



At the

GENTRE

The Centre School

End of **Summer Term** Newsletter

July 2025

Principal's Message

It's been a long, hot summer term! Recently, we have said goodbye to several students who are moving on to a variety of provisions (college, vocational training, apprenticeships and employment). We wish them all the very best for the future.

The last few weeks have seen us completing a range of exams and qualifications; Functional Skills English & Maths, GCSE Art and CSCS Labourer's Cards among them! We are all very proud of what our students have achieved across a range of year groups.

The annual Centre Celebration took place in June on a very hot Thursday evening. We have included (on page 10) some of the feedback received from students and parents on the day. We followed up this celebration with Farm Fest in late June. This was hugely successful, and we received lots of very positive comments from the school community and local residents alike.

I hope that you all have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you in September. Stay safe.

Sue Raven



We are World Record holders!
See Page 5 for more details.

SPORTS &

GAMES

By Stu

TCS students shine at the 42nd Annual Joan Mann Special Sports Day.

At the beginning of June, a group of our students had the incredible opportunity to attend the 42nd annual Joan Mann Special Sports Day at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, a long-standing event dedicated to individuals with additional needs.

Founded by Joan Mann, a former Ministry of Defence employee in the public affairs office, this event was created to build connections between the military and civilian communities through a day of inclusive and engaging activities.

Our students had an unforgettable experience taking part in a wide range of sporting events specially designed to be fun and accessible. They also had the chance to interact with friendly service animals, explore real military vehicles, and enjoy a true taste of American culture with classic food and drinks provided by the hosts. It was a day filled with excitement, laughter, and community spirit. We are incredibly proud of our students and thankful to RAF Mildenhall for organising such a meaningful and memorable day for all involved.



TCS Games Day took place on Monday 21 July 2025.

Despite the cloudy skies, we witnessed some spectacular performances as the students had fun competing for the ultimate honour – the Games Day trophy!

The teams were organised around three staff mascots – Sam, Aaron and Ronnie. In the end, Team Aaron came out on top to claim a famous victory! Regardless, everyone had a lot of fun competing in relay, egg & spoon and sack races, as part of a programme of traditional and modern events.

In addition to the award of the Games Trophy, Charlie Chiffins won the Most Valuable Player prize, and Dominic Young was recognised for ‘moment of the games’ for a memorable encounter with an egg. Thank-you to Buster and Stu for the Games organisation and to Nat and team for an excellent half-time BBQ.



DOWN ON THE FARM

By Richenda

Farm Fest Success! We were thrilled to welcome families, friends, and members of the community to this year's **FarmFest** — a celebration of all things fun, friendly, and farm-related! The event was a great success, raising hugely appreciated funds to help develop and sustain our school farm. From animal encounters and sheep shearing to the ever-popular dog show and delicious treats from Jake's Bakes, there was something for everyone. We are so grateful to all the businesses and individuals who supported the event — we truly couldn't have done it without you.



RESIDENTIAL!

By Toria

At the beginning of June, Toria and David took a group of students up to the Peak District to stay in Ilam Hall, Dovedale. The purpose of this two-night residential is to give students who either haven't had many overnight stay opportunities before or have been too anxious to stay away from home in the past, the chance to do so. A key aim is to help develop skills of independence as part of preparation for adulthood and post-16 opportunities. Whilst there, we climbed Dovedale Hill and walked the stepping stones, visited Poole's Cavern caves and Peak Wildlife Park (where we met some kangaroos) then on the way back, stopped off at Tropical Bird Land where we got to feed some incredible birds, including ostriches!



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

By Tiff

We are World Record holders! A group of fifteen students, chosen for their incredible dedication in the kitchen and their amazing teamwork strengths, (on the hottest day of the year so far) all followed cooking instructions from Jamie Oliver, a world-renowned chef, via a Zoom call.

Our students, along with over 10,000 others across 42 countries, made fresh pasta and a no cook tomato sauce under the clock and under the strict instruction that if anyone were to leave the room for any reason, we would be disqualified.

All students involved worked exceptionally well under pressure and now that we have received confirmation that our efforts were successful, they can proudly say they are now Guinness World Record holders; the largest cooking class (across multiple venues), an amazing achievement! I'm so very proud of them all!



Congratulations from Guinness World Records!

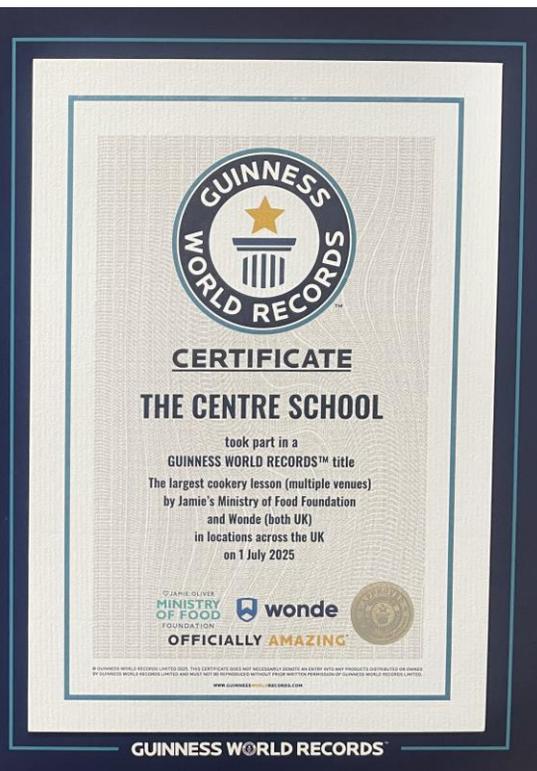
You stepped up, took on the challenge and made your mark in an official **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™** record title!

Your bold move has earned you a spot in our global family of go-getters and dream-chasers. Every effort like yours fuels the fire of every record-breaking adventure around the world.

Since 1955, we've seen and adjudicated the most jaw-dropping, incredible and fun record attempts. And now, you're part of that story. Every leap towards a record, no matter the result, shows what we're capable of when we dare to dream.

From all of us here, thank you for taking that leap. You've got the spirit and now you've got the proof. Share your memorable experience with your friends, family and the wider world!

Alistair Richards
President
Guinness World Records



ART

By Laura

Two students achieve Art GCSE Success!

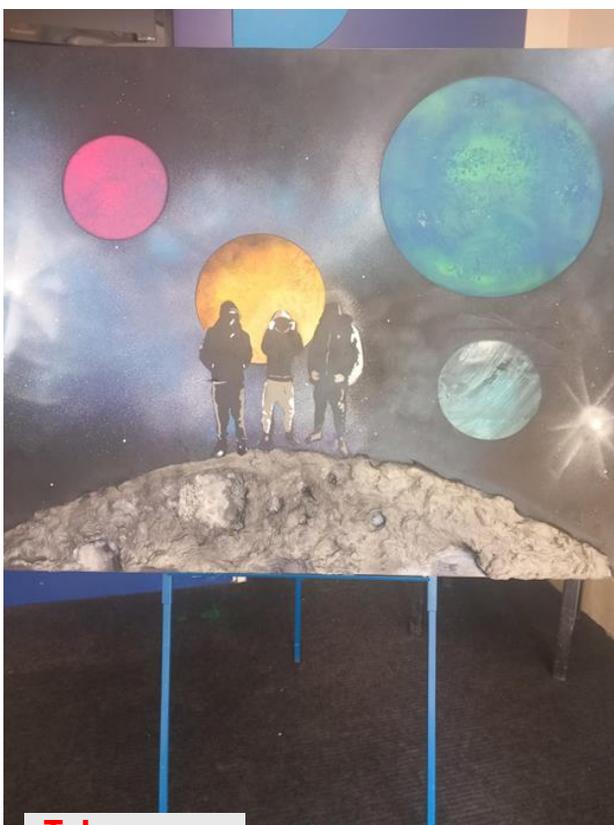
This year, two of our very own students, Tyla and Reece, have made us extremely proud by achieving their Art GCSE. Their hard work, creativity and determination paid off in both their art portfolios and their 10-hour final art exam piece.

Both Tyla and Reece worked to a high standard, putting in hours of effort to develop their ideas, sketch, experiment with materials, and bring their final pieces to life. They showed amazing focus and true creativity throughout the course.

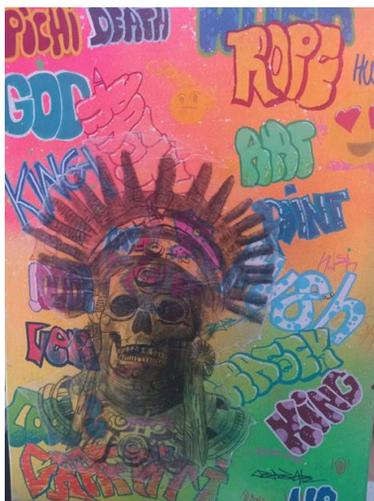
Tyla and Reece are proof that with passion, practice and support, anything is possible. I am incredibly proud of their journey. Next year, our Art GCSE programme is getting even bigger! Two more students—Eric and Jake are now in their final year, working hard on their portfolios and preparing for their exam. In addition, three new students have started their first year of the course, demonstrating that an increasing number of learners are discovering the value and creative opportunity that Art GCSE has to offer.



Reece



Tyla



PATHFINDER

By Chris

Have a conversation at home about the **Pathfinder Award**. Ask your young person about the **Checkpoint Certificates** they have achieved already. What are they most proud of?

We are pleased to announce that by the end of the summer term, 26 students had achieved their Pathfinder Level 1 Award and two students had achieved their Pathfinder Level 2. This is a wonderful outcome, and the students concerned should be rightly proud of all the milestones they achieved to reach this point. Certificates have gone home, and students were recognised with additional money in their end of term envelope.

The Pathfinder Award continues into next year, when all students will have the opportunity to achieve Level 1 and beyond.

Navigating your school years can be tricky. You know that you have **important goals** to achieve, but it's not always clear what to do next, or what path to take. **That is where the TCS Pathfinder Award comes in!**

All students at The Centre School participate in the TCS Pathfinder Award. The Award can be achieved at four Levels, with each level made up of progressively more challenging opportunities and experiences. The challenges range from looking after your Score Card for a full half-term, to consistently reading aloud in lessons, to five-day residential trips and navigating college interviews.

When a student successfully completes a challenge, they are awarded a Checkpoint Certificate. When they have collected the required number of Certificates, students will earn their Pathfinder Award (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4).

At The Centre School we have agreed goals – wellbeing goals, qualification goals, character goals and essential skills goals (see below). The Pathfinder Award is made up of a carefully selected range of opportunities and experiences which support and enable our students to achieve these important goals.



Our TCS Goals

Wellbeing Goals

SELF-CARE
MIND
SELFISH

PSHE

Be money smart

You are safe, healthy, happy and independent.

noen GROUP

Functional Skills

gateway qualifications

Qualification Goals

BASICS

You can read, write and use numbers well. You have useful cultural and subject knowledge and have options for your 'next step'.

Being engaged
Being resilient
Able to form positive relationships

Character Goals

You can make the very most of your life opportunities and choices.

Essential Skills Goals

You are ready to get and keep a good job.

LISTENING
SPEAKING
PROBLEM SOLVING
CREATIVITY
TEAMWORK
LEADERSHIP
WORKING WITH OTHERS
WORKING INDIVIDUALLY

POST 16

By Chris

Post-16/Employer Encounters

During the summer term, students in Years 9, 10 and 11 were visited by a team of staff from the Military Preparation Academies. Students took part in a presentation about post-16 opportunities and were then treated to some practical workshops designed to give them a taste of what Military Preparation College is all about. Our students performed brilliantly; listening well, asking insightful questions and throwing their all into the practical activities. The experience has definitely helped students to developing their thinking about their post-16 options. MPCT staff were hugely complementary about our students and will revisit us next year. For mor information about MPCT, please visit: mpct.co.uk/



Year 10 Taster Experience at Cambridge Regional College (CRC)

In June, a group of Year 10 students took up the opportunity to take part in CRC's taster day experience in Cambridge. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to explore college life and specific courses of interest. On the day, our students experienced Sport, Motor Vehicle Mechanic, Engineering and Plumbing courses. We are hugely proud of the young people who took part – working with new adults and peers in an unfamiliar environment can be hugely daunting. Despite this challenge, our students did brilliantly throughout, developing their thoughts and plans regarding their post-16 futures.



SMOKING & VAPING

By Annabel

& substance use

Cambridgeshire Child and Adolescent Substance Use Service (CASUS) provides support to young people (up to 18 years) who are getting into difficulties around substances.

The service does not tell young people to stop using substances but gives them the information they need to make informed decisions and better/safer choices. CASUS understand that sometimes substances can feel like the only thing that helps, but that it is not a long-term solution. CASUS support young people to explore what is going on underneath – the feelings, thoughts and experiences that might be leading to substance use. This might be low mood, anxiety or stress, but could also be other things.



If a young person would like to talk to someone confidentially about this, or to get some advice they can contact 07842 300803. Parent/Carers can also contact CASUS for advice/support for their young people by either calling 01480 445316 or emailing CASUS@cpft.nhs.uk. Contact numbers are open between 9am-5pm Mon-Fri. Outside of these hours, a message can be left. Further information about CASUS can be found on their website:

www.cpft.nhs.uk/casus

As of the 1 of June 2025, disposable vapes are now banned from sale in shops.

CASUS do not provide support for young people that are smoking cigarettes or using nicotine vapes, but there is support available for young people via the Stop Smoking Service which can be found on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy You website at:

www.healthyyou.org.uk/services/stop-smoking

If you have any concerns and would like to discuss them further, please contact your child's House Head or Annabel Gerrard Croxon (Designated Safeguarding Lead) on 01954 288789



What are the people saying?

What does The Centre school mean to me?

Student Responses

It's good for me and for my learning and people skills.

I love everything, overall, it's the best school.

I like that I'm learning how to cook.

It's a fun, exciting place that I enjoy learning at.

Fun lesson, Extended curriculum, fun activities and nice teachers.

At The Centre School, they care.

I enjoy the farm. This school is fun because it's more hands on.

School is now a peaceful time for me.

I like the teachers and Extended.

Parent/Carer Responses

The school is a place where my son feels safe and happy.

Since my son has been at the school he has thrived. He is really happy and now is hopeful for his future.

It means that we know that finally our son is understood, supported, not judged, given support and guidance. He is happy and for us him being here means everything.

Massive change since he started here. I cannot fault anything.

I love the communication between the school and myself. If I need to speak to someone I always can, and we can sort out any issues.

A safe place for my boys to thrive and show their potential. We're so proud!

Freedom for my son. He can be himself. It's an amazing place with wonderful people.

My son leaves home happy in the morning, and he comes home happy from school. We can't thank you enough.

Advice from Summer 2025 school leavers

Stay in lessons, education is more important than anything.
Be grateful for what you get in life.
Take the risk rather than boot yourself later for not doing it.

It (the work) isn't as bad as you think it is.
Stay fit.
Ignore idiots.
Think of the end goal.

Learn to understand others, because there are a variety of kids here, learn to accept them.
Make a good first impression.
Don't underestimate yourself.

Make the effort to go to all of your lessons.
Give everything a try even if you don't want to.

Actually do stuff. I didn't do anything when I first came here, but now I do, I learn.



Key CONTACTS

Need/request	Please Contact
To report student absence (or to request support with school attendance)	attendance@astreacentreschool.org or call 01954 288789 ASAP and before 9.40am
For general queries	office@astreacentreschool.org
To contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead	annabel.croxon@astreacentreschool.org
For queries about work experience or careers education	chris.cassidy@astreacentreschool.org
If your child is ready to leave The Centre School at the end of this school year , and you are seeking advice and guidance regarding next steps, to contact the Pathways Advisor , Richard	Richard.Beckett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



DATES

for your **Calendar**

Date	Event
Wed 3 September	Autumn Term Home Visits (you will be contacted by one of our team on Mon 1 September to confirm a time that suits)
Thu 4 September	Students return to school following the summer break
Mon 27 October – Fri 31 October	Half-term
Mon 3 November	Staff Training Day – School closed to all students
Fri 5 December	Staff Training Day – School closed to all students
Fri 19 December	Final day of the term. Early finish, taxis will leave site at 11.30am