



Sedgehill in Review

May 2025

A look back at some of the fantastic goings on at Sedgehill Academy

THIS ISSUE

11 Shots for Henry

Inspiring and sporting fundraising

Supa-dupa visitors

Professional director of photography visits

Speaking Out

Further successes for Sedgehill orators



That festival feeling

A pitch-perfect end of term music showcase

At lunchtime this week, Sedgehill Academy's End of Term Music Showcase brought together students from all year groups for a vibrant celebration of musical talent. Held outside in our amphitheater, the event highlighted the dedication, creativity and teamwork that have defined the music department's work this term.

The showcase featured a wide range of performances, including solo vocal pieces, classical instrumental works, ensemble performances and original compositions. Year 7 students demonstrated growing confidence as they took to the stage for the first time, while older students impressed with polished and emotive pieces.

The event was a fitting end to a successful term for the music department, celebrating student achievement and reinforcing the importance of music within the wider school community.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting a genuine appreciation for the effort and talent on display. Credit, as always, must go to the fabulous Miss Bill and Mr Gentile for their ceaseless commitment to the arts at Sedgehill.



A slam dunk for friendship

The sixth form "11 Shots for Henry" campaign was a heartwarming and action-packed day of fundraising in support of a much-loved basketball teammate who is currently unwell. The campaign brought the school community together through a series of creative and engaging events, with students and staff alike showing generosity and team spirit.

Throughout the day, students took part in basketball-themed activities ranging from a mini hoop competition to a high-energy dribble contest during the halftime break of the Y12/13 tournament. Sixth formers also organised an interactive quiz and a competitive console FIFA/2K tournament, while others created a short film about Henry's story.

Lunchtime featured a delicious cake sale, with both homemade and shop-bought treats on offer, alongside a classic "Wet the Teacher" event – all generating smiles and donations in equal measure. Meanwhile, students sported their own athletic outfits to mark the occasion and show solidarity. Each of the 11 events symbolised a "shot" for Henry – a tribute to his strength, resilience, and love of basketball. The day not only raised vital funds, but also showcased the compassion and unity of the community. Everyone played their part – and every shot counted.

Kindness

By Mr Barrett, Vice Principal

As a teacher, some of the most rewarding moments aren't found in exam results or lesson plans, but in the small, everyday interactions between students. Whether it's a quiet word of encouragement before a presentation, or a shared laugh at breaktime, these moments show the strength of our school community. I've seen Year 11s help younger pupils find their way, and students rally around a classmate who's had a tough day.

These acts of kindness, though often unnoticed, shape the culture of our school. They remind me that beyond academic success, we're helping to raise thoughtful, compassionate young people.

I often find myself quietly grateful for the kindness my pupils show every day. Their genuine warmth and respect make teaching a true joy. It's a privilege to work with children who care so deeply about each other—reminding me daily why I chose this profession and how lucky I truly am.



Building bridges with a retro toy

With the Construction Youth Trust, we have been delivering fantastic hands-on opportunities for students through practical workshops. These have inspired our young people to explore engineering and construction careers. The collaboration provides invaluable experience, allowing pupils to apply classroom knowledge in a real-world context. By engaging students in such dynamic activities, Sedgehill Academy and the Trust are opening doors to future possibilities and nurturing confidence. The bridge-building sessions not only educated but also empower, showing the positive impact of combining education with industry expertise.



Around the Academy

Learning, exploring, and having fun whilst doing it



Excelling, as always

Sedgehill Academy Celebrates Year 10 Success at Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of our Year 10 students who recently took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Final. A special mention goes to Henry, our reserve, who performed brilliantly throughout the preparatory workshops, showing great enthusiasm and skill.

Our main competitor, Excel, represented Sedgehill Academy with outstanding confidence at the event held at Prendergast School in Ladywell, for the Lewisham regional final. Her speech, which focused on the theme of facing fears, was delivered with remarkable poise and strength. The judges were particularly impressed by Excel's commanding stage presence and powerful delivery, which truly brought her message to life.

The Regional Final is a wonderful celebration of young voices and talents, and this year was no different. It was a real privilege to listen to so many inspiring speeches from across the region. Excel's success is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our students, and we look forward to seeing more of their talents flourish in the future. Well done to all involved, including Miss Worthington for running this incredible scheme!



Musical Excellence

Striking a chord



An event not to be MiSST

Sedgehill Academy Shines at the 12th Annual MiSST Concert

This term, a group of seven talented music students from Sedgehill Academy had the fantastic opportunity to participate in the 12th annual MiSST (Music in Secondary Schools Trust) concert at the iconic Barbican Centre. This prestigious event brought together young musicians from across the country for a day filled with music, learning, and inspiration. Our students began the day with intensive rehearsals, working alongside their peers to prepare for the performance. The dedication and focus they showed were truly impressive, as they fine-tuned their pieces and built cohesion as part of the MiSST Together Orchestra, which featured around 200 students nationwide.

In addition to rehearsals, the students enjoyed exploring the Barbican Centre, soaking in the creative atmosphere of this world-renowned arts venue. The experience of performing on such a celebrated stage was both thrilling and inspiring for our young musicians. A special congratulations goes to Amelia, whose exceptional trumpet skills have been recognised throughout this term. Amelia not only took part in the MiSST Together Orchestra but also had the honour of performing with the MiSST Symphony Orchestra, highlighting her remarkable progress and dedication.

We are incredibly proud of all our students (and Mr Gentile & Miss Bill) who represented Sedgehill Academy with such enthusiasm and professionalism.



A vision in focus

Zooming in on a creative journey

We were thrilled to welcome Aaron Reid, director of photography for the hit series Supacell, to speak to our students this term. Aaron shared fascinating insights into his creative process, discussing how he brings stories to life through camera work and lighting. His passion for visual storytelling inspired many budding filmmakers in the audience. What made the event even more special for our students was discovering that Aaron is an alumnus of Sedgehill Academy himself. His journey from our classrooms to the TV screens is a powerful reminder of what our students can achieve with determination and talent.

Opening (stage) doors

By Miss Cooper, Assistant Principal

Recently, I had the wonderful opportunity to take a group of our students to the West End to see a critically acclaimed play. Watching their faces light up as the story unfolded was a reminder of how eager they are to explore culture and the wider world beyond the classroom walls. Their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about different perspectives and experiences is truly inspiring.

At Sedgehill Academy, we are privileged to be part of this journey. Every day, our students bring fresh ideas and an open mind, enriching our whole community. Their hunger for knowledge motivates us as educators to provide even more opportunities for them to grow, both academically and personally.

This trip was just one example of how theatre and the arts can open doors to new worlds, sparking conversations and deepening understanding. I am proud to witness and support this vibrant learning culture at Sedgehill. Together with our wider community—families, staff, and partners—we create a supportive environment where our students' curiosity can truly flourish.

Making Strides



Sedgehill Academy recently hosted a lively Drop Down Day dedicated to wellbeing and character-building. The atmosphere was truly joyful, with students engaging enthusiastically in activities designed to boost resilience, teamwork, and self-awareness. Workshops ranged from mindfulness sessions to creative challenges, all encouraging personal growth and positive mental health. The highlight? The PE team's relay races, which brought out both fierce competition and plenty of laughter – proving that sometimes, trying to pass a baton smoothly is easier said than done! It was a perfect blend of fun and learning, reminding us all that wellbeing is best nurtured through connection and shared experiences. This day left everyone feeling uplifted and ready to face new challenges with renewed confidence.



It takes a village

Promoting the philanthropists of tomorrow



First Give finals

Sedgehill Shines at the First Give Awards

Sedgehill Academy recently celebrated a fantastic First Give final, showcasing the talent and dedication of our students. Many confidently stepped onto the stage, delivering brilliant presentations that impressed everyone. The positive feedback shared between students created a warm and supportive atmosphere throughout the event.

Special congratulations go to Rhylee, who was commended in the programme and was thrilled by the recognition. First Give is keen to interview her to learn more about her experience.

A standout performance came from class 8Y1, who had clearly rehearsed thoroughly, memorising their lines and carefully planning their stage movements. Their efforts paid off as they won the £1,000 prize for their chosen charity, the Ben Kinsella Trust.

The judging panel included a local councillor, First Give director Isaac, Sixth Former Ranti, along with Ms Cassidy and Ms Austin, one of our governors. The professionalism and enthusiasm demonstrated by all participants was truly inspiring, reflecting the high standards of teamwork and commitment fostered at Sedgehill. It was a proud moment for the school community, highlighting the incredible potential of our young people. Thanks are certainly due to Miss Steele for her incredible commitment to our students.



A note from the Principal

By Ms Cassidy, Principal

At Sedgehill Academy, our culture of rewards is far more than a points system—it's a reflection of who we are and what we value as a school community. Each point given for hard work, integrity, kindness, or excellence is a small but meaningful recognition of the daily choices our students make to live by our core values.

It's incredibly important to me that we celebrate not just outcomes, but the behaviours and attitudes that lead to success. Whether it's the quiet determination shown in a maths lesson, the courage to do the right thing when no one is watching, a small act of kindness in the corridor, or a moment of brilliance on stage—these are the things we want to shine a light on.

What makes me most proud is how our students recognise these qualities in each other, too. This shared commitment to celebrating the right things helps build a school culture rooted in respect, aspiration, and genuine pride.

As we move through the term, I hope every student continues to strive—not just for rewards, but for the deeper satisfaction that comes from knowing their character and effort are truly valued. That's the real reward.

Music to our ears

A winning track, available now

We're excited to share that Spitflame—our incredible Year 11 band from Sedgehill Academy—now have their winning Battle of the Bands 2024 track available to listen to online!

After taking the crown earlier this year, the band headed into a professional studio as part of their prize, where they recorded their original track and received mentoring from industry professionals. The result is a powerful, polished song that showcases their talent, creativity, and passion for music.

We're so proud of Spitflame and the hard work they've put into this project. It's a huge achievement and a brilliant example of the opportunities available to students at Sedgehill.

Now it's time to turn up the volume and show them some love—click the link below to hear their fantastic track and celebrate the success of our young musicians! [Listen here!](#)

Generation2Generation

Poignant words for, and from, our students

This term, students at Sedgehill Academy were privileged to hear a deeply moving and powerful talk delivered by Generation2Generation. Through personal stories of survival and resilience, our students gained a richer understanding of history, empathy, and the vital importance of remembrance. The emotional impact of the session was clear. Students responded with reflections and heartfelt messages.





...and finally

Things to look out for



hairspray

The upcoming musical goes on sale

We're thrilled to announce that rehearsals are in full swing for this year's school production – Hairspray! Under the direction of Mr Bonfield, with high-energy choreography by Miss Freeman and fantastic musical direction from Miss Bill, our students are hard at work bringing this vibrant and powerful show to life. Packed with catchy songs, dazzling dance numbers, and a heartwarming message of inclusion and standing up for what's right, Hairspray promises to be a truly unforgettable production. Our talented cast and crew have shown incredible commitment and creativity, and we can't wait for the school community to see what they've achieved.

Performances will take place on the 3rd and 4th of July, and tickets will be available to purchase via ParentPay from 2nd June.

The new Festival of Words

Next term, Sedgehill Academy will be launching an exciting new Festival of Words – a celebration of language, creativity and expression across the school. Spearheaded by Miss Cooper and Miss Lennon, the festival will bring together students from all year groups to explore the power of words in all their forms, from poetry and storytelling to spoken word and performance.

While full details are still under wraps, students can expect a range of inspiring activities and opportunities to get involved – whether on the stage, on the page, or behind the scenes. The aim is to spark imagination, celebrate student voice, and showcase the incredible talent within our school community.

Miss Cooper and Miss Lennon are already hard at work planning something truly memorable, and we can't wait to share more next term. Watch this space – words are just the beginning. It's going to be something very special indeed.

For further updates on this and other events, don't forget to follow Sedgehill Academy on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Cultural capital week

Next term, Sedgehill Academy will be hosting Cultural Capital Week—a celebration of enrichment, creativity and new experiences across the curriculum. With a wide range of activities and surprises in store, students will have the chance to explore the world beyond the classroom. More details will follow soon, but it promises to be an exciting and inspiring week for all.