenty of smiles — Lewis was definitely prom ready.



Looking elegant in a blush pink gown, Liona made a graceful entrance to prom.

Looking sharp in a classic navy suit, Brogan made a stylish arrival, with an eye-catching blue Bentley providing the perfect backdrop.



A touch of vintage glamour, a lot of style and memories to last a lifetime.

Darcie's elegant look was the perfect fit for prom night.



Dressed to impress, Isaac made a confident arrival worthy of the red carpet. With a stunning red Ferrari completing the picture!

Making a stylish entrance, Isabelle arrived in a striking green outfit, perfectly complemented by a matching sports car!

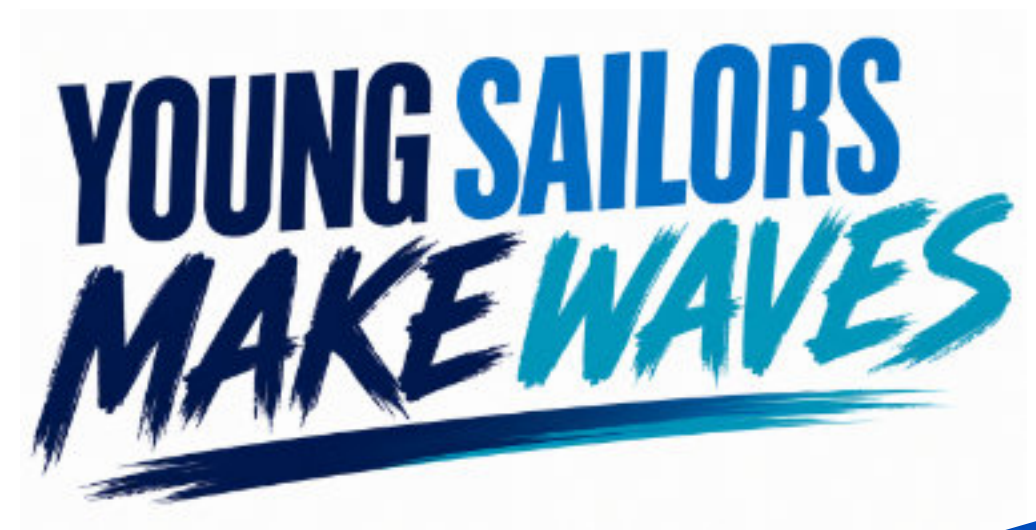
SPORTS

It has been another fantastic term for sport at Smithdon, with students embracing a wide range of opportunities to stay active, challenge themselves and represent the school with pride. A particular highlight was welcoming Beyond the Baseline, where former professional tennis player Jade visited Smithdon to work with students, sharing her expertise on the court while inspiring them to develop their confidence, resilience and love of the game. Our athletes also excelled at the annual Town Sports event, demonstrating determination, teamwork and outstanding sportsmanship against local schools. The term concluded with our ever-popular Sports Day, where students gave their all in a variety of track and field events, cheered on by their peers in a wonderful display of house spirit and friendly competition. It has been a term full of achievement, enthusiasm and memorable sporting moments and we look forward to building on these successes in the year ahead.

Beyond the Baseline

This summer, 24 Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to work once again with Jade Windley as part of the Beyond the Baseline project. Through tennis, the project helps young people develop important interpersonal skills, including confidence, communication, teamwork and leadership. With Jade's support, our Year 8 students planned a range of fun and engaging tennis activities to deliver to the upcoming Year 7 students during their transition day. On the day, our Year 8 tennis leaders delivered their activities to over 100 Year 7 students, demonstrating fantastic confidence, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout. They were outstanding role models and represented the school brilliantly. A huge well done to all of our fantastic Year 8 tennis leaders

A huge thank you to Jade for visiting Smithdon and inspiring our students both on and off the court.



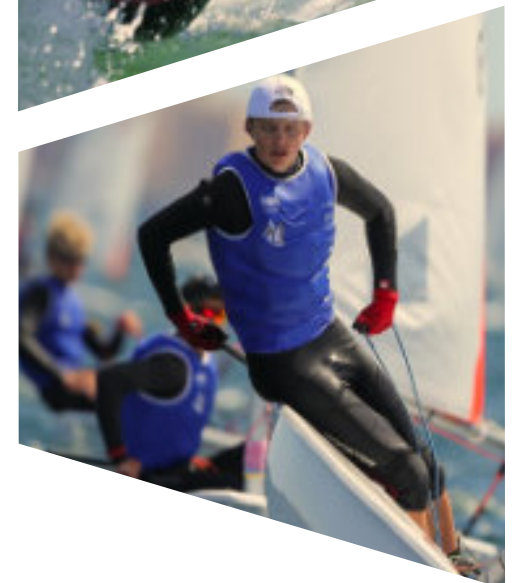
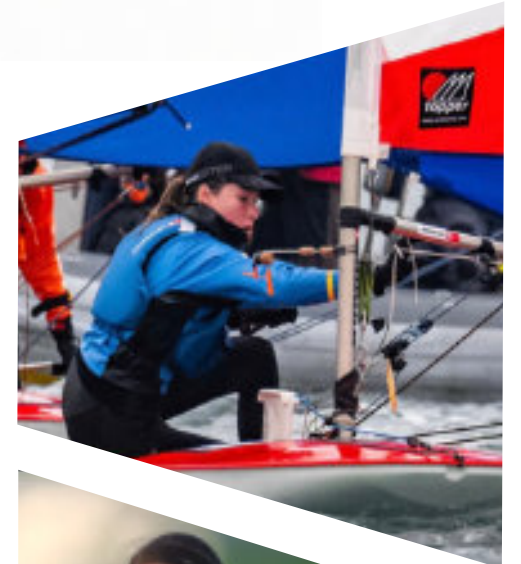
National success was on the horizon for six Smithdon students as they competed at the prestigious 38th RYA Eric Twiname Championships over the May bank holiday weekend. Representing Snettisham Beach Sailing Club at Rutland Sailing Club, they took on some of the UK's top junior and youth sailors in challenging light and shifty conditions. Their outstanding performances, which included race victories, top-10 finishes and regional honours, were a testament to their dedication, skill and commitment, earning them well-deserved recognition at one of the country's leading youth sailing events.

In the Junior Topper 5.3 fleet of 45 sailors, Daisy achieved an excellent 9th overall and 5th female overall in her first major Topper 5.3 event, recording six top-10 finishes. Harriet finished 13th overall and 6th female overall, while Emma secured 14th overall and 7th female overall, including an impressive race win.

In the Youth ILCA 4 fleet, Faith produced a breakthrough performance to finish 6th overall and 2nd female overall, including her first ILCA 4 race victory. Toby also impressed, finishing 2nd overall after achieving two race wins during the regatta. The sailors' performances helped Team East secure the overall Regional Trophy.

Smithdon is incredibly proud of the students' achievements and commitment, both in school and in their sporting pursuits outside the classroom. Their dedication, resilience and success at a national level are a fantastic reflection of the hard work they put into balancing academic studies with competitive sailing. All of the sailors have trained extensively through RYA Regional Performance Squads and national training programmes, supported by coach James Deaton.

Congratulations to Daisy, Harriet, Emma, Faith and Toby on their fantastic achievements - we look forward to following their sailing journeys and celebrating many more successes in the future.





SPORTS DAY

Records Broken, Spirits High and Red House Reigns Supreme!

What a day! If anyone was wondering whether summer had finally arrived, Smithdon Sports Day 2026 provided the answer. With glorious sunshine, plenty of determination (and just a little perspiration!), students from Years 7 to 10 came together for a fantastic day of competition, teamwork and school spirit. In the lead-up to Sports Day, tutor groups embraced the competitive atmosphere by creating colourful posters to cheer on their houses, filling the field with messages of encouragement, creativity and plenty of healthy rivalry.

This year's Sports Day featured both Traditional Athletics and Inclusive Games, ensuring every student had the opportunity to take part, represent their house and earn valuable points in the race for the prestigious House Cup. From the first race to the final relay, there were outstanding performances across every year group. Every point counted, every cheer mattered and it was wonderful to see students encouraging one another, whether they were sprinting down the track, throwing, jumping or supporting from the sidelines.

The day proved to be one for the record books, with an incredible nine school records broken. The standout moment came when Archie shattered a remarkable 44-year-old Year 9 100-metre record, a time that had stood since the early 1980s. It was an extraordinary achievement that will undoubtedly go down in Smithdon sporting history.

The competition for the top individual honours was equally impressive. Following a series of exceptional performances throughout the day, Archie was crowned Overall Top Boy



Athlete, while Ella claimed the title of Overall Top Girl Athlete. Congratulations to both students on their outstanding achievements. After a day packed with competition, resilience and house pride, it was Red House that accumulated the most points to become the 2026 Sports Day House Champions. Congratulations to everyone in Red House on a fantastic team effort!



Of course, no Sports Day would be complete without a few unforgettable moments away from the competition. As temperatures soared, the arrival of ice pops was greeted with almost as much excitement as the races themselves. Judging by the queue, they may have been the most fiercely contested event of the afternoon!

And then there were the staff... Never ones to miss an opportunity to entertain (or embarrass themselves in the name of school spirit!), members of staff took to the field to show off their dance moves. Whether carefully choreographed or completely improvised remains up for debate, but it certainly had students laughing and cheering.

A huge thank you goes to the PE department and all the staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise such a successful event. Their hard work, alongside the excellent behaviour, encouragement and determination shown by our students, made the day a tremendous success.

Sports Day is about far more than winning medals or breaking records. It's about resilience, teamwork, challenging yourself, celebrating each other's successes and representing your house with pride. This year's event captured all of those values perfectly while giving us school records, unforgettable performances, plenty of laughter and memories that will last for years to come.

Well done to every student who competed, supported and took part and congratulations once again to Red House, our deserving 2026 Sports Day Champions!



Geography in Action

Fieldwork Adventures

On 17 June, our Year 10 Geography students travelled to Hunstanton for an exciting day of coastal fieldwork, putting their classroom learning into practice in a real-world environment. Working collaboratively in teams, they collected a range of primary data from the beach, including beach gradient measurements, sediment analysis and wave characteristics, developing the practical skills required for geographical investigation. The weather could not have been better, providing ideal conditions for fieldwork and allowing students to make the most of the day. Throughout the visit, they demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm, working carefully and methodically to gather accurate data while supporting one another in the field.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a spectacular and diverse coastline on our doorstep. The North Norfolk coast provides an outstanding natural classroom, giving students the opportunity to study coastal processes first-hand in a landscape that is constantly changing. Experiencing these environments in person allows students to make meaningful connections between the theories they learn in lessons and the physical features they can see, measure and investigate for themselves. Fieldwork is a vital part of studying Geography, bringing the subject to life in a way that simply cannot be replicated in the classroom. By exploring the coastline first-hand, students were able to ask geographical questions, test their ideas and develop a deeper understanding of the physical processes shaping our environment. It also encouraged them to think critically about the relationship between people and place while building confidence in collecting, analysing and interpreting real-world data.

The information gathered during the visit will now be used back in the classroom to investigate how coastal processes influence the coastline and to strengthen students' geographical enquiry and analytical skills. The trip was an invaluable learning experience, demonstrating how learning beyond the classroom enriches understanding, inspires curiosity and helps students develop the skills needed to become confident, independent geographers. Scientific investigations complete, there was just enough time to tackle one final piece of fieldwork: deciding on the best fish and chips and ice cream in Hunstanton!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every day counts. Every lesson shapes your future

A Final Reflection on Attendance and the Year Ahead

As we reach the end of another academic year, it is a good time to reflect on the importance of one of the key foundations of success in school - good attendance. This year has certainly brought its challenges. We have experienced a year filled with coughs, colds and seasonal bugs, alongside some very hot weather that has tested everyone's energy levels! Despite this, our students have continued to show resilience, determination and commitment, and we are incredibly proud of the effort they have made.

Every day in school matters. Attendance is not just about being present in lessons; it is about being part of the school community, building friendships, developing confidence, taking part in opportunities and making progress. Missing days can mean missing important learning, key explanations, experiences and moments that help students grow.

As we look ahead to September, we encourage everyone to return ready for a fresh start. A new academic year brings new opportunities, new goals and new challenges. Each year of school is important for different reasons, whether it is building foundations, preparing for exams, developing independence, or making memories that will last. Let's start the new year with a positive mindset, strong routines and a commitment to making every day count. With good attendance, hard work and a willingness to get involved, we can continue to make the year ahead a successful one for all.

Thank you to our students, families and staff for your continued support throughout this academic year. We wish everyone a restful break and look forward to welcoming you back in September, ready to begin another exciting chapter.

Well done to the forms with the

best attendance this term:

Year 7 - Mr Plant

Year 8 - Mrs Wheeler

Year 9 - Ms Wright

Year 10 - Mrs Robinson



We hope you have a lovely break!
We look forward to welcoming you back on:
Friday 4 September - Year 7 and 11
Monday 7 September - All students

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