

The Purcell School  
for young musicians  
Patron: HM The King

# BOARDING Newsletter

ISSUE 2 – JULY 2025

END OF SCHOOL YEAR

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# Important Information

## Director of Boarding

### Update

What a wonderful summer term we have had in boarding. Warm summer evenings, playing football, reading, chatting with friends on the field, Year 13 Leavers' Picnic, Year 13 Prom, Year 11 Prom, Summer Fair, water fights, quiz nights, cooking lessons with our chef to name a few of our events and activities!

It has been a privilege for the staff to work with such engaged, committed and delightful young people who have shown incredible resilience rehearsing through the heatwave we have experienced in the last week. Concerts have been amazing and the students have shown such strength of character and embodied all our house values in their support of each other and determination to not only perform but also to do their best academically.

It is important that they do get time to rest and recover next week before engaging in other commitments as we know a lot of students have a busy summer ahead of them. They have done so much to be proud of this year and in particular this term.

We wish you all a wonderful summer and will be excited to see everyone return refreshed and full of enthusiasm for the new academic year in September.

# Summer Challenge

## Summer Quest Challenge 2025

**Duration:** 4 Weeks

**Ages:** All ages

**Goal:** Complete weekly themed challenges that build skills, spark creativity, and encourage exploration — and most of all, have fun!

### How It Works

1. Each week has a theme and 3 tasks.
2. Complete at least 2 tasks per week.
3. Keep a Summer Quest Journal (can be digital or a notebook).
4. Share your progress with friends or online (if you want).
5. At the end, reward yourself — you've earned it!

### Week 1: Explore Your World

- Local Legend: Interview someone in your family or community and learn about their life story.
- Treasure Map: Create a map of your town or city with your favourite spots marked.
- Sunset Snap: Watch a sunrise or sunset and take a photo or draw it.

### Week 2: Creative Spark

- DIY Time: Make something by hand — a bracelet, decoration, or piece of art.
- Story Spinner: Write a short story, comic, or poem based on a dream you've had.
- Mix It Up: Create a summer playlist of songs that make you feel happy or calm.

### Week 3: Nature Ninja

- Wildlife Watch: Spend 20 minutes outside listing all the animals or insects you see.
- Litter Hero: Do a mini clean-up in a park, beach, or your street.
- Grow Something: Plant a seed in a pot or the garden and track its growth.

### Week 4: Give Back

- Kindness Mission: Do something kind for someone without being asked.
- Skill Swap: Teach someone something you know (e.g. drawing, tech, baking).
- Support Local: Help a small local business by sharing it online, visiting, or writing a kind note.



# House News



Avison boys recently built a new basketball hoop, now a popular hangout spot for everyone in their free time. Big shoutout to Ms Hawkins for listening to our suggestions and making it happen!



Boarders had a blast at the recent karaoke night, with talented (and brave!) performers from both Sunley and Ellington House taking the stage. The evening was full of fun, laughter, and some impressive—and entertaining—performances. Whether singing solo or in groups, students brought great energy and helped make it a night to remember.

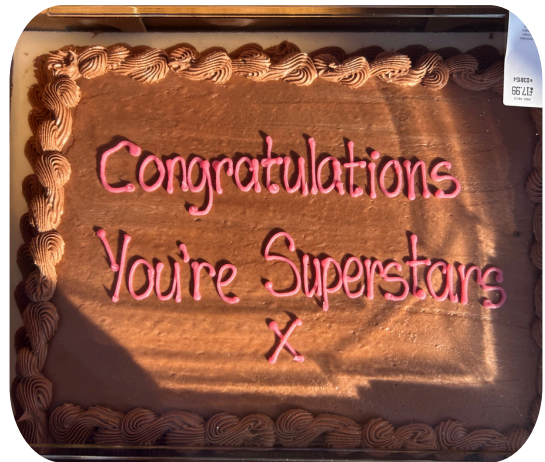


After wrapping up their Year 11 exams, students got to kick back and enjoy a well-earned pizza party in the sun! The celebration, hosted by Sunley House, was a great chance to relax, chat with friends, and soak up the good weather. There was plenty of pizza to go around, and the chilled-out vibe made it the perfect way to mark the end of exam season. Sunley staff joined in too, making it a fun and friendly afternoon for everyone involved. A great way to celebrate all the hard work!



# Boarding Life

## Post Exams Pizza Party



## YR11 Prom





# Summer Fair





# Summer Fair





# YEAR 13 LEAVERS

What our year 13's will miss most about Purcell...

People and the atmosphere, friends and the freedom

Friends and the field in the Summer evenings

I am going to miss the feeling of home that every single person creates for me

My teachers because I really appreciate their work and they really contributed to my career

It's not the place its the people.

The people, they are so amazing

A free gym membership for the whole year!

Enjoying time with friends

People, friends and teachers. Living with friends is a special experience

The opportunities

The atmosphere, everyone is hard working and care a lot about music

The amount of nice people I've met is unparalleled to any other place I've been

# YEAR 13 LEAVERS

What our year 13's will miss most about Purcell...

My friends  
because they  
are my family

Boarding staff

The people, making  
friends easily and  
bonding over  
music

Mr Eccles

The warmness  
of the school

The  
environment in  
the boarding  
house

The unique  
atmosphere

Participating in  
impulse trips

Making lots of  
memories in the  
boarding house,  
e.g. sleepovers!

The fun, friends,  
quietness,  
cuteness,  
innocence

The colourful  
personalities

No one is mean  
or judgey,  
everyone is down  
to earth

# Wellbeing

## Wellbeing & You: Friendship, Integrity, and Gratitude

Life can feel overwhelming at times, especially during the teen years—but some values can help us stay grounded and grow into our best selves. Friendship, integrity, and gratitude are three powerful tools for emotional wellbeing. They shape how we connect with others, how we see ourselves, and how we respond to life's ups and downs. By building strong friendships, choosing honesty, and practicing thankfulness, we create a life that's not only healthier—but more meaningful.

### Friendship

Friendships are a cornerstone of wellbeing. Good friends give us a sense of belonging, support during tough times, and someone to share joy with. Strong friendships improve our mental health and boost our self-confidence.

#### Good friendships can:

- reduce stress.
- encourage us to be ourselves.
- challenge us to grow and stay accountable.

### Integrity

Integrity means doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. It's about honesty, trust, and standing up for your values.

#### Having integrity helps:

- Build lasting trust in relationships.
- Create a strong, consistent sense of identity.
- Teens and adults with integrity often become respected leaders, true friends, and dependable individuals.

### Gratitude

Practicing gratitude helps shift your focus from what's missing to what you already have. This simple habit is proven to improve mental health, reduce anxiety, and boost happiness.

#### Benefits of gratitude:

Stronger relationships (people love to feel appreciated).

Better sleep and physical health.

Higher self-esteem and resilience during hard times.

**Try This: Keep a "3 Things I'm Grateful For" journal each night.**

- [Gratitude Worksheet](#)
- [Gratitude Buddy Game](#)
- [Humility & Integrity Journaling](#)