

Annual Review - Academic Year 2024-25

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow students and guests. It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to this year's Speech Day. As Head Students, we are honoured to reflect on a year that has been filled with growth, resilience, and remarkable achievements across our school community.

This past year has brought out the very best in us, from academic excellence and sporting triumphs to creative brilliance and acts of service, we have witnessed countless moments that remind us of the strength and spirit that define our school.

Prizegiving is more than a celebration of success - it is a recognition of effort, perseverance, and the pursuit of excellence. It is a moment to pause and acknowledge the hard work of our peers, the dedication of our teachers and staff, and the unwavering support of our families.

As we look back on the year, we are reminded that every achievement, big or small, contributes to the vibrant tapestry of our school's story. We hope this report captures the essence of what makes our school such a special place to learn, grow, and thrive.

To all prize winners - congratulations. Your commitment and passion inspire us all. And to every member of our school community—thank you for making last year, one to remember. I am delighted to now hand over to Mr Cameron for an academic report.

I am delighted to begin with a summary of the School's academic success during 2024-25, culminating in a summer of excellent examination results once again.

Achievement in our Prep School last year was excellent, with outcomes significantly higher than local or national norms, and the progress of our youngest children in Reception was remarkable, with their outcomes being the strongest our school has seen for over 3 years.

Well done to our children in Year 2, who performed very well in their end of Key Stage 1 assessments and who have laid very strong foundations for future achievement in our Prep School.

Year 6 completed assessment papers in Mathematics and English, and performance in Reading continues to be our strongest subject area, with over half of our pupils reaching the greater depth standard compared to 33% nationally. We were also pleased with an increase of 20% in the number of children achieving the expected level in Writing following our focus on developing Oracy skills.

While our values of **Family** and **Character** shape the ethos and broader identity of our School, it is the **Ambition** of our pupils and staff that leads to the **Excellence** we see played out in the results at GCSE and A Level, year on year.

Our new Lower Sixth achieved exceptional results in their GCSE's; with over a third of all grades at the highest level of Grades 9 to 7 (equivalent to A* and A), also achieving the highest pass rate we have seen since the number grading system was introduced; 95% compared to the national average of 67%.

At the top end of the School, last year's Upper Sixth performed exceptionally well in their A Level exams. Results were again fantastic, which saw almost 1 in 4 students gaining an A* or A grade in three or more subjects and 1 in 5 gaining a clean sweep of A* or A grades, with an overall pass rate of over 99%. 91% gained places on their chosen courses and the range of universities, courses and apprenticeships that they moved on to was extremely impressive.

We also aim to add academic value here at TPS; and we know through external analysis, confirmed by our most recent inspection, that our GCSE and A Level students achieve higher grades on average than they might reasonably be predicted when they start. In addition, when comparing our Sixth Form attainment with other providers in and around Peterborough, we were delighted to learn in January from data produced by the Department for Education, that our students made more progress than other independent schools in this area, and progress significantly above all maintained sector schools.

Congratulations must go to all our pupils, and whether you are in Nursery, Prep or Senior School, our congratulations go to all of you on your academic achievements.

This year has been full of exciting adventures! Nursery visited West Lodge Farm, where they enjoyed being farmers for the day, tending to the animals and riding on a tractor. Earlier in the year they were invited to the POSH stadium as part of their occupations themed month.

Reception began at Sacrewell Farm, learning about the seasons and where our food comes from. Later, they had a thrilling day tobogganing at Tallington Lakes, racing down the slopes with big smiles!

Year 1 explored Hamerton Zoo Park, spotting everything from tiny harvest mice to white tigers and playful cheetahs. They even saw vultures at feeding time and practised money skills in the gift shop.

Year 2 became explorers at Nene Park, learning map skills, hunting for treasures, and cracking secret codes during orienteering. Meanwhile, Year 3 stepped back in time as Tudors for the day at Burghley

House and visited the Gurdwara as part of their RE topic. They showed courage on their Grafham Water residential, climbing walls, fossil hunting, and investigating soil. They loved the challenge and the fun of being away from home for the first time.

Year 4 loved the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, exploring what life was like during World War 1 through to modern day conflicts, and stepped back in time at Leicester Museum, handling real Egyptian artifacts and dressing as Pharaohs. Later, along with Year 5, they braved high ropes and the super swing on their Hilltop residential, showing teamwork and determination.

In Year 5 we enjoyed an Ancient Greek Day, solving puzzles and competing in Olympic Games. They also mastered navigation at Nene Park, using compasses and teamwork to crack codes. Year 6 experienced life as World War 2 evacuees, writing with ink pens and practising air-raid drills. Later, they visited Hunstanton, studying cliffs and rock pools before finishing with a well-earned ice cream!

Book Week developed the theme of 'Bringing traditional stories to life', each class discussing the morals and points of view of the characters. On World Book Day we looked incredible dressed up in different costumes, from Jacks and actual Giant Beanstalks to many Little Red Riding Hoods and Big Bad Wolves. The Seniors also embraced the day, with some pupils and teachers almost unrecognisable!

As is tradition, Mrs Thomson hosted the Interhouse Book Quizzes for both the Prep and Senior School. Prep School winners were Spencer, and Newton were the winners for Senior School.

Throughout the year, we enjoyed talks from parents on many different Careers, as part of Curious Careers, including occupations such as biomedical science, running a restaurant, fashion design and dentistry, to name but a few.

Our annual Prep School 'Create' exhibition showcased our creative talents, with every child in the Prep School displaying a piece of artwork, this year including work from our Nursery too.

Just before the Christmas Holidays, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took to the stage for their production of 'The Fleece Force'; they performed brilliantly to amazed audiences. In the Spring, Year 3 and 4 shone in their production of "Eddie the Penguin Saves the World!" They acted, sang and danced brilliantly to entertain packed audiences with their story of Eddie and his family, who set to tackle global warming by educating the world as they travelled the globe.

In a spectacular end to the year, Year 6 students, supported by Year 5, delivered a hilarious performance of 'What a Knight'. With its lively cast of quirky castle characters, they embarked on a

chaotic quest to save Camelot, recover Excalibur, and defeat the evil Black Knight in a magical, music-filled adventure. The standard of acting, singing and dancing was superb, and the many jokes were hilarious!

This year has been filled with enriching experiences that have taken us far beyond the classroom. Our Religious Studies students attended the Candle Conference at Coventry Cathedral, where they explored the themes of life and death with renowned scholar Dr Peter Vardy. Four of our own students—Milo, Zachariya, Sophia, and Jadzia—took part in a powerful debate on Christian pacifism and were praised for their thoughtful arguments. Later in the year, Years 10 and 11 visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, where they reflected on faith, history, and the mystery of pilgrimage.

Our Music and Economics students also had unforgettable trips. GCSE Music pupils experienced the magic of a live orchestra at Birmingham’s Symphony Hall, hearing works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Brahms. Meanwhile, Year 13 Economics students explored the heart of London’s financial world, from the Bank of England Museum to the iconic Lloyds building and Rothschild HQ.

Languages came alive last year too! The Spanish trip to Toledo was packed with culture, adventure, and friendship—from zip-lining and flamenco dancing to exploring Madrid’s Royal Palace and the Bernabéu Stadium. We also welcomed 15 Spanish exchange students to our school, sharing lessons, laughter, and lasting memories. The European Day of Languages was a celebration of culture on the theme “Languages for Peace.”

Creativity flourished too: Years 7 to 11 showed their talent for art, design and food technology in their wonderful exhibition at the end of the summer term. 23 students were published in six different writing collections, and six poets were featured in the anthology *Empowered – A Journey of Self-Discovery*. Our Debating Club continued to grow, with students competing at the Cambridge Union, winning 3 out of 4 debates on topical issues such as workers’ rights. Our A Level English students explored Shakespeare and World War 1 literature through inspiring trips to The Globe and the Imperial War Museum.

This year, the TPS Scholars Society took us on an amazing adventure through art, history, dreams, and even the Addams Family! We explored El Greco’s wild paintings, the secrets of Troy, ancient Egyptian symbols, and what our dreams might really mean. Our thanks go to our brilliant speakers. Many of the lectures were delivered by scholars themselves, and Maija Higgins and Sophia Oliver also took part in the Royal Geographical Society Youth Micro-Lectures on the theme of “People,

Prosperity, Planet, Partnership and Peace” from the UN Resolution 2030 - Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Pupils from across the Prep and Senior School took part in various academic competitions, including National Mathematical Challenges, gaining many gold medals, Science Challenges, and the national Bebras Computer Coding Challenge, gaining national recognition.

Beyond the classroom, Year 7s tackled muddy challenges at the Forest Facility Adventure Centre, and 44 students from Year 5 to Upper Sixth enjoyed a snowy ski trip to Zell am See, Austria— returning with new skills and great stories. Our Duke of Edinburgh’s Award participants did incredibly well on their qualifying expeditions and enjoyed the opportunity to support others, by volunteering in our Prep School or for charities.

Music is such an important part of TPS life. Our choirs continue to go from strength to strength with our Infant and Prep Choir delighting audiences throughout the year. Over 60 pupils regularly sing in the Senior Chapel Choir and the standard of singing is incredible.

The Oundle Festival of Music gave us the opportunity to celebrate through the confident, well-prepared performances, resulting in a lot of trophies returning to TPS. Congratulations to Westwood Ensemble who won the trophy in the 18 and Under Ensemble class, Daniel Smith won the 15 and Under Strings, and Sienna Whittles won the 18 and Under Strings. Sienna also qualified for the Oundle Young Musician of the Year Competition. Sienna then went on to gain the coveted TPS Young Musician of the Year award. Prep Young Musician of the Year went to Daniel on the cello, Most Promising Musician was Thomas Mwai, and a new award this year was the Young Singer of the Year, which was awarded to Sarah Gwashawanhu.

Special congratulations this year to Daniel Smith who achieved his Grade 8 Distinction on Cello and Joshua Godwill-Otobo for his Grade 8 Merit on Electric Guitar. We were delighted to recognise Rohith Varadarajan for his outstanding achievement in Music – as we have heard this afternoon, he is exceptionally talented and works hard too, practising relentlessly. Building on his Grade 8 in the previous year, Rohith also gained his Diploma - a professional qualification - for advanced performers or teachers.

If there is one that summed up the year for many, ‘Grease is the word’! The story of Danny, aka Charlie Whitty, and Sandy, aka Emma Clay, was brought to life with a cast and crew from across the Senior School, working with energy and enthusiasm to produce a show of outstanding quality. They truly gave their all, pouring passion into each performance.

It's evident that a new wave of talented young performers is emerging, and they made a remarkable impact at the Peterborough Drama Festival. Year 2 and Year 8 won the Choral Speaking competition and we brought home eight cups in total! Congratulations to Harrison Whitty who gained two honours in Solo Acting and Verse Speaking.

In Speech and Drama, we work to improve confidence and our presentational skills. Our congratulations go to Araoluwa Aina, Maddalena Chiarizia, Daniel Gittins, Georgia Hopkin, Evie Jones-Molyneux, Shahzaib Nawaz and Charlie Whitty who all earned the highest award – Gold Medal Grade 8, many at Distinction level.

It is with great pride that we share the sporting achievements of TPS over the past year—a year marked by dedication, growth, and outstanding success. Our students have participated in nearly 300 fixtures, competing across more than 40 different leagues in 22 distinct sports. Each match, meet, and tournament has been a valuable opportunity for learning and development, and we commend every student who has represented TPS with commitment and enthusiasm.

Among the many highlights, our netball teams have shone brightly. Both our Under 14 and Under 16 squads earned county representation, with the Under 14s going on to win the County Plate. TPS also claimed victory in three district netball leagues, a testament to the strength and depth of our teams.

In tennis, our Year 7 and Year 8 teams were crowned District Champions, demonstrating skill and consistency throughout the season. Basketball saw similar success, with our Year 8 team emerging as District Champions after a series of impressive performances.

Our cricket teams had a remarkable season, winning the District League and earning a place at the County Finals. In badminton, TPS triumphed at the County Schools Doubles Championships, showcasing our growing prowess in racket sports.

Beyond team achievements, we are thrilled to celebrate the exceptional accomplishments of individual athletes who have represented TPS at county, regional, national, and even international levels.

Anika Sharma was selected for the Under 8 Cambridgeshire County Tennis Squad, while Aditi Sharma joined the Under 14 squad and went on to achieve national representation, and is now ranked 122nd in England.

In swimming, Summer Woodside earned a bronze medal in backstroke at the Regional Championships, and Aoife Hickey brought home four medals from the County Championships.

Football talent continues to flourish at TPS, with Lily Talbot accepted into the Under 14 Peterborough United Football Academy, and Isla Scott joining the Norwich City Football Academy.

In fencing, Zach Choudhury achieved national representation, while Charlie Whitty competed regionally in rowing for Peterborough City Rowing Club. Aarav Roy represented internationally in karate, competing in World Cups against athletes from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and America. I was also pleased to continue my success in athletics and Hyrox, competing internationally again last year.

Imaani and Na'ima Campbell have had an extraordinary year, Limitless Ambassadors and representing Turnford at Regional level, joining the Under 15 Cambridgeshire County Squad, and playing for England in the Nations Cup, came away with runners-up silver medals.

Cricket continues to be a strength for TPS, with fellow sports captain Xavier Wildsmith joining the Northamptonshire Under 18 Squad, and Charlotte Aylmore representing both the Cambridgeshire Women's Squad and the Northamptonshire Under 18s, where she was named Bowler of the Year.

These achievements reflect not only the talent and hard work of our students but also the unwavering support of our staff, coaches, and families. To every student who trained, competed, and gave their best—thank you. You have made us proud.

Whether you are in Mandela, Newton, Spencer or Eliot, being part of a house allows us to make friends across the year groups and enter into healthy competition for the House Point Shield, Events Trophy, and this year the new Hymn Practice Cup.

The inter-House competitions last year were bigger and better than ever and House Day was a fun-packed day of creative, physical, mental and teamwork challenges, with the final activity to make an autumnal display from hay, pumpkins and a variety of clothes – the scarecrows were truly a sight to behold, as was the mess afterwards!

Throughout the year we have also had our annual favourites, House Rowing, the Christmas Tree decoration competition and, of course, our sports days in the summer term, which combined fun, teamwork and house spirit. The standard of performance in Battle of the Bands this year was incredible and all participants should feel incredibly proud; a truly difficult job for our adjudicator. Well done to Eliot House who were victorious for the second year running. Eliot also won the Hymn Practice Cup, showing their musical talent once again.

Well done to you all on earning an amazing **36,298** House Points, which is incredible, and 4000 more than last year. This year we saw healthy competition between the houses in many competitions and congratulations to **Eliot**, for winning both the House Events Trophy and the House Point Shield, resulting in a clean sweep for the House in red. Well done to all my fellow Eliot Housemates!

Sir David Attenborough is the world's most-loved naturalist and has been broadcasting for over 60 years. He is known for his love of the natural world and for speaking out about climate change which threatens it. He said, "Real success can only come if there is a change in our societies and in our economics and in our politics."

Last year we took up this challenge and have worked towards Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation and, consequently, set up both Prep and Senior School Eco-Councils, led by Mrs Dharamraj and Mrs Leyton-Smith who began with an Environmental Review, Action Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation.

We are proud to announce that we achieved Green Flag Eco-Schools status in just one year, when it usually takes two. This is an incredible achievement and we are delighted that Emily, an Ocean Advocate, is able to be with us today to help us celebrate. Well done everyone for the amazing start you made but our work does not stop there!

Throughout the year we marked specific events through assemblies and PSHE. We raised awareness in Children's Mental Health week, with a wealth of activities to support wellbeing and mental health, and congratulated our Peer Mentors and our new Mental Health First Aiders, who qualified to help and support other pupils.

In Chapel, students used the characters from Inside Out to explore a range of feelings and emotions and led reflections around Black History Month.

Revd Jenny has continued her work to involve students more in the worship in our Chapel services and she began the year by asking all of us to complete the sentence 'Our chapel, a place of'. We had all sorts of answers from 'music and worship'; 'wonder'; 'acceptance'; 'respect'; 'unity and togetherness'; 'freedom' 'gratitude'; 'truth' 'calm and tranquillity'; 'celebration' and many, many others. This helped to set the tone for the services over the year.

Revd Jenny also asked us what we would like the Chapel to be like and one Year 6 summed it up perfectly as 'A peaceful place where we reflect on the wonders of our world and celebrate the power of God on our lives and choices'.

We are grateful to the many visiting preachers, who led Chapel Services throughout the year, challenging us to think, question and reflect.

Families came together at Christmas to enjoy our Carol Service at St John's; the Chapel Choir sang beautifully to contribute to a moving and uplifting occasion. The last week of the Autumn term was a busy time for the Preparatory Choir too, braving the cold to entertain commuters, staff, and some of our parents at Peterborough Railway Station; they sang their hearts out to the residents at several care homes.

Every year we select a charity as the School's main charity and this year we were unanimous in support for Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice in Peterborough.

Thorpe Hall Hospice plays a vital role in the community, offering compassionate services such as inpatient care, a Hospice at Home programme, and wellbeing initiatives to support patients' physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

One of the most memorable events of the year was Appeals Day, a vibrant and successful fundraising effort. Students and staff from all year groups ran an array of creative stalls, from bracelet-making to games of pool and a café. We must also mention the brave staff who got soaked in the stocks and covered in spaghetti in the pasta throwing stall. This day alone raised an impressive £2,781 for Sue Ryder.

Our work didn't stop there though and through non-uniform days and other creative initiatives, we raised an incredible £6044.46 for Sue Ryder last year. We supported other charities too, bringing the total for the year to just under ten thousand pounds. Simply incredible.

I would like to thank you all for all your hard work to make a difference to those less fortunate, and especially to thank Rayhanah Choudhuri, Mr Stroud and the Charities committee.

We are delighted that Morgan is able to join us today on behalf of Sue Ryder and I would now like to ask her to come forward to receive a very large cheque towards their ongoing work.

As your Head Students, it is both an honour and a privilege to stand before you and offer our heartfelt congratulations on the many achievements you have accomplished over the past year, whether that be in your academic work or extra-curricular activities.

Thank you to all parents, grandparents, relatives and carers for their continued support over the last year. Thank you also to the PTG, especially Mrs Miller and Mrs Gokul, who support our match teas,

events throughout the year and who organised the Prep discos, Year 11 Prom, the Fun Day at the end of the year and many more events.

Finally, we would like to conclude this review by expressing our deepest gratitude to all the staff across the School and Nursery. Their unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and genuine care continue to make a profound difference in our learning and personal growth. They consistently go above and beyond, often in ways that are unseen but always deeply felt.

Please join us in showing our appreciation with a well-deserved round of applause.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Meadows". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. A small blue dot is placed to the right of the signature.

Mr A D Meadows, BSc Hons, NPQH

17th October 2025