

April 2025

## College Connections

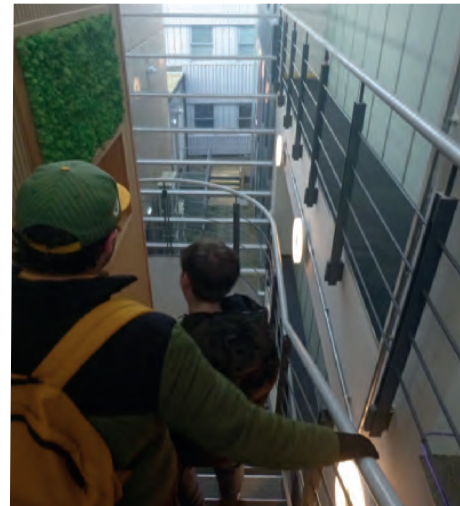
This term, we've continued our social inclusion project with the University of Winchester. Two Silver Group students gained work experience in the university chapel, where they cleaned, prepared food and assisted with services. Meanwhile, Orange Group visited the university campus and participated in a treasure hunt with health and social care undergraduates.

Back onsite at the Sheiling, Silver Group students hosted visits from Winchester undergraduates and their lecturer, Rachel.

Our students showcased the Sheiling's Total Communication approach and taught the undergraduates a few basic signs. They also introduced them to the 'Zones of Regulation' before leading their own Sheiling scavenger hunt tour of the college.

Hosting visitors was both enjoyable and valuable for everyone involved. In the coming weeks, some of our groups will return to Winchester for a shared lecture and we have arranged additional visits for some of their students and staff to come and join us at the college.

Our students are excellent ambassadors for SEND and social inclusion. By assisting the undergraduates in developing effective communication skills and demonstrating their own capabilities, we can ensure Winchester University students will enter their future professions with positive views on neurodiversity.



## Colourful Carnival

One of the most anticipated festivals in the Sheiling calendar! Carnival and pancake race events were held alongside Taiko South West drumming workshops which were vibrant and filled with enthusiasm. Students then used their new skills to deliver a performance that was the perfect opening to Carnival events.

Everyone across the Sheiling wore bright and creative carnival costumes and students danced and raced throughout the afternoon. A warm, welcoming and fun-filled day bursting with music, colour, joy and laughter. A memorable event for both students and staff!



## Valentine's Day

On the 14th of February, school enjoyed a Valentine's party. Held in Tobias Hall, students dressed up for the occasion and were delighted with the fun and games.

A class of our friends from Beaucroft School were invited and they helped us to celebrate friendship and have fun. All students showed great warmth to our guests and we can't wait to invite them back soon.



## Sheiling Festivals

We are proud of our rich festival calendar and this term we celebrated Holi, a vibrant festival full of colour to welcome the arrival of spring. Students enjoyed learning more about the Hindu festival with an assembly, dancing and art activities.



## Happy Hatchlings

This term, school students have experienced hatching chicks. Students have researched what the chicks need to survive and thrive at different phases, how best to take care of them and making links with different life cycles.



## Very Green Group!

Green Group visited Avon Heath Country Park to join forces on a planting project. Students worked hard planting trees and a variety of plants to enhance a visitor area. The staff at Avon Heath were delighted with the commitment and attention to detail the students demonstrated. They shared how assistance on projects like these is valuable in enhancing and protecting habitats and creating a lovely welcome for visitors.

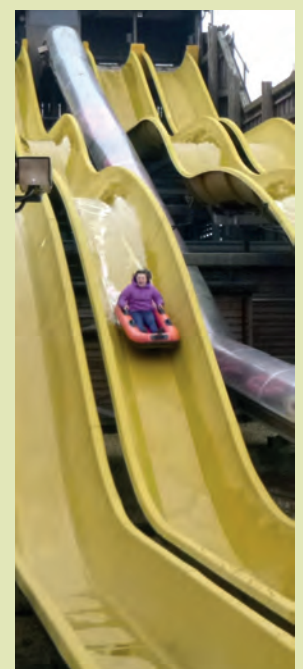


## Paultons Park

The students in Kessi's class have worked hard across the last two terms, baking cakes and making chutney to sell across the school to raise funds for a class trip to Paultons Park.

Class members took ownership of each task and were diligent throughout the project. Counting and logging their sales and monitoring the total until they reached their goal was exceptional and motivating!

A fantastic show of teamwork and determination and they each enjoyed the reward of an exhilarating day out!



## Rocksteady Stars

A firm favourite! School students were joined by Rocksteady Music School for music-based activities. Music is a wonderful resource for wellbeing, education and having a lot of fun! Students had a fantastic day and it is amazing to see student confidence grow each year alongside the musicality they love to show us.



## Cakes for a Cause

Upper School students worked hard in the kitchen ahead of holding their Bake Sale. They produced a selection of delicious cakes to raise funds for Comic Relief 2025.

They practised a range of kitchen and baking skills along with sales skills to raise a whopping £146.80.

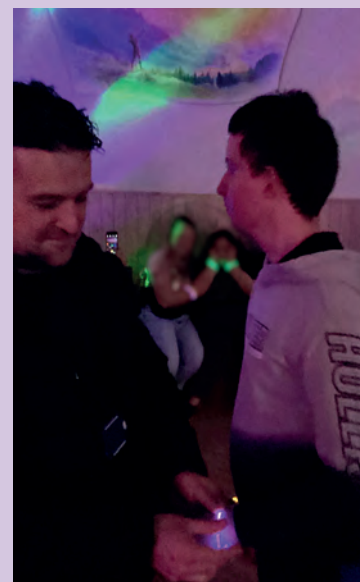
They are a kind and committed group and their determination was evident in the wonderful amount raised for their chosen charity.



## Rave Reviews

This term, the Health and Therapies team held a RAVE event in Tobias Hall. This was the first of a variety of Sheiling music nights and included lights, glow sticks and rave-style music.

The music evenings are intended for students to experience a range of music styles, in particular, styles they may not normally listen to and at a volume to both 'feel' as well as 'hear' the bass safely. Hosting social events also allows us to gather and enjoy new experiences as a community. Student feedback suggested that they were delighted to relax after school with a good dance and energetic music.



## Fundraising Update

As 'Parsifal' our new double classroom continues to grow, students have been given the opportunity to learn more about the project. Upper School students and their teacher were invited by Construction Manager Will to help lay some of the first bricks of the build. An exciting milestone and fantastic experience for our students.

Plans are afoot for landscaping and planting, with the enthusiastic and thoughtful involvement of our gardeners.

We are also excitingly starting to prepare to equip the classrooms ready for the opening in September where we will be able to increase our student numbers by 6-8.

If you would like to help us equip our new classrooms, please donate via [https://www.justgiving.com/page/sheiling-new-classroom-appeal-1714399562014qr?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/sheiling-new-classroom-appeal-1714399562014qr?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL).

## Our Summer Festival Raffle Is Open!

We're excited to announce an amazing **1st Prize – A break at the luxurious Homewood Hotel and Spa in Bath.** [Homewoodbath.co.uk](http://Homewoodbath.co.uk)



*'Eclectic, luxurious and slightly eccentric; think grand Georgian country house and grounds with a spa and food that is out of this world!'*

We have a fantastic selection of other prizes too, including £250 cash, £100 voucher and an inflatable paddle board. Tickets cost £1 and books will be coming home with students this Easter break.

If you would like additional raffle tickets, please let us know, they are available at Reception or by calling 01425 477488. Winners will be drawn at the Summer Festival on Saturday 21st June.



## Fundraising Date For Your Diary

### Summer Festival

Saturday 21st June

Once again, we look forward to our annual Summer Festival. To support this event to raise funds for a new zip wire to benefit students, we would love contributions of unused and unopened gifts to Reception for use in our tombola or clean and excellent condition soft toys for our popular 'teddy tombola'.

Nearer the time, we will be asking for delicious cake donations too!

# Meet the Trustee

## About Me

Hello, I'm Alice, and education has been my passion for as long as I can remember. While my career has evolved, I will always be a teacher at heart, with a deep commitment to making education meaningful, inclusive and impactful for every student.

I am currently the Director of Quality, Teaching and Learning at Bournemouth and Poole College, where I lead the quality of education for all students, head up staff development and oversee the college complaints process. I am also a trained Ofsted Nominee, acting Assistant Ofsted Nominee and have contributed to ten inspections across multiple provisions, including two in my Trustee role.



I have proudly served as a Trustee at the Sheiling for five years. My passion lies in championing educational excellence and ensuring every student has a positive, meaningful learning journey, focusing on the distance they travel and the progress they make as individuals.

Being neurodivergent myself allows me to bring a unique perspective to my work. I see things differently, often spotting connections or creative solutions that others may not. I love empowering others to see their own potential and develop new approaches to benefit students.

My work colleagues describe me as the human version of the BBC show The Repair Shop— they bring me something broken and I work with them to fix it and make it functional.

At home, I am a proud parent to two daughters, a 6-month-old and a 3-year-old whirlwind who constantly tests my patience and keeps me on my toes. My guilty pleasures include Pepsi Max, Galaxy Caramel McFlurries and the occasional (or not-so-occasional) deep dive into TikTok!

## What I Bring to the Sheiling as a Trustee

As a Trustee, I serve as the link for quality of education, working closely with both the college and school teams to support and continually enhance teaching and learning for our students.

I regularly visit students in both lessons and residential houses and attend training sessions and events to provide feedback and ideas to the Sheiling staff to help continually improve the student experience. Each visit to the Sheiling reinforces my belief that every young person deserves an education that values their individuality and nurtures their strengths.

Open communication, honesty and empathy are at the heart of all I do. I work hard to be a positive, solutions-focused voice in all Trustee discussions and my focus in every discussion is simple: What is best for the students? I ensure this question is central to every conversation and decision we make as a Board of Trustees.

I also provide constructive challenge to the Senior Management Team, ensuring that we continuously push for the highest possible standards of education, health, therapy and care for our students.

And, of course, I am without question the funniest Trustee!

Cont...

## What I Gain from Being a Trustee at the Sheiling

Being a Trustee at the Sheiling has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I have gained new learning opportunities, been pushed out of my comfort zone and become part of a dedicated community that genuinely prioritises students above all else.

My Trustee role has given me the privilege of witnessing first-hand the incredible impact of nurturing, student-focused education. Seeing the confidence grow in students, watching them achieve milestones, big or small, and knowing that I play even a small part in shaping their futures is profoundly moving.

My role at the Sheiling has taught me that education is about so much more than academic progress; it's about empowerment, self-belief and creating a world where every young person, regardless of their challenges, can thrive.

I am honoured that the decisions we make as Trustees directly impact the lives of students who may have struggled in other educational settings; to be part of an organisation that celebrates every achievement, whether academic, social or personal, fills me with immense pride.

I have developed a deep level of respect for the incredible staff at the Sheiling, whose dedication and compassion inspire me every time I visit. The relationships I have built with students, staff and fellow Trustees have enriched my life in ways I never expected.

I look forward to continuing my journey with the Sheiling and supporting its future ventures.

*Alice*

## Super Smoothies

Would you like a smoothie? This was the bright and breezy call from our college student entrepreneur who turned a love for smoothies into a pop-up shop for a day!

Supported by Gamze, the dream team who already loved to make smoothies together, they planned to launch to customers here at the Sheiling. Turning a passion into a project and developing skills throughout is something we love to encourage.

The duo went shopping to pick the freshest fruits and created labels for the cups noting all ingredients and flavour combinations. With their favourite songs playing on the radio, they prepared their delicious drinks, arranged their shop and even had time for a photo before their first customer.

A persuasive sales pitch demonstrating wonderful confidence ensured each flavour sold out! A high five by the shop poster wrapped up an exciting day!



## Sunset Strolling

We are situated in a beautiful location and residential students were recently treated to a fabulous evening sunset whilst offsite on a trip to the New Forest. Students were also lucky enough to spot several deer. We love the nature and beauty that we are nestled amongst, both at our Sheiling site and in our local surroundings of coast and countryside.



## Parent Forum

*'The February Parent Forum event started with operational headlines informing the group of what's been happening within school, college, residential, finance, facilities and health and therapies.*

*We discussed future Spotlight sessions - during a session, one topic is discussed in more detail with subject experts invited to join. Nutrition was a popular subject and will be the 'Spotlight' at our Parent Forum in May.*

*The Spotlight for February was Signalong, hosted by Therapy Assistant, Bobby - this was an informative session with good participation. We learned that our children often use their own version of a sign. It was also notable among parents that we shared moments of "Oh that's the sign!". We are looking to arrange an additional session outside of the Parent Forum in the future due to its popularity and impact.*

*The minutes from each Parent Forum meeting are shared on Sheiling Shares Facebook page.*

*If there is a Spotlight topic that you would like to suggest, or you would like information regarding the Parent Forum, please email*

*health@thesheilingringwood.co.uk'*

*Helen*

*The next Parent Forum meeting is on 23rd May.*

## Dates for your Diary

Easter Break

**3rd April - 21st April**

Sports Day

**Monday 5th May**

Summer Term continues

**Tuesday 3rd June**

Summer Term commences

**Tuesday 22nd April**

Half Term Break

**24th May - 2nd June**

Summer Festival

**Saturday 21st June**



## Social Media

We are keeping our X (@sheilingringwd), Facebook (@sheilingringwood), Instagram (@thesheilingringwood) 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 and even keep in touch. Our YouTube channel (The Sheiling Ringwood) is another fantastic source of information.



**Enjoy the Easter Break**