



Parrs Wood Pigeon

Issue no. 8 April 2025

From Broadway to Band Rooms



We started 2025 with rehearsals for our summer production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, and we have thoroughly enjoyed the energy and enthusiasm that our wonderful cast and crew have shown throughout the process so far. Keep an eye out for the ticket link in May! Performances will be on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of July.

A group of 50 of our Year 9-11 Music students flew to Oz (the Palace Theatre) to see the production of *Wicked*, one of the GCSE Music set works. It was an amazing show, and we are so glad that our students had the opportunity to see their exam work brought to life.

Some of our Year 9 and 11 students had a brilliant day of workshops at the Royal Northern College of Music as part of the Year 9 options process and the 6th form application process. They participated in a Q&A session with undergraduate and postgraduate students, learning about studying Music as they move forward in their musical journeys. They also watched performances across multiple genres from the college's undergraduate students, who shared

how and where they had studied Music to get to where they are today. Additionally, they attended a session with Andy Stott, Head of Popular Music, about the benefits of studying Music at GCSE and A Level. He discussed the valuable skills students gain, not just for the music industry, but for future studies and employment as well. It was a fantastically informative day for the students, and one we hope to repeat in the future.

The Jazz Band began a series of workshops with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, which will culminate in a performance with other Manchester schools at Band on the Wall on 24th June. We're really looking forward to seeing what pieces they create and the skills they develop through this prestigious opportunity.

We launched a new Big Band as part of our extra-curricular programme, open to all of our woodwind, brass, and rhythm section players. All year groups are welcome, and rehearsals take place in the band room after school on Mondays. Please speak to your Music teacher if you're interested in joining.

The Musical Theatre Club has been working on a performance of *Apex Predator* from *Mean Girls*. They have been working incredibly hard to perfect their singing and choreography, and we would love for you to take a look at their work in the video below.

We finished the term with a fantastic Recital Evening from our GCSE and A Level Music students, who performed a selection of their exam pieces. We are so proud of the dedication, resilience, and hard work they have put into their performances. We had everything from Baroque music to Beyoncé, and so much more in between. It was a joy to see the students growing in confidence and showcasing their talents to the audience.

Miss Gocher

"We are so proud of the dedication, resilience, and hard work they have put into their performances."













A Brush with Greatness

Last month, gifted and talented Year 8 and 9 art students began creating the set for our upcoming *Beauty and the Beast* production. They had a fantastic time painting the castle, and we look forward to seeing the final version in June.

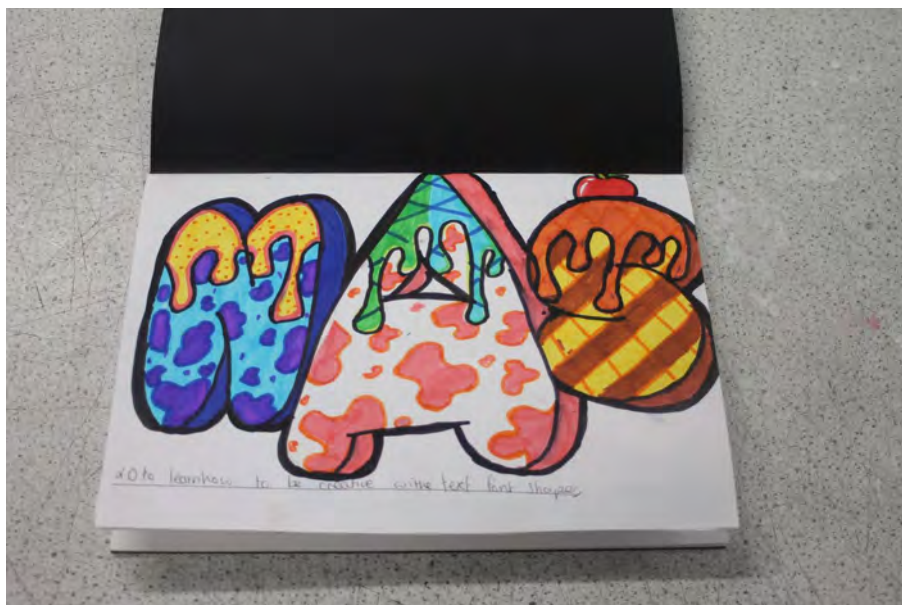
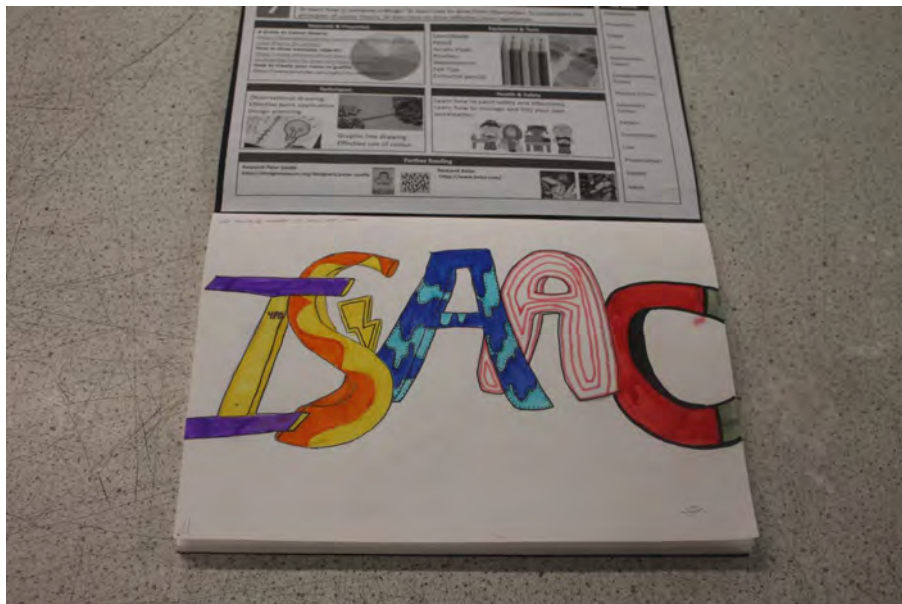
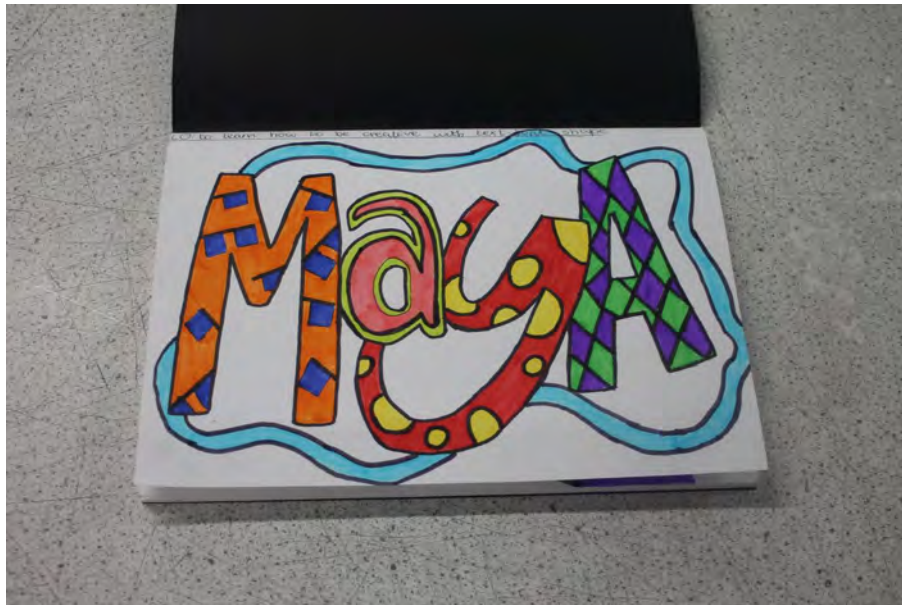
Mr Davison

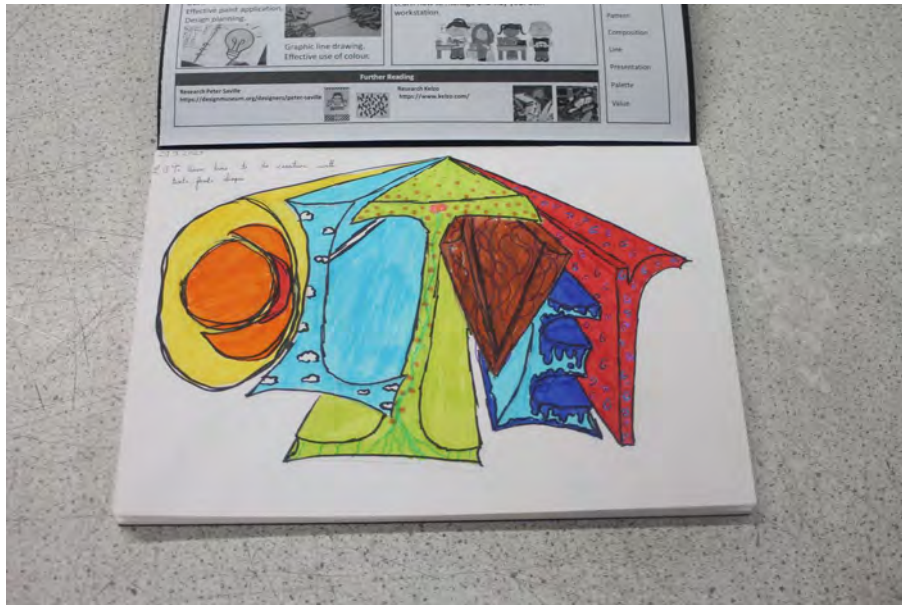


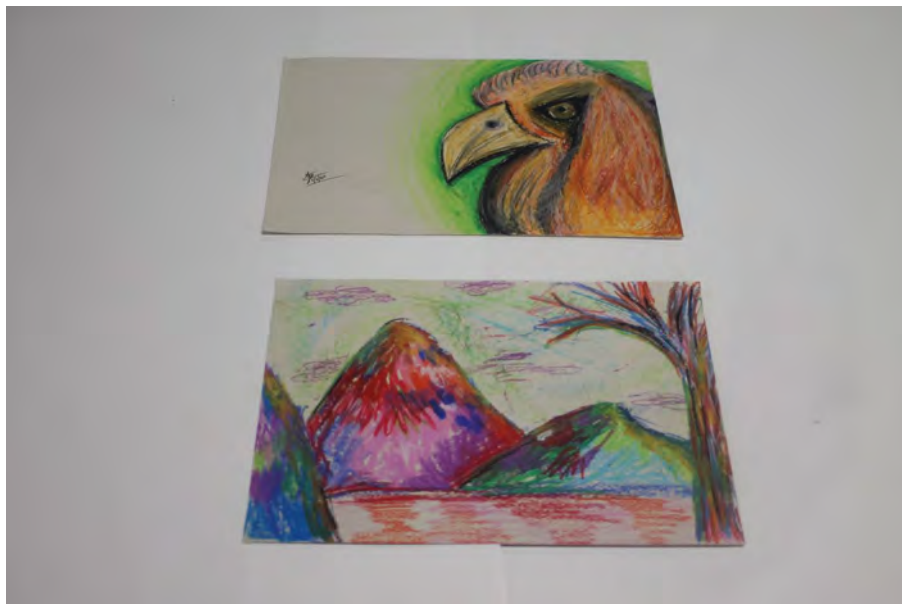
Year 11 Whitworth Gallery Trip

In February, Year 11 students visited the Whitworth Gallery to celebrate their Year 10 project and see it displayed in the gallery. This included a book created by the museum, showcasing the students' prints and photographs. They also took part in a drawing workshop with a professional artist and enjoyed trying on clothing designed by Jakkai Siributr, one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary artists.

Mr Davison









Hungry for Maths Success



On 26th February, eight Year 10 students participated in the Maths Feast Challenge at the University of Manchester, showcasing their problem-solving and teamwork skills across four challenging rounds. Competing against 15 other teams, our students delivered an outstanding performance. One of our teams excelled and proudly secured 1st place! A huge congratulations to all the students who participated – an incredible achievement!

Mr Phillips and Miss Hafeez







Inspiring Teamwork and Resilience Through Outdoor Skills

Last term saw the launch of a new intervention group called *Outdoor Skills*. Led by Jo Aungier (from Manchester City Council's *Skills for Life*), and assisted by Miss Abbas and myself, 12 students from Years 7, 8, and 9 took part in weekly sessions focused on nature, the environment, and teamwork. We met once a week, and all involved agreed it was an enjoyable and successful venture, helping to build confidence, understanding, and practical skills.

The students tried their hands at building shelters using tarpaulins and ropes, learned how to put up tents, and practised tying knots—although some students already showed impressive skills in this area.

We also cleared several sacks of rubbish from our wooded area and reunited the PE department with a large bag of soiled and soggy bibs (though I'm not sure how pleased they were about this!).

Our learning extended to fungi identification—our grounds are rich in species such as *King Alfred's Cake*, a useful fire starter (though we didn't test its effectiveness)—as well as tree identification. Our site boasts a diverse range of tree species, including several Redwoods, the world's largest species (*according to the PTA quiz*).

The students worked hard in tough conditions, demonstrating great character and resilience. They also helped maintain the environmental centre, raking, weeding, and planting a variety of wildflowers. The memorial gardens were tidied, and spring bulbs were added.

Many students particularly enjoyed working in the greenhouse, parts of which feel almost tropical. The sugarcane and pineapples held great appeal. One Year 9 student became especially knowledgeable about the characteristics of the Kapok tree, while many others impressed us with their ability to climb trees and secure hammocks and tarps.

It's been a fantastic start, and we hope to continue into the new year with resources funded by the *Climate Change Award* we recently received. A huge thank you to all the teachers who allowed their students to take part—I genuinely believe every student has made worthwhile progress, whether in teamwork or in following clear instructions. Friendships have been formed, and a strong sense of pride and belonging—both locally and globally—has been fostered.

I'm incredibly proud to be part of this group and of how the students have responded in such a positive and respectful manner. It's also been a lot of fun—particularly watching some students' enthusiasm for creating a giant wood store!

Mr Largan



"Friendships have been made, and a great sense of pride and belonging—both locally and globally—has been fostered."

Amà Gloria



On Tuesday, 21st January, some of our French students visited HOME cinema to watch a brilliant film called *Amà Gloria* and took part in a workshop with a university lecturer—all in the target language. The emotional storyline had some students (and teachers...) in tears!

All of the students were excellent throughout the experience, with a few standout individuals earning a '*skip the lunch queue*' pass. *Bien joué et félicitations!*

Miss Burnham



La Suprema

On Thursday, 23rd January, some of our Spanish students visited HOME cinema to watch the brilliant film *La Suprema* and participated in a workshop with a university lecturer—all in the target language. Led by the outstanding lecturer Carmen Herrero, the film provided a deep dive into Colombian culture and history.

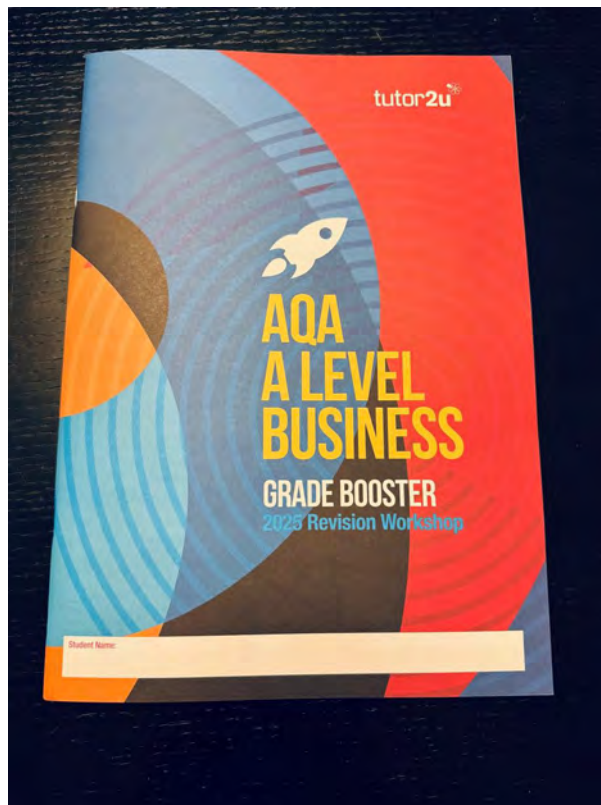
Our pupils were a true credit to the school, demonstrating maturity, curiosity, and respect throughout the trip. A fantastic opportunity to learn and engage with Spanish-language cinema!

Miss Lopez



Year 13 Business and Economics Grade Booster Workshops





Year 13 Business and Economics students attended *Tutor2U* cinema-based workshops, where they developed their exam technique and revised core topics to help maximise their exam marks.

It was a fantastic event, offering a full day of intensive, subject-focused exam preparation. Our students were engaged throughout, actively participating in Q&A sessions—and even winning a few prizes along the way!

Upon leaving the event, one student commented on how valuable the experience had been and said they were heading home to revise further. What an excellent attitude to learning, especially after such an intense day!

Miss Roberts

9LDN's Tree Planting Experience







On 11th March 2025, our form, 9LDN, planted trees with Mrs. Green and Mr. Largan. In total, we planted around 165 trees! My friend and I personally planted five, along with other students in the form. We really enjoyed ourselves and learned how to identify different trees and plant them properly.

I absolutely loved the experience, and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of our amazing staff and *City of Trees* for organising it. I think we all enjoyed it and felt passionate about helping the environment. It was one of the best things we could do, especially as climate change continues to affect our world. These trees might take another 25–30 years to fully develop, but hopefully, they will help make a positive impact on the environment.

Cuba Davis

Tree planting is a wonderful experience because you learn things you wouldn't inside a classroom. I like it because you get to meet different people who share the same goal as you, and it's very relaxing.

Isabelle Toure

On 11th March, we went tree planting on the riverside fields with 9LDN. We planted a variety of trees, and it felt great to be part of something so meaningful. I really enjoyed it because I got to spend time with my friend, and we bonded over the experience. The weather was sunny, which made it even better.

We also learned about carbon dioxide and global warming. These trees will help the environment by producing oxygen and providing shelter for animals. I enjoyed it so much that my family is planning to go and plant more trees this weekend!

Hano Said

Intermediate UKMT

46 students from Year 8 to 11 took part in the annual Intermediate UKMT, a prestigious competition designed to enhance problem-solving and mathematics skills.

We are proud to announce the following achievements: 5 Golds, 13 Silvers, and 5 Bronzes.

Considering the challenging nature of the questions, this is a remarkable result. (Feel free to test your own skills by using the link below.)





This term, we were invited to be one of 309 schools participating in the IET Faraday® Challenge Days. Each Challenge Day involves six school teams, each made up of six Year 8 pupils with an interest in Science, Design & Technology, Mathematics, or Engineering. We were proud to host teams from Parrs Wood, St. James School, and Cheadle Hulme School.

The IET Faraday® Challenge Days are an annual competition designed to introduce students to engineering, inspire them to consider it as a career, and help them develop key employability skills, including teamwork, problem-solving, and creative thinking. Each team was assigned roles such as project manager and finance manager and tasked with creating a new sustainable solution to a given brief.

Throughout the day, the teams planned, designed, and built models of their innovative products before presenting their solutions to the other groups and a judging panel.

The winning team was awarded a trophy for their school and earned a spot on the national school league table. At the end of the season, the top teams will be invited to the national final. Unfortunately, this time, it was a team from Cheadle Hulme School that took home the trophy. However, the judges praised the exceptional quality of all entries, stating that any of them could have won in previous rounds.

We'll be back next year to try again!

Miss Smith

[Students Explore Computer Science at the University of Manchester](#)

In March, a group of Year 11 and Year 12 students visited the University of Manchester for an exclusive insight into studying Computer Science at a leading university. Accompanied by

Mr Clark and Miss Young, the students toured the campus and spent time with current undergraduates, who shared their experiences and gave an overview of the course — covering everything from artificial intelligence and programming to robotics and software development.

During the visit, students enjoyed some pizza while taking the opportunity to ask questions about university life, the course content, and future career prospects in the tech industry.

The day concluded with a live demonstration of the PEPA robot, giving students a glimpse into the kind of innovative work taking place at the university. It was a valuable and inspiring experience for everyone involved.

Mr Clark and Miss Young





FUTURE CHOICES

This Term is all about different pathways and career choices

During National Careers Week, all year groups attended employer assembly talks featuring Equans, Ipsos, a local GP, Barclays Bank, and The Army.

Year 8 students enjoyed participating in an Enterprise Challenge with The King's Trust.

Year 9 explored post-school pathways through presentations on vocational and technical routes from Stockport College, apprenticeships from The Ask Project, insights from Parrs Wood Sixth Formers, and university options from UCLAN students.

At Choices Evening, students explored apprenticeships with The Army, further education at Stockport College, Sixth Form experiences, and received personalized guidance from an independent careers advisor.

Year 12's Future Choices Day included talks on university, apprenticeships, careers, and a visit to the UCAS Discovery Fair.

Year 11 students consulted our independent advisor on their next steps, learned about apprenticeships, and attended a workshop to support their apprenticeship journey.

Students were introduced to post-6th Form pathways through assemblies on university, apprenticeships, and digital careers.

WHAT DOES YOUR CAREER PATH LOOK LIKE?

NAME: _____

PREVIOUS JOBS:

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

#NCW2025 NCW

The students gained insights into their teachers' past careers, the skills they acquired, and how their experiences shaped their journey into education.

New Clubs Taking Over!



At Parrs Wood, we are dedicated to upholding our core values of creativity, achievement, and community. We are always looking for ways to enhance our enrichment programme by actively listening to our students and considering their ideas. After all, it is their input that helps make our programme one of the most comprehensive around.

By empowering students to start their own clubs, we provide them with the opportunity to bring their ideas to life, see them through to fruition, persuade teachers to dedicate their lunchtimes (no easy feat!), promote their clubs to attract new members, and enhance their social skills.

This year, we've already seen the exciting launch of K-POP, Yu-Gi-Oh!, Crotchet and Knitting and Pokémon Club. Pokémon Club, in particular, has grown rapidly, quickly becoming one of the most popular clubs at Parrs Wood.

If your child has an idea for a new club, they will have the opportunity to explore it further next term. Ask Mr Lau for more details.

Mr Lau

This is what we offer at the moment:

[Enrichment Timetable](#)
