

The Purcell School
for young musicians
Patron: HM The King

BOARDING Newsletter

ISSUE 1 – JUNE 2025

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Important Information

Director of Boarding

Important Information

We will be amending **return times to houses** after Exeats and holiday periods. The return times will now be from 6pm – **8pm** from September. This is so that we have a larger window to locate students who might have missed trains or are late. Safeguarding our students is always our priority and we ask that you arrange for your child to arrive at school by this time.

If there is an unexpected delay please keep the houseparent informed with the expected time of return. We expect the students to have their mobiles on and to be contactable as well.

At the end of the summer term, international students will be allowed to keep one box (provided by the school) and one suitcase in the boarding house over the summer holiday. The boxes must close properly, so they can be kept in a locked cupboard/room over the summer. Please make sure there are arrangements to move any additional belongings prior to the end of the summer term.

Update


What a wonderful summer term we are having in boarding. I hope the newsletter reflects the excitement, fun, endeavours, commitment and camaraderie of our boarding community.

To celebrate the summer we have purchased outdoor chairs for Ellington to have a morning cup of tea in the sunshine and set their circadian rhythm, outdoor beanbags and footstools for Avison to chill in the evenings outside in the garden, bug houses and bird boxes for the start of the new Avison Eco Garden, picnic blankets and cushions for weekend picnics, an outdoor volleyball net and lots of bubble wands!

Monthly Challenge

Step Up and Get Moving in May!

May was officially The Month of Walking, and we challenged all students to join in by walking for at least 20 minutes every day! Whether it was a stroll to school, a walk with friends, or a peaceful solo trek—every step counted. The goal was to keep track of their walking time and check in regularly to log their progress.

 The challenge ran all through May. Students will be awarded with a prize for the most steps achieved in each house.

Ways to keep getting those steps in this month and next!

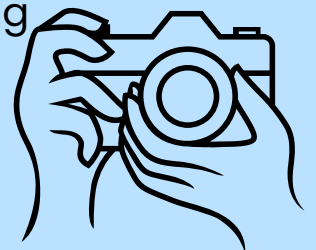
- Join a co-curricular activity
- Go on an evening walk
- Use the school gym
- Attend a weekend trip
- Spend time with Cinnamon!

NEW! June Challenge

Photography competition - Take a photo that captures the ethos of boarding at Purcell School. Use the Boarding Statement to help you.

Entries should be sent to sunleyhouse@purcell-school.org by **midday** on **Sunday 29th June 2025**.

Entries will be judged by Mr Bambrough and the winner will be announced in the last week of term!



Student Spotlight

Boarding House Values

Week 1: **Respect**

Ellington: Teodora Mincu

Sunley: Mahla Costello

Week 2: **Creativity**

Avison: Jarvis Saunders & Summer Sobczak

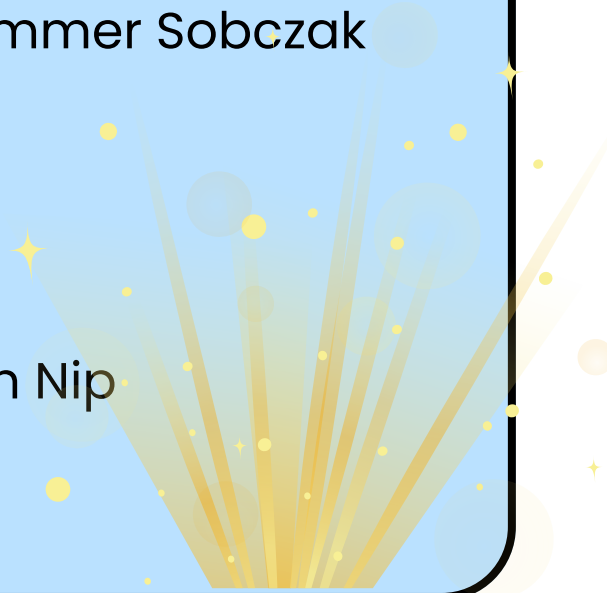
Ellington: Luca Newman

Sunley: Amelie Lok

Week 3: **Self-regulation**

Avison: Elizabeth Guo & Norah Nip

Sunley: Clara Dale



Students of The Week

Week 1: Tim Semenov, Michael Gudjalov

Week 2: Asta Murray, Amelie Lok

Week 3: Lilly Goodbrand, Adi Shapiro

What Our Students Say

I'm learning new skills and keeping fit.

Because it's so much fun!

It's fun and Mr Dulovic is supportive and encouraging in CrossFit.

Why our students enjoy co-curricular...

We love Cinnamon! (house dog)

It makes me happy!

It's calming and relieves stress.

I appreciate the amazing Houseparents.

It truly feels like home.

I feel happy and supported.

In boarding...

I really enjoy playing table tennis with my friends.

I feel a sense of belonging.

I love spending the evenings with my friends.

House News



Stelios, a Year 8 student in Avison, has been named one of the Top 100 Child Prodigies of 2025 in the Music category.



In May, two Sunley students, Chaeyu and Stephanie, took part in the Concerto category at the Ealing Festival. Chaeyu won the instrumental section and Stephanie won the piano section, which meant they both made it to the final. There, they competed against each other and two other contestants. Stephanie went on to win the overall prize and has been given the exciting opportunity to perform with an orchestra next year.



On a warm summer evening, Year 10 students from Ellington and Sunley houses took a well-earned break from their Music GCSE revision with a fun and friendly water fight. After weeks of hard work and pressure, it was the perfect way to let off some steam and enjoy the fresh air.

Boarding Life



St. Albans



Summer Social



Co-Curricular

This Term's Co-curricular Clubs

- ✓ Gym Workout
- ✓ CrossFit
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Yoga
- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Football
- ✓ Dog Walking
- ✓ Crochet
- ✓ Italian Club

Football



Ice Cream Making



Wellbeing

This Half Term's Focus: Self-Regulation

 Supporting Self-Regulation in Boarding During Exams 

During exam season, we're helping boarders build healthy routines and manage their time well. With quiet study times, regular breaks, and calm spaces, students can stay focused and balanced.

Our boarding staff check in daily for friendly chats and hold mentor meetings to offer guidance and support.

We also encourage students to set goals, reflect on their progress, and support one another. It's all about studying smart, staying well, and growing in confidence!

Wellbeing In Boarding

Sleep

Young people should be going to bed and waking up at around the same time every day, including non-school nights.

In boarding, we promote good sleeping habits and foster peer to peer respect so that students can get the sleep young people need to flourish, grow and have good mental health.


Empowerment Group


Nicky Morris (School Counsellor)


Year 10 students were invited to join the 'Empowerment' group—a three-session programme designed to build self-esteem and resilience in the Autumn and Spring Term


It was a great opportunity to develop confidence, connect with others, and strengthen emotional wellbeing in a supportive space.


Helpful Links for Students and Parents

 [YoungMinds – Exam Stress Support](#)

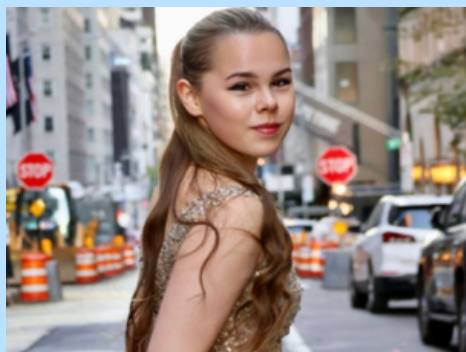
 [BBC Bitesize – Exam Revision Tips](#)

 [NHS – Dealing with Exam Stress](#)

 [Childline – Coping with Exams](#)

 [The Mix – Exam Stress & Revision Support](#)

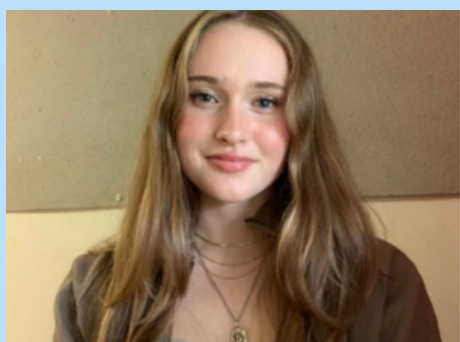
Student Leadership Team



Student Leader (day)

My name is Phoebe and as Student Leader I feel passionately about the vital musical environment and community here at the Purcell. It is unlike any other school as friends made here are friends who will form the network of musicians collaborating and supporting us throughout our careers for life. The bonds made here are unbreakable and stretch across different ages groups and nationalities where everyone feels included and welcome.

Once a Purcellian always a Purcellian and I am extremely proud of all my friends and everything that they have and will achieve. As a proud Purcellian and as Student Leader I will forever stand up and support all Purcellians past, present and future.



Student Leader (boarding)

My name is Ramona and I'm in year 13 as a first study Jazz singer. I am honoured to be one of the three Student Leaders in Purcell. My main focus as Student Leader is on boarding life, and as a female boarder myself I am particularly passionate about ensuring the girls of both Ellington and Sunley House have a representative in the school. To ensure that everyone can feel a part of the school community it is essential that all voices are heard. Fundamentally, my role is to create a more fluid and collaborative connection between students and staff – something that Purcell already achieves amazingly.



Student Leader (boarding)

Hello, my name is Suanoi and I'm one of the three student leaders at Purcell. I am a first-study flautist, a second study singer and I adore the friendly atmosphere at Purcell. People work so incredibly hard here and it really makes me step up my game! My role is to represent the interests of students in the decision making in school, particularly regarding life as a boarder. I'm particularly keen on promoting an inclusive, open, and curious environment in our school. I have founded an Inclusivity Group in school, where we discuss various topics and organise concerts! I've also been active in organising concerts in care homes and giving feedback from my fellow students to the senior leadership team! It is my absolute honour to have been chosen to be a head of school.

Student Leadership Team



Sustainability Lead

I'm Natty Purbrick, a year 13 first study composer and this year I am privileged to be the sustainability lead, where I work to make the school a cleaner, more eco friendly space. I hope that I serve as a role model for all Purcellians to think more about their impact on the world, and how we can do our best to protect our planet.



Music Leads

Hi everyone, I'm Tom, and I'm in my second year at Purcell. As a music lead, I have spent this year helping to plan, organise and run concerts and ensembles. Particular highlights so far have included a project to provide live performances of students' A-Level compositions, and running Philomel, the schools student led orchestra.

Hi, my names Oscar and I'm in Year 13 and my role as music lead is helping plan concerts and coming up with ideas for the jazz, pop and commercial students



Academic Lead

My name is Dianna and I'm in Year 13. As the Academic Lead, I focus on making academics more accessible and fun for everyone. So far, I have organised a German Club and Sudoku Club as well as bi-weekly Prep Support Sessions, where students can pop in to ask any academic questions!



Sports Lead

Hello, my name is Martin I'm 17 years old in year and my role in the Purcell school is being Head of Sports. Being Head of Sports as a student involves leading and organising school sports activities, fostering teamwork, and promoting physical well-being among peers. This role includes coordinating events, managing teams, and liaising with staff to ensure smooth operations. It's an opportunity to develop leadership, communication, and organisational skills while encouraging a vibrant sports culture within the school community.

Student Leadership Team



Charity Lead

I'm Lara, one of the two Charity Leads at Purcell! I've always had a passion for charity work and music. This role allows me to collaborate with my peers on combining them to make a difference, for example in Charity Concerts!



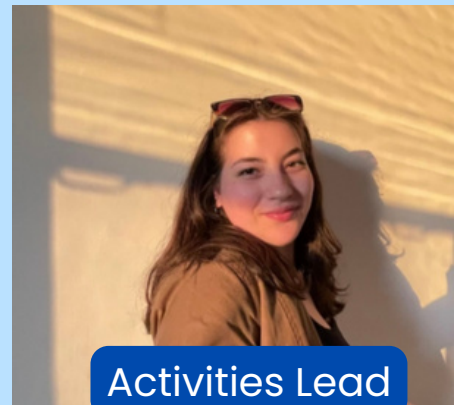
Charity Lead

I am Maria and as Charity Lead at The Purcell School, alongside Lara, I hoped to create more chances for students to support causes they care about in ways that feel personal and enjoyable.



Activities Lead

Hi, I am Jessie and this is my fifth, and last, year at Purcell. I have been the activities lead for two years and my role provides socials and clubs for all students. We listen to the Student Voice for ideas and recommendations, trying to create activities that they would like the opportunity to participate in.



Activities Lead

Hi, I'm Birce, I'm a clarinetist and a second study jazz singer. As a Year 13 student, I understand how my peers could be busy and frustrated at term times, and as Activities Lead, my role is to keep the energy up providing socials every term and activities every half-term and on the weekends. After our tropical themed welcoming the summer term social, many more activities will follow as the term continues.