

March 2026

Making a Difference

This term, we were delighted to begin a new volunteering and work experience partnership with the Dorset Children's Foundation (DCF). The placement was established after Claire, our Work Experience Coordinator, connected with Patsy from DCF, and it has quickly become a highlight of the term.

A team of five college students have been regularly attending the DCF charity shops and Activity Space in Boscombe. This provides valuable real-world work experience and also counts towards the Volunteering Section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The DCF team - including Patsy, Chloe, Pauline and Jane-have been wonderfully welcoming, creating a supportive environment where our students feel valued.

Across the three locations, students have taken on a wide range of meaningful tasks, including sorting donated stock, hanging and organising clothing, arranging shop displays, supporting customers at the till, moving stock between shops by trolley and helping clean and Hoover The Windmill Activity Space.

All tasks fulfil genuine needs within the charity, enabling our students to make a purposeful contribution. The variety of jobs means there is something suited to all abilities, and students can focus on tasks they particularly enjoy.

This placement has become something they look forward to each week and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and growing confidence. A huge thank you to the Dorset Children's Foundation for welcoming us so warmly into their team.



Colourful Carnival

One of the most anticipated festivals in the Sheiling calendar! This year's Carnival was bursting with energy, colour and joy as students and staff came together for a day of celebration.

Alongside our much-loved pancake race, students took part in dynamic Taiko South West drumming workshops. These sessions were full of enthusiasm and students quickly put their new skills into action, delivering a wonderful performance that set the perfect tone ahead of our carnival procession.

Everyone across the Sheiling wore bright carnival costumes, filling the grounds with a wonderful spectrum of colour. Students danced, raced and celebrated throughout the afternoon, creating an atmosphere that was warm, welcoming and full of laughter.

A truly memorable day for both students and staff; a vibrant, fun-filled day.



Purple Class Pruning

Students in Purple Class have been busy supporting groundsman Adam with grounds maintenance this term, focusing on clearing the rhododendrons in the woodland.

They have been working steadily on this project for some time and the results are now really beginning to show. Their hard work is making a noticeable impact on the area and we're incredibly proud of the dedication and teamwork they bring.



Candles and Colour

At The Sheiling Ringwood, we take great pride in our rich festival calendar which helps students connect with culture, community and the changing seasons. This term we celebrated Holi, the Hindu festival that welcomes the arrival of spring with joyful colour and creativity. Students took part in a special assembly, dancing and vibrant art activities, learning about the traditions of Holi while enjoying the bright, uplifting energy it brings.



We also came together for Candlemas, gathering as a whole community to decorate and light our beautiful Earth Candle in the garden beside Westmount and near Taurus, our new double classroom for college which will be opening in 2026. Students and staff shared “good wishes notes” – heartfelt messages of peace tied to one of our magnificent trees – creating a moving symbol of hope and renewal. It was a gentle, reflective celebration of light, complementing the energy of Holi and reminding us how meaningful our shared traditions can be.

Hatchling Highlights

This term, school students have enjoyed the wonderful experience of hatching chicks. They have been learning about each stage of the life cycle, researching what chicks need to survive and thrive and exploring how to care for them safely and responsibly.

Students observed and then helped look after the chicks once they hatched. It has been a hands-on, exciting learning opportunity that has taught science and responsibility in a meaningful way.



Sweet Enterprise

School students have been busy whipping up delicious handmade Oreo truffles - and they tasted every bit as good as they looked! The classroom was filled with excitement (and a little bit of chocolate) as students mixed, rolled and decorated their sweet treats with great care.

But this session wasn't just about practising culinary skills. Students also stepped into the world of enterprise by selling their creations to staff across the site. From eye-catching presentation to brilliant teamwork, they turned their truffles into a mini business venture.

It was a tasty learning experience, combining creativity, confidence and a whole lot of fun.



Rave Reviews

This term, the Health and Therapies team hosted another fantastic music night in Tobias Hall, with college Teaching Assistant and DJ, Abbey on the decks - this year's event taking the much-loved "RAVE" theme to a whole new level. With colourful lighting, glow sticks and a playlist designed to get everyone moving, the hall was transformed into a fun, energetic space for students to unwind together.

These evenings give students the chance to explore different genres of music, including styles they might not usually choose, and to experience sound in a way that's both safe and sensory-rich. Feeling the bass as well as hearing it remains a unique and exciting part of the event. As always, the atmosphere was warm, welcoming and full of community spirit.

Students shared how much they enjoyed having time to relax after school, dance with friends and immerse themselves in upbeat music - a brilliant end to the week and a highlight of the term.



Greener Journeys

Some of our fantastic Student Council were delighted to welcome a brand-new 9-seater Citroën SpaceTourer YOU! Electric to our fleet. With its larger-than-standard 75kWh battery, we can now enjoy longer, cleaner and greener journeys for our students. Another step forward for sustainability.



Crushing It

Our students and staff have been excited to install a brand-new drinks-can crushing machine, marking another positive step forward in our ongoing green journey at The Sheiling Ringwood.

This new addition supports our commitment to reducing waste, improving recycling habits and helping everyone understand the impact of small, sustainable actions. The machine is simple, safe and engaging to use, offering a hands-on way for our community to learn about environmental responsibility.

Since its arrival, the can crusher has quickly become a popular feature among students, who have enjoyed taking an active role in managing our recycling. It has sparked conversations about sustainability and encouraged more learners to get involved in eco-friendly activities across the site. We're proud to see such enthusiasm and teamwork as we continue to build a greener future together.



Our 75th Anniversary Year Summer Festival

Throughout the year, we'll be marking this milestone anniversary with special moments and community celebrations, all building towards our biggest Summer Festival yet.

We're thrilled to share details of this year's Summer Festival Raffle, with extra celebratory prizes to mark our 75 years. **Our 1st Prize is a 2-night family stay in a Treehouse in Wales, complete with a Fortnum & Mason "Taste" Hamper.**

This year's prize list is our biggest yet, with a fantastic 2nd Prize of £275 cash, a 3rd Prize of an inflatable paddle board with accessories and a luxurious 4th Prize of a Fortnum & Mason Celebration Hamper.

Tickets cost £2 each and books will be coming home with students over the Easter break. **Additional tickets are available from Reception, or by calling 01425 477488.**

Winners will be drawn at the Summer Festival on Saturday 20th June at 2:30pm.

As we look ahead to the 2026 Festival, we welcome donations to support our fundraising efforts, which this year will go towards student gym equipment. We would be grateful for unused and unopened gifts for our tombola, as well as soft toys in excellent condition for our teddy tombola.

Closer to the event, we'll also be inviting families to donate homemade cakes.

Save the date
Saturday 20th June 2026
11:30am- 4:00pm



Weekend Wheels

This weekend's activity was a wonderful two-part adventure! On Saturday morning, students had the chance to enjoy the accessible bikes at Moors Valley Country Park, arranged especially for us and kindly facilitated by a volunteer, Glenn. The accessible bikes were a huge hit, giving everyone the opportunity to experience the joy of cycling in a way that suited their needs perfectly and in such lovely surroundings adjoining our own site.

After cycling, students headed deeper into the forest for a bike ride of their own. With the sunshine finally making an appearance, the weather lifted everyone's spirits and made the whole experience relaxing and uplifting.

It was a lovely morning of fresh air, freedom, movement and smiles all round!



Warm Farewell

Dear Parents,

As some of you may already be aware, Mike Gamble, Head of College, will be taking the opportunity to assume a different role at a new organisation; we obviously all wish him well for the future within this new endeavour.

There will be an opportunity for the students and staff to say goodbye during the last week of term when Mike will visit for a couple of days.

Mike has been part of the Sheiling for almost a decade and has enjoyed the privilege of working with yourselves and your children and young people, as well as many others who are now established in the community.

Following an extensive recruitment and interview process, we are pleased to announce that Hannah Jones will be stepping up into the Head of College role after Easter. Hannah has been part of the college since January 2025 as Deputy Head of College and has already demonstrated her ability to lead a team of amazing teachers and their class teams.

Kind regards,

Mike and Corine



Pizza Pros

Sophie's Class has been busy this term, putting their energy and creativity into their Mini Enterprise project-homemade pizza!

The classroom has been full of delicious smells, hard work and plenty of teamwork. But it's not just about making tasty food. Sophie has also been leading engaging mini business lessons, giving students a peek behind the scenes of what it takes to run a real business.

They've explored everything from money management, budgeting, shopping for ingredients, advertising and understanding profit to food hygiene, packaging labels, allergens, time management and collecting orders.

The students have thrown themselves into each part of the process with enthusiasm, learning valuable life skills along the way - while having lots of fun.



At a glance for Parents - including another Outstanding Care Inspection

Residential life has recently had uplifting news, following a highly positive Ofsted Social Care Inspection that awarded ratings of Outstanding or Good across all areas. Inspectors noted that “a stable team of skilled and knowledgeable staff continues to provide high-quality, consistent care for students, offering strong nurturing support so they can flourish and reach their full potential.” There are also a number of other planned improvements to Feirefis and Watchmoor.

This term has been full of other positive developments across the Sheiling. In college, the new Taurus double classroom is progressing well and set for completion in May, with a festive opening planned for September - echoing last year's joyful celebration for Parsifal.

We were thrilled to learn that several of our international colleagues have had their visas extended, ensuring stability across our houses and classrooms. With growing interest from families of younger children, we have also begun the process of seeking approval to increase our school's registered numbers.

Students have been busy too: the Student Council helped choose new items including go-karts, trikes, pool equipment and a fantastic fully electric 9-seater vehicle that is already being enjoyed on off-site trips. In school, students have settled beautifully after a lively autumn term filled with drama productions and seasonal festivals and our upper school students are thriving with their new snack enterprise.

We continue to strengthen our PSHE curriculum, with a refreshed resource space developing in Parsifal to support careers and social-emotional learning.

Meanwhile, the Health & Therapies team has been enhancing our medical spaces, supporting NHS clinics onsite and celebrating student milestones-from successful mock appointments to confidently attending health reviews. Across the whole community, there is a strong sense of progress, stability and shared purpose as we continue to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for every young person.

Save the date

Next Parent Forum meeting Friday 22nd May

Transforming Taurus

Following the success of Parsifal, our highly sustainable double-classroom building for Sheiling School, we are delighted to see the next chapter of our development unfolding. Parsifal set a new standard for thoughtful, eco-friendly learning spaces, providing calm, sensory-supportive classrooms that have already made a meaningful difference to our younger students.

Now, with equal excitement, we are watching Taurus, the new eco-build for Sheiling College, take shape. Designed with the same commitment to sustainability, connection with nature and student wellbeing, Taurus will offer our older students a modern, nurturing environment as they move toward adulthood. It's inspiring to see this vision becoming a reality, continuing our journey of creating purposeful, future-focused spaces across the Sheiling.



Our Environment

The first bee inspection of the year brought a lovely sense of spring to our site, with staff member Angelique joining the beekeeping team for the very first time. Both hives are looking strong and healthy, with each queen spotted and laying plenty of eggs-meaning lots of larvae and young bees getting ready to hatch. The recent warm weather has encouraged plenty of activity, with busy bees already out gathering pollen and bringing it back into the hive.

This early burst of sunshine is just what our colonies need to build strength for the season ahead. A thriving hive at this stage gives us hope for another good year of honey, while also adding to the rich biodiversity around our grounds. It's always a joy to see nature waking up across the site and our bees are a wonderful reminder of the life and energy returning with spring.



Global Student Voice

We are delighted to celebrate the upcoming 2026 City University New York (CUNY) Neurodiversity Conference, "Fostering Neurodivergent Joy in Higher Education: Reimagining Learning, Belonging, and Success," taking place on Friday 17th April as part of the Virtual Day. This inspiring event highlights innovative approaches to supporting neurodivergent learners and creating inclusive, joyful educational spaces. We are incredibly proud that college teacher, Ceri, will be presenting at this international conference. An extra-special congratulations goes to one of her students, who will be joining her as a co-presenter - a fantastic achievement and a moment to be proud of.

Dates for your Diary

Easter Break
26th March - 12th April

Sports Day
Monday 4th May

Summer Term continues
Monday 1st June

Summer Term commences
Monday 13th April

Half Term Break
23rd May - 31st May

Summer Festival
Saturday 20th 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