

Prize Giving Report 2025

Running order

11.00am	Head's welcome Chair of Governors Guest Speaker Prizes and Performances Heads of School Prefect Announcements Prize Winners photos
1.00pm	Lunch
3.00pm	Depart

Welcome

It has been an action-packed year at Northbourne Park; I hope you enjoy reading about all of the pupils' successes and achievements in this booklet. It was a pleasure to welcome the Independent Schools Inspectorate to the school this year, and I hope that you will take time to read the report on our website, which serves as external recognition of the great work going on at the school.

Congratulations in particular to our leavers this year who move on to a wide range of senior schools. Thank you to the staff for enabling such a diverse and effective curriculum, and of course to parents and families that provide such wonderful ongoing support to the school. The Northbourne community is precious, and I wish you all a very happy summer break after a fabulous year.

Pre-Prep Report

This has been another excellent year at Pre-Prep. A number of new initiatives have further strengthened the children's education: our biggest piece of work has been around the introduction of a new phonics scheme, Read Write Inc, which has had a fantastic impact on the children's phonics and reading skills. We have witnessed exceptional progress and enjoyment in reading. All children in Reception to Year 2 have on average moved through 3 reading bands.

In the Early Years, the children once again ended the year with great outcomes, with 100% of children in Reception achieving a good level of development compared to the national average of 68%.

The children have enjoyed a range of fantastic trips, visits, workshops and events this year. Favourites have included Pirate Day, the East Kent Ploughing Match, the Powell-Cotton museum, the local Library and RNLI station in Deal. Our STEAMY workshop engaged our youngest pupils in Science, Technology and Engineering tasks with some original and exciting outcomes. The children have enjoyed creative projects at home including making a scarecrow and an Easter Bonnet.

The Pre-Prep Mardi Gras, informal concerts, Harvest Festival Service and charity Ramble have all contributed to the children's sense of community and social awareness. As always, the curriculum has been enriched by weekly Outdoor Education sessions, Beach School, and the introduction of an Outdoor Classroom.

Our Squirrels Nursery class has continued to grow and the children have made wonderful progress as they enjoy their child-initiated learning and outdoor setting.

Well done to all the children in Pre-Prep for such an outstanding year.

Prep School Report

Over the past year the pupils have continued to enjoy the rich curriculum on offer at NPS, refreshed and improved as we restructured our timetable. Pupils in the Prep School have been able to have swimming lessons as part of the Saturday morning programme, and the Computing curriculum has been reviewed and modernized to include more advanced skills in programming, website coding and graphic design. Following the school's connection to the fibre optic network last summer, the increased use of technology to support learning has also been a success. The introduction of Atom Learning, the use of Microsoft Teams for setting homework in Year 6, and the increased use of technology in the classroom to support learning has been a significant step forward.

The pupils have continued to enjoy success in a range of examinations, including excellent results for Year 8 in Common Entrance and 5eme class in their CNED and end of year exams with the Lycee de Francais de Londres. 100% of leavers will be moving on to their first-choice school, having passed their end of year exams. Our international pupils have once again enjoyed great success in their Cambridge EAL exams, achieving excellent results in the KET, PET and FCE. Several pupils successfully passed the Kent Test again this year, and have been offered places at top local Grammar schools.

This year the pupils entered the Primary Engineers Challenge, achieving an amazing 23 Distinctions. Congratulations to IC and LLB, who were highly commended, and FK and OCR, who were regional winners.

Throughout the year, pupils have taken part in a huge range of educational trips and visits, particularly in Humanities subjects. Year 3 visited Kent Life for a Stone Age day as well as the Roman Museum. Year 5 enjoyed a Victorian Day at Leeds Castle, a trip to a local Gurdwara and a Geography trip to Kingsgate Bay. In Year 6, pupils visited Rye and Canterbury Cathedral as part of their Humanities work. The Bishop of Dover visited the school to lead a service and assembly, and senior pupils visited art galleries in Hastings.

The introduction of the ISEB Independent Project Qualification this year has been a success, with the senior pupils tackling some fantastic research topics which included Aviation, Artificial Intelligence, Climate Change and Migration and how the Rubiks Cube works. A number of children entered the national IAPS Writing competition this year with good feedback.

Charitable initiatives have included Jeans for Genes Day, raising money for a local fire in Dover, Children in Need, Deal Food Bank and Love in a Box. Our community engagement has grown further, with special events such as VE Day, Tapp into Reading, and supporting local sports clubs, schools and sporting events.

Congratulations to the Prep School children for an action-packed year of learning, personal development and fun!

Sport

It has been yet another fabulous year of sport at NPS, combining maximum participation, a competitive spirit and plenty of success. Outstanding sportsmanship has been on display across the board, with every child showing empathy and encouragement to one another.

The Under 9s A team enjoyed an unbeaten rugby season, winning 8 out of their 9 matches against other local Prep schools. Every pupil within the U9 age group represented the School in Cricket, Football, Hockey, Netball and Rugby. No less than eight U9 Boys and Girls were selected to run in the U11 Primary Schools cross-country event, with PP in Year 3 being selected for the A team that eventually ended up securing 2nd Place overall in the race.

The U11 Rugby team had a very successful season, beating the majority of sides that we played this year, with incredible victories against St Lawrence College Prep, Lorenden School, Ashford Prep School, Kings Rochester Prep, Wellesley Haddon Dene, Spring Grove School and Dover College Junior School. All the players should be very proud of their achievements this season. The standout fixture of the season came against Deal and Betteshanger Rugby Club in the reinstated David Storrie Memorial Cup. Deal and Betteshanger at U11 level lose very few games at county level but NPS were more than a match for them and won in terrific fashion.

Our U11A Girls Hockey squad fell short of securing an unbeaten season by one match, against Junior King's, enjoying a hugely successful season.

Once again we were able to host our prestigious annual Primary Schools U11 Cross-country relay race with the U11A and B Mixed cross-country teams ending up as 2nd and 8th Place winners respectively out of 29 teams.

The U11A Hardball Cricket team were close to an unbeaten season, falling at the last hurdle against a touring side from Windlesham House in Sussex. For the fourth year in a row, we were able to select an U11A Hardball team, plus U11A and U11B Mixed Kwik Cricket squads, resulting in every child representing the School at Cricket within the U11 age group. Congratulations go to EP, OS and HJ for being selected in the U11 Eastern Vikings District Cricket Team.

JC very successfully represented Kent U13 at various Badminton Tournaments across the UK, plus the England U11 squad at an International Tournament in Belgium.

The U13A Football squad once again secured the runners-up spot in the local Annual Prep Schools Molten Golden Football League. Each member of the 1st XI were 'herculean' throughout the season and should be very proud of this incredible achievement.

Our U13 Girls gained a very impressive 1st Place overall in the Annual Prep Schools U13 Wainman Cup cross-country event held here at NPS, with CR securing 2nd Place individually, equaling the joint highest place finisher for NPS in the race's 46-year history! The U13 Boys then achieved the double by securing 1st Place in the Annual Prep Schools U13 Stevens Cup Cross-Country event.

In rugby, the U13s were also victorious in the David Storrie Memorial Cup against Deal and Betteshanger RFC in what was an inspirational, tenacious and truly courageous rugby encounter. It was amazing to offer up U13 Boys Hockey fixtures once again during the rugby season.

U13A netball won all but two of their matches throughout the season, culminating in a feisty win over St Edmund's. Every girl within the U13 age group represented the school in either the A, B or C IncrediCricket teams throughout the season, as well as numerous hardball fixtures.

The 1st Team Hardball Cricket were victorious in the annual Prep School 6 a side Cricket Tournament held at Duke of York's. Congratulations to NA who was yet again selected to play for the Kent U13 Cricket Team this season.

Sport continues to flourish and develop at Northbourne Park School. The dedication, spirit and energy with which our children continue to play their sport is well noted across the local circuit. We are famous for

playing with such discipline and resilience, being competitive and yet considered in our approach. Our manner is successful and that is because 'IT MATTERS!' We shall continue to defend Fortress Northbourne!

The Arts

With the introduction of Drama as a timetabled specialist subject this year, the Arts subjects have gone from strength to strength. Throughout the year, pupils have taken part in a range of performances and productions, showcasing a great range of talents and confidence in public speaking.

In Pre-Prep, highlights included the popular and heart-warming traditions of Nativity and Mothers' Day services, as well as the informal concerts for individual musicians. The Art exhibition was a fabulous event, displaying a wide range of creativity for our youngest pupils.

Further up the school, the annual Christingle Service for Years 3 and 4 was a delight, as always, and the Junior production of 'Madagascar' a true highlight. The senior production 'The Wizard of Oz' was hugely successful, with fabulous performances from our senior pupils, especially VS, CFP, FK and BR. Record numbers of pupils took part in the informal concerts and summer concerts this year.

Northbourne's Got Talent and Historical Costume Day were outstanding events, with memorable speeches from RR, OB and AJ. RCB and IC also gave stellar performances at both events, demonstrating their excellent singing and acting skills.

The Northbourne Choir has gone from strength to strength this year, with high numbers of boys and girls taking part. Performances included a joint rehearsal and performance with St Edmund's School, singing at Evensong in Canterbury Cathedral, Christmas carols in a local Care Home, as well as school events such as the Carol Concert, music concerts and Speech Day. With regular singing assemblies for all on a Thursday morning, Northbourne is still very much a singing school.

Boarding

This year has been marked by academic accomplishments, personal development, and a strong sense of community within the boarding environment. We welcomed over 60 full-time students this year from diverse backgrounds and countries. Each and every boarder has displayed our core school values of respect, love, tolerance, courage, kindness and loyalty in one form or another during the course of the year and we are proud of them all for their achievements.

We have also welcomed many day pupils into the boarding houses to enjoy our Friday Theme Nights, which included a Heroes and Villains evening, Fun Olympics, Bingo and our very popular Hawaii night. We look forward to restarting these Theme Nights restart in September.

I would like to thank all the parents that have put their children into boarding this year and enriched the Boarding Houses even further.

We have enjoyed some wonderful trips. The most memorable have been Christmas shopping in Canterbury, followed by the pantomime, and Chessington World of Adventures. Alongside this many hours have been spent jumping, somersaulting, shooting and climbing!

We have enjoyed two 'Yes Days' during the year when boarders are allowed to request things and staff must say yes! The children enjoyed breakfast and lunch in their houses, a massive game of hide and seek indoors,

McFlurries and sleeping in different dorms. Poor Will even had to say yes to being pampered and having make-up put on him!

This year, several upgrades have been made to the boarding facilities, including refurbished toilets and showers, new mattresses, new computers, and some very popular bean bags!

Thank you to our boarding prefects for making the houses run so smoothly, and to all our boarders this year who have made NPS such a special place.

Leavers - UK Destination Schools

Year 8

Kent College, Canterbury	Academic, Music & Sports Scholarship
Haileybury School	
St Edmund's School, Canterbury	
Stonyhurst College	
Sherbourne Girls' School	
Leighton Park	Sports Scholarship
Clifton College	Academic Scholarship
St Lawrence College	Academic Scholarship
Sherbourne Boys' School	
Kent College, Canterbury	Art Scholarship
Barton Court Grammar School	
Duke of York's Royal Military School	Sports Scholarship

Year 6

Kent College, Canterbury
Duke of York's Royal Military School
Sir Roger Manwood's Grammar School
Dover Grammar School
Simon Langton Grammar School
Sir Roger Manwood's Grammar School