



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

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### A focus on careers

Students get a taste for NHS careers

### Performances with purpose

Black History Month celebrations and a night at the theatre (or two)

### Women in the city

How a group of students met some inspiring high-flyers



## Fun Fridays

An opportunity to compete and enjoy the end of a hard-working week

**We have recently been enjoying the triumphant return of Fun Fridays at Sedgehill Academy, with Mr Walker and Mr Bonfield leading the way with various challenges all in the name of House Points.**

Students from Zephaniah, Blackman, Farah, and Franklin Houses have been competing in skipping, tennis, treasure hunts, and a variety of other activities over the past term - with Zephaniah house currently maintaining a narrow lead.

Special mention must also go to the staff dodgeball squad, who pipped the Y10s to a win after school during Half Term 2. (We may be a little biased in our praise, there.)



## Education with Character

By Tom Stuchfield, Head of Character

Education is about more than the numbers on a result slip, and yet the world is becoming ever more competitive. How do we tackle this challenge? Well, at Sedgehill, we believe in Education with Character.

We continue to offer students opportunities outside of the classroom to develop their skills and passions, but also foster the sort of characteristics which make enterprising and responsible citizens.

Over thirty trips have already occurred this year, and every member of the school has the opportunity to present their ideas to an audience, to become involved in student democracy, and to work with and raise money for a number of charities.

Students are more than grades, and even five minutes at Sedgehill makes that clear to anyone visiting or working here.

## Career insights for students

Opportunities to visit workplaces and universities

**Students have been able to visit workplaces, universities, and hear from a range of speakers this year.**

Sedgehillians have been given a number of opportunities this year, which aim to develop their career ambitions.

Students in Y9 and Y10 have visited the health sciences department at London South Bank University, have heard from practicing doctors and construction professionals in school, and have had the opportunity to visit the National Gallery. Careers are as varied as our students, and we strive to give them all an opportunity to broaden their horizons!

## A climate focus

A Sixth Form attendee of the COP29 Conference of Parties speaks to us:

*"The COP29 trip (held at British Council) was a very eye-opening experience, which allowed me to learn more about the current climate emergency. The atmosphere was very welcoming and allowed everybody to be included in the various important discussions that we had. I am extremely proud that I was able to have this experience as I will remember the numerous conversations I had with staff and pupils from other United Learning schools. This valuable experience reinforced my passion of bringing attention and acting against the climate emergency in humanities hands. Thank you to my teachers and the people involved in organising this trip as it brought this pressing issue to the next generations attention."*





# A Fine Performance

Raising money, raising awareness, and being loud and proud



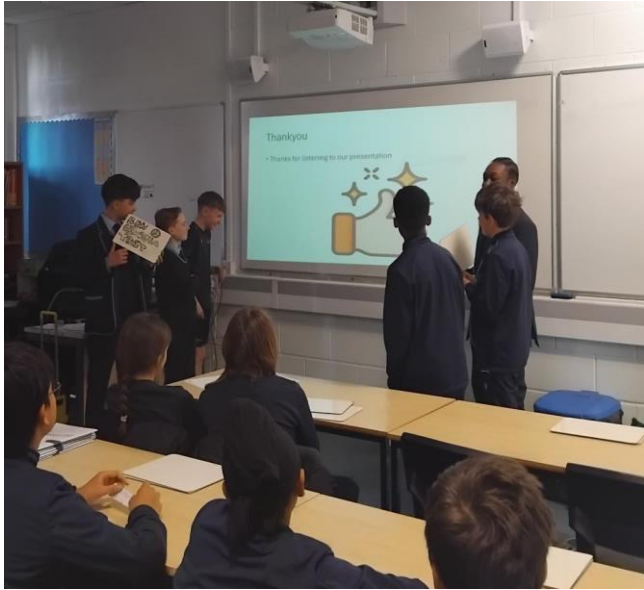
## Black History Month

Continuing our tradition

**Sedgehill Academy raised over £150 for the Sickle Cell Society over the course of BHM. Students visited Bacon's College for a Black History Conference, staff spoke with passion about their own experiences, students participated in a hair-braiding workshop, and specialist dance classes took place.**

The highlight of the month, however, came in the form of a vibrant concert showcasing the incredible talents of our students! The stage came alive with powerful performances from our gifted singers, musicians, and dancers, as well as our enthusiastic cheerleaders, all honouring the rich cultural heritage and contributions of the Black community.

This event is a beautiful opportunity for our students to express their creativity and showcase their hard work while fostering unity and understanding within our school. Each performance tells a story, reflecting the strength, resilience, and inspiration that defines Black history. We invited the whole school to join us in this celebration, and all came together to applaud our performers and honour the legacy of those who paved the way.



## Hard Work: not just a value, a reality

By the Editor

On Wednesday 27th November 2024, our school's orchestra had the opportunity to show off all the hard work they have been doing this term as well as have the opportunity to play at the world-renowned Royal Albert Hall.

Miss Bill and Mr Gentile have worked alongside the diligent and talented students for a number of years, and watching the orchestra perform on one of the world's most famous stages must have been an incredibly emotional moment.

No doubt, many of our students may feel like they will never be "as good" as somebody else - particularly with a performance skill - but events like these prove that even people as young as our students can achieve greatness through their work ethic.

It isn't talent that makes teachers proud of their students, it's the failure, the commitment, the improvement, and the success that only comes after dedication to their task.

## Promoting Oracy

Letting those ideas and opinions shine

**Led by Miss Cooper, the Oracy drive at Sedgehill Academy is now in full flow.**

Over the course of an entire off-timetable drop down day, every student in Years 7-9 took part in an oracy day. Students worked in teams to develop arguments on topics ranging from voting ages to philosophy and presented their ideas to their peers.

As part of our drive to promote Education with Character, this continuing focus on developing confidence and presentation skills in every single pupil is a vital part of Sedgehill life - and one of which we are incredibly proud.



## In the spotlight

The power of theatre

At Sedgehill, we believe in the transformative power of theatre to inspire and enliven. Since September, our students have enjoyed six incredible theatre trips, each offering unique insights into the world of performance, storytelling, and culture. From thought-provoking plays to awe-inspiring musicals, these experiences enrich their understanding of literature, drama, and the arts, while sparking creativity and critical thinking.

Students have seen productions of *Hamlet*, *Six*, *The Lion King*, *Guys & Dolls*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and *The Buddha of Suburbia* - with plenty more to follow!



# Sporting Excellence

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Body, along with mind, at Sedgehill



## Basketball fixtures

A fine start to the year, under Coaches Gabbi & Sterling

**Students across all key stages have competed in fixtures at home and away, including matches against SFX College, Harris Crystal Palace, and Haringey Sixth Form.**

Basketball is more than a game—it's a powerful tool for growth, teamwork, and resilience. For young men and women in schools, it builds confidence, sharpens focus, and encourages discipline on and off the court. Through basketball, students learn the value of collaboration, perseverance, and leadership. Beyond physical fitness, it fosters community and empowers individuals to dream big, proving that success comes from effort, determination, and working together.

For regular updates on the progress of all Sedgehill sports fixtures, please follow us on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#).



## Excellence: a core value at Sedgehill

By Mr Hewitt, Vice Principal

As one of our four core principles, Excellence is oft-quoted in the Academy. However, it is too often understood as simply academic excellence - and not being excellent to one's peers.

Being excellent to each other in schools creates a positive, supportive environment where everyone can thrive. Simple acts like offering a kind word, showing respect, or greeting others with a handshake can make a big difference. When we treat classmates, teachers, and staff with kindness and care, we build a strong, united school community where everyone feels valued and inspired to succeed.

Handshakes symbolize mutual respect and set the tone for collaboration and understanding. That is why, this term, I shook the hand of every student in KS3 and tasked them to "be excellent" to one another.

They have not let me down.

## Learning from the best

Sometimes, opportunity is all you need

**Sedgehill's PE staff and students continue to strive to be the best in all they do.**

Earlier this term, Sedgehill's wonderful PE department were lucky to have Coach Asher Roberts come in and deliver some outstanding cricket sessions as part of his ACE programme which is dedicated to opening pathways for more students to access the sport. We cannot wait to welcome him back later this year.



## Perseverance in the face of defeat

Those with good character never, ever, give up

Unfortunately, we can't always have things go the way we wish. But Sedgehillians know that, regardless of the stresses you face, you must keep trying. The year 7 team found themselves 5-1 down at halftime in their Blackheath Cup fixture, earlier this term. In an unbelievable performance, the boys fought back to with 7-6! Joint men of the match Elijah and Kyp were instrumental in the comeback. They both said that Mr Walker's team talk at half time filled them with the confidence needed to go out and turn things around. This just goes to show that you should never give up and that with hard work, anything is achievable.



# Beyond the Classroom

Promoting young women, and coming together as a community



## Women in the City

Championing success among Sedgely's young women

**Students across all key stages have competed in fixtures at home and away, including matches against SFX College, Harris Crystal Palace, and Haringey Sixth Form.**

This November, girls from Sedgely Academy attended the prestigious Women in the City event at Draper's Hall, celebrating accomplished women who have built exceptional careers in the City.

The event was an inspiring showcase of success stories, highlighting the resilience, talent, and determination of women breaking barriers in their fields. It also served as a powerful reminder to young women across the country that they too can achieve greatness.

Our students were truly inspired by the speakers and the opportunity to connect with incredible role models.



## A note from the Principal

By Ms Cassidy, Principal

As Principal of Sedgehill Academy, I am incredibly proud of the character shown by our pupils every day. Their kindness, resilience, and determination shine through in everything they do, from supporting their peers to striving for excellence in their studies and beyond. Whether it's their enthusiasm during lessons, their teamwork in sports, or their creativity in the arts, they embody the values we hold dear. Watching them grow into confident, compassionate individuals is the greatest privilege. Our pupils not only represent Sedgehill with pride but also inspire us all to be better. They truly are the heart of our school.

All the staff at Sedgehill Academy are proud of their students, and all wish you the very best over the holidays and the New Year.

I am very much looking forward to an equally successful 2025.

## Fridays: more than fun

A silly way to make a serious difference

**Miss Steele, our fantastic Head of Charities, combined forces with Mr Bonfield, Head of House, to deliver a memorable Friday afternoon.**

Fun Friday's spelling bee was brightened up by our Wear it Pink campaign, which raised over £600 - all of which will go to funding life-changing breast cancer research.

We are always proud of our students, but sometimes we are a little more proud. The spelling was pretty good, too.



## Winter wonderland

A fantastic end to the year

Rounding off 2024 at Sedgehill was December's Winter Concert, which featured musical performances from all ages and across genre and instrument.

Musical concerts in schools are vital for fostering creativity, confidence, and community. They provide students with a platform to showcase their talent, express themselves, and celebrate their hard work. Performing in front of an audience builds resilience and teamwork, while bringing the school community together to share in the joy of music. Concerts inspire students to dream big, create lasting memories, and deepen their love for the performing arts.