October 2026

Loreto Grammar School

Sincerity Freedom Justice Truth Joy Excellence Internationality

News from the Sixth Form by Mr Newman

Apprenticeship Forum



The school's Apprenticeship Group has made an excellent start to the year, helping students explore the wide range of opportunities available through apprenticeships. Last year was particularly successful, with 12 students securing apprenticeship places across a variety of sectors, demonstrating that apprenticeships are an increasingly popular and valuable progression route after Sixth Form.

This term, the group has already taken part in two informative sessions. The first introduced students to the different types of apprenticeships available, including higher and degree apprenticeships, and highlighted the benefits of earning while learning. The second session focused on developing interview skills, giving students practical advice on how to present themselves confidently and effectively to employers.

Students also benefited from the experience of a guest speaker, Mr Atherton, who shared valuable insights into the recruitment process and offered tips on preparing for interviews and apprenticeship applications. The sessions have provided an excellent foundation for students considering this pathway, and we look forward to supporting more students as they begin their apprenticeship journey throughout the year.

Outstanding National Success in the Sidgwick Prize Essay Competition

We are delighted to celebrate the remarkable achievement of one of our Sixth Form students, Maggie, who has been awarded First Prize in Theology in the prestigious Sidgwick Prize Essay Competition, receiving a £100 prize.

The Sidgwick Prize was launched in 2025 to champion the humanities at a time when STEM subjects often dominate educational discussion. The competition is judged by a distinguished panel comprising three Cambridge academics, a UCL lecturer, and a former Oxford Rhodes Scholar.

In its inaugural year, the competition attracted around 300 entrants, with eight overall winners, one in each subject category. Such was the competition's growing popularity that in 2026 the number of entrants rose to approximately 1,300. While eight first prizes were retained, additional second and third-place awards were introduced to recognise the increased depth and quality of entries.

Against this exceptionally strong national field, Maggie secured first place in Theology and was notably the only state-school student to win a first-prize award in any subject. This outstanding accomplishment reflects both the student's intellectual curiosity and dedication, and the strength of humanities education within the Sixth Form.

Congratulations on a truly exceptional achievement.

Yale University Summer School

Over the summer I went to Yale University to attend a summer program called Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS). It was an amazing opportunity to explore my interests in science among students from across the world in a variety of ways. I got the opportunity to experience university style learning and collaboration through lectures, seminars, a capstone project, a symposium and breakouts, which I was able to tailor to my interests. In my Engineering Capstone, as part of a group, I was able to design a biomimetic F1 car rear wing with an accompanied simulation, alongside participating in seminars around learning python, supernovae and leptons. There were 3 strands surrounding STEM, politics, law and economics and social sciences to suit a variety of interests and provide an interdisciplinary learning atmosphere. Lastly, I gained new friendships, engaged with new cultures and learnt how to live independently. YYGS gave me a unique insight to university life that I otherwise wouldn't have experienced. Oludara Y13 (https://globalscholars.yale.edu/welcome)

EPQ

A pleasing number of year 12 students have signed up for the Extended Project Qualification, in which students carry out, manage and present an extended, independent piece of research on a topic of their choice, outside of their A level studies. So far, students have been familiarising themselves with Project Q – the online system used to manage their project, and have begun to think about the topic they will research. Dr Wilson

From the Sixth Form

by Mr Newman

Edmund Rice Camp



The Edmund Rice Camps aim to provide students who would not usually take part in a summer holiday the chance to be with friends and take part in something fun and enjoyable. All of the camps are funded so it does not cost the students, with volunteers made up from Loreto Grammar and St Ambrose. I am pleased to report that the camp was a great success. Previous students from Loreto who first began with the camp, who have now left the school, begin in their roles as leaders taking on regional organisation of the summer camps - this is a great achievement! A huge thanks to the Loreto girls who made the camp happen. We were really pleased with all the new leaders.

Prevent Breast Cancer

On our trip to the Nightingale Centre, we were lucky enough to get a tour around its new area. The Nightingale Centre is a specialist hospital built specifically to expand local breast screening capacity and provide specialist training. This has led to 20,000 people of the 59,400 diagnosed with breast cancer in England per year being diagnosed at the Nightingale Hospital. During the visit, we gained a valuable insight into how money raised by Prevent Breast Cancer is used , (it's the only charity dedicated solely to the prediction and prevention of breast cancer), followed by a presentation discussing key factors in breast cancer awareness. We then heard from a radiologist and a doctor who gave us a real taste of what it's like as a healthcare professional. Finally, after brainstorming a variety of fundraising ideas, we are excited for future events and inspired by the potential this money has to fund cutting-edge research in predicting and preventing breast cancer, supporting Prevent Breast Cancer's ultimate goal: a future without breast cancer.

By Luna Y13.

Black History Month

I am delighted that this year the Sixth Form once again led on Black History Month throughout the school. Students delivered a powerful assembly to each Key Stage on the theme of 'Honouring our Communities' . This theme allowed students to share stories of influential people who have made a difference in politics and the arts but with a particular focus on local people from Greater Manchester and the Northwest. Students also shared with our community more information about Sickle Cell and make the link to local charities who help support fair access to healthcare in the Northwest. Our annual CHIC day will also donate some of the proceeds to a Sickle Cell charity. More information on the worldwide event can be found here: https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/

UCAS and Apprenticeships Show

Year 12 attended the first part of their Future Pathways events for the Year. The trip to Old Trafford was an opportunity to meet apprenticeship and university providers. This was helpful as students began to settle into their new A Level subjects and ensure they had made the correct choices for their future careers plans. In March, students will attend the UCAS Discovery Day and also experience the Speed Careers event in June before they begin to complete their Post-18 applications. This year we continue to make use of our online platform Unifrog so that Year 12 will take part in a 3-day work experience which they will need to arrange for themselves.

Next Gen Talks

Our programme of Next Gen talks for this academic year got off to a strong start with Florence's talk entitled 'Nobody is perfect': how defective diamonds are paving the way for quantum technologies. The well-researched talk drew together elements of chemistry, physics and computer science, and attendees from years 12 and 13 learnt how different defects occur in crystalline substances, and how these atomic-level imperfections are being applied to advance modern technology. We look forward to the next talks offered by year 13 students, and I encourage any year 12 students who would like to contribute to the programme to get in touch with me.

Dr Wilson

From the Sixth Form

by Mr Newman

Sixth Form Open Evening and Taster Day

The school welcomed a large number of current and new prospective students to our Open evening on Thursday 15th October to our annual event. After hearing the main talk from Mrs Beever and Mr Newman, families toured the school subject exhibitions meeting current students and departmental staff. A special series of talks took place in the chapel to explore Oxbridge applications and also Medicine. There were also many exhibitions up in Cafe Loreto which helped show the vast array of extracurricular opportunities available in Sixth Form. It was a joyful occasion where our vision for education was on display. Our Sixth Form supports the main school in offering an 'enriching and liberating' education in the charism of Mary Ward.









On the following day, Year 11 elected to attend 5 taster sessions where they experienced what the subjects would be like at A Level with an assembly in the morning to hear more about Post-16 studies.

Applications to our Sixth Form are now open via the website with the deadline of Friday 4th December.

Oxbridge Applications

The Oxbridge applicants have had a busy term completing their applications to the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford. They spent last year reading widely around their subject and undertaking a good deal of super-curricular work (summer schools, webinars, online masterclasses, essay writing competitions) to create some very impressive personal statements. Sarah and Maggie were successful in their respective essay writing competitions. The students will now focus on their admissions tests and preparing for interview if they are selected, for which we will again provide advice and practice.

Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Applications

We are delighted that 12 students have submitted applications for Medicine this year, alongside one student applying for Veterinary Science. Their applications have now been sent to universities and they are eagerly awaiting responses. It has been a real pleasure reading their personal statements and learning about the wide range of volunteering, work experience and community activities they have undertaken to prepare for their chosen careers. The next stage of the process is interview preparation, with students taking part in mock interviews both in school and through our valued partnership with Wythenshawe Hospital. We have also been pleased to welcome a new cohort of aspiring medics and dentists from Year 12 to MedSoc, and we look forward to supporting them as they begin their own journey towards careers in healthcare.

16 to 19 Bursary

Loreto Grammar School receives annual funding to provide financial support for students in Sixth Form who may face specific financial barriers to continuing their education. Thank you to all the students who submitted their applications by the September deadline. Applicants have now received notification of the outcome of their applications. Please note that an application can be made at any time during the year should your financial circumstances change. For further information, including eligibility criteria and details of how to apply, please visit the school website: Loreto Grammar School - 16-19 Bursary. If you have any questions about the bursary scheme, please contact the School Office.

CHIC 2026

Our annual CHIC day took place on Wednesday 21 October, where we Celebrate our Heritage, Internationality and Culture. Students dressed in either national costumes or in the colours of a flag of a country of their choice. It was wonderful to see such vibrant and varied outfits. Years 7s generously gave of their time and talents in baking goods for an internationality themed cake stall, which was a huge success. At lunchtime, there were taster sessions in Turkish, German and Cantonese. We also had our much-anticipated dance show. 87 Students from Years 7 to 13 have been busy rehearsing since we returned to school in September, and we were wowed by a showcase of Chinese, Irish, Indian and African dancing. The event was both great fun and a fantastic fundraiser, with a total of £924.11 raised from the ticket and cake sales. A huge well done to all those who helped to organise the event and all those who took part.

Mrs Stokes








