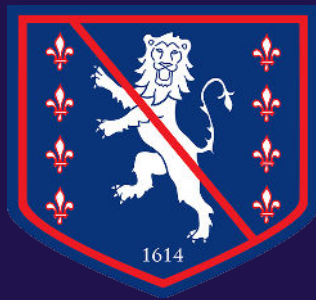




STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 22nd July 2026

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

So we come to the end of an incredible year once again. Today I have messaged all of the students across our different campuses to thank them for their hard work and dedication, none more so than Year 11 and 13 who have worked so hard in their final years and with whom our thoughts and prayers lie as they await their news in the summer.

Today we announced the first recipient of the Lion's Pride Award which provides recognition for one student who has epitomised the schools ethos, demonstrating our Character values of Growth Mindset, Grit, Curiosity, Kindness, Gratitude, Self control with oneself and others despite all of the challenges that life can throw. A huge well done to Gracie who is the first name on our new SGS Lion's Pride Shield designed and made by Mr Simmonds.



After numerous delays and cancellations, I hope we will hear from the Planning Committee at Horsham District Council that we can finally start construction. As I have mentioned previously, the upper school will look very different come the Autumn Term with Hoardings being erected this summer to carry out archaeological surveys prior to planning. We will share further updates as soon as we are able to.

It has been an exceptional year for SGS following a record summer of results followed by two Ofsted Inspections recognising our "Outstanding" care in our Boarding Provision and our "High Performing" in our day school. I wish to say a huge thank you to all of our wonderful staff and volunteers for providing such a superb student experience and to our parents and carers as well; your support is integral to us providing our community with a school we can all be truly proud of.

Do take the time to read through the Summer Term Newsletter, it has been an action packed, albeit a rather hot one! The start up arrangements are below for the return and we look forward to working in partnership in the new academic year.

Have a wonderful summer,

Aidan Timmons
Headteacher

KS3 - THE TOWERS



Leading the way

80 students from across Key Stage 3 came together for a very successful leadership conference.

During the course of the day the students thought about how they already hold leadership roles in school, on sports teams, in their friend groups and even within their family.

As well as taking part in activities, the students heard speeches from Laura Hind, Head of Consumer Communications at Vodafone Three; Pam Doyle, BET Trust Director of SEND and Matt Leyh of MF Martial Arts.

The young people then put forward their ideas and

opinions for how to shape school leadership for the future

Investigating their surroundings

During a GCSE Geography taster session students investigated the environmental quality of the Towers site. Students looked at five sites around Towers and evaluated them based on a set of criteria.

They then presented and analysed their results coming up with a plan for the area they thought needed the most improvement.



Evelyn and Sophie shine on stage

Well done to two of our Year 8 students who have recently taken to the stage in front of local audiences.

Evelyn in Year 8, alongside her brothers, performed in their Ariel Showcase at The Hawth Theatre in Crawley. Well done to them and all our other students who performed with Ariel.

Sophie played the role of Teen Queen and Bohemian in We Will Rock You at HAODS Juniors (Horsham Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society).

Performing with poise and passion

Well done to Erin, Charlotte, Soriya, Myroslav and Lillia who did a wonderful job of performing their own poetry in front of an audience at the Steyning Festival. Following a workshop at school with guests from The Shelley Memorial Project the girls were inspired to pen their own verses which they read with poise and passion in the beautiful setting of Steyning Church alongside Brighton-based poet John McCullough.

The festival organisers and our guests from the Shelley Project were hugely impressed with the talent and enthusiasm of our students.

We are incredibly proud of all the KS3 students who entered their poems and those who enjoyed taking part on the night.



KS3 - ROCK ROAD

The judges have spoken

At the beginning of July we took a group of students to Bohunt Horsham to hear Brogen Murphy talk about her book Wildlands, which won the BET Book Award. The students that we took had taken part in the award as judges, reading the shortlisted books and voting for the winner. Judges from all of the BET schools attended, as well as all of the Horsham Year 7s.

After the main event was a Q&A with only the student judges, then the students had their books signed by Brogen.



Stepping up

Our Year 8 students embraced the opportunity to experience a day at our KS4 site before they 'move up' to Year 9 in September.

They met staff, including their Head of Year, Mr Watson and took part in lessons and the subjects they have chosen for GCSEs to help them feel prepared for the new school year.



Celebrating success

Some of our students received certificates during a celebration assembly and thought about all they had achieved during KS3, as they prepared for their move to Shooting Field in Year 9.



Gardeners gather for a party

The Rock Road garden party was a great success!

Guests enjoyed traditional outdoor games and activities and tucked into food prepared using ingredients grown by our student gardeners.

It was lovely to welcome Year 6 pupils from feeder primary schools and for Year 8 students from Rock Road and The Towers to meet each other. Plus a chance to celebrate the hard work of the gardeners this year.

Sports news

Our Under 13 Boys Tennis team had a great afternoon at a tournament in Lancing College in the middle of June. It was the perfect way to get the boys in the mood for Wimbledon! Well done to the Year 8 rounders team (far right) who came 3rd in their league



SHOOTING FIELD

Student shout out: Well done Emmy and Paige!

Paige, in Year 10 (left), has thrown herself into welcoming our recent Spanish students into SGS. She has made them feel welcome and helped them navigate our wonderful school. Paige even wrote personal farewell messages to each student before they departed. Teacher Mrs Anscombe said: Such strong friendships have been built and Paige will really miss them as they depart this week.

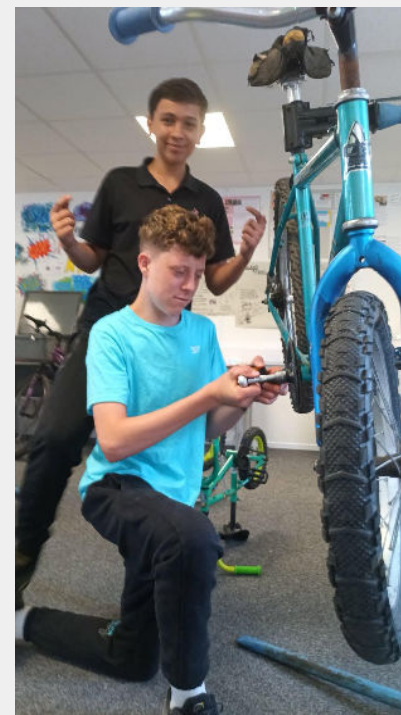
“Paige, thank you for always going above and beyond in making others feel welcome at our school.”

Well done to Emmy, also in Year 10, who won a Talent for Writing!



Practical learning

Our fabulous students have made the most of opportunities outside the classroom to work as a team, solve problems and hone their skills.



- Forest School students engineered a solution to rainy-day dampness, working collaboratively to construct a geodesic dome - a lightweight, mathematically perfect and fully collapsible structure. This will now serve as our official outdoor rain shelter, ensuring the children can continue exploring, creating, and learning comfortably in all weather.
- In their bushcraft session students had a brilliant time gathering materials for a fire, lighting their fires and then cooking tasty treats.
- Our SGS Bikery programme has been very successful - in small groups students have worked directly with an experienced professional from a local bike workshop, learning about bike maintenance and repair.



Geographers solving real-life problems

Year 10 Geography students had perfect weather when they spent two weeks on Steyning High Street collecting data about traffic management and then analysing the information back in class to come to a conclusion that the situation could be improved.

SGS Sports Awards 2026

Our SGS Sports Awards were a celebration of outstanding personal and team achievements, from what has been a fantastic year of sport at our school.

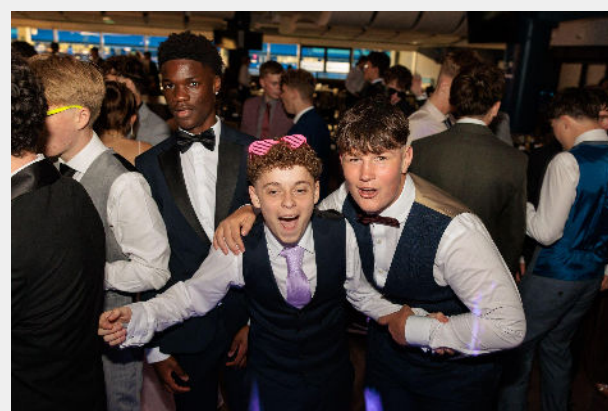
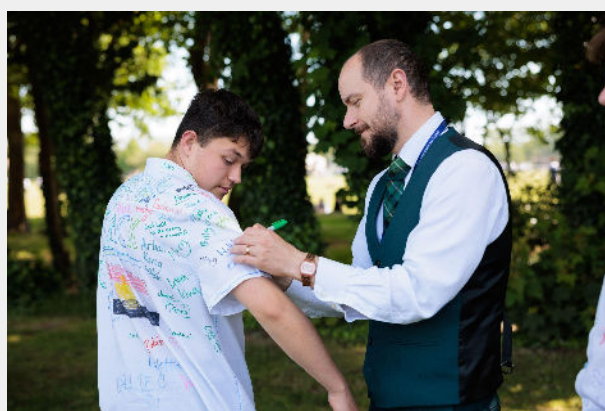
Among those collecting Team of the Year awards were our Year 8 gymnasts, Year 7 rugby players, Year 7 girls footballers, Year 11 boys football team and our cheerleading squad, **who are newly crowned European champions.**

Special individual awards were given to Ted and Elsie, who have both represented Great Britain in ice hockey and water polo.

The event was also a chance to look back at a very positive year for sport at SGS across the board. There have been several league and tournament wins in netball, gymnastics, rugby, football, rounders and cricket. It was a pleasure to welcome Olympic swimmer Anna Hopkin who spoke about her journey to becoming a gold medal winner.



Goodbye to the Class of '26



Before GCSE exams began we held a joyful celebration for our Year 11s. After a final assembly together and the traditional shirt signing, students had fun on bouncy castles and enjoyed an ice cream! It was the perfect way to recognise their achievements as a year group and individuals.

Once GCSEs were out of the way, the Class of 2026 had a night to remember at their prom, held at The Amex Stadium in Brighton.

Dressed to impress, they enjoyed a formal meal, speeches and awards, before partying the night away. We wish this them all well in their exams and with the next steps they take.



Emmy's got a way with words

Well done to Emmy in Year 10 who has received the Talent for Writing award. This will be Emmy's third piece of writing to be published in a book - what a superstar! Here she is picking up a Headteacher's Commendation from Mr Timmons.

Congratulations to our award winning teachers

In June we were delighted that two of our teachers, Emma Middleton and Emma Modder, were awarded a Pearson National Teaching Award 2026, for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School. Emma Middleton (left) is Head of the English Faculty and Emma Modder is Head of Faculty for PACT.

The Pearson National Teaching Awards are the most prestigious recognition of transformational teaching across the UK.



SIXTH FORM

Science and Swiss chocolate!

Our Year 12 students visited Geneva in Switzerland to attend CERN, one of the world's leading scientific research labs.

Students immersed themselves in interactive exhibitions, discovering how the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) accelerates particles to nearly the speed of light. They learned about the Higgs boson, dark matter and the massive detectors that capture subatomic collisions.

Beyond the labs, the group explored the beautiful city of Geneva with highlights including the Jet d'Eau and Pointe de la Jonction alongside creating their own Swiss chocolate bars.

The group represented SGS to the highest standard and fully immersed themselves in every experience.



Sunshine and culture in beautiful Barcelona

Year 12 art students had a wonderful day soaking up the Spanish sunshine and culture when they visited Barcelona at the beginning of the month. They had a packed itinerary which included visiting the Dali Museum, the Sagrada Familia and the Picasso Museum.



Proud moment for SGS

We were invited to receive a Democracy Award from West Sussex County Council on Monday evening. Sixth Formers Ella and Grace from our Student Leadership Team whizzed across after their work experience to join Mr Timmons in Chichester to accept the award, which was for our work promoting student voice in our school. We're incredibly proud of all our student leaders for representing our school with such passion, dedication and excellence.



BOARDING

***To read about another packed half term in Boarding, which had included visits from Chinese and Spanish students, a special meal and service for our leavers and plenty of fun with Nerf guns, mocktails and painting click [here](#)**

Oliver in Westminster

Year 12 boarder, Oliver, visited the Houses of Commons last week for a lunch with Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP to celebrate UK Overseas Territory Day. Oliver is a boarder from The Falkland Islands and Steyning Grammar School Day and Boarding is proudly one of their recommended State Boarding Schools.

At SGS Boarding, we currently have students from Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, and the Falklands!

#UKOTA #Overseas

