



SUMMER 2025

The termly newsletter of **Novalis Trust**

# FULL SAIL AHEAD!

**Chine students  
take the helm**

All to play for  
at Novalis  
**Wellbeing Day**

***Bloomin' lovely:***  
*Our English Country  
Garden Prom*

WMS climb  
and cheer for  
**Ascension Day!**



# Welcome

As we come to the end of another busy and fulfilling school year, it's a natural time for reflection – on the progress we've made, the experiences we've shared and the moments that have brought us together.

We also say goodbye to some of our pupils as they prepare for the next step in their journeys. They leave us with our very best wishes and fond memories, including of this year's wonderful post-16 prom at Stonehouse Court Hotel. Photos of this event feature on pages 6 and 7.

Following on from last term's very positive Ofsted report on our care provision, Ofsted returned to Cotswold Chine School to inspect our education provision. The findings confirmed what so many of us already know: this is a place where pupils are genuinely supported to thrive. The school received overall judgements of Good, with Outstanding ratings in key areas including Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, and Sixth Form Provision. Inspectors highlighted warm relationships, high expectations and the way pupils live out the school's values of kindness and respect each day. It's a fitting tribute to the commitment and care shown by staff across the school community.

There have also been plenty of enriching experiences for our children over the past few months. Several CCS students swapped the classroom for the coast heading to the Trust's holiday home in Llanilar in West

Wales which gave them the chance to build confidence, independence and most importantly – to have fun. You can read more about this on pages 20 and 21.

From those outdoor adventures to a live space station challenge with the UK's National Space Centre and a special visit from local author Catherine Pankhurst at William Morris School, pupils have continued to learn in creative ways.

We'll be back at the end of next term with more Trust news. In the meantime, I hope you and your families have a fantastic summer.



**Tim Makaruk**

Principal and Registered Manager  
Cotswold Chine School

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# UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

## *Bronze DofE Expedition* COMPLETE!

Eleven students from Cotswold Chine School have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition – one of the key sections of the award programme.

Serena, Naomi, Violet, Emily, Bethany, Cassie, Harry, Zach, Malachi, Xander and Warren followed routes through beautiful Gloucestershire countryside supported by a group of CCS staff.

During two-day, one-night trip, the students carried their own gear, navigated with maps and cooked meals outdoors. These are just some of the requirements for the bronze expedition section, which encourages young people to develop resilience, independence and teamwork.

The first day saw students hike to Coaley Peak, before setting up camp at Ashen Plains. On the second day they headed towards the Tyndale Monument in North Nibley – a landmark that's visible from the beginning of the route and serves as a distant goal on the horizon.

"Reaching the base of the monument and then climbing to the top gave the students a chance to look back and see just how far they had come," said Dan Woodhead (Enrichment Curriculum Subject Leader), who accompanied the students. "We were lucky enough to have great weather, really good groups and an excellent team spirit."

Congratulations to all involved on a brilliant achievement!





# WMS LAYS DOWN ROOTS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY!

Pupils from William Morris School were warmly welcomed into the local community when they took part in the Eastington Spring Show for the very first time.



The annual event at the village hall provided a wonderful opportunity for the young gardeners to share their springtime efforts with fellow growers in the area.

As a bonus, a handful of the children's entries were recognised by the judges. Kameron, from Rose Class, took first place in the hyacinth category with his trio of blossoms, while Bobby, from Lark Class, won second prize in the trumpet daffodil class. Brandon (Lark Class) and Cole (Rose Class) were both highly commended for their tulips, as were Taiani (Rose Class) for her massed daffodils and Oscar (Rose Class) for his single hyacinth.

Pupils also entered the Any Other Arts and Crafts section of the show, with colourful pieces inspired by classroom topics such as Food Glorious Food and Movement in Art. The display, created by Seedling and Sapling classes, earned a well-deserved third prize.

Amanda Brown, WMS Forest School Leader, said taking part in the event had been a wonderful experience.

"Our pupils felt really welcomed, and it was lovely for them to be part of something so rooted in the local community. Events like this give them a chance to contribute, take pride in their work and feel a sense of belonging," she added. "We're already looking ahead to the Eastington Autumn Show. Kameron is hoping to enter some school-grown pumpkins!"







# CCS celebrates outstanding strengths in latest Ofsted Inspection

Cotswold Chine School has been praised for its exceptional care, leadership, and educational provision in its latest Ofsted inspection, receiving an overall judgement of **Good with Outstanding** ratings in multiple key areas.

Conducted by two inspectors over three days in March, the report highlights the school's powerful impact on pupils' lives – particularly those who have previously struggled to access education.

Inspectors found that pupils "enjoy school and trust that staff will help them," with many quickly settling and beginning to thrive despite having faced significant educational disruption in the past. Notably, pupils' attendance is described as very high – a strong endorsement of the nurturing environment staff have created.

Three key areas – Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, and Leadership and Management – were rated Outstanding, as was the school's Sixth Form Provision. The inspectors commended the school's strong culture of empathy, high expectations and inclusive opportunities, noting that "warm relationships underpin the calm, friendly atmosphere."

Pupils demonstrate the school's core values daily, with kindness and mutual respect clearly visible in classrooms and communal spaces. The report describes how pupils are "empathetic and respectful towards their peers," and learning is uninterrupted thanks to an appropriate curriculum delivered by supportive staff.

Novalis CEO Jake Lukas welcomed the findings. "We're very pleased with this report which recognises the

dedication and expertise of our staff as well as the trust and involvement of the families we work with," he said. "The outstanding ratings reflect the high aspirations we hold for every young person at Cotswold Chine."

The curriculum was praised for being ambitious and well-tailored to pupils' needs, including those with complex special educational needs. Sixth form students were found to benefit from bespoke programmes that prepare them well for adulthood whether through academic qualifications, work experience or further education opportunities.

Inspectors also highlighted the school's extensive wider development programme. From music and sport to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and community volunteering, pupils enjoy rich and meaningful experiences. One standout example is the school's Lunchbox Café, which provides real-world work experience while also serving the local community. Safeguarding arrangements were found to be effective and communication between families and staff was singled out as a particular strength.

The report identified one area for further improvement. It recommended that teaching activities be more precisely aligned to curriculum aims and pupils' starting points to ensure that all pupils acquire new knowledge as securely as possible.





# A WORLD OF CELEBRATION & A MORRIS FEST TO REMEMBER!



Cotswold Chine and William Morris Schools are rounding off the academic year with a fantastic line-up of events to celebrate achievements and bring everyone together.

Kicking things off is the Best Foot Forward Walk, taking place on Wednesday, 9th July, at 11.15am. During this annual challenge, staff, children and people living at Paradise House will walk together around Minchinhampton Common to celebrate resilience and collective achievement.

The walk will be followed by a shared lunch at The Lunchbox café, bringing the wider Novalis community together— including the Trust's much-loved therapy dogs.

Later in the week, on Friday, 18th July, families are invited to a special Celebration Day at Cotswold Chine School with the theme: Celebrations Around the World. Guests will have the opportunity to explore classrooms and enjoy a performance written and performed by pupils, inspired by Roald Dahl's *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*.

Meanwhile, William Morris School pupils, staff and families will come together on Wednesday, 16th July, for Morris Fest 2025 - a celebration of the year's achievements. The school gardens will host music, games and a barbecue lunch and visitors will be invited to view pupils' work and enjoy activities across the site.





# STORYTIME WITH CAROLINE AND HER GUINEA PIG GARDENERS

It's not every day a class gets a visit from a guinea pig expert with a passion for gardening and mint tea.



But that's exactly what happened when local author Caroline Pankhurst dropped into Seedling classes at William Morris School to read from her delightful books, *The Guinea Pig Gardeners* and *The Guinea Pig Gardener and the Great Escape*.

Caroline, who lives in Stroud and went to both Callowell Primary School and Stroud High School, read the stories to the children and also donated signed copies of both books to the WMS library, where they are now treasured additions.

The stories follow a group of adventurous guinea pigs who grow their own food, plant flowers to help bees, drink mint tea and get a little help from a cheeky squirrel who knows how to open bird feeders.

WMS's Forest School Leader Amanda Brown and teacher Bex Hopkins (pictured) dressed up as two of the characters at this year's World Book Day celebrations.

Caroline's love of gardening, Stroud's wildlife and classic tales like Beatrix Potter and the Paddington films all inspired her writing. Her work in the Thrive Gardens in Battersea Park, London, also helped shape the practical gardening ideas woven into the stories.

Beautifully illustrated by Caroline's friend Maud Smith, the books also encourage children to think about environmental issues in a gentle, engaging way – something that really resonated with the Seedling classes.

Thank you, Caroline, for such an inspiring and thoughtful visit!





# OUR **BLOOMIN' LOVELY** ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN **PROM**

## Everything came up roses at the Trust's 2025 post-16 prom this term!

With a 'English Country Garden' theme, chosen by this year's student prom committee, the Caroline Suite at Stonehouse Court Hotel was transformed into a stunning celebration space full of flowers and greenery.

Sixteen students from Cotswold Chine and William Morris Schools arrived in style by limousine, dressed to the nines after outfit-hunting trips to Bristol, ready for an afternoon of food, music and dancing.

Prom committee members Kaci and Nikkita played a key role in planning the prom, working closely with Beth Price Bish (Family & Systemic Practice Manager), who organised the event.

The pair chose the theme from a selection of mood boards, helped designed the invitations and liaised with

Novalis head chef Paul Carney about choices for the delicious buffet menu. Kaci also gathered song requests for DJ Mark Osgood who made sure the tunes chosen by students kept the dance floor moving.

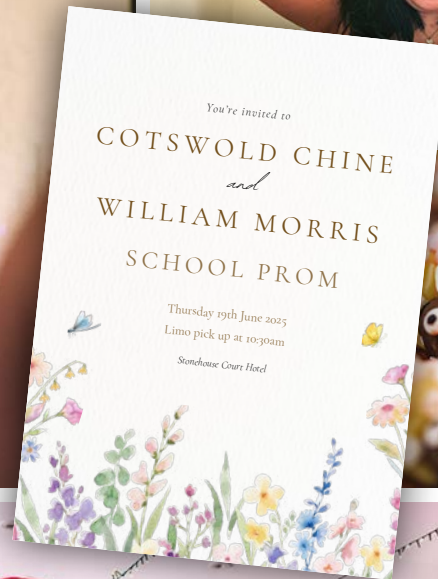
Stef Dyer (PA to the Principal), a trained florist, added the final touch with beautifully arranged flowers that reflected the English garden theme.

"A huge amount of care and effort goes into making prom special, and I'd like to thank every member of staff who worked so hard behind the scenes to bring it all together," said Caroline Tebay (Deputy CEO). "It's a day our students look forward to all year. For those who are leaving us we hope you take away not just happy memories of the prom, but of all your time at Novalis."

Congratulations to Lexi, Nikkita, Kaci, Josie, Phoebe, Catherine G, Nicheala, Courteney, Lucy, Chelsea, Catherine H, Cassie, Emily, Faith, Summer and Alya and a very special farewell to those who are leaving the Trust this term. We will miss you and wish you all the very best for the future!









# Willow Class bowl over the competition

Students from Cotswold Chine School showed skill, focus and fantastic sportsmanship at a recent Boccia tournament run by YuGo at Oxstalls Sports Campus in Gloucester.

Boccia (pronounced bot-cha) is a precision ball sport, similar to bowls, designed specifically for athletes with physical disabilities. Played indoors on a smooth court, it's all about accuracy, strategy, and teamwork.

Taking part in the competition were three pairs from Willow Class: Tyler and Nicheala, Courteney and Summer, and Chelsea and Cassie. Each duo competed in separate leagues – and none of them lost a single game.

For many, this was their first official tournament, making the achievement even more impressive.

"What stood out wasn't just the standard of play, but the attitude," said CCS teacher Ben Jones. "Our students were

cheering on other teams when they played a great shot. That kind of sportsmanship is just as important as winning."

YuGo, the Gloucestershire-based organisation behind the event, arranges inclusive sporting experiences for special educational needs schools across the country. Their focus on participation, fun and fairness made the day memorable for all involved.

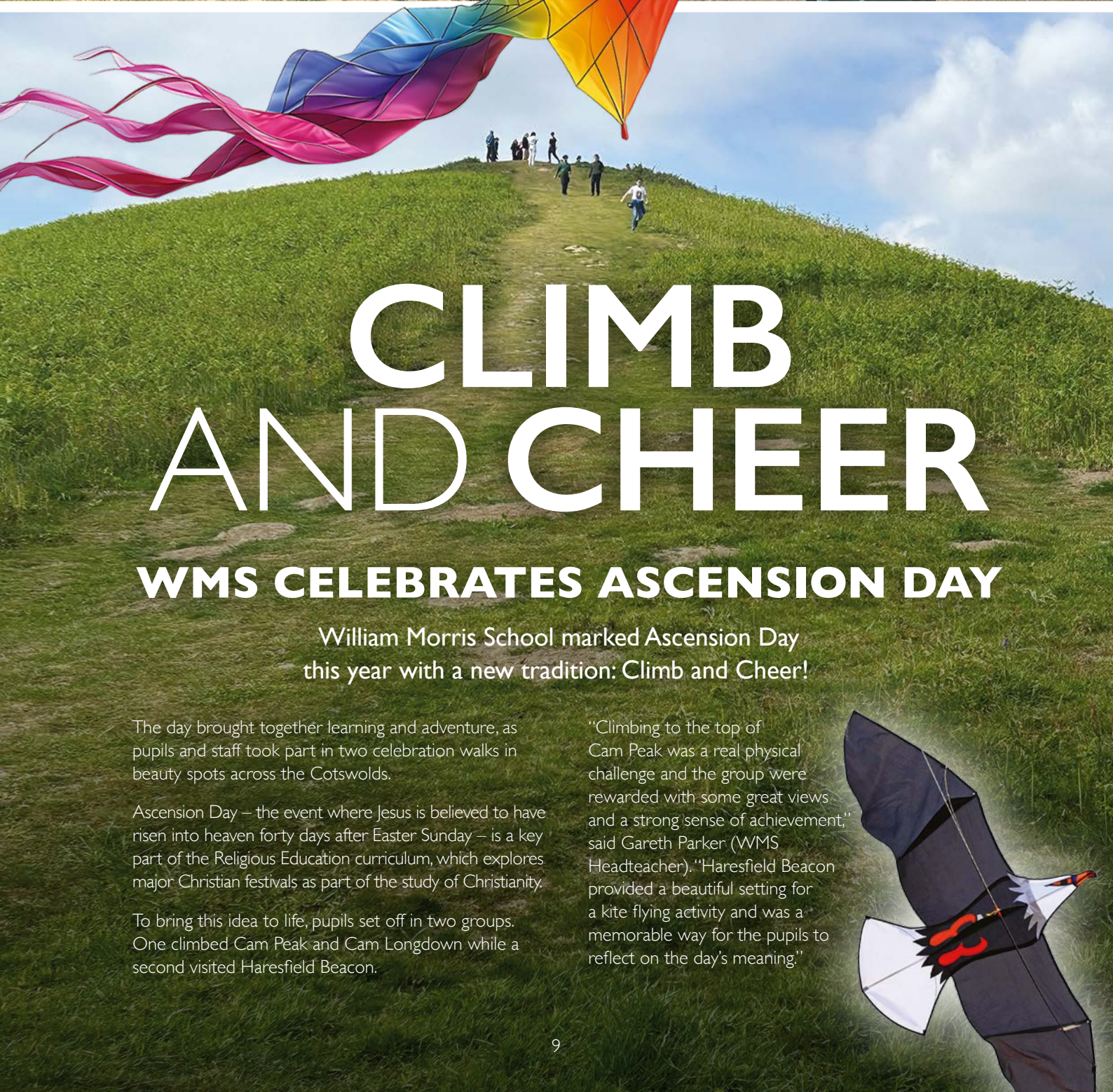
Although the team had to leave slightly early to make it back to school on time, there's good news on the way.

"I've been told there's a trophy headed our way soon," Ben added. "The students represented the school brilliantly – you couldn't ask for more."

## BOCCIA STARS







# CLIMB AND CHEER

## WMS CELEBRATES ASCENSION DAY

William Morris School marked Ascension Day this year with a new tradition: Climb and Cheer!

The day brought together learning and adventure, as pupils and staff took part in two celebration walks in beauty spots across the Cotswolds.

Ascension Day – the event where Jesus is believed to have risen into heaven forty days after Easter Sunday – is a key part of the Religious Education curriculum, which explores major Christian festivals as part of the study of Christianity.

To bring this idea to life, pupils set off in two groups. One climbed Cam Peak and Cam Longdown while a second visited Haresfield Beacon.

"Climbing to the top of Cam Peak was a real physical challenge and the group were rewarded with some great views and a strong sense of achievement," said Gareth Parker (WMS Headteacher). "Haresfield Beacon provided a beautiful setting for a kite flying activity and was a memorable way for the pupils to reflect on the day's meaning."





# Martha

## ***The Trust's first ASYE graduate***

Martha Lukas, a placement planning social worker at William Morris School, has become the first person at the Trust to successfully complete a national programme designed to support newly qualified social workers in their first year of practice.

The Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) helps develop professional confidence, build knowledge, and enhance the skills essential for effective social work. Through a structured programme of assessment, direct observation, and feedback from professionals and young people alike, it supports participants in navigating the demands of the role and adapting to changes in the field.

Martha's progress throughout the year was assessed and supported by the Trust's Professional Development Consultant, Kate Barnett, who monitored her development closely, ensuring that the process was reflective and rooted in practice.

"I'm really proud to have completed the ASYE," said Martha. "It's helped me grow in confidence and develop my professional judgement and I've learned so much from the children and staff here. I feel lucky to have been surrounded by such a knowledgeable and encouraging team."

Caroline Tebay (Deputy CEO and Head of Clinical & Therapy) said Martha's achievement was a proud moment for the Trust. "Martha has set a brilliant example, and credit must also go to the colleagues who supported her throughout," she added. "Developing social work practice in this way helps us strengthen the care we provide and improve outcomes for children."

Novalis is delighted to have a growing number of qualified social workers working across its schools and services. Several members of staff are currently enrolled on the Trust's social work apprenticeship scheme, which offers another route into the profession, combining academic study with practical experience.

"The ASYE showed me the importance of continuing professional development," Martha said. "It's not just about becoming qualified – it's about continuing to reflect, adapt and grow to better support the children we work with."





Students from Cotswold Chine and William Morris Schools showcased their footballing skills in a tournament held at Hartpury College – and they didn't disappoint!

## FOOTBALL SUCCESS AT HARTPURY AS TEAMWORK

# WINS THE DAY!

Competing against strong opposition, CCS dominated the YuGo tournament winning all six group-stage matches and every knockout game to be crowned tournament champions.

**“Kelston and Malachi stood out as exceptional outfield players and Catherine proved to be one of the best goalkeepers of the tournament,”**

CCS teacher Ben Jones said a fantastic team effort had led to the victory. “Kelston and Malachi stood out as exceptional outfield players and Catherine proved to be one of the best goalkeepers of

the tournament,” he added. “The team's success, however, was built on teamwork, determination, and the contributions of every player, including Harry, Mackenzie, Zach, Warren, and Justin, each of whom played a crucial role in securing the trophy.”

Meanwhile, WMS also put in a fantastic performance. With a smaller squad, they teamed up with players from CCS to ensure they could compete. Their efforts were rewarded with a well-earned third-place finish – a testament to their skill and resilience.

Both schools should be immensely proud of their players, who not only demonstrated great ability but also team spirit, sportsmanship and a real love for the game.





A photograph of a rider in formal dressage attire, including a dark jacket, white breeches, and a helmet, riding a dark brown horse in a dressage arena. The horse is in motion, with its tail flowing. The background is a wooden wall. The title 'RIDING for GOLD' is overlaid in large white text.

# RIDING *for* GOLD

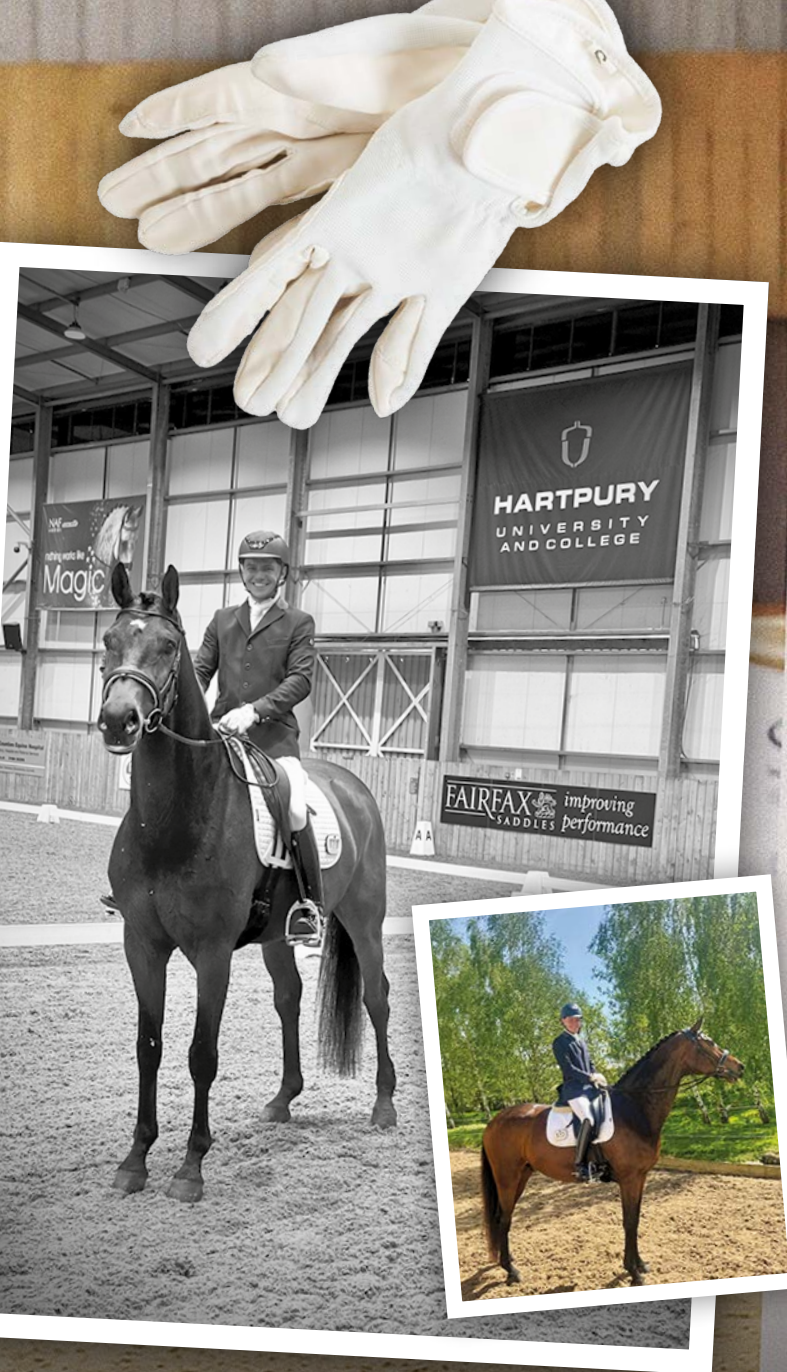
Liam Wattrus might be more familiar to Cotswold Chine students as the clinical therapy assistant attached to Franklin and Collian houses – but there’s another side to him that calls for just as much focus, commitment and time.

It involves a horse called Frankie, four weekly training sessions and an ambitious goal: to represent Great Britain in dressage at the 2032 Olympic Games.

Dressage, often described as “ballet on horseback,” is a discipline where horse and rider perform a series of precise, choreographed movements in harmony. It requires a strong connection, mutual trust and subtle cues – all of which, Liam says, are equally valuable when working with children with complex needs.

“If a child doesn’t want to engage or communicate in the way you expect, you have to find another way,” he explains. “It’s the same with horses – they can’t tell you what they’re thinking, but if you’re observant, they’ll show you. It’s all about building trust and finding the right approach.”





## Therapy Assistant Liam's Olympic dream!

Liam joined CCS in February 2023. Alongside his role supporting therapeutic work in the children's homes, he's also completing a master's in Sport and Exercise Psychology at UWE in Bristol – a field that has deepened his understanding of mental wellbeing, both in the classroom and in the dressage arena. "Understanding things like resilience, motivation and emotional regulation helps in both settings," he says. "It all links together."

His journey with horses began on his eighth birthday, when his parents finally agreed to let him have his first riding lesson. "They made me wait," he smiles. "But once I started, that was it." Although his family aren't "horsey",

he traces his early love of riding back to donkey rides on the beach at Weston-Super-Mare.

After considering showjumping and eventing, Liam found himself drawn to dressage because of its complexity and focus. "It's so finessed," he says. "It's about communication and control which really appealed to me."

His current horse, Frankie, is a 17.2-hand bay Hanoverian who was bred for dressage in Germany. Liam bought him as an unbroken three-year-old and has spent the past six years training and growing alongside him. "I'm only 23, so it's been a shared journey," he says.

Frankie is based at AM Dressage in the Forest of Dean, with top-level support from trainers Matt Frost and Adam Kemp. Liam also benefits from being based near Carl Hester, one of Britain's most decorated dressage riders, who's become a source of guidance and belief in Liam's Olympic potential. Carl has told him that aiming for the 2032 Olympic Games – in both team and individual events – is a realistic goal.

To get there, Liam trains four times a week, balancing technical work in the arena with varied routines to keep Frankie engaged and responsive. "He's affectionate, a bit cheeky, and sometimes fiery – which I quite enjoy," Liam laughs. "He loves apples, carrots and sugar cubes."

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## "He loves apples, carrots and sugar cubes."

The two already have an impressive competition record, with top ten finishes at several national competitions including last year's NAF Five Star Winter National Championships. They're currently competing at Prix St Georges level – an advanced stage in dressage that involves movements like half-pass, flying changes and collected gaits. The next steps are Intermediate I and II, before reaching Grand Prix, the pinnacle of the sport and the standard for Olympic competition.

It's an expensive path, and Liam credits his parents, based in Warwickshire, for their unwavering emotional and financial support. From custom saddles and horse boots to veterinary care, physiotherapy and competition jackets, the costs quickly add up.

Despite the pressures, Liam stays grounded in his work at the school, where he enjoys sharing his love of horses with the children. One student, Izzy from Collian House, has been keen to part-loan a pony and Liam has been helping her find a suitable match. "It's great to see that enthusiasm – it reminds me why I started."

As his master's draws to a close, Liam is looking ahead to national and international competitions, with the goal of reaching Grand Prix level and ultimately the Olympics. His story is a reminder of where passion, dedication and the right support can lead. Everyone at Novalis Trust is behind him all the way!



# FULL SAIL AHEAD!

**CHINE STUDENTS  
TAKE THE HELM  
WITH TALL SHIPS  
YOUTH TRUST**



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**“There were moments of challenge but also huge pride.”**





It was anchors aweigh and adventures all the way for a group of Cotswold Chine School students who spent a spectacular day sailing the Solent aboard one of the Tall Ships Youth Trust Challenger yachts.

Stepping aboard the 72-foot round the world boat, students were quickly immersed in the world of sail training. With encouragement from experienced crew and staff, they learned to hoist sails, handle ropes, tack into the wind and even take the helm, gaining not only practical skills but confidence and trust in themselves and each other.

"It was wonderful to see our students discovering what they were capable of," said Tim Makaruk (CCS Principal) who joined them on the voyage. "There were moments of challenge but also huge pride. They listened carefully, supported one another and showed real resilience and leadership."

The experience was part of the Tall Ships Youth Trust programme, which supports young people aged 12 to 25 from all backgrounds – particularly those facing disadvantage – through immersive sailing experiences. Since 1956, over 120,000 young people have taken part, sailing a combined two million nautical miles aboard the charity's vessels.

The yacht used for the day – originally built for the Global Challenge round-the-world race – provided the perfect environment for learning by doing. With open sea on all sides and no classroom walls, students worked together to navigate the demands of sailing while reflecting on what it means to lead, listen and persevere.

"Trips like this help our students see themselves differently," Tim added. "They come back more assured with a real sense of what they can do. Our partnerships with organisations with organisations like the Tall Ships Youth Trust gives children the chance to develop real world skills that will stay with them for life."

The day also sparked discussions about climate change and ocean protection, helping students consider their relationship with the natural world and how their choices can shape the future.





# GAME ON

It's playtime  
with a purpose  
at wellbeing day





## A special wellbeing day celebrating the joy of play brought everyone together across the Trust this term!

Held at Ebley House, Spring into Play 2025 offered a vibrant mix of activities, creativity and fun for children and staff alike.

The event opened with a presentation from Caroline Tebay (Deputy CEO and Head of Clinical & Therapy) and Grace Chapman (Deputy Head of Clinical & Therapy) who spoke about the power and importance of play. They explored how play supports learning, wellbeing and connection at every age and how different forms of play are woven into life at Novalis.

Then it was time for action! Five themed play stations were set up around the site, inviting everyone to take part in a variety of activities including kite flying, brain games, a silent disco, hula hooping and hook-a-duck.

There was also a retro toy stand which brought back memories and sparked conversations as children and adults explored toys from the past.

At a station celebrating kindness and achievement everyone was encouraged to make their own medal to celebrate something they were proud of. A kindness pledge tree was set up and soon blossomed with positive messages.

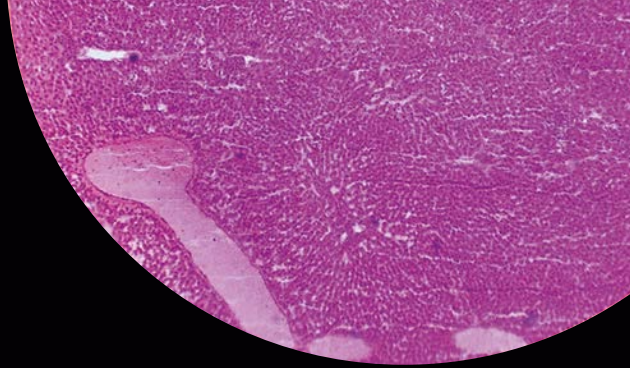


Another station invited people to take part in a "We are one" activity, colouring in an outline of themselves and then adding it to a growing paper chain, symbolising unity and belonging across the Trust.

"Play is an important tool – not just for children, but for all of us," said Caroline Tebay. "It brings us joy, helps us connect and supports our emotional wellbeing. Days like this remind us that play is not a break from learning, it is learning."







# FROM **ONION CELLS** TO **FLY LEGS** **SCIENCE COMES ALIVE AT WMS!**

Microscopes, onion slices and fly legs were all part of the learning this term as pupils from William Morris School took a deep dive into the fascinating world of living things.

In Vine and Acorn Class, learners began by exploring the key characteristics of organisms. Some pupils recapped their understanding of life processes while others focused on how to identify whether something is living, dead or has never been alive.

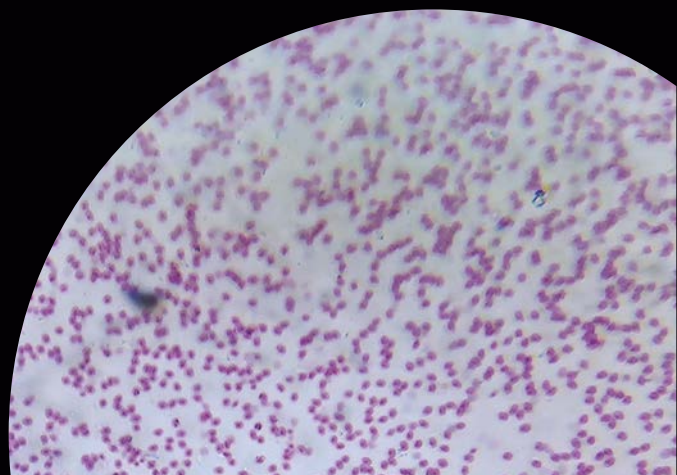
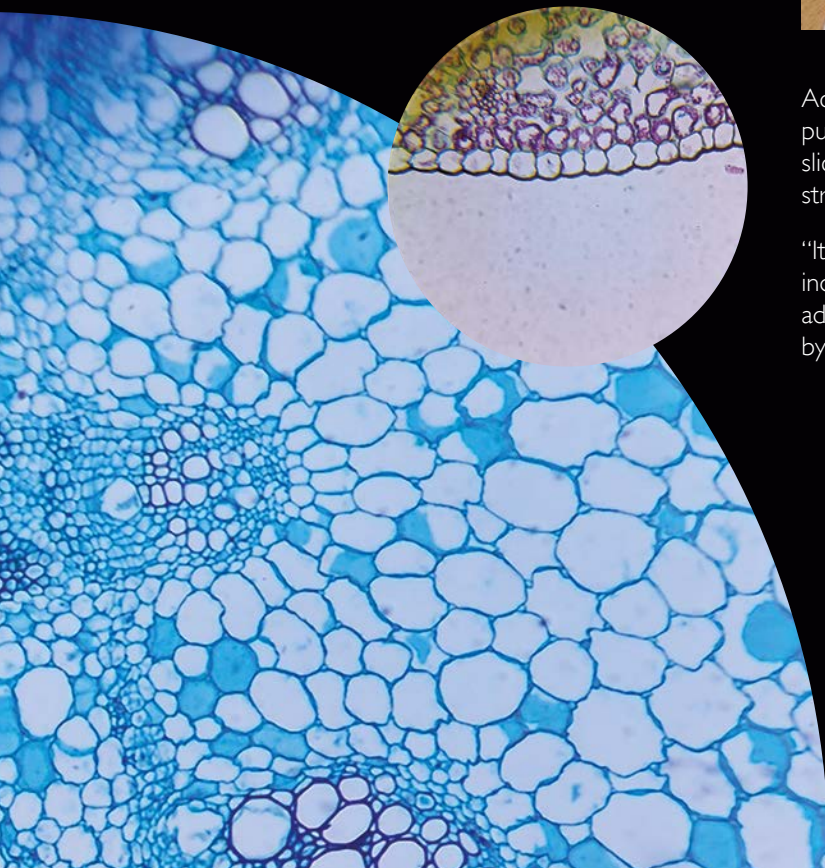
The topic moved on to the organs of the human body and their functions before branching out into plant organs. Pupils were then able to delve deeper by learning about the features of plant and animal cells using pictorial examples to support their understanding.

The highlight came at the end of the topic when everyone had the chance to use a microscope to inspect real samples. Carefully changing slides and handling the equipment safely, pupils examined everything from blood cells and plant stems to fly legs and bones.



Acorn Class teacher Lee Staley said some pupils even prepared their own samples, finely slicing onions and using dye to make cell structures easier to spot.

"It was fantastic to see the level of focus and independence the pupils showed during the project," added Vine Class teacher Daniel Festa. "They were excited by what they saw and proud of what they can do."





# OUT OF THIS WORLD!

## COTSWOLD CHINE GOES COSMIC



A group of CCS students were launched into a universe of learning when they took part in Operation Space Station, a dynamic live session beamed directly from the UK's National Space Centre.

Guided by David Southworth, one of the centre's education team, the mission gave students on the Seedling and Sapling pathways the chance to explore life beyond Earth and work together to plan, build and equip their own space stations.

The experience began with a deep dive into the history of space modules and what it's like to live aboard a real space station. From learning about famous missions to understanding how astronauts eat, sleep, and stay healthy in orbit, students got a real taste of life in space.

Then the mission ramped up. Working in small teams, students were given a mission brief and challenged to design their own space station. This was no ordinary task – they had to manage a budget, make group decisions and solve problems under time pressure. Every choice mattered, from which materials to use to how to best support the crew's health and nutrition.

"It was amazing to see the students rise to the challenge," said Dan Woodhead (Enrichment Curriculum Subject Leader). "They showed brilliant collaboration and some very inventive thinking. The buzz in the room was like mission control!"

The session wasn't just about space—it cleverly linked to all sorts of curriculum areas, including science, design, maths, health, and communication skills. "The session gave students the opportunity to work as a team, think critically and have fun while learning," added Dan.







## SEASIDE ADVENTURES IN

# WEST WALES



Students from Cotswold Chine School swapped the classroom for the coast this term as they headed to West Wales for two fun-filled holidays in Llanilar.

Staying in the Trust's holiday home, Harry, Justin and Oliver enjoyed everything the local area had to offer – from beach visits and swimming to a 15-mile bike ride through the stunning countryside.

Days were packed with outdoor adventures, including games of torch tag at dusk and a crabbing expedition along the shore.

In a separate trip, Jakob, Izzy, Emily and Lexi also headed to Novalis' Welsh retreat for a memorable getaway. They went on a dolphin spotting boat trip, flew kites on the beach, tried their hand at crabbing and had a delicious BBQ by the river.

The holidays were part of the school's wider commitment to enriching learning through experiences

beyond the classroom, helping pupils build confidence, independence and friendships in new settings.

"Going on holiday gave the students a chance to step out of their everyday routines and really challenge themselves in a positive way," said Dan Woodhead (CCS Curriculum Enrichment Subject Leader). "These experiences build resilience, deepen relationships and most importantly – they're great fun."







**“Going on holiday gave the students a chance to step out of their everyday routines and really challenge themselves in a positive way.”**





# NOVALIS CELEBRATES MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2025

Staff from across Novalis dressed in green to show their support for **Mental Health Awareness Week 2025** this term.

The theme for this year, chosen by the Mental Health Foundation, was Community – celebrating the role that strong social connections and supportive networks play in protecting our mental health.

Cotswold Chine School's Headteacher Hannah Dury said the campaign encouraged everyone to think about the small ways we can boost wellbeing by connecting with others.

"Being part of a community helps us feel that we belong, that we're supported and that we have a role to play," she added. "Whether it's joining in with

something we love, showing kindness or offering a warm welcome to someone new, those small acts help us stay connected and that's so important for our mental health."

During the week, staff and pupils reflected on what community means to them and how they can uphold the Novalis values of kindness, empathy, positivity, curiosity and creativity.



**"...small acts help us stay connected and that's so important for our mental health."**