



Sedgehill in Review

May 2026

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

THIS ISSUE

Getting heard

Performances and speeches across the Academy

Published writers

Poets and novelists getting their names in print

Crunch time

Exam successes for Y11 and Y13



Flying beyond expectations

Representation at the forefront of British theatre

Students from Munya Chawawa's Black Boys Theatre Club recently enjoyed a trip to see a powerful new production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, performed by a predominantly Black cast. The experience gave students the opportunity not only to enjoy outstanding live theatre, but also to see how classic stories can be reimagined to reflect different voices, perspectives and lived experiences. A key theme of the evening was the importance of reputation – both within the play itself and in the wider world. Students reflected on how people are judged, stereotyped and labelled, and how the arts can challenge those assumptions. Seeing talented Black actors leading such a well-known production reinforced the importance of representation and helped students understand the wide range of opportunities available within the creative industries. One of the highlights of the trip was an exclusive one-hour Q&A session with the cast, where students asked thoughtful questions about acting, training, confidence and careers in the arts. The actors spoke honestly about their journeys and encouraged students to pursue their ambitions with determination and pride. Sedgehill is proud to continue building opportunities like this and looks forward to working closely with The Old Vic over the coming year to further inspire our students through theatre and the arts.



We're halfway there

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are now over halfway through their GCSE and A-Level examination period, and we could not be prouder of the resilience, maturity and determination they have shown throughout this demanding time. Over the past few weeks, students have approached each exam with focus and positivity, demonstrating the hard work and preparation they have put in across the year. Whether revising after school, attending intervention sessions or supporting one another through the pressures of exam season, they have represented Sedgehill with real pride and commitment. Exams are about much more than results alone. They are a test of perseverance, organisation and character, and our students continue to rise to that challenge every single day. Staff have been especially impressed by the calm and respectful atmosphere around the school, as well as the determination students are showing to keep going strongly through the final weeks ahead. We would also like to thank families and staff for their continued encouragement and support during this important period. To all our Year 11 and Year 13 students: keep believing in yourselves – the finish line is getting closer, and we are all behind you.



Sedgehill Writers in National Anthology

Three talented Sedgehill students from our Writers of Tomorrow club have achieved the fantastic honour of being published in the recent Young Writers Stranger Sagas flash fiction competition anthology. Their creative pieces were selected for publication alongside entries from young writers across the country, showcasing their imagination, originality and storytelling skills. We are incredibly proud of them!

Pride of Sedgehill

By Ms Thurston

As we reach the halfway point of the GCSE examination season, I would like to take a moment to congratulate our Year 11 students on the maturity, resilience and determination they have shown so far. Exam season is never easy, yet students have continued to approach each day with focus, positivity and an excellent attitude. We are incredibly proud of the way they are representing both themselves and the Sedgehill community.

The hard work that has gone into preparation over the past months is clear to see, and staff have been especially impressed by the calm and purposeful atmosphere around the school each morning. Every exam completed is another step closer to success, and students should feel proud of how far they have already come.

We know there is still work to do after half term, but there may also be a well-deserved reward waiting for students on their first day back to celebrate their efforts and commitment so far!

As a school, we are hopeful and excited about what lies ahead and believe this cohort has the potential to achieve some of Sedgehill's best results yet. Keep going – we are all behind you.



Around the Academy

Learning, exploring, and having fun whilst doing it



A symphony of achievement

Sedgehill students wow the crowds yet again

Seven talented Sedgehill students recently took part in the inspiring MiSST concert, showcasing their musical skills alongside students from schools across London. The performance was a fantastic celebration of dedication, teamwork and creativity, and our students represented Sedgehill with confidence and pride throughout the event. Over months of rehearsals and preparation, students developed not only their instrumental ability but also important skills such as discipline, collaboration and resilience. Performing in front of a live audience was an exciting and rewarding experience, giving students the opportunity to experience the energy and professionalism of a large-scale concert environment. The concert highlighted the power of music to bring young people together and demonstrated the importance of arts education in building confidence and self-expression. Staff and families were incredibly proud to see our students perform with such maturity and enthusiasm. Participation in programmes like MiSST continues to play a vital role in enriching the experiences available to Sedgehill students, opening doors to new opportunities and helping young musicians develop a lifelong love of music. Congratulations to all seven students on an outstanding achievement. Thanks to Mr Gentile and Ms Bill, who tirelessly champion music for all.



Across the Academy

Flexing our artistic muscles



Poet and you know it

Leading Sedgehill writer published

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Kaiah, whose poetry has earned her a place among the shortlisted candidates for the Young Poet Laureate competition. As part of this success, Kaiah's poem will be officially published alongside work from other shortlisted young writers and a poem by Simon Armitage in a special anthology released this May. Kaiah will receive her own copy of the publication, with another copy gifted to the school.

This means Kaiah is now officially a published poet – an outstanding accomplishment and a testament to her creativity, dedication and talent.

Kaiah also performed her poem at the recent selection event, representing Sedgehill with confidence and maturity. Judges are considering not only the final performance, but also students' engagement throughout the workshops and the overall impact of their writing.

The final decision for the Young Poet Laureate title will be announced shortly, and there could be even more exciting opportunities ahead if Kaiah is selected. Whatever the outcome, she has already achieved something truly special and has made the entire Sedgehill community incredibly proud.

Take the stage

Confidence and creativity at this year's devising competition

The recent Year 10 Drama Devising Competition was a fantastic celebration of creativity, teamwork and performance talent, with students delivering a series of imaginative and thought-provoking pieces to an impressed audience of staff and peers. Over several weeks, students worked collaboratively to create original performances from scratch, developing their own characters, scripts and staging



ideas through the devising process.



The competition showcased the incredible range of talent within the year group. Students tackled a variety of challenging and relevant themes, including gender expectations, capitalism, visions of the future and the struggles faced by young people today. Through the use of physical theatre, symbolism and strong characterisation, students communicated powerful messages with maturity and confidence. Each performance reflected the hard work, resilience and creativity

students have developed throughout their Drama studies this year.

What made the event particularly special was the professionalism and support shown by every group. Students encouraged one another both on and off the stage, creating an atmosphere that celebrated artistic risk-taking and collaboration. The audience was captivated by the originality of the performances and the thoughtful way students explored complex social issues.



A huge thank you must go to Miss Cooper for organising and leading the competition. Her passion for Drama and commitment to giving students opportunities to express themselves creatively played a huge role in the success of the event. Through her encouragement and expertise, students were able to produce performances they should be incredibly proud of.

We hope this experience inspires students to continue exploring the arts with confidence and ambition. Thanks to Miss Cooper for continuing to support and develop our talented students.

Speaking volumes

Year 10 students represent Sedgemoor with confidence, courage and powerful public speaking skills



Sedgemoor Academy is incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of our Year 10 students who took part in this year's Jack Petchey Foundation Speak Out Challenge. The competition gave students the opportunity to develop their confidence, communication skills and public speaking abilities while sharing important messages with a wider audience.

This year's event saw an outstanding achievement from Sedgemoor students, with two competitors progressing all the way to the Lewisham Regional Final. Out of almost 900 students across the borough, they were selected among the top 18 young speakers invited to compete at the prestigious final event – a fantastic accomplishment that reflects their hard work, determination and talent.



The speeches delivered were both inspiring and deeply personal, exploring themes such as resilience, ambition and overcoming challenges. Students spoke with maturity, passion and honesty, captivating the audience through their confident delivery and strong stage presence. Their ability to communicate important ideas so clearly and

powerfully was a credit not only to themselves, but to the wider Sedgemoor community.



Events like the Speak Out Challenge are an important celebration of young people and their voices. They encourage students to speak with confidence, share their experiences and recognise the value of their

own perspectives. The evening was filled with thoughtful and memorable speeches, reminding everyone in attendance of the creativity, intelligence and potential of young people today.



A special thank you goes to Ms Worthington for her continued encouragement and support of all students involved throughout the competition process. Her guidance and dedication helped students build the confidence to perform so successfully on such an important stage.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part, and of our two finalists.



Riding high

Racing success for a Sedgehill student

The PE Department is proud to celebrate the sporting achievements of one of our students, whose passion and dedication to BMX racing continue to impress both inside and outside of school. Through commitment, hard work and determination, he has competed at a high level and represented himself brilliantly in the sport. To recognise this achievement, a photograph from one of his races will be displayed around the PE block as part of our ongoing commitment to celebrating student success beyond the classroom. We hope this will inspire younger students and highlight the importance of perseverance, ambition and balancing sporting commitments with school life. The PE Department is also excited to explore further opportunities linked to BMX through local sessions at Beckenham Place Park, helping encourage more students to get involved in the sport.

The world of work

By Mr Stuchfield, Careers Lead

As we approach our Work Experience Week from 22-26 June, I would like to encourage all students to make the very most of this exciting opportunity. Work experience is an incredibly important step in helping young people develop confidence, independence and a clearer understanding of the world of work. Whether students are exploring careers linked directly to their future ambitions or trying something completely new, the experience will allow them to build valuable employability skills such as communication, teamwork, professionalism and problem-solving. These are skills that will benefit students not only in future careers, but also throughout their education and everyday life. We are proud of the enthusiasm students have already shown in securing placements across a wide range of industries and professions. From healthcare and education to business, media, sports and the creative arts, students will have the opportunity to gain first-hand insight into different career pathways and workplace environments. We would also like to thank families, employers and staff for their ongoing support in helping make these opportunities possible. Their encouragement and guidance play a vital role in ensuring students can approach the week with confidence and ambition. We look forward to hearing about the experiences, skills and successes our students bring back with them in June.



Drama is always an option

Our Year 9 Theatre Competition showcased fantastic creativity, confidence and teamwork from students ahead of beginning their GCSE Drama courses. A huge thank you to Mr Bonfield and Ms Cooper for organising and supporting the event. We look forward to seeing this talented cohort continue to grow as performers over the coming years.



Preparing for the future

Looking forward and upward

The rest is politics

Sixth Form Students Inspired by Visit from Janet Daby MP

Sedgehill was delighted to welcome Janet Daby to the school as part of an exciting careers programme delivered in partnership with M&G. During the visit, Sixth Form students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about careers, leadership, public service and the skills needed to succeed in a wide range of professional pathways.



The session formed part of an ongoing careers course designed to help students develop confidence, employability skills and a greater understanding of the opportunities available to them after Sixth Form. Students took part enthusiastically, asking thoughtful questions and gaining valuable insight into both the world of politics and the wider professional environment.

Janet Daby spoke openly about her own journey into public service, encouraging students to believe in their abilities and recognise the importance of using their voices to make a positive difference within their communities. Her visit gave students a unique opportunity to hear first-hand about leadership, resilience and representation within modern Britain.

Working alongside representatives from M&G, students also explored key workplace skills including communication, teamwork and professional confidence. The programme continues to provide students with invaluable experiences that help bridge the gap between education and future careers.

We are incredibly grateful to Janet Daby and M&G for their time, support and commitment to inspiring the next generation of young professionals at Sedgehill.

An important visit



Sedgehill is proud to continue its involvement in the Debate Mate programme, giving students the opportunity to strengthen their confidence, communication and critical thinking skills through competitive debating. Students have engaged thoughtfully with a range of current affairs and social issues, learning how to build persuasive arguments and speak confidently in front of an audience. The programme continues to have a hugely positive impact, encouraging students to use their voices effectively while developing teamwork, resilience and leadership skills. We look forward to seeing our students continue to grow as confident and articulate young people through Debate Mate in the months ahead.

If music be the food of love



Year 10 students enjoyed a memorable outdoor performance of Twelfth Night presented by talented performers from Rose Bruford College in Sedgehill's amphitheatre on the last day of term. Performed on a beautifully hot and sunny afternoon, the production created a vibrant atmosphere as students gathered outdoors to experience Shakespeare brought to life in an engaging and immersive setting.

The actors used humour, energy and audience interaction to explore the play's themes of identity, love and mistaken appearances, helping students deepen their understanding of the text while showing how Shakespeare's work can remain exciting, relevant and accessible to modern audiences. The

sunshine and open-air setting added to the energy of the performance, making it a particularly memorable experience for students and staff alike.

For many students, seeing a live interpretation of the play strengthened their confidence in studying Shakespeare and encouraged them to think more critically about characterisation, staging and performance techniques. The experience also highlighted the value of the performing arts in supporting literacy, oracy and creative thinking across the curriculum.

As the final day of term approached, the performance felt like a fitting celebration of creativity, community and learning at Sedgehill. We are incredibly grateful to the performers from Rose Bruford for such an entertaining production and look forward with optimism to even more enriching opportunities for our students in the months ahead.





Quality first teaching

Our young people are ambitious and independent

At Sedgehill, we are committed to delivering high-quality teaching that helps every student become confident, independent and ambitious in their learning. Across the school, lessons are carefully planned to ensure students are not only guided and supported by teachers, but also given regular opportunities to think deeply and work independently. As part of this commitment, at least a third of lesson time is dedicated to independent student work, allowing students to apply knowledge, practise skills and develop resilience as learners. We are incredibly proud of how positively students rise to this challenge. From Year 7 through to Year 11 and Sixth Form, students demonstrate increasing maturity, focus and confidence in taking ownership of their learning. Independent work encourages students to think critically, persevere through challenges and become more reflective learners – all essential skills for success both in school and beyond. It has been particularly rewarding to see the progress made by our current Year 11 students, who have developed enormously throughout their final year at Sedgehill as they prepare for their GCSE examinations. Equally, our Year 7 students have grown in confidence and independence during their first year of secondary school, adapting brilliantly to new routines and expectations.

A note from the Principal

By Ms Cassidy

At Sedgehill, we believe that oracy – the ability to express ideas clearly, confidently and thoughtfully through speech – is one of the most important skills a young person can develop. The ability to communicate effectively opens doors, builds confidence and empowers students to participate fully in education, employment and society. This term, we have seen countless examples of our students developing and showcasing these vital skills. From the powerful speeches delivered during the Jack Petchey Foundation Speak Out Challenge, to the thoughtful arguments presented through our continuing Debate Mate programme, students have demonstrated courage, intelligence and maturity in using their voices with purpose. The arts have also played a major role in strengthening student oracy. Our Year 10 Drama Devising Competition challenged students to explore complex themes such as gender expectations, capitalism and the struggles facing young people today through performance and discussion. Meanwhile, opportunities such as the MiSST concert, poetry performances and theatre visits continue to help students build confidence in expressing themselves creatively and publicly. Oracy is not simply about speaking loudly; it is about listening carefully, thinking critically and communicating with empathy and clarity. These are skills that will benefit students far beyond the classroom. I am incredibly proud of the confidence, eloquence and character our students continue to demonstrate, and I look forward to seeing even more young voices flourish across our school community in the years to come.



A few final thoughts

A round-up of events



Education with character

By Mr Barrett, Vice Principal

One of the greatest privileges of working at Sedgehill is witnessing, every single day, the kindness, politeness and strong moral character shown by our students. While academic success is incredibly important, we are equally proud of the way our young people conduct themselves both within school and in the wider community.

Visitors to the school regularly comment on the respectful way students interact with adults and one another. Whether holding doors open, welcoming guests warmly, supporting younger students or showing empathy towards their peers, our students consistently demonstrate the values that make Sedgehill such a special community. These moments may seem small, but together they reflect something far greater: character, integrity and compassion.

We strongly believe that education is about more than examination results alone. It is about helping young people develop into thoughtful, responsible and confident individuals who are prepared to contribute positively to society. Through enrichment opportunities, leadership roles, charitable work and everyday interactions, students are continually encouraged to act with respect, resilience and integrity.

Of course, young people continue to learn and grow every day, but it is impossible not to feel proud of the maturity and decency shown by so many of our students. They represent the school brilliantly and remind us why investing in character education matters so deeply.

Order, order!

Students recently took part in an exciting and educational Citizenship trip to the Palace of Westminster, giving them the opportunity to experience the heart of British democracy first-hand. Throughout the visit, students explored the historic surroundings of the Houses of Parliament while learning more about how laws are made, the role of MPs and the importance of active citizenship within modern society.

The trip provided students with a valuable chance to connect their classroom learning to the real world, helping them better understand the democratic processes that shape everyday life in the United Kingdom. Students engaged thoughtfully throughout the experience, asking insightful questions and showing genuine curiosity about politics, leadership and representation.

At Sedgehill, we are deeply committed to the wider character education of our students. Opportunities such as this help young people develop confidence, cultural awareness and a stronger understanding of their role within society. Educational visits beyond the classroom remain a vital part of helping students become informed, responsible and engaged citizens.

A huge thank you goes to Ms Edmonds for organising and leading the trip so successfully. Her dedication and commitment ensured students were able to enjoy a memorable and enriching experience that will support both their academic learning and personal development.

We look forward to continuing to provide opportunities that inspire students to engage with the wider world around them.