

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme

This year saw the third academic year where Sheiling College has offered the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze award. The award is split into categories each with the three sections: Physical, Skill and Volunteering along with a final expedition involving an overnight stay.

Students selected activities that interested them within the categories and in which they wished to improve their abilities within the skill sections.

The choices they made included cycling, hiking, dance and volunteering in the community – assisting people at a local community centre and helping with a 'seed to kitchen' gardening project.

Throughout the academic year, the DofE students worked hard building new skills and highlights included the gardening team successfully growing produce to be used in a community café and another group offered help to staff and stocked the café.

The prospect of an offsite camping expedition filled the students and staff with anticipation and excitement! Prior to the expedition, the group learned first aid skills, in which individuals participated in a number of sessions focused on first aid in the community including a variety of practical elements.

The expedition presented additional challenges for the group, not least hiking in the hot weather. Personal achievements were celebrated during climbing and abseiling and everyone enjoyed canoeing on the lake at Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre.

The group spent the night either sleeping in tents or in the camping lodge at Braggers Wood campsite.

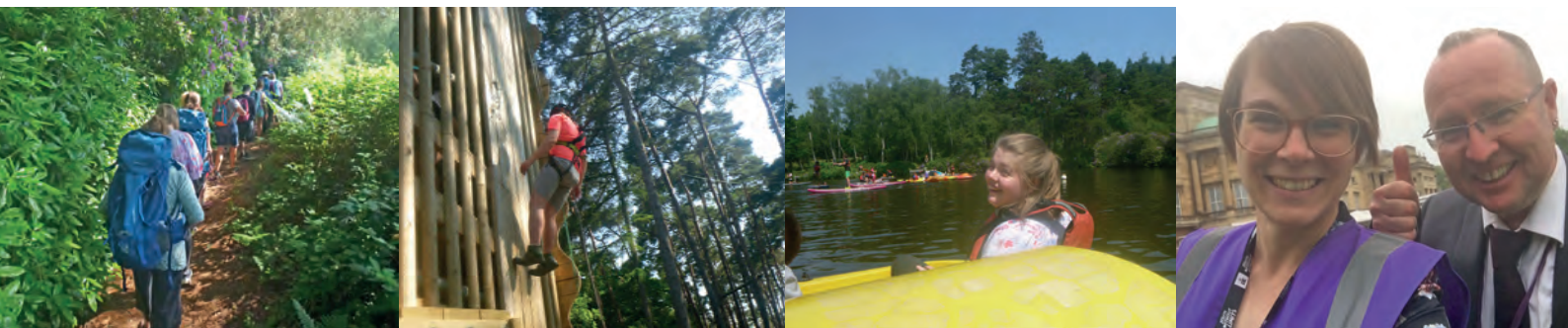
The students who were due to sleep under canvas set up their own tents fantastically well, especially as it was the first experience of camping for some. One of the most popular activities was bonding around the evening campfire. There was a wonderful atmosphere creating the perfect place to relax after a hard day's hiking... with the added treat of toasted marshmallows!

As the group progressed through the DofE adventure, it was wonderful to see every student increase in confidence and develop new skills which they demonstrated so well in their expedition.

Following their busy year, students shared with the DofE Assessor their preferences and the moments that challenged them. Feedback revealed that everyone had enjoyed the canoeing activity.

Other elements the group were overwhelmingly positive about included sleeping in tents and the shared meals. One student communicated through her visual aid that one of her favourite moments was "making friends" which could perhaps be considered one of the best outcomes of the whole experience.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme holds an annual celebration for young people achieving the Gold Award. At Sheiling College, whilst we offer the Bronze Award, our DofE representative was so impressed by the work that went into our 21/22 expedition to ensure young people with learning disabilities can access and benefit from the scheme, that we were recognised with an invitation to a celebration at Buckingham Palace. Our Community Access Coordinator, Mike Patterson, was our representative on this special occasion.



Creative Flair

It has been another successful term for those students attending art enrichment sessions. They have all been brilliantly creative and enthusiastic to learn new skills, develop new talents and use their creative flair.

The enrichment sessions have been popular with students and staff and a common theme given as feedback was the therapeutic nature of art-based activities. We look forward to future sessions and creating more wonderful work.



Fun and Fearless

Blue Group had an exciting trip to Paultons Park. Smiles and laughter throughout the day. We discovered the daring and adventurous side of our students and staff!



Pedal Power

We love being outside embracing the wonderful woodland around us and we like to do this in a variety of ways.

Recently, in school, Kessi's class have been cycling to Moors Valley Country Park which is a popular activity with students.

This has proved so popular that their aim is to cycle every Wednesday to keep improving their riding skills, cycling safety and improve the stamina of students ...and staff!

Following a similar theme, some of our Upper School students took to the trailways in the New Forest for an active outing at PEDALL.

PEDALL provide inclusive cycling opportunities to enable people that may require support to enjoy cycling in and around the New Forest.



Update from the Principal

Dear Parents,

The end of this academic year comes with good news from myself: the recent Ofsted Care inspection, which involved school students living in Feirefis house, was graded as Outstanding! The detailed report will be published in the next few days on Ofsted's website but is already accessible on our own website link <https://www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk/residential-information>.

This achievement reflects the commitment of many people working together: those in the houses, education and therapy as well as HR, finance, IT and the Facilities team - each playing a part in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the young people we support, educate and care for.

Extracts from the report are as follows:

'Children with complex learning and physical disabilities receive a holistic package of care that includes a vast range of complementary therapies. The children are looked after by staff, led by highly qualified practitioners who are widely experienced and respected in the field of disability.'

The seamlessness of the care contributes to the excellent social, emotional and physical progress that all the children make in this school'.

'Staff know the children extremely well. They care for each child with unconditional positive regard.'

Please also find below some of the verbal feedback given to us at the end of the inspection:

"Some of the children here may never have stood a chance if they hadn't come to the Sheiling. Although the children here will live a life that is different to the majority of young people, the way in which they are moving into adulthood, accessing the community and learning how to live more independently happens beautifully here".

Our thanks go out to the parents who took part in the inspection via feedback and phone calls.

Wishing you all a good summer holidays!

With kind wishes,

Corine

A Star!

A determined and kind-hearted Upper School student is testing her herself by committing to 75 star jumps every day to raise money for the charity Marie Curie.

She is doing a brilliant job and her peers are supporting her efforts and, of course, they are very proud of her achievements.



The Joy of Music

Jack's class visited Hampshire Music Service's mini festival 'Audibility' for SEND students. Held in Romsey, there was fabulous live music throughout the day accompanied by a host of interactive music activities for students to get involved with.

The whole class had a fun-filled day and found it an engaging experience. Some of the musicians involved in playing at the festival also had additional needs, so it was very inspiring for the students to see such fantastic role models.



Parent Forum

This year, we have made a few changes to the structure of the Parent Forum and would like to invite others to join and be a part of this group (please see the attached flyer).

In the last meeting, parents asked us to revisit the front car park arrangements, which we have now done; changes will be made over the summer (more information attached). Parents have also fed back that the Discord social media group is not being used as much as originally hoped and they wanted to ask other families if a different platform may be suitable (such as a closed Facebook group). If this is something you can share your views about, the Parent Forum would love to hear your ideas and, if you would like to support such a group, please let us know by sending an email to health@thesheilingringwood.co.uk

The group also asked for practical events to provide opportunities to meet in person. The first of which is scheduled for 13th October where, in the morning, we will be having an information session with a focus on deputyship (Mental Capacity Act information) delivered by a solicitor who provided training to our staff in the Easter Inset this year. This session will be followed by a transition event. Again, more information will follow in the Autumn Term, but we wanted to share what has been planned so you can save the dates. Depending on the success of the event, similar will be planned for each term, with a different focus each time (the focus of such events will be gained directly from the Parent Forum).

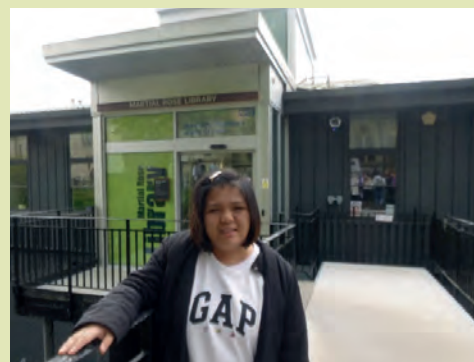
We are also pleased to share that Vanda North, our new trustee, has joined this group and is keen to ensure a flow of communication exists between parents and the Board.

Inclusion in Higher Education

It has been a busy year for our inclusion in higher education project. Ceri, one of our college teachers and Emilia (a former TA) had the privilege of presenting at the 'Join IN Inclusive Higher Education in Europe' conference in Salzburg last October. Their presentation was well received and they made some useful contacts, especially with Trinity College Dublin. Trinity College has been running inclusive education programmes for some years. Through the Inclusive Higher Education Advocacy Group (IHE-UK) led by Dr Susan Carpenter of City University New York, Sheiling College has been put in touch with the University of Winchester with a view to collaborating on this project.

Ceri has been working with Rachel Harrison (senior lecturer) to find ways in which our students can participate. Earlier this term, students from Silver Group had a very successful visit to the University of Winchester where they took part in a photo orientation challenge working alongside undergraduates from the university. In June, Ceri was invited to present an award to one of the Winchester University students involved in this project at the Winton Alumni Award Ceremony. She shared a video message from some Silver Group students created by Jake (college teacher) and Carly (college TA). The video became the highlight of the evening.

An article about our inclusion work with City University New York, which Ceri co-authored with Dr Carpenter and Dr Garber (University of Winchester), is due to be published in the Journal of Education and Social Policy very shortly. Next year, we hope to have more face-to-face shared learning experiences with undergraduates from Winchester as well as having some work experience opportunities on the university campus. It is a very worthwhile and rewarding project to be involved with.



Fundraising Update

Summer Festival 2023

The Sheiling Summer Festival 2023 raised £9,414.67!! Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Sumer Festival. This is a real highlight of the calendar when we invite family, friends and the wider community to our beautiful campus to enjoy a day of crafts and games, music, fun and laughter!

Launch of Fundraising Newsletter

We're pleased to have launched our first Fundraising-focused newsletter, which you may have received by email last week. This is designed to keep our community up-to-date with The Sheiling Ringwood's fundraising events and news, as this is an area we are developing so that we can maximise the opportunities we can offer our children and young people. Current projects we are working to fund include extending our Youth Club to include day students, building a new, specially designed playground, and an outdoor exercise trail.

To find out more about our projects and how to get involved, go to The Sheiling Ringwood - Support Us or contact Rachel via fundraising@thesheilingringwood.co.uk

Could You Become a 'Friend' of the Sheiling?

We are launching a 'Friends of the Sheiling' group who will organise and run their own fundraising activities and events for The Sheiling Ringwood. If you are interested in finding out more, either in taking the lead, as part of the team, or helping behind the scenes, please get in touch with Rachel at fundraising@thesheilingringwood.co.uk

Join our Grand Summer Tea Party!

For more details, please see the flyer attached to this newsletter or visit <https://www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk/fundraising-events-and-challenges>

Alternatively, simply donate via JustGiving <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sheiling-grand-garden-tea-party>

Quiz Night Success

The amazing team at The Fish Inn, Ringwood have continued with their hugely successful Quiz Nights in aid of The Sheiling Ringwood and have now raised a fantastic £829.25

They have a further Quiz Night planned on 1st August. Call 01425 473185 to book a table.

Could you take on the challenge?

Join Team Sheiling!

Our school Deputy Head, Jon Tebbutt, will be leading a team of runners in the Bournemouth Marathon Festival on 8th October to raise money towards our new projects.

Jon says, "I am looking forward to running the 10K for the Sheiling and hope some of you will join me for the run. These fundraising events are essential so that we can continue to provide the excellent resources that help our students thrive here at the Sheiling. I hope to see you there!"

Please get in touch if you are interested in joining our team of runners in this or other events.

You can also support our runners by sponsoring them through The Sheiling Special Education Trust <https://www.justgiving.com/thesheilingsspecialdutrust>



Our Environment

A recent bee inspection by the National Bee Unit awarded all of our four hives a clean bill of health. One of our marked queens was visible and newly-laid eggs were spotted in the bottom of the cells prepared by worker bees ready for the queen. A healthy queen can lay up to 2000 eggs per day!

We have already gathered a good quantity of honey and anticipate harvesting more in the coming weeks. There will be Sheiling honey available to buy from Reception in the new academic year.

We welcomed the winner of our Summer Festival Raffle Bee-Keeping Experience onto our site and this visit went very well. Our lucky winner was a natural with the bees!

There is a new electric addition to our maintenance vehicle fleet, another G-Wiz but this time in a snazzy Sheiling purple! Liz, our housekeeper, will use the vehicle for residential purposes around the site early in the morning and then it will be used by maintenance for the rest of the day. This fully electric car costs only £3 per week to run, aligning with our eco ethos!

As we return for the new academic year in September, we will trial a new pick up/drop off system in the main Reception car park. Please take a moment to review the leaflet attached to this newsletter.



Perfect Prom Night

Prom Night was a great success with students enjoying the special evening filled with music, dance and friendship. Students and staff dressed for the special occasion, had fun posing for keepsake photos and contributed to making it an evening to remember.



Chair of Trustees

As we come to the end of the academic year, it is a good opportunity for me to briefly review the highs and (hopefully few!) lows of another busy and eventful year. The Board of Trustees has the responsibility of ensuring that the SSET is managed and governed according to the various regulatory and legal statutes under which we function as an organisation. This covers a number of roles usually performed by School Governors, but the Board also provides governance of the business and strategic direction and has legal obligations to ensure that the organisation is run in a professional, lawful and safe manner. We are all volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds and with an array of useful skills and experience. We do not normally become involved in the day-to-day running and management of the SSET – that is the responsibility of the Principal and the Senior Management Team – but Trustees are always available to provide advice and support when necessary. Parents' views provide a separate and much-valued perspective on our activities and the Board welcomes views via the Parent Forum; if any of you would be interested in joining the Parent Forum group, or at least to find out more about the role, please refer to Katie Francis's separate article within this newsletter for details of their work and how to join.

Ofsted inspections for School, College and Care continue to take place – with our most recent Residential Special School Ofsted inspection resulting in the best comments we have ever received, which was a cause for great rejoicing! – and the Board has congratulated all those who contributed, including the students themselves.

Financially, the SSET is on a sound footing, which is encouraging given the uncertain and difficult times in which we live. The Board and the Senior Management Team work closely together to ensure that we maintain a strong and robust control over budgets and I am happy to report that we have been able to begin investigations into some potential opportunities to invest funds for improvements or expansion of some of our services.

We have had a number of changes to the Board this year – Maggi Rigg stepped down after a long and valued trusteeship and we wish her well in her retirement. Neil Johnson rejoined us after his sabbatical and we are glad to welcome him back.

We have also welcomed Vanda North and David Lincoln as new Trustees, who bring their own experience and perspectives to our work.

I do also have to announce my own retirement as a Trustee – I very regretfully came to the decision earlier this year and notified my colleagues on the Board that I would step down as Chair and Trustee at the end of the Summer Term. Changing and increasingly complex levels of legislation and regulation have for some years been placing a steadily increasing demand on the time of those who volunteer for trustee or governor roles and, in my case, I am sadly no longer able to commit the time that the role requires. I am immensely proud of the whole SSET team who work tirelessly and with amazing passion and enthusiasm to care for our students and help them grow to being the best they can be. The Board have elected Jon Freeman as the new Chair of Trustees and I am delighted with this. Jon has been a Trustee for many years with the SSET and has provided me and the Board with unfailing support during my ten years as Chair – I am leaving things in excellent hands!

As always, I am immensely grateful to the Trustees for their continued commitment and involvement and to Corine and the Senior Management Team. We are fortunate to have such a skilled and caring team leading and managing SSET, to ensure the continued provision of the best possible outcomes for all our young people.

Have a very happy Summer and best wishes for the coming year,

Jeremy Morris

Chair of the Board of Trustees



Students on Stage

We are always delighted when students take to the stage. Engaging in drama is a great way to practise lots of skills individually but also together in a variety of group sizes.

Students immerse themselves in the experience and this term has seen class plays such as Columbus, performed by Kessi's class and a larger production including some Eurythmy, of the Parsifal Play performed by Upper School classes.

Both performances were tremendous, with students demonstrating their confidence and enjoyment. We can't wait to see more on the stage in the new academic year!



QE2

Carmen's class have been visiting the QE2 Activity Centre in Southampton. Students and staff have tried numerous different activities including archery, canoeing, boating and the zip wire. The class always look forward to visiting the centre and getting involved.



Dates for your Diary

Summer Break
22nd July - 3rd September

Autumn Term Commences
4th September

Half Term Break
14th October - 29th October

Christmas Crafts Event
26th November

Christmas Break
**16th December -
1st January**



Social Media

We are keeping our Twitter (@sheilingringwd), Facebook (@sheilingringwood) and LinkedIn (The Sheiling Ringwood) pages up-to-date. So check them out to see what is happening across the campus, events, see great new pictures, fundraising news and even keep in touch. Our YouTube channel (The Sheiling Ringwood) is another fantastic source of information and activities or you could link with us on Instagram (thesheilingringwood).



Enjoy the Summer Break

The Grand Garden Tea Party



*Gather for a
great cause
and cake!*

We are inviting everyone to get together in their garden or outdoor space to join us in fundraising to expand our Youth Club to include day students, and to hold bigger and better events including a disco, beach clean and themed nights.

Every party, every cake served, every drink poured and garden enjoyed means that your Grand Garden Tea Party is supporting children and young people with severe learning difficulties.

www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk - events and challenges

To donate or set up your own fundraising page - Grand Garden Tea Party - JustGiving

The Sheiling Ringwood

Parent Parent

Forum

Key departmental information

Spotlight on Positive Behaviour Support

Save the date: 13th October 2023
Information session on deputyship
and our transition pathway event
in-person or via Teams

Ideas/topics for the next Parent
Forum meeting



Join us on Teams
7:00pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday
11th October 2023

For new attendees, call 01425 482451

or email health@thesheilingringwood.co.uk

thesheilingringwood.co.uk



Notice of change: student drop off and pick up



As we return for the new academic year in September, we will trial a new pick up/drop off system in the main reception car park.

We will create a safe walking area (marked in red on the plan), running from the pedestrian entrance to the new car park on the left and along the right to the recycling shed. Students are to be dropped off along the left-hand side, enter the safe walk area as soon as possible and continue to their respective gates.

Staff will be able to collect their students from within the safe walkway area. All vehicles will then exit the car park on the right-hand side, please recirculate as necessary. Our aim is to create a flowing pick up and drop off system. This system will minimise vehicles manoeuvring thus increasing safety for our students and staff. The plan below illustrates what will be in place. There will be staff on duty to assist with the initial implementation of the system.

Thank You

