

Review

Youth Speaks

On Tuesday 1st July, the Youth Speaks Grand Final took place at Reepham High School and College. Sponsored by the Rotary Club, ten finalists chosen from across Years 7, 8, and 9 were competing for cash prizes, a fancy shield, and, most importantly, prestige. These students rose to the top of over 400 entries across three year groups, organised by the English Department at RHSC.

Students spoke in front of a panel made up of Rotary Club members John Pickering and the Venerable Arthur Hawes, as well as English teacher extraordinaire Mrs Dreisin. Arthur, who served as Archdeacon of Lincoln for 13 years, chaired the panel of judges.

All of the finalists delivered phenomenal speeches that entertained and enlightened an audience made up of family, friends, teachers, and Rotary Club members. If language is power, it's clear that Reepham High has some very powerful students.

The judging panel had an incredibly hard time deciding the final standings, even though the winner was chosen unanimously. The judges used a detailed scoring system employing multiple categories such as presentation, rhetorical language, and the structure of the speeches to establish the final standings. Of a possible 75 points scored by each speaker, the judges had all contestants within 7 points of each other when the totals were added up. It could not have been closer.



Particular congratulations to the winners:
Youth Speaks 2025 Champion: Nancy Burton
Second place: Esther Baker
Third place: Evie Wade



Seven worthy finalists who were runners-up: Ned Tosney, Adelaide Upton, Rori Sillis, Libby Moulton, Reggie Arnold (our only Year 7!), Hayden Cremis, and Ellie Andrews.

Thank you to all the Rotary Club members who supported the evening, the creation of the programme, the photography, the speaking workshop, and the judging. Thank you to the teachers at Reepham for their support and organisational expertise. Thank you to our brilliant audience for packing into a humid hall in July. Most importantly, thank you to our finalists that used their voices confidently and eloquently.

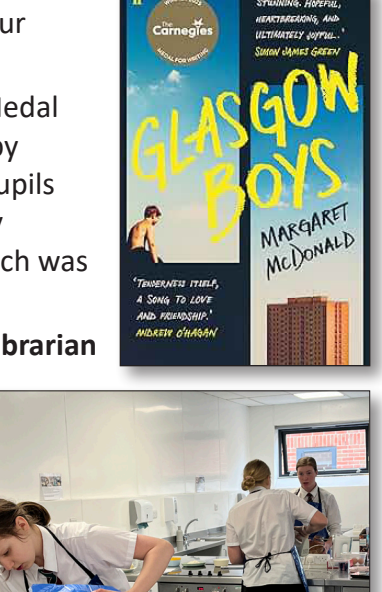
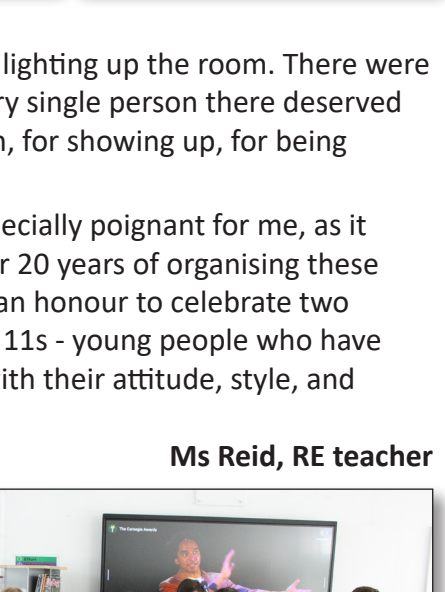
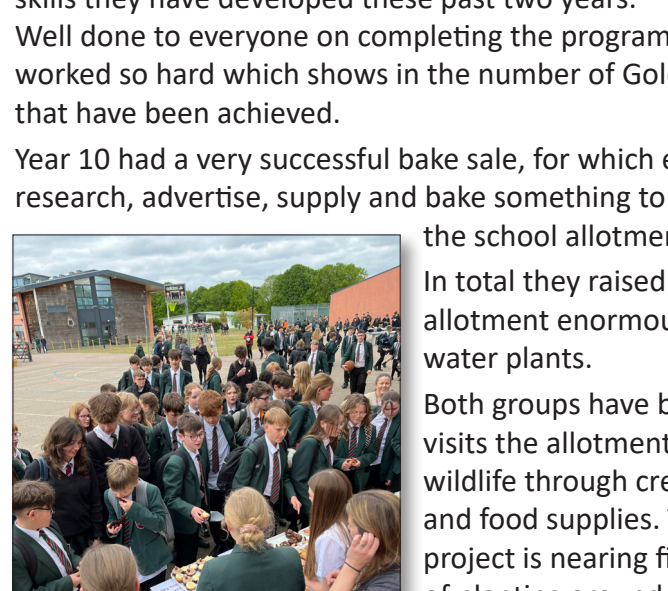
Mr Wright, English teacher

A Night to Remember

On Tuesday 24th June 2025, under warm skies and with the glow of anticipation, the Royal Norwich Golf Club was transformed into a dazzling celebration of style, joy, and resilience. Our Year 11 Prom was nothing short of spectacular, an evening to honour the incredible young people who have journeyed through the most disrupted years of modern education and emerged with strength, grace, and sparkle.

The arrivals were a purrel in themselves with high-end sports cars that shined alongside colossal tractors and some brave souls pedalled in proudly under their own steam. The dresses shimmered bright, full of colour, style, and the individuality. The suits were sharp, stylish, and a testament to how far these young people have come.

After the scrummy burgers, the celebration truly came alive. The dance floor stayed packed from the first beat to the final song, (not just by Mrs Beale!)



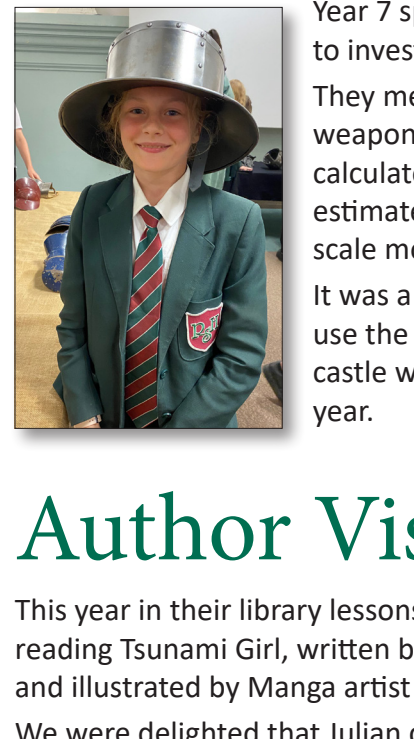
and with flashing glasses lighting up the room. There were awards, but in truth, every single person there deserved one for making it through, for showing up, for being exceptional.

This year's event was especially poignant for me, as it marks my final prom after 20 years of organising these magical nights. It's been an honour to celebrate two decades of fantastic Year 11s - young people who have never failed to impress with their attitude, style, and genuine good humour.

Ms Reid, RE teacher

Carnegie 2025

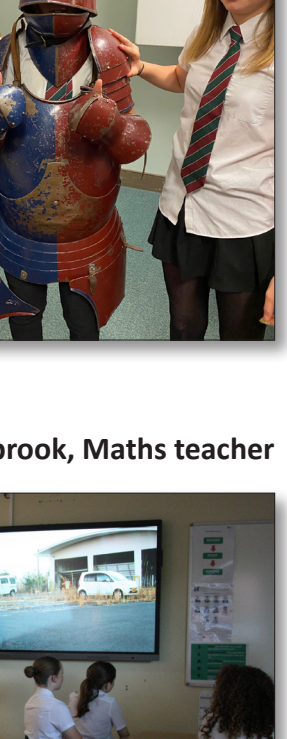
Each year a group of Reepham High School pupils shadows the Carnegie Medal for Writing. This year's shortlist has been a real hit with our keen readers in Years 7-9. The shadowing group read the eight books and met regularly to discuss them. In June, we met with students from Taverham High School for our Carnegie Conference, to share our thoughts on the shortlisted books and decide on our favourites.



The official winners were revealed when we watched the ceremony live online. The Shadowers' Prize went to King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore, but the overall prize went to Glasgow Boys, an honest and hopeful story which explores mental health, trauma, inequality and identity through the friendship between two boys who have grown up in foster care.

Well done to all the readers who took part, for your achievement in reading all the books and your contribution to our conference.

Alongside the award for writing is the Carnegie Medal for Illustration, and our readers spent a very happy afternoon looking at the shortlisted books with pupils from Reepham Primary School. Pupils particularly enjoyed Clever Crow by Olivia Lomench Gill, which was the winner of this year's prize.



Ms Lubbock, RHSC Librarian

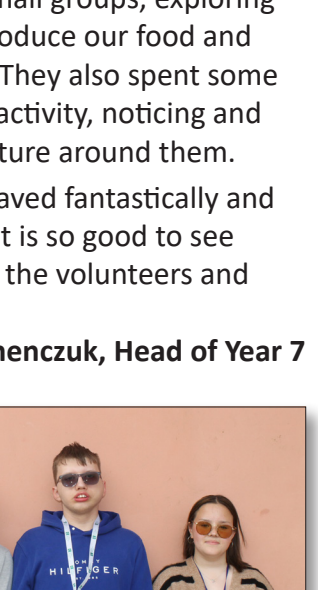
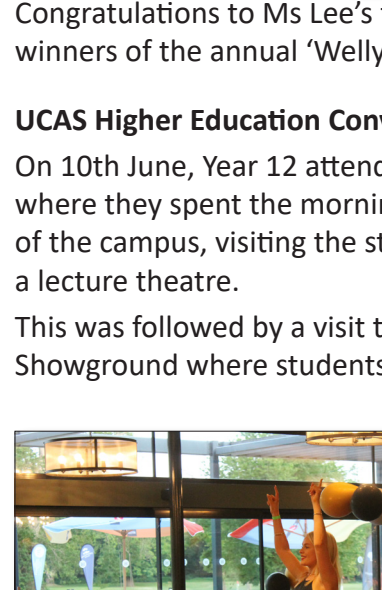
Care of the Countryside

The team have had a busy few months. Year 11 have been completing their portfolios and reflecting on their own practice and assessing the skills they have developed these past two years. Well done to everyone on completing the programme, they have all worked so hard which shows in the number of Gold and Silver awards that have been achieved.

Year 10 had a very successful bake sale, for which each student had to research, advertise, supply and bake something to sell to raise funds for the school allotment.

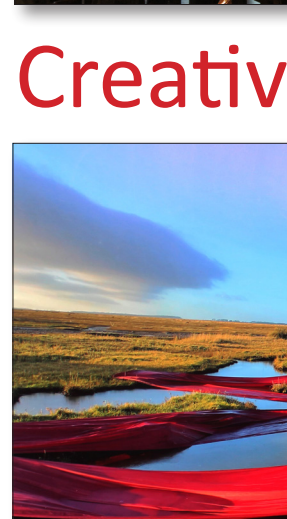
In total they raised £360.92 this will help the allotment enormously to buy a strimmer and new water plants.

Both groups have been looking at the wildlife that visits the allotment and how we can encourage more wildlife through creating habitats, safe places, water and food supplies. The pond which is an ongoing project is nearing finalisation, we are in the process of planting around and in the pond. Each group have designed and made bird boxes and made a bird house totem pole.



Ms Digby, LSA and Care of the Countryside educator

Maths at the Castle



Year 7 spent the day at Norwich Castle using maths to investigate the outcome of a real siege in 1216. They met the mistress of arms to examine real weapons and other characters from the time to calculate budgets for the attackers and defenders, estimate how much water they would need and use scale models to find the height of the castle.

It was a great day and we hope that students will use the free tickets they received to return to the castle when the keep reopens on the August 7th this year.

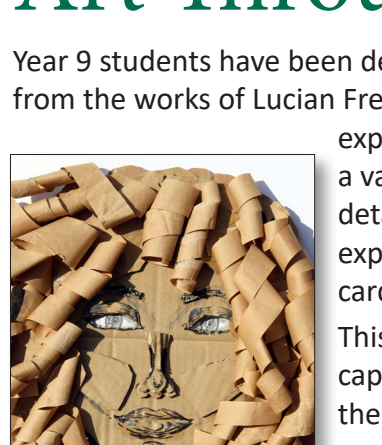


Mrs Colebrook, Maths teacher

Author Visit

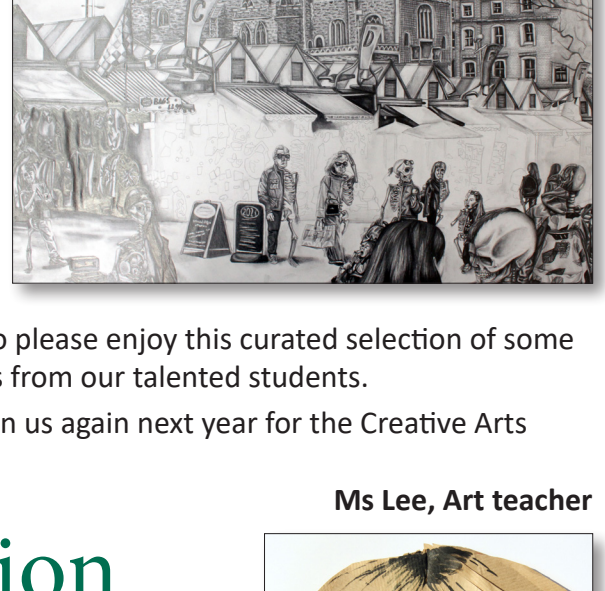
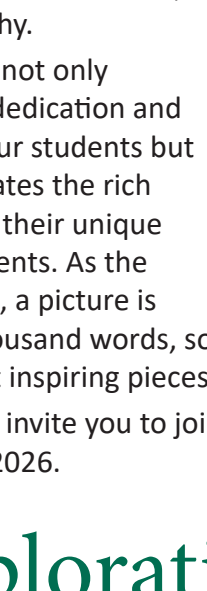
This year in their library lessons Year 8 have been reading Tsunami Girl, written by Julian Sedgwick and illustrated by Manga artist Chie Kutsuwaka.

We were delighted that Julian could join us to celebrate the book and to run writing workshops for our pupils.



The year group listened attentively to Julian as he told them about the earthquake and tsunami which devastated the east coast of Japan in March 2011, and provides the backdrop to his novel.

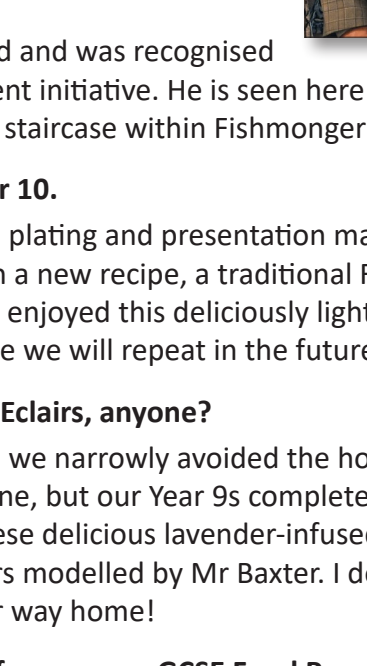
Some amazing work was done during the sessions guided by Julian, and he was highly complimentary about the behaviour of our pupils and the quality of the work produced in the workshops.



Ms Lubbock, RHSC librarian

Food For Thought

Year 7 enjoyed a whole year group impact day titled 'How is my Food Grown?' This was organised by the volunteers at The Papiillon Project, who founded Reepham High School's Allotment Project.



The pupils worked in small groups, exploring how nature helps us produce our food and how compost is made. They also spent some time on a mindfulness activity, noticing and connecting with the nature around them.

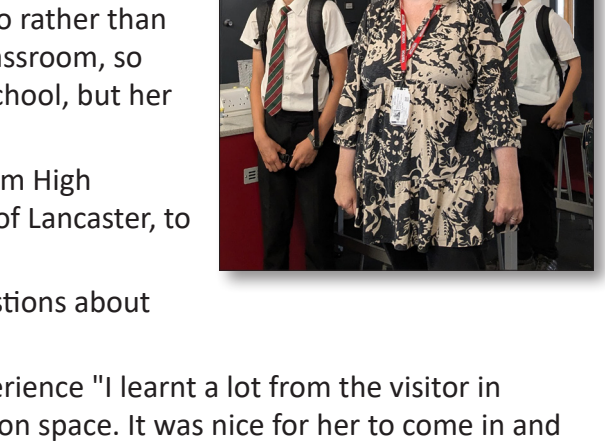
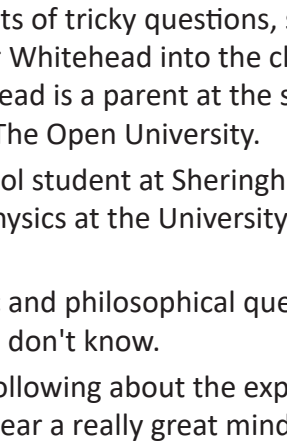
In spite of the very warm weather, the pupils all behaved fantastically and engaged in the activities in the lovely surroundings. It is so good to see our allotment is becoming and growing, thanks to all the volunteers and students who nurture and cultivate it.

Mrs Semenczuk, Head of Year 7

College News

Senior Student Team

Following a rigorous recruitment process we would like to congratulate our new Senior Student Team of Dillon, Selin, Cleo, Isla, and new College Council Leads Jack and Will.



Tutor Activities

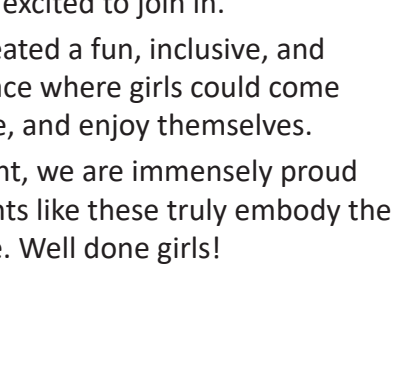
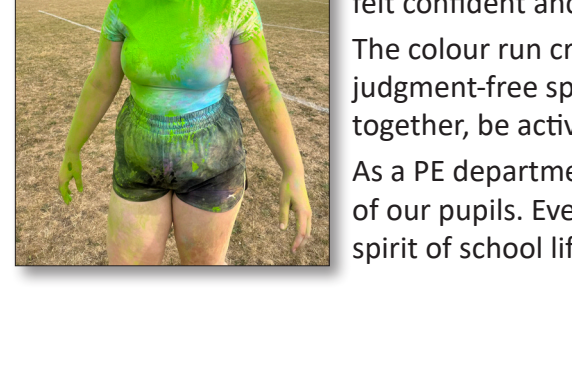
A massive thank you to Ms Lee who delivered a whole year group Tai Chi session for Year 12. Congratulations to Ms Lee's tutor group who were winners of the annual 'Welly Wanging' competition.



UCAS Higher Education Convention and Visit to UEA

On 10th June, Year 12 attended a bespoke visit to the University Of East Anglia where they spent the morning with student ambassadors at UEA, having a tour of the campus, visiting the student accommodation and attending a Q and A in a lecture theatre.

This was followed by a visit to the Higher Education Convention at the Norfolk Showground where students had the opportunity to speak with student ambassadors and outreach teams from over 100 universities and a range of apprenticeship providers.



Year 13 Leavers' Formal

On 20th June we had a fantastic evening celebrating and saying a fond farewell to our Year 13 cohort at the Royal Norwich Golf Club.

Creative Arts

On June 25th, we proudly hosted our annual Creative Arts Exhibition, showcasing outstanding work from Year 11 GCSE students in Art, Design and Technology, as well as Photography, as well as Year 13 A-Level students in Art, Graphic Communication, and Photography.

This exhibition not only highlights the dedication and hard work of our students but also celebrates the rich diversity of their unique creative talents. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, so please enjoy this curated selection of some of the most inspiring pieces from our talented students.

We warmly invite you to join us again next year for the Creative Arts Exhibition 2026.

Ms Lee, Art teacher

Art Through Exploration

Year 9 students have been delving into the world of portraiture, drawing inspiration from the works of Lucian Freud, Rembrandt, and Marlene Dumas. Through this exploration, they have recreated their own reflections in a variety of mediums. Their artistic journey has included detailed tonal pencil drawings, mark-making in etching, expressive mixed media portraits, and finally low-relief cardboard sculptures.

This project challenges students not only to accurately capture their likeness but to delve deeper into the emotional and psychological aspects of self-representation. They are encouraged to explore the underlying reasons behind the act of recreating themselves questioning what these portrayals say about their personalities, emotions, and identity.

Ms Lee, Art teacher

Food Tech News

'Fish in Schools' celebratory conference, Fishmonger's Hall, London

Thanks to the Fishmonger's Society, Alaskan Seafood and the Food Teachers' Centre we have been generously gifted a range of fish and shellfish that have been used to extend the knowledge of preparing and cooking with fish.

In June, Mr Baxter was nominated and was recognised as a 'Fish Hero' due to this excellent initiative. He is seen here with other food teaching colleagues on the grand staircase within Fishmonger's Hall.

New month, new recipes for Year 10.

What better idea to accompany a plating and presentation masterclass with Mr Williams that also squeezed in a new recipe, a traditional Finnish Fruit Plait: plaiting and plating! Our Year 10s enjoyed this deliciously light enriched bread fruited loaf, and I sense it'll be one we will repeat in the future.

Chocolate Eclairs, anyone?

Thankfully, we narrowly avoided the hottest day of the year with this one, but our Year 9s completed their practicals by making these delicious lavender-infused Chantilly cream-filled eclairs modelled by Mr Baxter. I doubt many of them made their way home!

Heads-up for our new GCSE Food Preppers

This September we will rejoin the national Future Chef competition facilitated by Springboard UK. This competition sees pupils compete at a local heat, local heat (usually at City College, Norwich), regional (typically Bedford College) and then nationally, in London. It is designed to develop pupils cooking skills and allow them to show their creative side through food to restaurant quality. It will be launched to our new Year 10 Food Preppers.

Mr Baxter, Food Technology teacher

Astrophysics Talk

Mrs Hamilton's Year 9 class were lucky to have a guest speaker. They have been working on the topic of space and have lots of tricky questions, so rather than use Google for the answers, we invited Dr Whitehead into the classroom, so that they could quiz an expert. Dr Whitehead is a parent at the school, but her occupation is Lecturer of Astrophysics at The Open University.

She described her journey from high school student at Sheringham High School, to PhD student in experimental physics at the University of Lancaster, to academic lecturing at university.

She was able to field a variety of scientific and philosophical questions about the universe, what we know and what we don't know.

One student, Georgie Spillman, said the following about the experience "I learnt a lot from the visitor in science and it was really inspirational to hear a really great mind on space. It was nice for her to come in and talk to us and I hope it will happen again"

Mrs Hamilton, Science teacher

Sports Awards

In June, the PE Department had the pleasure of hosting the annual Reepham High School Sports Awards evening, a celebration of our pupils' outstanding achievements and dedication in PE and sport.

Being invited to this event is an honour in itself, recognising pupils for their commitment, attitude, and contribution in lessons, extracurricular sport and leadership roles.

Invitations were extended to those who consistently demonstrate exceptional effort, go above and beyond in PE, and actively contribute to the sporting life of the school. The evening was again a huge success, with Whitwell Station filled to capacity as we welcomed 120 pupils from Years 7 to 10.

This year, we were also proud to introduce a new award: Outstanding Contribution to PE and Sport Award which recognised two truly dedicated members of staff, Mr Edgar and Mrs Masdin, who have given an incredible 27 and 20 years respectively to PE and sport at Reepham High School. We thank them both for their tireless commitment and lasting impact.

Thank you to everyone who supports our sporting provision throughout the year. Whether it's cheering on teams, encouraging participation, or simply enabling students to take part in sports, leadership and competition opportunities.

RHSC PE Department

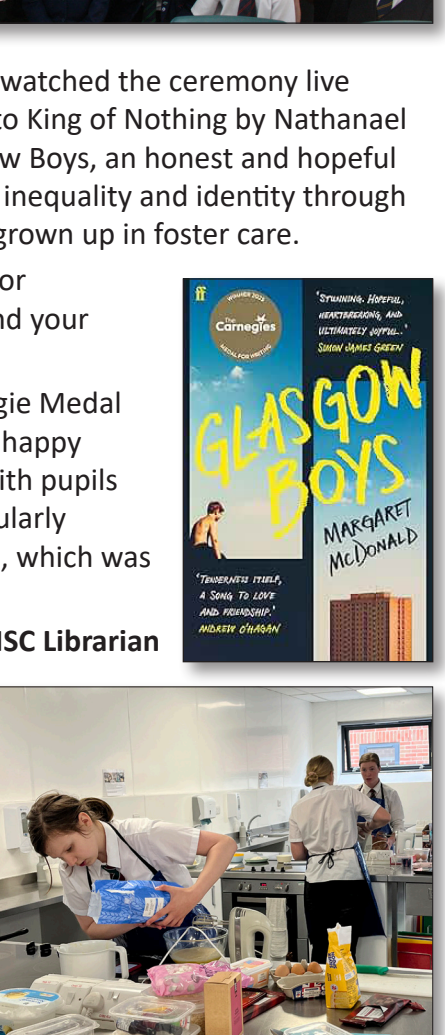
Colour Run

The 2025 RHSC Girls' Colour Run was a fantastic success!

We were thrilled to see nearly 150 girls take part, including many who don't usually engage in PE but felt confident and excited to join in.

The colour run created a fun, inclusive, and judgment-free space where girls could come together, be active, and enjoy themselves.

As a PE department, we are immensely proud of our pupils. Events like these truly embody the spirit of school life. Well done girls!



Mrs Greig-Thompson, PE teacher