

BOARDING Newsletter

ISSUE 3- OCT 2025

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Important Information

Director of Boarding

We have had such a wonderful start to the school year watching how quickly our new students have settled into life at Purcell. It is good to see them taking on all the opportunities available to them in all areas of school life. We celebrated World Mental Health Day (Oct 10th) by offering a variety of different wellbeing activities throughout the weekend.

It is exciting to see how keen our new student leaders are to make their mark this year in their new roles. I will certainly enjoy my weekly conversations with the Student Leaders in Boarding to discuss how we can improve the student experience as we are always keen to explore new ideas.

A reminder that Houseparents are available for personal conversations each Friday of Parents' Evenings from 3pm - 4pm. Please do just email them to let them know you will pop in before the parents' evening. The next one is for Year 12 on Fri 21st November (exeat weekend).

The boarding agenda has been packed with activities as you can see from the newsletter, but also gentle chats, games of chess and cards, ping pong and pool and just lovely evenings in the house after prep, music practice or an evening activity.

Last weekend we started the jigsaw challenge to complete a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle together in the Dining Hall. Students from different year groups quickly got involved and I had to bring in a second jigsaw on Sunday! It has now become a thing, so we will be doing jigsaws every weekend.

ON-THE-MOVE October

Get active, have fun, and keep moving all month long!

CHALLENGE

Move for 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week in October!



WEEK 1: MINDFUL MOTION

Start strong with calm, focused movement.

- Mon: Stretch or yoga
- Tue: Walk or jog
- Wed: Quick workout
- Thu: Team up for a game
- Fri: Freestyle fun!



WEEK 2: TRY-IT-OUT WEEK

Try something new — frisbee, dance, badminton — anything counts!



WEEK 3: SPOOKY SPRINTS

Get your heart racing — sprint, climb, or race a friend!



Bonus: Wear orange or black while you move!



WEEK 4: MOVE MORE, MEAN MORE

Play group games and celebrate your progress.

Join the Move for Good Challenge to end strong!



Let's make October awesome — one move at a time!

Student Spotlight

House News



A big congratulations to Natalie Fletcher, Natalie Denley and Carla Lee who have been selected for the National Youth Orchestra GB for this years programme.

They will be participating in a programme for the year, which will include three residential programmes and numerous outreach opportunities. Great Job!

NYO – National Youth Orchestra

The National Youth Orchestra (NYO) is the UK's premier orchestra for teenage musicians, giving around 160 young players (ages 13-19) from all over Britain a chance to develop as performers, leaders and role-models.

Each year the NYO performs multiple concerts and tours: concert hall performances, school visits, and projects across the year (residencies, workshops, outreach) so that not only audiences benefit, but younger musicians are inspired.

The organisation is run as a charity and music education programme, with professional staff, leading musicians and conductors, and governance dedicated to enabling musical talent, especially among young people who might not otherwise have access to these opportunities.

Take a look: [National Youth Orchestra](#)

Boarding Life

Sixth Form Halloween Social

10th October



Boarding Life

Our World Mental Health Weekend

10th – 12th October



Co-Curricular

This Term's Co-curricular Clubs

- ✓ Gym Workout and Crossfit
- ✓ Yoga
- ✓ Dog Walking
- ✓ Badminton
- ✓ Craft Club
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Football
- ✓ Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee

The Ultimate Frisbee co-curricular has become one of the most popular evening activities for Years 10–13, running every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30pm. What makes it special is how socially accessible it is and it's been wonderful to watch unlikely groups come together on the same team. The games are competitive but always full of laughter, and the energy levels are sky-high.

The students get a huge amount of physical activity out of it, but more importantly they've built a space that feels inclusive, fun, and rewarding. It's been a joy to see how much they've embraced it



Mr Bell-West (Resident Graduate Assistant)



Trick Or Treating

On Thursday 16th October, all boarding houses came together for a lively evening of trick-or-treating around the school. The school buzzed with laughter and music as students moved from house to house, collecting sweets and sharing smiles. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of a successful half term, with everyone joining in the fun and festive spirit. The night was filled with energy, community, and a hint of Halloween magic — because spooky season is officially here! 🎃 🧛 🍷

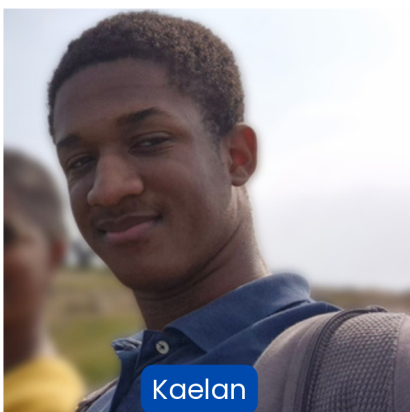
Our Student Leadership Team



Lavender

Role: Head of School

As a student of this school for 6 years, and having experienced living in all three boarding houses, I feel has helped me gain a bigger picture on different student experiences and needs in boarding. Now that I've reached my final year, I would really like to help give back to the community that shaped me.

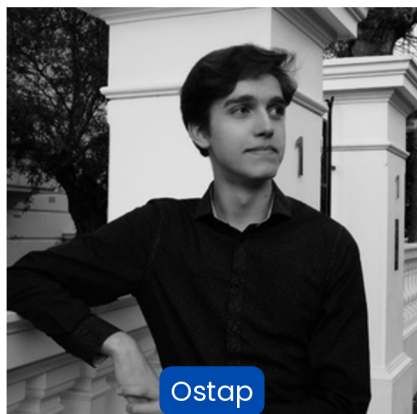


Kaelan

Role: Head of School (Day)

Fun fact: I enjoy making posters and have made many for previous composers concerts!

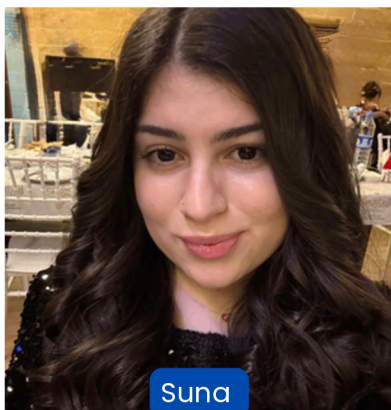
Hi, my name is Kaelan and I'm your day student representative. I decided to put myself forward for this role because I strive to help others and I think the role will encourage me to try and build a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone at Purcell. It will also allow me to push for changes that students want whilst respectfully collaborating with staff.



Ostap

Role: Head of School

Purcell School has been my home for three years. It has given me the best of friends, great music opportunities, and golden memories, an experience which many of you can relate to. Purcell has given me so much, that it is now my duty to give something in return.



Suna

Role: Suna: Head of Sunley Boarding House

Role: Daria: Deputy Head of Sunley Boarding House

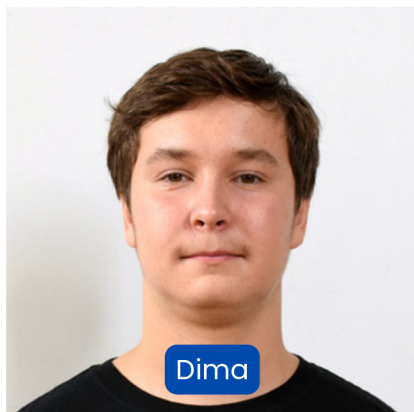


Daria

Having experienced both academic and boarding life, we understand how to support students, especially those who are new or far from home. As overseas students, we know how challenging it can be to settle in or face language barriers. We're passionate about making Sunley House the best it can be.

Our Student Leadership Team

Role: Music Leads



Dima



Lara

We are Lara and Dima, the 2025-26 Music Leads at the Purcell.

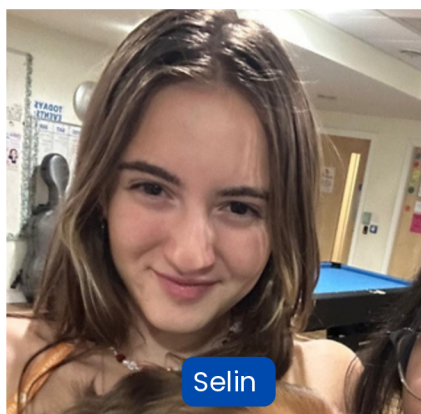
We have a passion for organising live music events and optimising music-making and interdisciplinary collaboration at our school!

Lara is a part of the Pop/Commercial department, and Dima is a Classical composer. This allows us to embrace the diversity of musical genres at the Purcell School and ensure every voice is heard!

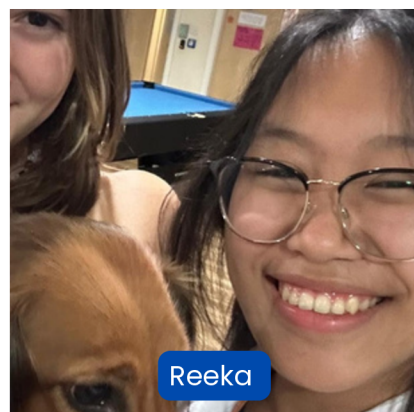
Role: Activity Leads

We care deeply about the students' enjoyment in socials and similar opportunities. We believe students are able to contribute fun and innovative ideas.

Students, especially boarders, see this school as a second home, and we feel it is important to continue to collaborate with staff to ensure the best student experience for everyone here.



Selin



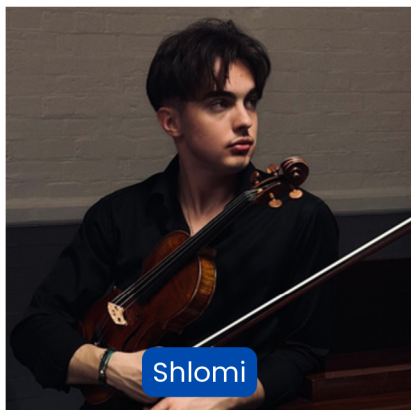
Reeka

Role: Sports Leads

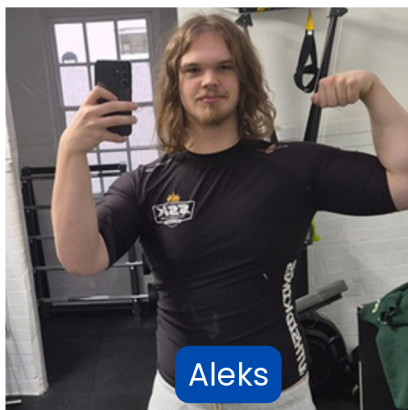
Fun Fact: Unofficially a power-lifting record holder! -Aleks

We want to get everyone involved in sport, and expose people to different types of sport and activities, so everyone can find their match - like an instrument!

We are going to work with the school to promote new clubs in school/boarders and potentially run extra activities during free time.



Shlomi



Aleks

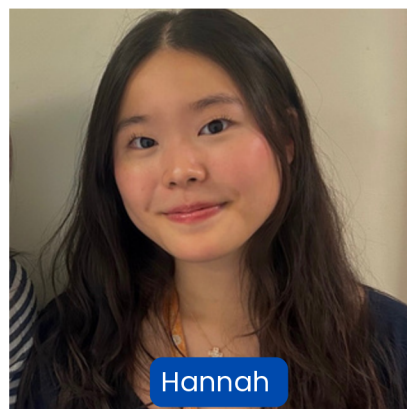
Our Student Leadership Team

Role: Charity Lead



My name is Carla Lee, and I have been elected as the Head of Charities and Outreach!

I have always been passionate about helping our community and am grateful to have this opportunity. As Head of Charities and Outreach, I would strive to ensure that every student has the chance to get involved, share their ideas, and see the real impact of their efforts. I aim to foster stronger connections with local charities, organise engaging events that raise awareness and funds, and make giving back an exciting and inclusive part of our school community.



Role: Academic Leads

Fun fact: G for Grace and H for Hannah are next to each other in the alphabet!

As this is our fourth year at Purcell, we believe that we can support all students to reach their full academic potential whilst still meeting their musical goals.

Have a question, idea, or suggestion for improving life at school or in the boarding houses? Don't hesitate to reach out to your Student Leads — you can contact them by email or chat with them in person around school. Our Student Leads play a vital role in representing student voices, helping make positive changes, and strengthening our community. Every idea, big or small, helps shape a better experience for everyone.

As Helen Keller once said, ***“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”***
Let's keep building a community where everyone feels heard, valued, and empowered to make a difference.

Wellbeing

This Half Term's Focus: World Mental Health Day 2025

Why It Matters

Everyone deserves care and support.

Emergencies and crises can cause deep emotional distress.

Talking about mental health breaks stigma and builds stronger, kinder communities.

Wellbeing In Boarding

Support for parents, carers and guardians

- YoungMinds – Parent Helpline & Guidance
- Place2Be – Tips for Parents & Schools
- Mental Health Foundation – Family & Youth Resources
- LATMH (see below)

Support available in school/boarding

Speak with boarding staff, teachers, Medical staff, school counsellor , our DSL team or our student peer support group.

How to support those in need

- Host a Tea & Talk session
- Come and do a jigsaw at the weekend together
- Share one thing that helps your mental wellbeing
- Support a friend who might be struggling

Helpful Links for Students

... For Students (Ages 11–18)

 [NHS – Help for Teens & Students](#)

 [YoungMinds](#) – Advice & Textline: Text YM to 85258

 [Mind](#) – Student Mental Health Support

... [Togetherall – Anonymous Peer Support](#)

 [MentalHealth-UK](#) – Downloadable Resources

Let's All Talk Mental Health

We're excited to continue our pastoral partnership this academic year, giving all parents and carers free access to Let's All Talk Mental Health, a resource hub for advice on teen mental health, parenting challenges, and social and emotional wellbeing. Whether you're new to our school or already familiar with LATMH, we want to ensure you know what's available and that support is there whenever you need it.

With this initiative, you can access over 30 live online sessions throughout the year, covering a wide range of teen mental health topics, from anxiety and ADHD to friendships, screen time, and more. Each session features the UK's leading Clinical Psychologists, specialists, and advocates, with dedicated anonymous Q&A time for parent questions.

You'll also have unlimited access to an on-demand library of 70+ recorded sessions, available to watch at your convenience.

Dates For Your Diary

Mon 3rd Nov: Understanding Eating Issues in Teens

Mon 10th Nov: Helping Your Teen Deal with Bullying

Mon 17th Nov: Autism in the Teen Years: What to Expect and How to Help

Mon 20th Nov: Negotiating Teen Boundaries: Parenting Without Power Struggles

What Does LATMH Provide?

- Expert Insight – Learn what to say (and what not to say) when your teen is struggling
- Practical Advice – Tried-and-tested strategies to help at home
- Clear Information – To better understand teen mental health challenges, social and emotional issues
- Guidance on Support – Including how to find the right help when needed

Can't join a session live? Don't worry, every session is available on demand right after it airs.

And if you have questions for the experts, you can email them in advance to the LATMH team.

Getting Started

Even if you've registered before, please register for your new school-year pass using this link: [Purcell 25/26 Link](#)

Once registered, allow a few minutes, then you'll receive an email from Contrast with your access link to the Let's All Talk Mental Health hub (check your junk folder if it doesn't appear in your inbox).

Here's the direct access link to the hub once you've registered: [LATMH Hub](#)

For any assistance accessing the hub, you can reach out to the team at: hello@letsalltalkmentalhealth.co.uk.

We truly hope these resources will be helpful for you and your family.

This Half-term's Brain Teasers

Word trick

I am an odd number. Remove one letter and I become even. What number am I?

Speed puzzle

Five cats catch five mice in five minutes. How long will it take one cat to catch one mouse?

Measurement challenge

You have a 3-litre jug and a 5-litre jug (no markings). How can you measure exactly 4 litres?

Lightbulb riddle

Outside a closed room are three switches. Inside the room is a single lightbulb (you can't see into the room). You may flip switches as you like, then enter the room once. How can you tell which switch controls the bulb?

Chessboard domino puzzle

An 8×8 chessboard has two opposite corner squares removed. Can you cover the remaining 62 squares with 31 dominoes (each domino covers two adjacent squares)?