



## Corfe Hills Connection

*Learning today for a better tomorrow*



**A word from James Sankey, Headteacher**

**May 2025**

The summer examination season is well underway, nearing the halfway point for most students, and the upcoming half term break is a well-deserved respite for all. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have been working incredibly hard through a packed exam schedule, and their dedication is truly commendable. Year 11 has benefited from a comprehensive programme of bespoke support, including final focus sessions before each exam and extra "supercharge" sessions for English, Maths, and Science after school. We're so impressed by their consistent attendance at these sessions, which has been rewarded with non-uniform days – a great chance for them to experience the independence and responsibility of sixth form life. Their maturity and determination in these final weeks of GCSEs have been exceptional.

It's also been rewarding to see the significant improvements in attendance recently, capped off with a non-school uniform day for Years 9 and 10. We are incredibly grateful for the strong partnership between parents/carers and the school; working together to secure excellent attendance (greater than 96%), which, as we always emphasise, is essential for every student to achieve their full potential at Corfe Hills School.

Looking back, Year 10 completed valuable work experience at the end of the spring term, and we extend huge thanks to the many local businesses and organisations who collaborated with us. This is such a valuable learning experience, and our students returned invigorated and focused on their GCSE studies. Year 12 are currently completing their mock exams and will be heading off for a week of work shadowing after half term. Other recent highlights include our annual ski trip over Easter, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, Geography field work for Years 10 and 12, and many other exciting activities that have enriched our school calendar.

This has been another highly successful half term for our PE department! Our boys' handball team won the regional championships and are now heading to the national finals in June. We were also thrilled to see former Corfe Hills student Kayla Rendell in the Manchester United squad for the Women's FA Cup Final – a testament to her excellent foundations here. Our summer cricket initiative has also clearly been a huge success, with fantastic numbers joining both boys' and girls' sessions. Finally, the PEDSSA athletics trials saw a great turnout, with two of our students selected for the county squad.

We eagerly anticipate welcoming all students back after the half term break on Monday, June 2, 2025. Until then, we wish you a restful and enjoyable break.

# Dates for Diary



- 2 June – Students return to school
- 2 June – 6 June – Year 12 Work Experience
- 25 June – Year 13 Celebration Evening
- 27 June – Year 8 Transfer Day
- 30 June – Second Hand Uniform Sale
- 1 July – Year 11 Leavers' Day
- 2 July – Year 11 Prom
- 4 July – Inset day – no students in school
- 7 July - Art, Photography, Textiles, Media, Design Technology showcase – main hall
- 11 July – Sponsored Walk
- 14 July – Lower School Sports Day
- 15 July – HPV and Teenage Booster vaccinations
- 18 July – End of term. School finishes at 12.30pm



# Religion and Philosophy

## A-Level Religious Studies Conference April 2025

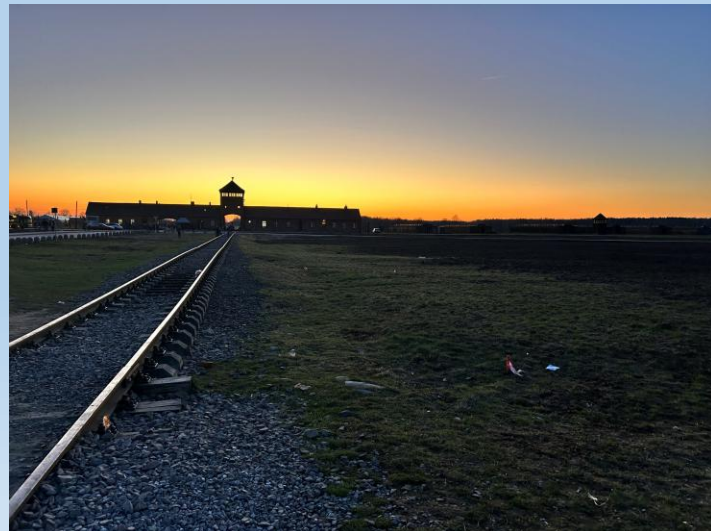
Corfe Hills School was pleased to host this regional conference, welcoming schools from across Dorset for a stimulating day designed to develop students' understanding of key aspects of the OCR A-level RS specification. Our own students were joined by more than 60 others, and their teachers, from St Edwards, Beaminster and Sir John Colfox schools. The conference was run by Peter Radford, an experienced teacher and consultant with whom we have worked at Corfe Hills for a number of years now. Topics covered included Ancient Greek Philosophy, Arguments for the Existence of God, the Problem of Evil & Suffering, Ethical Theories, as well as a very useful session on How to Write a Great Essay. As well as benefiting from the expertise of the speaker, students had the opportunity to discuss issues in small groups and take part in Q&A. All in all this was an excellent opportunity for our students, particularly those in Year 13 with their A-Levels just round the corner!



# Lessons from Auschwitz

## A-Level Religious Studies Conference April 2025

In March, two of our year 12 historians participated in a program called Lessons from Auschwitz. This involved attending two seminars about the context and impact of the Holocaust and meeting a survivor. Holly and Abi then embarked on a challenging one-day visit to Poland which focused on a tour of the infamous concentration camp at Auschwitz. They visited the site of Auschwitz 1 which was the main concentration camp, before seeing Auschwitz 2, the site of the gas chambers. Both girls were profoundly affected by this experience and have shared their reflections with all year 12 students. Abi through a video montage and Holly through a piece of art.



# LRC News

## 'The Secret Lives of Numbers'

We were delighted to receive a couple of copies of 'The Secret Lives of Numbers – A Hidden History of Math's Unsung Trailblazers' by Kate Kitagawa and Timothy Revell, as Tim is a former Corfe Hills student.

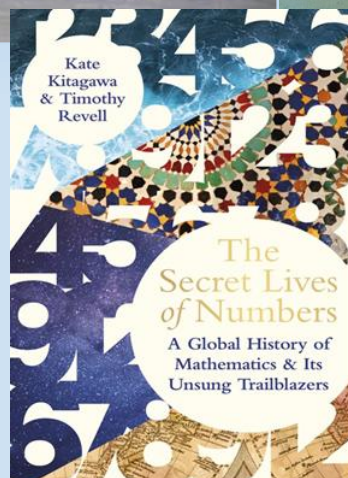
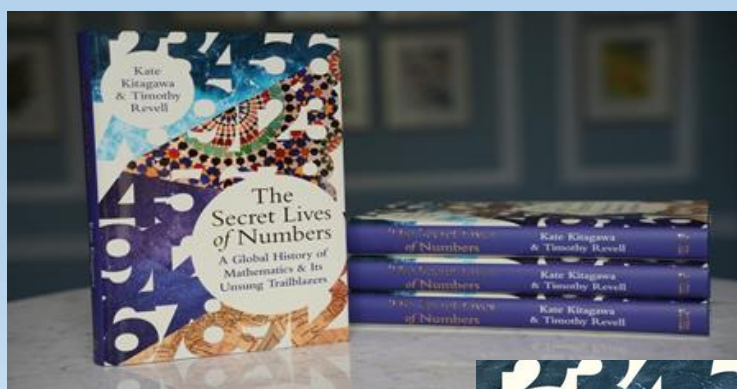
He is currently the Deputy US Editor for the New Scientist and works as a reporter and editor, specialising in technology and mathematics.

Since leaving Corfe Hills, Tim has achieved a master's degree in Mathematics and a PhD in Computer Science. His first book was 'Man vs. Maths' and this book 'The Secret Lives of Numbers' was shortlisted for the British Academy Book Prize.

It has received great critical acclaim and it's a fascinating account of mathematical unsung heroes who have been overlooked by history due to their race, gender or nationality. It explores the stories of brilliant Arabic scholars of the 9th-century House of Wisdom, and the pioneering African American mathematicians of the 20th century, to the 'lady computers' around the world who revolutionised our knowledge of the night sky.

Proving that we really do have a book in the LRC for everyone, please encourage your child to borrow Tim's book or to come and ask Mrs Lynch in the LRC if they have other areas of interest and would like to borrow a book.

Our thanks go to Martyn Revell, Tim's Dad for kindly donating the books to us, it's a really fascinating read!



# LRC Live Stream

Year 9 and 10 students were invited to a LiveStream event hosted by the British Library this week. It was an entertaining and thought provoking interview between the highly acclaimed author, Jason Reynolds and 'Rizzle Kicks' musician and book lover, Jordan Stephens.

Their chat was livestreamed to the LRC along with 500 schools across the UK and we loved the varied nature of their conversation.

Jason and Jordan spoke honestly about their teenage experiences and what it feels like to be a teenage boy navigating the complexities of growing up.

Students in our audience later commented that 'it was brilliant to hear them talking about having healthy friendships and knowing when your group of friends are good for you' and also 'their discussion about being a writer and practising your work over and over again is something I didn't expect. Jason compared creative writing to sport, you just need to get in and get on!'

We have copies of Jason Reynolds' latest novel 'Twenty Four Seconds from Now' available to borrow from the LRC and we highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to read a refreshing, contemporary story about male friendships. We're looking forward to hosting more book events in the LRC soon so keep an eye on your emails to book a place!



# Product Design

## Year 9 Product Designers Embark on Eco-Friendly Trinket Box Project

Following the successful completion of their lighting cube projects, our Year 9 product designers are now turning their attention to an exciting new challenge. Students will be crafting personalized trinket boxes featuring traditional mitre joints, while incorporating important lessons about sustainability and environmental responsibility.

The trinket box project represents a natural progression in our design curriculum, allowing students to build upon the precision crafting skills developed during their lighting cube work. The intricate mitre joints will require careful measurement, cutting, and assembly—advancing their technical abilities while creating functional, attractive storage solutions.

A key feature of this project is the incorporation of recycled polymers for the trinket box bases. Students will learn about the two main categories of polymers—thermoplastics and thermosets—and explore how these materials can be recycled and repurposed. By understanding the different properties and environmental impacts of these polymer types, students will make informed decisions about which recycled materials best suit their designs.

The combination of traditional woodworking techniques and modern sustainability practices gives students the chance to create truly unique pieces that are both beautiful and environmentally conscious.



We look forward to seeing the creative approaches our young designers take as they tackle this exciting new challenge.

Keep an eye out for the finished trinket boxes, which will showcase not only our students' technical skills but also their growing awareness of eco-friendly design principles

# Handball



Huge congratulations to the Year 10 Handball team who have won the South Central Regional Championships. They beat Reading in the semi final 9-8 and Alresford in the final 7-3.

They all played brilliantly and were a massive credit to the school.

They will now go to Nottingham to compete in the Nationals. We are extremely proud of them and wish them good luck in the finals in June.

# Ski trip

In the Easter holidays, 37 students and staff had an amazing ski trip to La Thuile in northern Italy.

The sun shone all week, the views were stunning, and all students made incredible progress learning to ski with our fantastic ski instructors. The sessions were full on but so much fun and worked with students at the right pace and level.

Our students were amazing and were great ambassadors for the school. They were polite, enthusiastic and so supportive and encouraging towards each other.

We enjoyed wonderful food at the hotel and then had crêpes, ice cream and lots of hot chocolate as après. We ice skated, went on long walks, and had snowball fights.

Students all received a certificate and badge at the end of the week celebrating their success.

We were so proud of the students on this trip and would like to thank both staff and students for a totally awesome experience!



# Beyond the Book

## 'Rebound' by Kwame Alexander

We've had a brilliant time running our interactive book group this term. A nominated group of Year 9 and 10 students have been reading 'Rebound' by Kwame Alexander and opening gifts that relate to events in the book along the way.

The story tells us about Charlie Bell a young American teenager navigating his way through the sudden loss of his father and discovering a love of basketball. We have sampled doughnuts and milkshakes to get us in the mood, as well as Mrs Borley's homemade peach pie! Mr Sutton, dropped in as a guest reader and we were very impressed with his American accents!

'Beyond the Book' is a fantastic, additional activity that we offer to promote a love of reading for pleasure at Corfe Hills School.

Students get the benefit of reading together in a smaller group and completing a whole novel in a couple of sessions.



The LRC is an exceptionally well stocked library with an array of books to suit every reading ability, please encourage your child to borrow a book to read for pleasure or to ask Mrs Lynch, LRC Manager for any good recommendations.

The LRC is open every break and lunch time.

# Textile Design – Year 12



Our talented Year 12 Textile Design students have been busy bringing their creative visions to life and the results are nothing short of spectacular.

Over the term, students have explored a variety of textile techniques from intricate embroidery and dyeing to woven pieces and mixed media. Each piece reflects not only their creativity but the dedication and hard work they've put into these experimental pieces.

We're incredibly proud of what they've achieved and can't wait to see how their skills and ideas continue to develop.



# Textile Design – Year 10

Our amazing Year 10 students have been making waves in the Textiles classroom with their latest creative project — marine life-themed A-line skirts!

Focusing first on the construction of a classic A-line skirt, students worked diligently to master garment shaping, seam alignment, and professional finishing techniques. Once their skirts were assembled, the real fun began — transforming each piece into a textured underwater masterpiece.



To bring their marine-inspired visions to life, students explored a variety of embellishment and tactile textile techniques, including:

- Felting – for soft, organic sea textures
- Appliqué – layering fabric shapes to build coral reefs, sea creatures, and ocean patterns
- Hand Embroidery – adding detailed, personal touches with needle and thread
- Machine Embroidery – for precision and dynamic decorative effects

The results are not only impressive in technical skill, but also bursting with creativity, colour, and personality. These projects showcase students' ability to combine design thinking with hands-on making, a true celebration of craftsmanship and imagination.

Stay tuned for an upcoming showcase where these stunning skirts will be displayed — a chance to admire the ocean-themed artistry up close!

# Year 9 Art

Year 9s have been studying the artists: Patrick Hruby, Barbara Gilhooly and Paul Klee. Students have been looking at formal elements of line, shape, colour and texture as well as improving their craft knife and cardboard skills.



# Breakfast Club

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Wenzel's Bakery for their generous weekly donation of fresh bread to our school's Breakfast Club. Their continued support helps ensure that our students start their day with a nutritious meal, ready to learn and thrive.

The Breakfast Club runs daily from 7:45am in the LRC providing toast and juice. Wenzel's kindness is making a real difference in our school community, and we are truly grateful for their partnership.

If you would like your child to attend Breakfast Club please email Mrs Borley - Associate Assistant Headteacher on [nborley@corfehills.net](mailto:nborley@corfehills.net)



After sitting their first GCSE Business Studies paper last week the students were rewarded with a pizza voucher! Pizza Pilgrim, the business that was the focus of the exam paper, took to social media to congratulate students and offer them a half price pizza. See the video link.



[Pizza Pilgrims \(@pizzapilgrims\) | TikTok](#)

## Stationery



Please don't forget to check your child's ParentPay account and pay any outstanding 'Learning to the Max' stationery charges.  
Thank you

# Social Media



@CorfeHillsSchool

@CorfeHillsSchool



@CorfeHills



**Keep in the loop of what is going on at Corfe Hills School!**

Spread the great work CHS students and staff do by sharing CHS posts on social media or/and letting friends and family know of our school events!



## Corfe Hills School

High Expectations | Exceptional Individuals

### Friends of Corfe Hills – PTA Second-hand uniform to buy



Blazer	£10.00
Hoodie	£7.00
Jumper	£5.00
Trousers	£2.00
Skirt	£2.00
Sports shorts*	£5.00
Sports tops *	£5.00
Girls leggings*	£5.00
Boys tracksuit bottoms*	£5.00
White shirts	Free
Socks	Free



**Next Sale  
30 June  
5pm – 6pm**

For enquiries, please email [pta@corfehills.net](mailto:pta@corfehills.net)

#### Uniform Donations

If you have outgrown uniform items, please recycle them by donating these to **The Friends of Corfe Hills - PTA** (Please ensure it is washed beforehand)

**Money raised will be put to good use by the PTA!**

Uniform will be sold via social media, email and second-hand uniform sales at school.

**\*Please note that only current Year 10 and 11s can continue with the existing PE kit.**

If you would like to enquire about second-hand uniform, that the PTA already has, please email [pta@corfehills.net](mailto:pta@corfehills.net)

# Events

**LIVE  
MUSIC!**

Our headliners are  
'Not the  
Cowboys'

## WEST MOORS FARM FEST

- SILENT DISCO • FAMILY ACTIVITIES • TRACTOR RIDES • LIVE MUSIC
- CIRCUS SKILLS • CARNIVAL GAMES • BUSHCRAFT ACTIVITIES
- SOFT PLAY TEEPEE • FAMILY DANCE OFF • WOODLAND FREE PLAY
- LOCAL FOOD & DRINK • GULLIVERS FOOD STALL • AND MUCH MORE!

### Admission Prices:

Ticket Prices (Pre-Booked): £10 Adults • £5 Concessions (students, over 65s)  
• £5 Children (Aged 7-16) • FREE for Children 6 and Under

**Price Increases on the Gate – Pre-Book Tickets to Save!**

Limited Tickets Available – Once They're Gone, They're Gone!

### Pre-Book Your Food Packages:

Enjoy a delicious meal at the festival by pre-booking your food package with your tickets:

**Tier 1 Food Ticket:** 1 x Choice from the BBQ (with toppings and an array of salads to choose from) Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available.

**Tier 2 Food Ticket:** 1 x Entry into our Specialised Street Food Market. Choose from a mighty meaty option or a wholesome vegetarian dish, all prepared by our talented chefs.

**Kid's Lunch Bag:** Child-friendly meals with farm-inspired treats.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2025. 12:30 PM - 6:00 PM**  
**STURTS FARM, THREE CROSS ROAD, WEST MOORS, BH22 0NF**

For Tickets and Further Details: Scan the QR Code  
or visit: [www.westmoorsfarmfest.co.uk](http://www.westmoorsfarmfest.co.uk)

Sponsored by Xerocad Print Centre & Luma Fitness

