



Sedgehill in Review

July 2025

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

THIS ISSUE

Globe visits

At the heart of London's
theatre scene

Graduations

Moving up and moving on
at Sedgehill

Sleeping wild

Our Year 8s on their
annual camp



You Can't Stop the Beat!

Big Hair, Big Voices, Big Applause for the Dream Team

Sedgehill Academy's dazzling production of Hairspray was a joyful triumph, bursting with energy, talent and heart. From the vibrant choreography to the powerhouse vocals, every student shone on stage, bringing the beloved musical to life with confidence and flair. The show was a celebration of inclusivity, resilience and teamwork – and a testament to the incredible dedication behind the scenes. A huge thank you goes to Mr Bonfield, whose inspiring direction, creative vision and tireless commitment made the production such a success. The entire school community is proud – and already excited for the next unforgettable performance.

The cast's chemistry and enthusiasm were infectious, drawing cheers and standing ovations from packed audiences each night. Every scene – from the catchy ensemble numbers to the emotional solos – was delivered with professionalism beyond the students' years. The costumes, set design and lighting added polish and vibrancy, transforming the stage into 1960s Baltimore with flair. Special mention must also go to the backstage crew, musicians, and staff who supported the production from start to finish. Hairspray was more than a show – it was a celebration of Sedgehill spirit.



Excellence

By Mr Stuchfield

At Sedgehill Academy, one of the things that continually impresses me is our students' determination to strive for excellence in all they do. Whether it's performing on stage, representing the school in sport, contributing to the wider community, or achieving personal academic goals, there is a real culture of ambition and pride. What makes this so special is that it's not driven by competition, but by encouragement and belief – in themselves and in each other.

Time and again, students support their peers, set high standards, and rise to challenges with resilience and creativity. It's inspiring to witness these everyday moments of brilliance and to be part of a school where effort is valued just as much as outcome.

At Sedgehill, striving for excellence isn't just a motto – it's a mindset, and one that continues to shape confident, capable young people ready to make their mark.

Have a lovely summer; we look forward to welcoming our students back in September and sharing their successes with you.

A wealth of opportunity

Sedgehill Academy recently hosted a vibrant and inspiring Careers Fair, giving every student the chance to explore their future pathways. Held in the Sports Hall, the event brought together over 30 organisations, including top universities, colleges, training providers, and employers from a wide range of industries. From creative arts and construction to law, healthcare and finance, students had the opportunity to ask questions, gather advice, and discover options they may never have considered.

Representatives from Goldsmiths, Northeastern, ITV, the NHS, Millwall Football Club, and many more were impressed by the curiosity and ambition shown by our students. Every year group attended throughout the day, making the event a true whole-school celebration of aspiration and opportunity. A huge thank you goes to the staff and visitors who made the event such a success. Sedgehill students left inspired, informed, and one step closer to planning exciting futures.

Crossing a bridge?



A group of high-ability Year 10 students from Sedgehill Academy recently visited the University of Cambridge for an inspiring day of exploration and academic challenge. Students took part in subject tasters, toured a historic college, and had the opportunity to speak with current undergraduates about life at a top university.

The visit broadened horizons and raised aspirations, with many students leaving feeling motivated and excited about their future possibilities in higher education. A huge thank you to Mr Adams for leading on the trip!



Around the Academy

Learning, exploring, and having fun whilst doing it



A new start for many!

Celebrating a warm welcome for our future Year 7 stars

Sedgehill Academy was thrilled to welcome our future Year 7 students for a successful and exciting Y6 Transition Day. The day was packed with activities designed to help pupils feel confident, supported, and excited about starting their secondary school journey in September. From the moment they arrived, our Year 6 guests were greeted with warm smiles and a sense of community that truly reflects the Sedgehill spirit.

Pupils took part in a variety of engaging taster lessons, including science experiments, drama games, and creative challenges, giving them a real flavour of life at secondary school. They also enjoyed a tour of the school, got to know their new classmates, and spent time with their form tutors.

A huge thank you goes to Mr Bonfield and Ms Craggs, our fantastic Heads of Year 7, for planning and delivering such a memorable and welcoming experience. Their energy, care and attention to detail ensured that every child felt included and valued.

We are incredibly proud of the way our current students supported the day, acting as brilliant role models. We look forward to seeing our new Year 7 cohort again soon and can't wait for them to join the Sedgehill family in September!



Across the Arts

Striking a chord



Cultural capital week

Cultural Capital Week: A Celebration of Global Culture at Sedgehill

Cultural Capital Week at Sedgehill was a vibrant, joyful celebration of global heritage, creativity, and experience. Designed to broaden horizons and deepen understanding of the world around us, the week was packed with rich, hands-on learning beyond the classroom.

Students took part in energetic Samba and African dance workshops, exploring rhythm, movement, and cultural storytelling through music and performance. There were also exciting cooking sessions, where students tried their hand at preparing dishes from around the world – a true taste of global culture.

Across the week, groups went on a series of London tours and trips, exploring the capital's diverse history and cultural landmarks. From museums to street art walks, these experiences brought learning to life in unforgettable ways.

One of the week's most colourful highlights was the celebration of traditional and cultural attire. Students and staff came in garments representing their heritage, sparking conversations and admiration across the school community.

A huge thank you goes to Ms Hird, whose passion, planning, and leadership made the week such a success. Cultural Capital Week reminded us all of the richness of our global community – and the joy of learning through lived experience.



Culture and the arts

By Mr Hewitt, Vice Principal

At Sedgehill Academy, we believe that education extends far beyond the classroom. Our mission is to nurture well-rounded, curious, and confident young people, and one of the most powerful ways we achieve this is through a wide range of enrichment opportunities. From museum visits and theatre trips to outdoor learning and international exchanges, we strive to broaden horizons and spark a lifelong love of learning.

Co-curricular clubs and societies give students the chance to explore interests and talents outside the curriculum – whether in music, sport, debate, coding, or creative writing. These experiences build resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills that are just as vital as academic achievement.

We also invite inspiring speakers and alumni into school, run careers fairs, and link with local businesses to provide real-world insight and aspiration. Through our enrichment programme and partnerships, we ensure every student can access cultural, social, and personal development opportunities. At Sedgehill, broadening horizons isn't an add-on – it's central to our ethos of ambition, inclusion, and excellence. The world is wide, and we want our students to be ready for all of it.

A Romantic day out

Up close with an icon

Last week, the English Department organised an enriching visit to Keats House Museum in Hampstead for our Sixth Form students. The trip offered a unique opportunity to explore the life and legacy of Romantic poet John Keats in the very house where he composed some of his most celebrated works. Students took part in a guided tour of the house, viewing original manuscripts, letters, and personal artefacts, which brought Keats's world vividly to life. They were particularly struck by the poet's bedroom and the garden, where he found inspiration for his writing. The visit deepened their appreciation of Keats's poetry and the Romantic era as a whole. It was a valuable and inspiring day, sparking thoughtful discussion and fresh insights into the study of literature.



Keep to the beat

KS3 dance students recently took part in an exciting workshop led by a teacher from the renowned Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. The session introduced them to a challenging routine, which they practised and performed in small groups, building both their confidence and choreography skills. As part of the workshop, they also explored a partner work section, learning a hip-hop-inspired handshake sequence that required focus, coordination, and teamwork. The workshop was energetic, engaging, and pushed students out of their comfort zones in a supportive environment.



Sporting successes

Always on the ball



Wimbledon Wonders

Students Serve Up a Summer to Remember

On Monday, five of our Year 9 students had the fantastic opportunity to visit Wimbledon. They spent the day on Court 2, enjoying a series of thrilling matches filled with close calls, unexpected results, and world-class tennis.

The excitement continued on Wednesday, when three of our Year 8 students returned to Court 2 – this time with an extra surprise. They met former British No.1 Greg Rusedski, who took time out of his busy schedule to speak with our Greenhouse Sports participants. It was a brilliant opportunity for the students to ask questions and gain insight from a professional athlete. We are very grateful to Greg for his generosity and time.

The group also had the chance to watch Naomi Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion, in action, and even collected a few autographs from players throughout the day.

Thank you to Greenhouse Sports and our partner school for helping to make these memorable experiences possible.

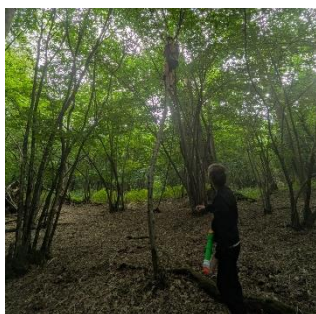


Graduations

Recognising the achievements of all

At Sedgehill Academy, we believe in recognising the milestones that mark each stage of our students' journey – not just at the end of their school career, but throughout. That's why we hold graduation ceremonies for Year 9, Year 11, and Year 13, celebrating progress, achievement, and personal growth at every key transition.

Each graduation is a moment of pride, reflection, and joy, honouring not just academic success but the values we live by: hard work, excellence, integrity, and kindness. These ceremonies allow us to applaud the effort students put into their learning, the determination they show in overcoming challenges, and the care they extend to others in our school community. From heartfelt speeches and awards to musical performances and family attendance, our graduations are a powerful reminder of how far each student has come – and of the bright futures ahead. At Sedgehill, we don't just mark endings – we celebrate new beginnings.



The Great Outdoors

Our annual Year 8 camp is a much-loved highlight of the school year, offering four unforgettable days in the beautiful Kent countryside. Students enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities, including hiking, team challenges, and evening campfires. The experience builds confidence, independence, and friendships, all while surrounded by nature. It's a fantastic opportunity for personal growth, adventure, and making lasting memories beyond the classroom.

A note from the Principal

By Ms Cassidy, Principal

As we come to the end of another remarkable year at Sedgehill Academy, I want to take a moment to reflect on the achievements, resilience, and spirit of our school community. From outstanding academic effort to creative excellence in the arts, sport, and enrichment, our students have shown what it means to be ambitious, compassionate, and engaged learners. Highlights this year include our growing Festival of Words, incredible theatre visits, cultural trips, and the continued success of our sports and debate teams. We are especially proud of our Year 11 and 13 students for their dedication during exam season – we look forward to celebrating their results in August.

We are also proud to be a school at the heart of our local community. Whether through partnerships, outreach, or cultural celebration, we value the connections that strengthen our sense of place and purpose. Our students benefit enormously from the richness and diversity of our community, and we look forward to continuing to grow these relationships in the year ahead. Thank you to our staff, families, and partners for your unwavering support. Together, we are building a school where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Wishing you all a restful and well-deserved summer break.



...and finally

The Sedgehill Festival of Words



A note from Ms Lennon, Head of English

The Sedgehill Festival of Words has been a true whole-school celebration, blending creativity, culture, and academic ambition. Among this year's many highlights, we are especially proud of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, whose hard work and determination have been exceptional. We look forward to celebrating their achievements on Results Day this August. As part of the festival's rich cultural strand, Sixth Form students journeyed to Rome in February, visiting Keats' resting place, the Colosseum, and key Grand Tour landmarks – connecting literature, history, and travel. World Book Day brought a joyful burst of colour and creativity to the school, with staff in costume and student competitions launching a month of book-themed events. Our Festival Theatre Bonanza offered unforgettable experiences, with students attending eight live productions, including Hamlet, Six the Musical, Stranger Things: The First Shadow, and My Neighbour Totoro. The festival culminated with a packed Summer 2 programme, including expert talks on Macbeth and A Christmas Carol, a workshop on Poetry and Masculinity with Joseph Coelho, and a creative writing session with author Sita Brahmachari.

The Festival of Words

A celebration of writing, thinking, and sharing

This year, the Sedgehill Festival of Words became a powerful celebration of language, creativity, and confidence across the school. From theatre to debate, poetry to public speaking, students explored the power of words in all forms. We were proud to be one of the first schools to partner with Munya Chawawa for his Black Boys Theatre Club, opening doors to the world of theatre. Year 10 took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, building confidence through inspiring public speaking workshops. Our Debate Mate team enjoyed regional success, while budding writers thrived in the Sedgehill Writers of Tomorrow club and during a creative workshop at Keats House.



Next year...

And we're not slowing down! Next academic year is already set to be just as exciting, with trips to Hamilton and Othello already in the diary. These experiences continue to bring literature and language to life, giving students the chance to explore powerful storytelling beyond the classroom. From theatre visits to creative writing and poetry, it's been a celebration of imagination and expression.