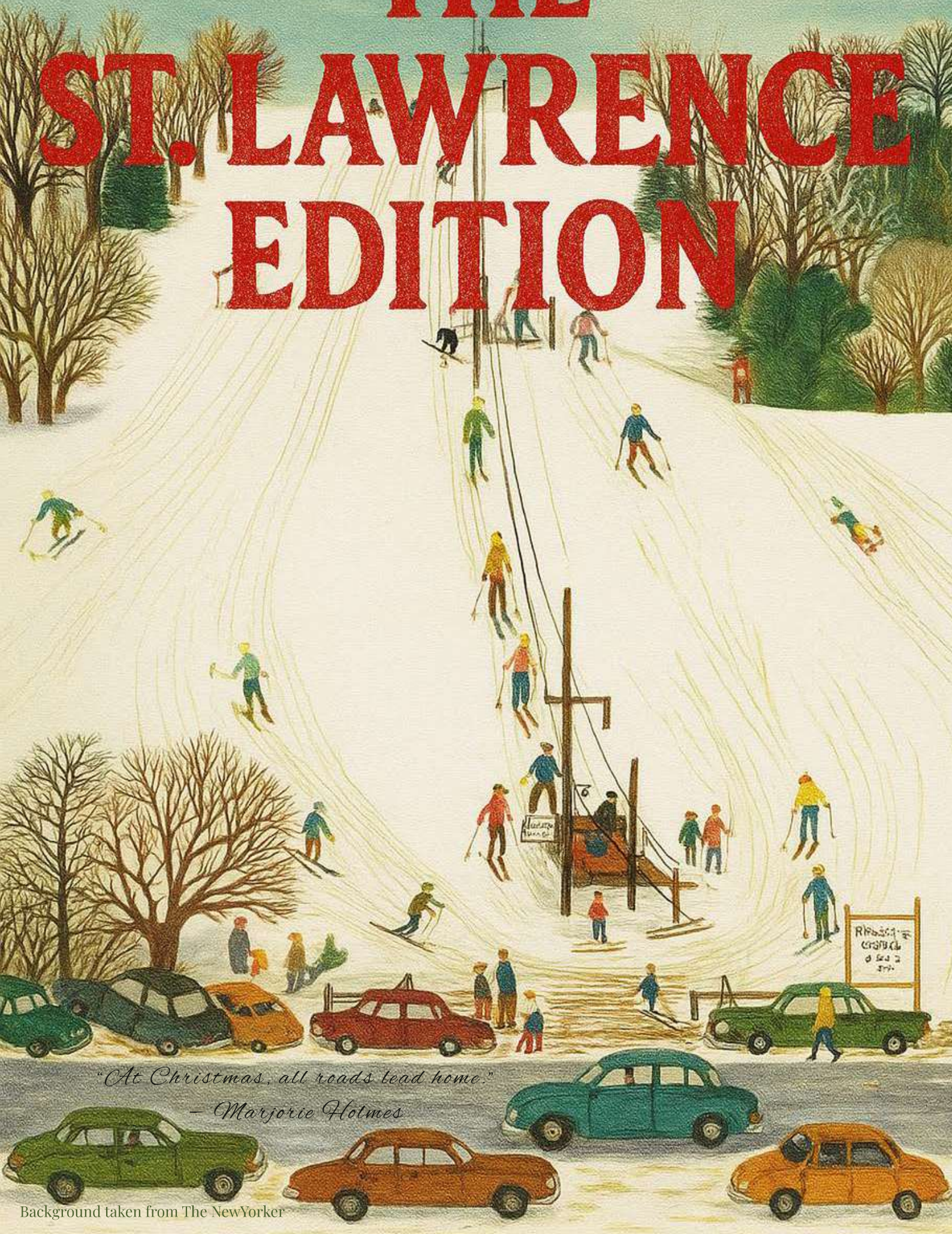


THE ST. LAWRENCE EDITION



"At Christmas, all roads lead home."

— Marjorie Holmes

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The ST. LAWRENCE EDITION EDITORIAL TEAM



Silia Konti

Year 12

Penelope Androna

Year 12

Melina Anastasopoulou

Year 12

As we wrap up the year, our Winter Issue brings together some of our favourite moments and stories from this season. It was our favourite issue to create because Christmas makes everything feel warmer, brighter and full of joy. We've loved capturing everything that makes St. Lawrence feel alive, even in the cold. From festive events and pupil achievements to small everyday moments, this issue is all about celebrating our school community and the things that make this time of year special.

PRESENT *and* IMPRESS

Every Tuesday during form time, pupils gather for assemblies led by teachers, departments and pupil groups. These weekly sessions give everyone a chance to come together as a school community — to share ideas, celebrate achievements and explore new topics. From wellbeing and science, to culture and national celebrations, assemblies play an important role in encouraging learning beyond the classroom.



Introducing the St Lawrence Edition Magazine 4th November

A sneak peek into our school magazine, where the editorial team shared upcoming stories, student creativity and how everyone can get involved. The assembly got everyone excited about contributing ideas and reading the first edition.



Remembrance 11th November

An assembly reflecting on those who sacrificed for freedom, led by the History Department, emphasizing respect, memory and learning from the past. Pupils were encouraged to pause, reflect and appreciate the significance of history in shaping today's world.



Politechnio on the 17th of November 18th November

A look at the significance of this historic day in Greece, connecting pupils with national history and the importance of standing up for democracy. The assembly reminded everyone of the power of youth voices and collective action.



International Day for Tolerance 23th November

Celebrating diversity and promoting kindness, understanding and respect among pupils across the school. It encouraged pupils to think about how small acts of tolerance can make a big difference in everyday life.



Romania School Trip 2th December



A summary of the school trip, highlighting cultural learning, exciting activities and the chance to explore a new country. It gave pupils a taste of the adventure and learning experiences that lie ahead.



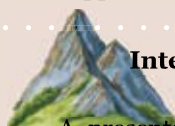
World Disability Day 4th December

The Biology Ambassadors delivered a presentation in recognition of World Disability Day, raising awareness of disability and inclusion. The session highlighted the importance of understanding different abilities, promoting equality and fostering a supportive and inclusive school community.



International Mountain Day 9th December

A presentation celebrating mountains, their importance to the environment and inspiring pupils to appreciate and protect natural landscapes. Pupils were encouraged to think about how humans can live in harmony with nature and safeguard these natural wonders.

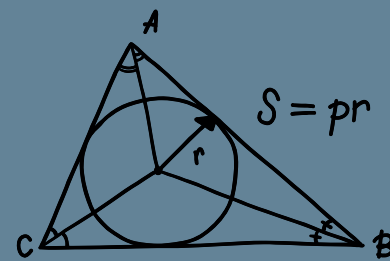


Celebrating Success 16th December

A celebratory presentation recognising the highest number of merits, where the top three pupils from each year group were proudly acknowledged. The event highlighted outstanding effort, commitment and positive attitudes, celebrating pupils who consistently go above and beyond in school life.



LOOKING BACK...



Senior Maths Challenge 2025

Our senior pupils take on one of the UKMT's toughest mathematical competitions

Last month, a group of mathematicians took on the prestigious UK Senior Maths Challenge — a national competition designed to stretch problem-solving skills far beyond the classroom. The challenge consisted of 25 non-calculator questions that required creative thinking, logic and reasoning. Whether participants were navigating geometric puzzles or decoding number patterns, the atmosphere in the exam room was one of determination and excitement.

We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who participated, especially given the challenge's reputation for being both rigorous and rewarding. Their enthusiasm highlights the strong culture of mathematical curiosity within our school. The results for this challenge are as follows: Zhuoxuan Ying with a silver award and the highest grade for Year 13 and Hyeyoon Jun with a silver award and the highest grade in Year 12.



IN CASE *you* MISSED IT...

Maps, Mud, and Memories

IA Bronze pupils tackle their first Mt. Parnitha expedition with courage and laughter

SATURDAY 8th - SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2025 & SATURDAY 22nd - SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2025



Congratulations to our IA Bronze pupils, who recently completed their first training expeditions to Mt. Parnitha over two weekends — 8th–9th November and 22nd–23rd November. Two groups of Year 10 pupils embraced the adventure with enthusiasm, teamwork and plenty of laughter, even when the weather tried to dampen their spirits.

Over two days of hiking and an overnight stay at the Flambouri refuge, pupils enjoyed warm meals, shared stories by the fire and built memories that will last long after the expedition ended. Along the way, they also practised orientation and navigation skills — learning how to read maps, calculate distances, estimate walking times and confidently take a bearing.

On the trails, pupils put their new skills into action while rotating through team leader roles, gaining experience in leadership, problem-solving and supporting one another through challenges.

These expeditions marked a fantastic start to the IA Bronze programme, giving pupils a solid foundation for future adventures while fostering resilience, independence and camaraderie. Well done to everyone involved — the mud, the maps and the memories all made this first expedition truly unforgettable!



Debating at Deree

A challenging weekend that pushed us, taught us, and brought us together

In November, our pupils took part in the two-day Deree Invitational, joining teams from schools across Athens for a series of British Parliamentary-style debates. The format, known for its fast pace and strategic structure, pushed debaters to build clear arguments, think on their feet and adapt quickly to each motion.

Although we didn't secure any official wins, our performance throughout the rounds was steady and confident. Pupils delivered well-structured speeches, handled points of information with growing assurance and showed real improvement from one debate to the next. For several participants, this was their first competitive experience, making their progress even more noteworthy.

November 14th – 15th 2025



Beyond the debates themselves, the weekend offered the chance to meet students from other schools, exchange ideas and make new friends. The atmosphere was supportive and engaging, and the opportunity to watch more experienced teams provided valuable insight into different debating styles.

Overall, the tournament was an enriching and memorable experience—one that strengthened pupils' skills, expanded our perspectives and reminded us how much can be gained simply by stepping up and taking part.



Remembrance Day **November 11th 2025**

St. Lawrence College pupils take part in a day of reflection and respect

Under a bright autumn sky at the War Cemetery in Paleio Faliro, St. Lawrence College was honoured to support the British Embassy's annual Remembrance Day Service. The ceremony brought together ambassadors, dignitaries and members of the international community to honour the men and women who gave their lives in service.

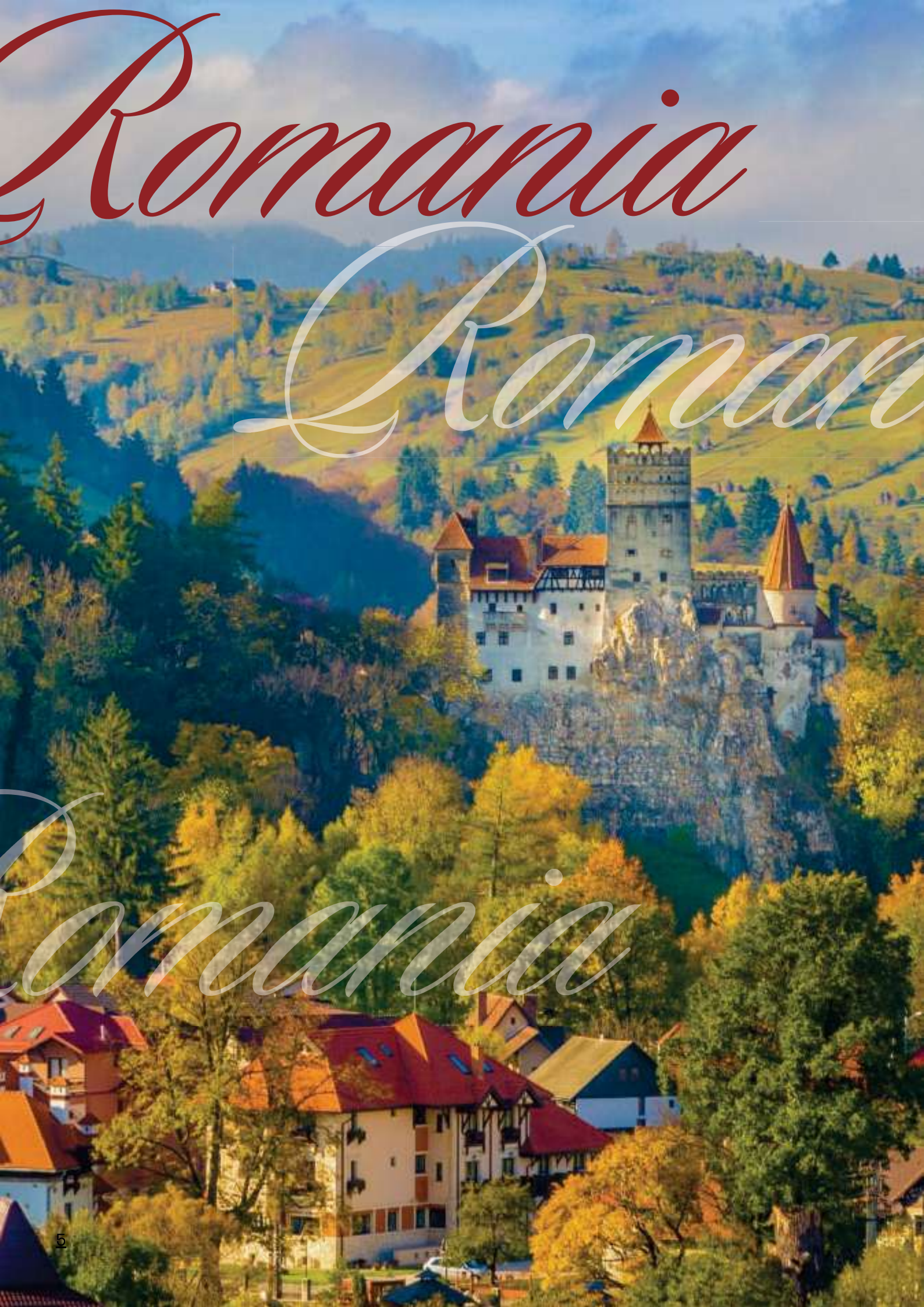
Our Junior School pupils played a meaningful role in the event, assisting dignitaries as wreath layers and helping with the sale of poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion. Their involvement reflected the compassion, respect and sense of responsibility that our school strives to cultivate.

Senior School pupils also represented St. Lawrence College with pride. Max Stephenson and Ivy Mae Geraci delivered thoughtful and moving readings, while other pupils contributed musically by playing the violin and singing during the service. Their performances added a gentle, reflective tone to the ceremony, highlighting the importance of remembrance through both words and music.

The event was attended by ambassadors and officials from around the world, including the British and American Ambassadors to Greece — a reminder of the enduring significance of Remembrance Day and the unity it inspires.

We are deeply proud of our pupils for their contribution to such an important occasion. Through their participation, they helped honour the past while demonstrating the values that define our school community.





Romania

Romania

Romania

Castles, Culture, and City Streets: Year 12 & 13 Trip

November 12th – 15th 2025

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This November, our Year 12 and 13 pupils travelled to Romania for a four-day journey that combined history, culture and plenty of fun. Accompanied by Ms Stafford, Ms Kladidis, Ms Michaelides and Mr Courts, the group began their adventure with an early morning flight to Bucharest before heading north into the mountains.

The first stop was Bran, where pupils explored the legendary Vlad Țepeș Castle, famously associated with Dracula. Its misty towers and dramatic setting made for a memorable introduction to Transylvania. As Ms Michaelides described it, “Dracula’s castle was suitably spooky, with its labyrinthine stairways and tiny, cell-like rooms containing hidden shadowy corners and all manner of gruesome objet d’art.” From there, the group continued to Brașov, checked into their hotel and wandered the colourful streets of the old town, enjoying the lively atmosphere. “Brașov was a beautiful historical town with cobbled streets and tiny little cafés, all set against the spectacular Carpathian mountains,” she added.

The following day included a tour of Brașov and a visit to Peleș Castle in Sinaia, celebrated for its ornate interiors and alpine surroundings.



Later, the group returned to Bucharest, where two highlights awaited: a visit to the Romanian Parliament — a clear fan favourite due to its scale and grandeur — and the newly built National Cathedral, now the largest Orthodox church in the world. Being able to visit the Parliamentary Palace was an extra treat everyone loved, reflecting the enthusiasm felt by both students and teachers.

Afternoons allowed pupils to explore the city at their own pace, while evenings offered a chance to relax and enjoy the bustling Bucharest streets together. Bucharest was a lively centre with impressive buildings and great places to eat, capturing the vibrant contrast to the quieter mountain towns.

A final stop at the Afi Cotroceni centre rounded off the trip before the evening flight back to Athens. Despite the cold and frequent rain, the atmosphere throughout the journey remained positive. Pupils made the most of each day, enjoyed exploring together and returned with plenty of stories — and very cold fingers. As Ms Michaelides put it: “Most importantly, we teachers loved the trip because it allowed us to spend quality time with our amazing Year 12s and 13s — they were an absolute joy and we had so much fun!”



BOOK EXHIBITIONS

A World of Words

Exploring books, authors, and the joy of reading at this year's exhibitions

November 26th & 27th

Our English Department recently hosted an exciting book exhibition that captivated pupils and faculty. The exhibition featured a diverse collection of books, ranging from classic literature to contemporary novels and reference materials. Pupils had the opportunity to explore various genres, discover new authors and engage in discussions about their favourite books. The event highlighted the importance of reading, showing how books can broaden our knowledge, stimulate creativity and develop critical thinking skills. The exhibition, much like every year, not only promoted literacy and learning but also created a vibrant space for knowledge sharing, making it a memorable and meaningful experience for the entire school community.

Turning Pages, Sparking Curiosity

A vibrant celebration of Greek stories, authors, and imagination

December 10th

The Greek Book Exhibition brought a vibrant buzz to our school as pupils explored a rich selection of titles from Kalendi Editions, guided by teachers who helped them discover stories suited to their interests and reading level. Throughout the day, classes browsed shelves filled with contemporary Greek literature and had the exciting opportunity to meet guest authors who spoke about their work, shared their creative journeys and signed copies of their books. From Vassilis Motsakos' powerful exploration of empathy and bullying, Marianna Koumarianou's enchanting portrayal of Yannoulis Chalepas, to Eleni Svoronou's compelling dive into history and the imaginative AI-themed collection presented by Aggeliki Mastromichalaki, the exhibition offered pupils an inspiring, hands-on encounter with the world of Greek storytelling—one that left many eager to read more.



Madrid: City of Light, Life & History

A glimpse into Year 10 & 11's immersive adventure

November 26th – 29th 2025

This term, our Year 10 and 11 pupils enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to Madrid. Along with exploring the magnificent Royal Palace and the bustling Puerta del Sol, one of the biggest highlights was visiting Madrid's iconic football stadium, where pupils got a behind-the-scenes look at the pitch, the stands and the club's history. They also visited the world-famous Prado Museum and of course, sampled plenty of churros con chocolate. The trip offered a fantastic mix of culture, sport and adventure, giving pupils the chance to immerse themselves in Spanish life while creating memories they will never forget.

After an early morning departure from Athens, the group arrived in Madrid and began the adventure with a guided tour of the city's historic centre. Pupils explored famous streets and landmarks before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant and checking into Hotel Praga, followed by dinner together.

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The next day was dedicated to culture and art. Visits to the Prado Museum, Retiro Park and the Reina Sofía Museum allowed pupils to experience some of Spain's most important artworks, including Picasso's Guernica. The programme also included a full-day excursion to the medieval city of Toledo, where pupils discovered its rich history and unique atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the trip was the evening Flamenco show, which offered an exciting insight into traditional Spanish music and dance. On the final day, pupils visited the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, followed by free time for shopping before returning to Athens.

The Madrid trip was both educational and enjoyable, giving pupils the chance to practise Spanish, learn about Spanish culture and make lasting memories.



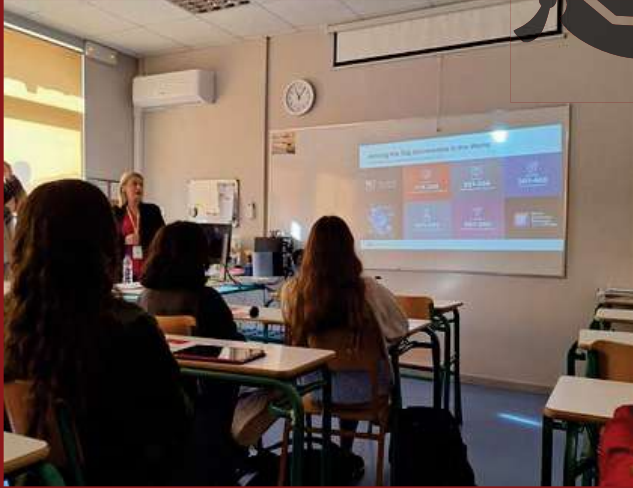




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Discovering Degrees

Nicosia University's
Talk with Years 12 & 13
November 27th 2025



Students in Years 12 and 13 had the valuable opportunity to hear from representatives of the University of Nicosia, one of Europe's leading institutions for medical and health-science education. The visiting team delivered an engaging and informative presentation, offering insight into what it takes to pursue a career in medicine as well as the wide range of academic pathways the university provides. During the session, students learned about the structure of the university's internationally recognised Medical School, including entry requirements, course content, clinical training opportunities, and the global partnerships that support placements and research. The speakers also highlighted other degree programmes available at the University of Nicosia—ranging from life sciences and psychology to business, digital sciences, and international relations—showcasing just how diverse the university's academic offerings are. The presentation encouraged students to think ahead about their future studies, ask questions, and explore which fields best align with their interests and aspirations. With application season approaching, the visit provided timely guidance and inspiration, helping senior students gain clarity and confidence as they prepare for the next steps in their academic journey.

Students, families, and staff from St. Lawrence College came together once again to support a meaningful environmental initiative, taking part in a community tree-planting event organised by Oloi Mazi Boroume. The gathering aimed to contribute to the reforestation of the local area and raise awareness about the importance of environmental stewardship. Participants met at the end of Metsovou Street in Glyfada, where volunteers and organisers welcomed everyone and provided the guidance and tools needed for the activity. From the very beginning, the atmosphere was energetic and positive, with students of all ages eager to roll up their sleeves and help restore green spaces. Throughout the morning, the SLC community worked side by side, planting saplings, learning about the long-term impact of reforestation, and experiencing first-hand how small actions can make a big difference. The event not only encouraged environmental responsibility, but also highlighted the power of collective effort—showing how communities can come together to build a more sustainable future.

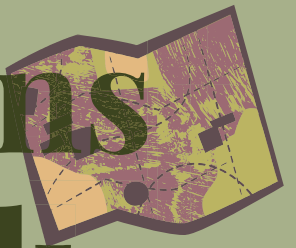
Growing a Greener Future

SLC Joins Community Tree-Planting Event

November 30th 2025



Maps, Mountains and Teamwork



IA Bronze Learners Tackle Leadership Challenges on Hymettus

December 10th 2025

The IA Bronze group returned to the mountains last week, this time heading to Mount Hymettus for a day dedicated to strengthening the navigational skills they first learned during their previous expedition to Parnitha. With maps, compasses and growing confidence, the pupils were ready to put their developing abilities to the test in a more challenging environment.

To encourage teamwork and shared responsibility, the pupils were divided into three groups. Each team took turns serving as leaders, guiding their peers through the varied trails and navigating key checkpoints along the route. The leadership rotation ensured that every participant experienced the challenge of decision-making, route planning and time management—core elements of the IA Bronze Award.

Throughout the day, the teams demonstrated not only technical skill but also collaboration and resilience. Leaders consulted their teammates, discussed route options and made thoughtful decisions before moving forward. Those not in the lead provided support by keeping pace, checking bearings and encouraging one another as the terrain shifted from gentle paths to more demanding sections.

The training session concluded with all groups successfully completing their assigned routes. Instructors noted how much the pupils had grown since their first navigation session in Parnitha—this time showing greater independence, clearer communication and stronger confidence in the outdoors.

The experience at Mount Hymettus marked another step forward in their IA journey, reinforcing both practical skills and the teamwork ethos at the heart of the Bronze Award.



Debate. Diplomacy. Determination.



St. Lawrence delegates shine with confidence and collaboration at CGS MUN
December 12th–14th 2025

St. Lawrence pupils demonstrated outstanding skill, confidence and teamwork while participating in the CGS Model United Nations conference. Throughout the three-day event, delegates engaged in rigorous debate, diplomatic negotiations and collaborative problem-solving, representing their assigned countries with professionalism and enthusiasm.

Pupils prepared thoroughly in advance, researching global issues and developing well-structured arguments that allowed them to contribute meaningfully to committee discussions. During sessions, St. Lawrence delegates spoke with clarity, listened respectfully to opposing viewpoints and worked constructively with fellow participants to draft resolutions and reach consensus.



Their dedication and diplomacy were recognised at the closing ceremony, where Arcelia Maniatis and Felicity Souvatzis were awarded Best Delegate, an exceptional achievement that reflects their leadership, critical thinking and commitment to respectful dialogue.

The CGS MUN experience provided pupils with a valuable opportunity to develop public speaking skills, deepen their understanding of international affairs and practise collaboration in a global context. The conference was a proud moment for St. Lawrence and a testament to the determination and excellence of its delegates.

LET'S GO

Lawrence



LET'S GO!!!

Since half term, our school teams attended various tournaments.

Here is how they did:



BOYS' U16 VOLLEYBALL :

The boys battled through a uniquely intense tournament, with every match decided on a tie break. They claimed a hard-fought win against ACS, narrowly lost to Champion and finished strong with a victory over ISA. Their silver medal reflects not only their skill but also the impressive fighting spirit they showed in every single game.



GIRLS' U16 FOOTBALL :

Our girls also competed with great spirit, securing 3rd place after winning 1 of their 3 matches. Throughout the day, all our pupils showed exceptional teamwork, supporting each other through every high and low. We are extremely proud of their effort and display throughout the tournament.

GIRLS' U16 VOLLEYBALL :

Our Under-16 Girls' Volleyball team lit up the tournament with their energy and precision. They controlled every group match with powerful serves, quick reactions and a level of coordination that kept the momentum firmly on their side. In the final, against Champion, they showed grit and focus against a strong opponent, but lost 2-0. Their silver medals and second-place trophy make us incredibly proud.



BOYS' U16 FOOTBALL :

The Under-16 Boys' Football team impressed from the very first whistle, moving through the group stage with sharp passing, calm defending and a confidence that carried them straight into the final. The last match was fast, physical and tightly contested, with the boys fighting for every ball. Although the result didn't fall their way in the end, their silver medal reflects a day of smart play, determination and real team chemistry.



Anatolia Aegean Tournament 2025

From cold, rainy matches to walks at the square, our pupils represented their school with pride and spirit.

December 4th–7th 2025



This year's football fixtures took both teams away from school for several days for the Aegean Athletic Tournament, an annual competition that brings together schools from across Greece. While the tournament includes volleyball, basketball, and football, our school sends teams to compete in football only. This year marked our fourth year participating, following a pause caused by COVID-19. In the first year back after the pandemic, our girls' team won first place, and in subsequent years, our teams have consistently achieved second and third place finishes, demonstrating a strong tradition of competitive football.

With an early departure caused by ongoing farmers' demonstrations, the journey was longer than expected, and the teams arrived at their hotel at around 7:30 in the evening, followed by dinner and rest.

The weather played its part throughout the trip. Cold, rainy conditions added an extra challenge on the pitch, demanding concentration and adaptability from both teams. Despite this, the girls' team delivered three competitive performances, drawing 3–3 against Athens College, losing 4–2 to Champion, and finishing with a 1–1 draw against Pierce. These results placed the team just short of qualification for the semi-finals, highlighting how closely contested the group stage was.

The boys' opening match against Athens College proved difficult, but they regrouped for their next game and came away with a 3–1 win against Pinewood. Across the games, the emphasis was not only on results but on learning to respond to different opponents and match situations. An unlucky group draw meant the boys faced Athens College, widely regarded as one of the strongest teams in the competition, and therefore making progression from the group stage especially demanding.

Away from the pitch, the trip offered moments to relax and connect as a group. A visit to the mall provided a warm welcome before the matches, giving pupils time to unwind, explore and enjoy each other's company after a long day of travel. These quieter moments were just as important in shaping the overall experience. Support from teammates and pupils was constant throughout the games. Cheering from the sidelines created a strong sense of unity, lifting spirits during difficult moments and celebrating the efforts on the pitch. The encouragement did not go unnoticed, reinforcing the importance of collective support in school sport.

Saturday night offered a calmer end to a busy schedule, with pupils taking a walk at the square after the boys' final match. Sunday brought the long journey home, which called for plenty of rest and recovery. In spite of the extended bus ride, the experience was filled with conversation, laughter and reflection, proving that the value of an immersive trip far outweighs the convenience of a short plane journey.

Trips like this extend far beyond the final score. They build confidence, strengthen friendships and give pupils valuable experience competing away from home. With this year's lessons in mind, the teams will return next season better prepared and ready to build on what was achieved.







Final Whistle of the Term

Teachers and pupils face off in football and volleyball
December 17th 2025

As the final week of term approached, students and staff came together for one of the most anticipated events of the school year: the annual Teachers vs Pupils football and volleyball matches. A much-loved tradition, the event offered a lively and competitive way to close the term, bringing the whole school community together.

Both matches were played in great spirit, with teachers and pupils giving their best on the pitch and on the court. While the competition was intense at times, the atmosphere remained friendly throughout, with plenty of cheering, laughter and memorable moments from either sides. (Both games were won by the teachers)

Adding a special touch to the day, a number of former pupils returned to school to take part and support the teams. Invited to play alongside current pupils, their presence highlighted the lasting connection between graduates and the school and made the event even more meaningful.

More than just a set of matches, the day was a celebration of school spirit, teamwork and shared memories. It served as the perfect way to mark the end of term, reminding everyone that some traditions are worth keeping year after year.



WHAT THE LITTLE ONES ARE UP TO...

Ancient Adventures with Year 1 26th November 2025

Year 1 stepped straight into ancient Greece during their trip to the Keratea Cultural Park, where they tried out traditional games, explored history through play and learned how young athletes once trained and competed. It was hands-on, lively and the perfect way to bring the ancient world to life.



Charity Ninjas Take Over! — Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale Magic

9th and 10th December 2025

The Charity Ninjas brought unstoppable festive energy to campus, filling the halls with homemade treats, cheerful stalls and the warm spirit of giving. From glittering crafts to irresistible bakes, the bazaar became a buzzing holiday hotspot where the whole community came together to support a great cause—and enjoy every sweet second of it.



Santa's Visit to St. Lawrence 15th and 16th December 2025

For two wonderful days, the library turned into Santa's cosy hideaway as pupils whispered wishes, listened to festive stories and shared giggles with the man in red himself. The visit brought pure Christmas magic to St. Lawrence—one delighted smile at a time.



HANDS THAT HELP, HEARTS THAT CARE



Giving Back This Festive Season - The PIKPA Raffle & Visit

This festive season, our school community came together to support PIKPA Voula through a charity raffle that highlighted the power of generosity and collective effort. Thanks to the immediate and enthusiastic response from families and staff, the initiative was a great success, allowing the school to provide PIKPA with all the requested items and more.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed, whether by donating items, offering prizes, or purchasing raffle tickets. Your kindness transformed a simple idea into a meaningful act of giving and demonstrated the strong sense of community that defines St. Lawrence College.

Following the raffle draw, which took place during a whole-school assembly, a group of Senior School House Captains and volunteers visited PIKPA Voula to deliver the donations in person. PIKPA supports young adults who, for various reasons, have been abandoned and do not have families of their own, making the work they do especially vital.

Seeing the facilities, meeting the residents and understanding their daily lives made the visit a truly eye-opening and educational experience. The gratitude and warmth shown by the young adults we met was deeply moving and it reinforced just how meaningful our support was. What we did was not only helpful but genuinely special.

More than just a charitable activity, the experience reminded us of the importance of empathy, gratitude and social responsibility. It was a moment that many of us will carry with us, reinforcing the idea that even small actions can make a meaningful difference when done together.

How the SLC Services Society continues to turn compassion into action

At St. Lawrence College, the Services Society stands as a shining example of compassion and teamwork. Each year, pupils from across the school come together to plan and carry out projects that make a real difference in people's lives — from local initiatives to international causes. Their goal is simple yet powerful: to serve others and spread kindness wherever it's needed most.

One of the Society's longest-running projects is its support for refugees arriving on the island of Samos. Since 2015, pupils have helped collect clothing, shoes and other essentials for families arriving in Greece, often after long and difficult journeys. During this year's Autumn Festival, donations poured in once again — from warm clothes and shoes to funds that will go toward buying much-needed underwear and socks.

But the Society's work doesn't stop there. With Christmas approaching, members are preparing to assemble gift /boxes for children in need, filled with small but meaningful presents like books, scarves, soaps, and toothpaste. These boxes are a reminder that even the smallest act of kindness can brighten someone's day.

The Services Society embodies the spirit of St. Lawrence — empathy, community and service. Through every project, big or small, our pupils show that helping others is not just something we do — it's part of who we are.

UNFILTERED...



FLYING THE GREEK FLAG ELLIE'S ROAD TO THE WORLD CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP

For most pupils, juggling schoolwork, hobbies and social life is already a challenge. For Ellie Georgaki, it also includes preparing to represent Greece at the European Cheerleading Championship as well as the World Championship in Orlando. We sat down with her to talk nerves, training and what it really feels like to perform on a global stage.

Q: How did you feel when you found out you would represent Greece at the World Cheerleading Championship?

A: At first, I felt very nervous seeing the results. But when I finally saw my name on the list, it felt like a knot in my stomach had loosened. I was overwhelmed — in the best way.

Q: How are you preparing for both the Europeans and the World Championship in Orlando?

A: We have trainings and rehearsals several times a week, for many hours each session. It's intense but it's also the most rewarding part of the process. You build strength, discipline and so much trust within your team.

Q: What motivates you during long practices or tough days?

A: Knowing I'm representing Greece and performing with people I love. Even on difficult days, that keeps me going.

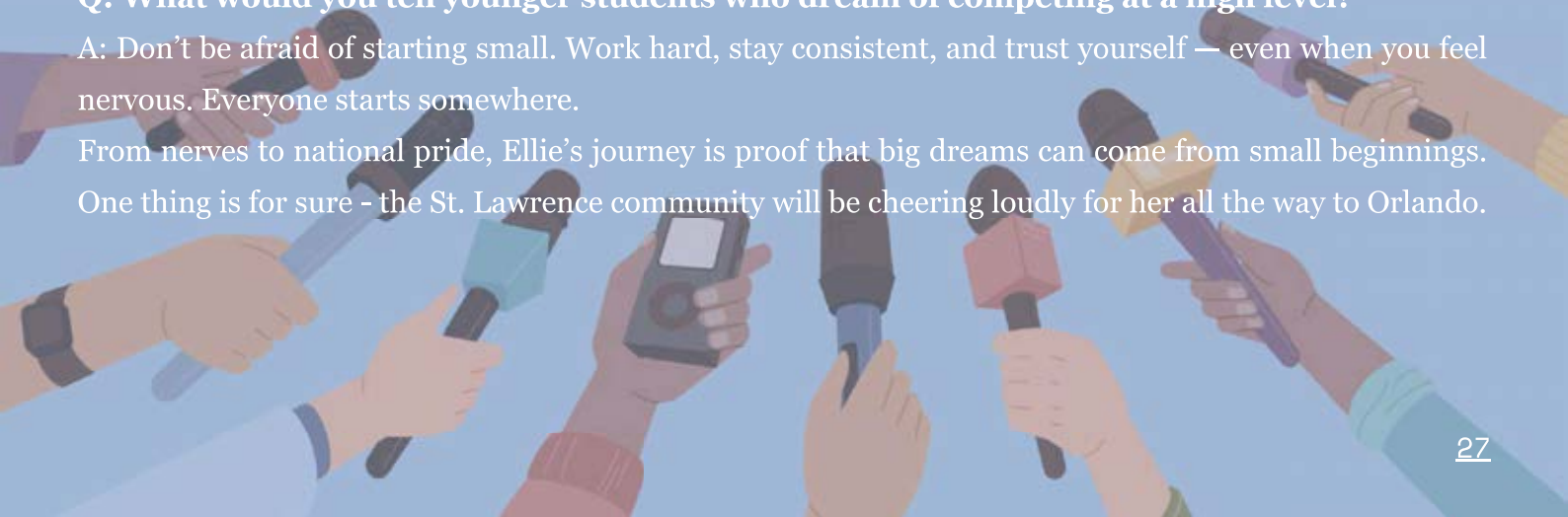
Q: What's the best part about being part of a national team?

A: The friendships. The feeling of stepping on the mat together and knowing you've all worked for the same goal.

Q: What would you tell younger students who dream of competing at a high level?

A: Don't be afraid of starting small. Work hard, stay consistent, and trust yourself — even when you feel nervous. Everyone starts somewhere.

From nerves to national pride, Ellie's journey is proof that big dreams can come from small beginnings. One thing is for sure - the St. Lawrence community will be cheering loudly for her all the way to Orlando.





FACE TO FACE WITH LIONS

A SUMMER IN UGANDA THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Mr Feeney, during his third year of university, had an opportunity to travel to Uganda to participate in voluntary teaching and aid work. His placement began in Jinja, the second-largest city in the country, where he worked in an AIDS clinic. "I was using carpentry skills in an AIDS clinic and then I was teaching in a place in northern Uganda, where the Lord's Resistance Army was". The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was an armed rebel group that emerged in northern Uganda in the late 1980s, led by Joseph Kony. It claimed to be fighting for a society based on religious principles, but in reality it became known for extreme violence, including the abduction of children, forced recruitment and attacks on civilians across Uganda and neighbouring countries. Joseph Kony presented himself as a spiritual leader, but his actions and the group's activities caused widespread suffering and instability in the region. Today, the LRA is widely recognized as a violent insurgent group, and its history is studied as a warning about how ideology and power can be misused to justify harm. **Mr Feeney** describes his days in Uganda where he spent making repairs, supporting overstretched staff and witnessing the human cost of a disease that had devastated entire communities. "I had to help with some unpleasant things as were the people that lost their lives. It was... yeah. That stuff stays with you." He and a small group of fellow volunteers wanted something ordinary, something beautiful, something that would remind them of the world beyond grief. "We just wanted a photo to mark the extraordinary experience. Something light after a heavy week." The elephants were moving in a straight line across the horizon large, medium, small. A postcard moment. He asked the guide if they could step out for a quick picture. He was with a few Canadians and an Irish girl.

"So we're standing there, this little bunch of tourists, totally oblivious and then we heard a growl."

Two lionesses were crawling toward them.

"The other volunteers started screaming," he laughs now, though he admits he didn't find it funny at the time. "But I don't know; I just snapped into survival mode. Teacher mode. Crisis mode. I told them to not make a sound and sit completely still." They shuffled backward as the lions advanced.

"Constant eye contact, slow movement. And thank God it worked."

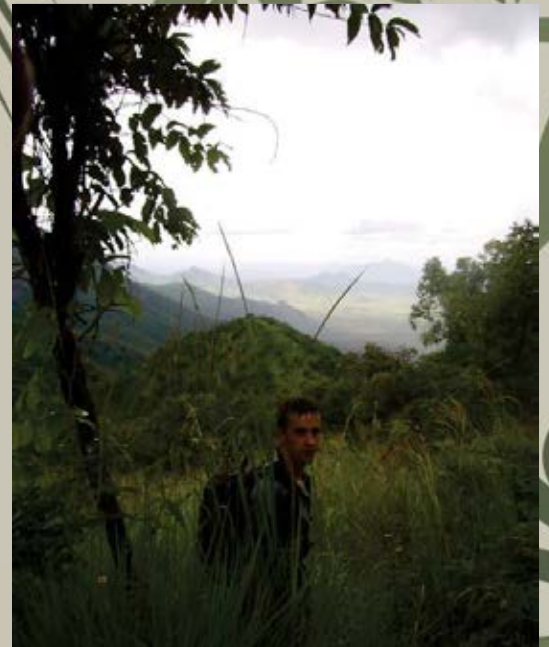
They slipped back into the van just as the lionesses circled it.

"We got an amazing photo in the end," he says. "But it could have gone a very wrong way."

Reflection on his trip:

Interviewer: "How did it feel, once you were back inside?"

Mr Feeney: "Relief, like when you finish a huge exam and find out you passed but stronger than that."



Interviewer: "Would you do anything differently?"

Mr Feeney: "Probably not get out of the van! But it was cool even though it could have gone either way."

Today, when he tells the story, he does so with a mixture of humour, humility and quiet reflection. The lion encounter may be the headline moment—the part everyone leans in to hear—but he maintains that it was only one small piece of a much larger experience.

What truly stayed with him were the people he met: the clinic staff who worked tirelessly with limited resources, the pupils in northern Uganda eager to learn despite the challenges around them and the communities rebuilding themselves with strength and dignity. For our school, the story is more than an entertaining tale. It's a reminder that teachers have lived whole chapters of life before stepping into our classrooms—chapters filled with risks, courage and moments that change their understanding of the world.

Importance of charity:

Through Volunteer World, volunteers have the opportunity to take part in impactful community outreach programs across Uganda that support health, education and social development. Medical outreaches are held twice a week, offering free testing and treatment for illnesses such as malaria, infections and wounds, while also distributing mosquito nets, deworming tablets, vitamin A, reusable sanitary pads and life-saving mama kits to expectant mothers who may otherwise be turned away from health facilities. Volunteers also contribute to women's empowerment initiatives that teach sustainable income-generating skills and provide guidance on health, hygiene and relationships. In Kampala's Kisenyi slum, volunteers work alongside local staff to support street-connected children through counselling, medical care, nutritious meals and pathways back to education and family life. Alongside school, clinic, and home visits, cultural excursions allow volunteers to better understand Ugandan communities while helping create positive long-term change.



GRADUATE INTERVIEWS



Interview with Despoina Salacha: Graduated in 2025 / Studying at UCL

Q: What's one belief or mindset you had in school that completely changed once you graduated?

A: That getting into university was the hard part! Even though university life gives you more freedom, having to take care of yourself whilst also balancing a heavy study load can be overwhelming. Also, there is no longer anyone chasing after you to stay on track or do your work so it's easy to fall behind and forget things. You have to keep yourself accountable.

Interview with Socratis Charitonidis: Graduated in 2023 / Handball Athlete

Q: How did balancing academics and athletics at SLC prepare you for university life?

A: Balancing school and athletics was definitely challenging. My goal had always been to play handball professionally, which meant missing many school days for tournaments and training sessions. Sometimes I wish I had studied harder, but I'm also grateful that I gave everything I had to pursue something I love—and I can proudly say that it paid off.

Q: Which place on campus held the best memories for you- and why?

A: The place that holds my favourite memories is the PE Department office, where my friends and I would spend several lunch breaks hanging out. We'd always end up laughing with our favourite teacher, Mr. Dikaoulis, who never failed to have a new joke ready. Every week he'd show us his favourite funny video, and he'd keep laughing at it every single day until the next one came along.

Your Voices, Your Views!

We asked pupils to share their thoughts through our school-wide survey — and you delivered once again! Here's what you had to say about everything Winter related!

What's your all-time favorite winter or holiday movie?

Home Alone

What's your favourite sweet?

Melomakarona

When do you start decorating for the holidays?

Early December

Would you rather wear ugly Christmas sweaters all winter or only eat fruitcake for dessert?

Ugly Sweaters

What's your favorite winter beverage?

Hot Chocolate

Which song instantly puts you in a festive mood?

"All I Want for Christmas Is You" – Mariah Carey

Do you prefer giving homemade gifts or store-bought gifts?

Store bought

What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

Exchanging gifts

Would you rather have a snowball fight or build a giant snowman?

Snowball fight

What's your favorite winter sport?

Skiing



Express YOURSELF

The English Corner continues to be a space in our magazine dedicated to creativity, expression, and imagination, where students share their voices through poetry, short stories, articles and reflections that inspire and connect our community. In this second edition, we proudly showcase a new selection of student writing that highlights originality, confidence and talent.

From next term, pupils who read the most each term will be featured in future issues — so keep reading! We are delighted to present outstanding pieces that celebrate the creativity and dedication of our writers. The extracts below are from descriptions of apocalyptic scenes.

The silence is loud. It roars and echoes around the dilapidated station walls. Serenity has drowned any sense of violence, leaving behind an eerily quiet, calm after the storm. Sawdust permeates the now open ceiling, suspended in the air like stars, blocking out any remaining sunlight and hope. Gentle gusts of hot wind clash against the piles of debris scattered on the ground, pushing along scorched paper and trails of misery. The once, grand station is now in tatters, swallowed by a never-ending cold.

(Artemis Marrero Morales)

The train carriage itself would have been tremendously grand while alive with fuel rather than the accumulation of mushroom-like organisms that now attach themselves to, and feed upon, its insides. Surprisingly, its headlights are still intact and hanging onto its skeletal sky-blue metallic structure. Apart from the steel base holding it together, almost every other part has been attacked by time. Rust has crawled over the carriage sides, a texture rougher than sandpaper. The frames of the once-windows are now split open by the ravages of acrid smoke. Diseased and decayed, this mechanical colossus now lies on its side.

(Jed Stephenson)

The sky rings with a tumultuous roar. Blazing streaks of neon-cyan lightning pierce the air as it unleashes its wrath on the desolate planet. Gazing upwards, I perceive a canvas of a myriad of blue and grey. As the rumbles of booms of frustration grow louder and louder, the sky rips apart and unleashes a torrent that pounds down onto the station, sending resinous tangs of steam upwards and away. Through the pitiless stream of light, I notice a murder of crows flicking past, as quick as a flash; here one moment, gone the next. Their muted cries are soon enveloped into the raging tumult of the sky, never to be heard again.

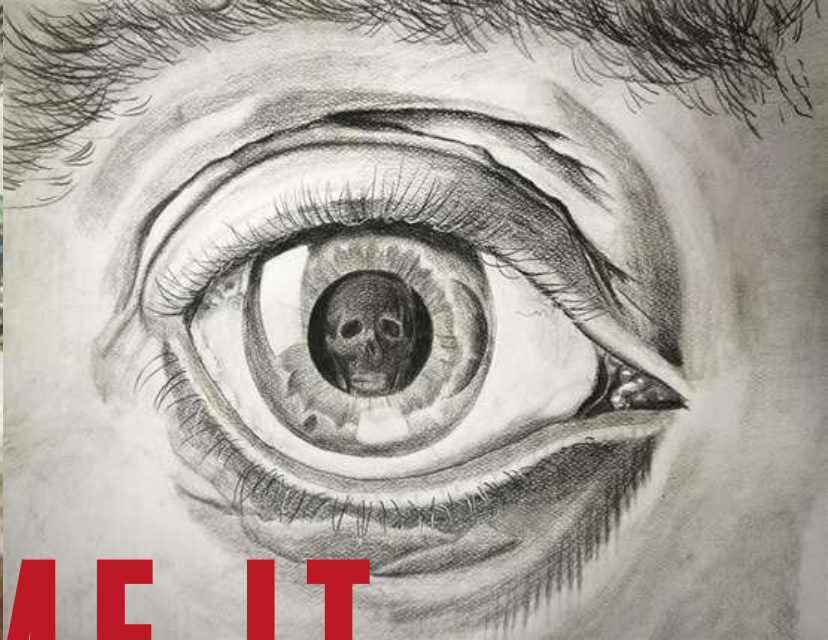
(Aikaterini Grammi-Trigkatzi)

I delicately take another step, the crunch of grime under the sole of my shoe echoing and multiplying against the crumbling stone walls of the now empty station. The space is so vast, like a yawning mouth, that I feel myself like a particle of dust in the sea of silence - and yet, it is all so dark and cold, I am conspicuously, uncomfortably, lurid against the gloom. I hold my breath, the vast shadows and unnerving stillness consuming me, stifling me, leaving me utterly exposed and vulnerable to the vacuum-like void of the night.

(Laura Narsesian)

Pillars of blood-shot smoke rise from the now-dying fire, as the soldier flicks his glowing cigarette stub into the night with a grunt. The woman, now sat huddled in an impenetrably dark corner, hides from the dancing shadows on the walls, which are now crumbling to dust. The fire, now extinguished, lets darkness seep through the cavern and soon the poison takes over, its wisps burning everything they touch, illuminating even the darkest of sins.

(Tomás Mendonça)



FRAME IT.



A COLLECTION OF ART FROM OUR TALENTED KEY STAGE 4 PUPILS



MELOMAKARONA

INGREDIENTS FOR THE COOKIES:

- 1 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- Zest of 1–2 oranges
- 1/4 cup brandy (optional but traditional)
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground cloves
- Pinch of nutmeg (optional)
- 4 cups all-purpose flour

FOR THE SYRUP:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 2–3 whole cloves
- 1 orange slice

FOR TOPPING:

- Crushed walnuts (1/2–1 cup)
- Ground cinnamon for sprinkling

INSTRUCTIONS

1. MAKE THE DOUGH:

- In a large bowl, whisk together: olive oil, vegetable oil, sugar, orange juice, orange zest and brandy.
- In another bowl, mix the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg.
- Slowly add dry ingredients into the wet mixture.
- Mix gently with your hands until the dough is soft but not sticky.
- Don't over-knead or they'll get tough.

2. SHAPE & BAKE:

- Preheat oven to 180°C.
- Shape the dough into small oval cookies (traditional shape).
- Press lightly with a fork to create texture.
- Bake for 20–25 minutes until golden brown.

3. MAKE SYRUP:

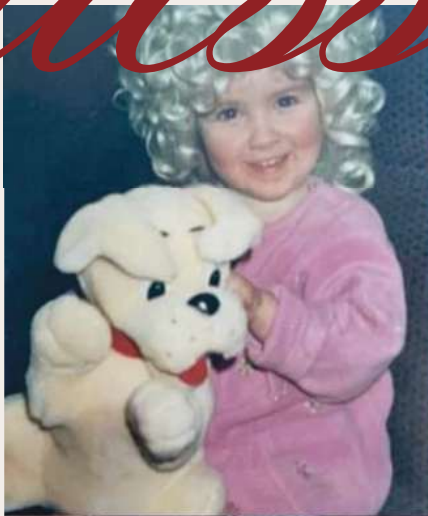
- In a pot, add water, sugar, cinnamon stick, cloves and orange slice.
- Boil for 4–5 minutes.
- Add honey and stir until dissolved.
- Remove from heat.

4. COMBINE:

- While cookies are warm, dip them into the warm syrup for 10–15 seconds each.
- Place on a platter and sprinkle with walnuts & cinnamon.

Guess

1



2



3



4



5



6



Teacher

Can you recognise your teachers from their baby photos? We've collected a selection of adorable childhood pictures from staff members; some are easy, some surprisingly tricky! Take a look, make your guesses and see how many you can get right. Good luck!

CHRISTMAS BUCKET LIST



☐ DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE

☐ BAKE COOKIES



☐ MAKE SNOW FLAKES ON YOUR WINDOW



☐ WEAR A SANTA HAT

☐ DRINK HOT COCOA



☐ WATCH A CHRISTMAS MOVIE

☐ HANG THE STOCKING



☐ EAT A CANDY CANE



☐ SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS



☐ Ho Ho Ho!



☐ WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA



☐ WRAP A PRESENT

☐ MAKE A HANDMADE ORNAMENT

☐ PUT THE STAR ON THE TOP OF THE TREE



☐ HANG TWINKLE LIGHTS



☐ WEAR A FESTIVE CHRISTMAS SWEATER



☐ GO ICE SKATING



☐ WEAR CHRISTMAS SOCKS



☐ GO SLEDDING



☐ GIVE A GIFT TO YOUR PET



☐ BUILD A SNOWMAN



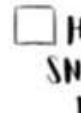
☐ HAVE A SNOWBALL FIGHT



☐ KISS SOMEONE UNDER THE MISTLETOE



☐ BUY A POINSETTIA



☐ MAKE PAPER SNOWFLAKES



☐ GO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



☐ DONATE A TOY TO CHILDREN IN NEED

☐ BUY A ADVENT CALENDAR



☐ SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD



☐ DECORATE THE HOUSE



☐ WEAR CHRISTMAS PAJAMAS



☐ SIT BY A FIREPLACE



☐ BUILD A GINGERBREAD HOUSE

☐ DO A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

☐ DRIVE AROUND AND LOOK AT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



☐ GO TO A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

☐ MAKE A SNOW ANGEL



☐ WISH A STRANGER "MERRY CHRISTMAS"



☐ ATTEND A CHRISTMAS PARTY

☐ GIVE OUT CANDY CANES TO SOMEONE



☐ HANG A WREATH ON YOUR DOOR



☐ SING "JINGLE BELLS"

☐ COLLECT PINECONES



☐ SHAKE A SNOWGLOBE

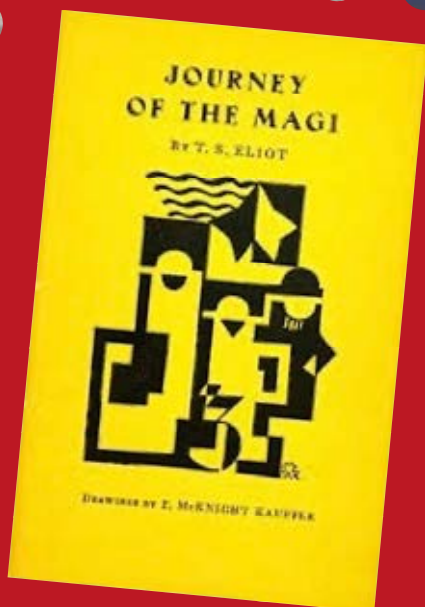


☐ TAKE A FAMILY PHOTO



☐ VISIT SANTA!

COZY *christmas* READS



Christmas Poems

- 'Mistletoe' by Walter De La Mare
- 'A Christmas Poem' by Wendy Cope
- 'Balloons' by Sylvia Plath
- 'With Best Wishes' by Dorothy Parker
- 'December 26' by Kenn Nesbitt

Don't MISS IT.

SCHOOL CHOIR

You don't need musical training to join the school choir—just a love for singing. Choir is one of the easiest places to start, because your voice grows through practice. Week by week, you'll learn to listen, blend, and gain confidence without any pressure to be "perfect." Choir is also about community. You meet new people, create something meaningful together and enjoy the boost that singing gives your mood and energy. We rehearse every Thursday after school, and anyone is welcome to try it out. If you're curious, just drop by Ms Romeo's classroom any time—we'd love to have you. So if you enjoy singing—even just in the shower—come give choir a try. No experience needed. Just your voice, your enthusiasm, and an open mind. You might be surprised by how much you belong.

BOARD GAME CLUB

Looking for a fun way to relax and connect with others? Join the Board Games Club, run by our Wellbeing Ambassadors, every Wednesday in Room E6. Come along to enjoy a variety of board games in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere — a great opportunity to unwind, socialise, and boost your wellbeing. All are welcome!

CAREERS GUIDE SESSIONS

Careers guidance sessions started after the half-term holiday and consist of two 40-minute sessions led by Ms Helen Stephenson, a parent of pupils at our school. The sessions focus on mapping students' strengths and interests, as well as discussing values and future aspirations. They have been very well received by those who have taken part. So far, the sessions have been offered to Year 13 pupils over the past two months. After Christmas, Year 12 pupils will have the opportunity to sign up for this valuable experience.

In **Canada**, Christmas is celebrated with decorated trees, festive lights, and family gatherings that often include exchanging gifts and enjoying seasonal treats like gingerbread and mince pie.

In the **USA**, Christmas is celebrated with decorated homes and trees, festive lights, stockings hung by the fireplace, and gift exchanges with family and friends.

In the **UK**, Christmas is celebrated with festive lights, roast dinners, Christmas crackers, and a visit from Father Christmas.

In **Italy**, Christmas is marked by nativity scenes, big family feasts, and treats like panettone.

In **Greece**, families celebrate Christmas with carols, honey cookies, and the unique tradition of decorating wooden boats.

In **Mexico**, Christmas includes Las Posadas, a joyful family feast on Christmas Eve.

In **Argentina**, Christmas is celebrated in summer with late-night fireworks, family feasts, and the tradition of opening presents at midnight on Christmas Eve.

In **South Africa**, Christmas is celebrated in the warm summer with outdoor gatherings, braais (barbecues), and festive carols in the sunshine.

In **India**, many families celebrate Christmas by decorating their homes with colourful paper lanterns and star-shaped lights, which are hung outside to brighten the streets.

In **Ukraine**, Christmas begins with the Holy Supper on January 6th, featuring twelve traditional dishes and the lighting of the didukh, a sheaf of wheat symbolizing family heritage.

In **Russia**, Christmas is celebrated on January 7th with Orthodox church services, family gatherings, and festive foods like kutya.

In **China**, Christmas is a growing cultural celebration where people exchange small gifts and give decorated "Peace Apples."

In **Japan**, Christmas is a cheerful celebration filled with sparkling light displays, gift-giving, and special holiday cakes enjoyed with family and friends.

In **Australia**, Christmas takes place in summer and is celebrated with beach trips, barbecues, and outdoor carol concerts.

Christmas Around the world

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JAN 2026

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

01

02

03

04

05

06

07

08

09

10

11

Spring Term
Begins

Key Stage 5
Visit to Nicosia
University at
Elliniko

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PSHE – Senior
School

26

27

28

29

30

30

31

Intermediate
Maths
Challenge Year
10 & 11

FEB 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

03

04

05

06

07

Parent teacher
meeting - Junior
School and Year
9,12

Parent Teacher
Meeting -
Year 8 & 11

08

09

10

11

12

13

14

Parent Teacher
Meeting Year
7,10 & 13

Friendship Form
- all Senior
School

Swimming Cup
at ACS

*Valentine's
Day*

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Over 16 Boys
Basketball at
ACS

Over 16 Girls
Basketball at
ACS

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Half Term Break

Half Term Break

Half Term Break

Half Term Break

Half Term Break

Half Term Break



CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS,
MAY YOUR
HEART BE FILLED WITH
LOVE AND YOUR HOME
WITH LAUGHTER AND JOY

BACKCOVER
DESIGNED BY
ALEXIA PANZARIU