



Community and Partnerships
Impact Report 2024



TONBRIDGE
SCHOOL

Welcome from The Head

As a school we believe in the power of connecting fine minds and good hearts. Creating a strong sense of community is important to us, as is learning to appreciate the positive contribution that everyone can make. This is why we value community partnerships so highly and why we are committed to collaborating with and learning from such a wide range of schools, charities and other partners.

This new report is a celebration of the partnership activities and collaborative connections made across our community in 2024. We are enormously grateful to all those pupils, staff, parents, friends and volunteers who have helped to make these programmes possible and who have contributed to such rewarding experiences for everyone involved.

Whilst it is only possible to offer a snapshot of the breadth and variety of our community engagement this year, I hope that you will be inspired by the learning and growth that is happening.

“Only Connect!” said E M Forster, writer and Tonbridge alumnus, and that is exactly what you will find in this report.

James Priory
Headmaster

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Partnerships in Numbers



We've worked with
36 **SCHOOLS**
Primary, Secondary & Special
Education Providers



OVER
40,000

Partner Members



23,325

Tonbridge School
Student Hours

7,781

Tonbridge School
Staff Hours



227

Events



Community Action

Tonbridge Community Action (TCA) is the backbone of our regular partnership programme and sees over 120 students volunteering weekly throughout the academic year on over twenty projects. Many placements are in primary schools, where students work together to help develop a love of reading, work on maths challenges, or help to run after-school club activities in languages, art, music and sport.

Our students also support local Special Schools, assisting children with additional needs in their classrooms, or welcoming them to our site to enjoy our sports facilities.

Other projects include running activities for senior citizens, supporting young adults with learning disabilities with sports and arts, or enjoying a shared love of sport, even without a shared language, with young men who are cared for under Kent County Council's Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) scheme.

Through these projects, our students gain confidence and leadership skills, see their efforts making a difference to others, and make connections with members of our extended community outside the School environment, gaining a better understanding of, and empathy for, the wider world.



“TCA helped me not only grow as a leader but also my ability to inspire confidence.”

Matt, Year 12



Partner Spotlight



Nexus School is dedicated to supporting children with profound, complex learning needs. Over the past eight years we have built a strong relationship with Nexus School and, over the course of each academic year, we work with Nexus School on a number of programmes.



Every week, students from Tonbridge School visit Nexus School to work with their students, supporting them in learning new skills including IT, English and Sport. In addition, they assist Nexus students on a one-to-one basis at our swimming pool, helping our guests build their water confidence.

Tonbridge students looking to study medicine gain invaluable experience working with Nexus children with the most profound learning disabilities, building mutual respect and understanding.

The relationship culminates in our annual Community Day, where this year our students and staff built a large new animal enclosure so that Nexus students can learn from caring for animals and birds. In addition, our students helped host a sports festival for all the students at Nexus School, in a fantastic day of fun and laughter together.



“The boys are brilliant with the kids, talk to them with respect, and really make a connection with a lot of them, which is hard to do. I think it really made their year.”

Nexus Staff Member



Science For Schools

This popular programme has been running since 2008, with local primary school children visiting the School's laboratories over a three-week period. The aim is to provide the pupils with an experience that cannot be catered for at primary school, and inspire and build the enthusiasm about the prospect of studying STEM subjects at secondary school.

"A great chance to experience something different off-site, to expose the children to a proper science lab and to learn new things. Our children also enjoy listening to the older boys."

Long Mead Community Primary School

"The sessions were fantastic, the teaching staff and Tonbridge boys were welcoming, helpful and did a fantastic job. The facility, lab spaces and equipment were inspiring. The teaching style and open questions encouraged the children to get hands on and think creatively."

Broadwater Down Primary School

Tonbridge students organise and supervise hands-on activities for the children, who are presented with new, fun and exciting opportunities to learn about science.

Our students are trained by our teachers to lead these sessions, helping them grow in confidence and enhancing their leadership skills.

Each school brings an entire class of children who benefit from 90-minute sessions on three consecutive Wednesday afternoons.

Learning Mentors

The Learning Mentor Programme is led by our Learning Strategies Department and has been running for more than a decade.

Our Year 9 and 10 students are trained as mentors, and the training includes developing mentors' ability to coach younger pupils in numeracy, literacy and communication skills, as well as broadening their understanding of how to support neurodiverse pupils in their learning.

The mentors host weekly visits with children from Royal Rise Primary School. Boys help to teach Year 3 pupils on a one-to-one basis, supporting key areas of the primary curriculum, as well as enrichment activities, including a visit to the Barton Science Centre and Drama workshops in the EM Forster Theatre.

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“The mentoring adds real value both to the boys' all-round education here at Tonbridge, and to the visiting pupils' learning experiences, and very quickly strong bonds are formed. The sense of expectation and enthusiasm when they pair up each week is quite extraordinary.”

Natalia Gerard, Learning Strategies Teacher

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“Tonbridge's programme has played a vital role in helping us achieve our recent 'Good' Ofsted report. The staff and boys have always supported us, giving the children opportunities beyond those we could provide purely on our own.”

Sarah Griggs, Head Teacher Royal Rise Primary School





Community Day

This flagship annual event sees the whole School community come together to work with our local primary schools, further strengthening links and enabling all staff and students to be more connected to our local area.

On-site, we welcome more than 600 children from thirteen local primary schools, who are hosted by our Year 9 students, to enjoy a fantastic day of activities, run by our sixth form and staff. Activities range from Art to Zen Zone, Biology to Wheelchair Basketball, aiming to inspire all those involved to try something new. Everyone comes together for a concert from the Symphony Orchestra in the Chapel before a finale which this year saw duck herding on our main cricket pitch, "The Head".

Meanwhile, our Year 10 and 11 students from each of our 12 Houses undertake a major project off-site in the community. Based in primary schools, local charities and community groups, this year saw them make sensory gardens, build animal enclosures, run sports festivals, create friendship benches and help develop freshwater habitats around the lake in our local country park.

Other Annual Events

Science Conference

The Science department hosts an annual conference where more than 150 students from schools across the UK and internationally gather to present and share their research.

This year the conference featured two student presentation sessions, alongside keynote speeches from leading scientists.

English A-Level Revision Day

The English department hosts an annual Shakespeare revision day where local schools come together to study and share learning and expertise.

Community Concert

The School welcomes 180 local senior citizens to our annual Community Concert. Guests are collected from their homes by a fleet of staff and parent volunteer drivers and are warmly welcomed by Year 11 students, who are regular volunteers with the Community Action programme. Entertainment, tea and cake is enjoyed by all.

Christmas Toy Appeal and Fruit and Veg Market

For over 10 years, students, parents and staff have donated gifts at Christmas to local families who are referred through social services and local schools. This year we supported nearly 600 children with gifts of toys, books and clothing.

Just before Christmas we also work with two local foodbanks "Sustain" and "FEAST" to hold a Christmas market entirely run by staff volunteers. Hosting 140 families, we provide fresh fruit and vegetables and a meat voucher for the Christmas period, as well as activities for children and a chance to wrap a present for their parents and carers.



Facilities Sharing

Many community groups use our facilities for free or at a reduced rate.

Tonbridge School Centre

The Sports Centre hosts local schools for swimming lessons and sports days. The astro is used by Kent Police, Kent Hockey, Tunbridge Wells Junior Hockey Club and Tonbridge Juniors Football Club.

EM Forster Theatre

The theatre holds primary school Year 6 performances alongside local secondary school drama and dance performances. Schools studying the Arts Award visit us for tours and talks from our theatre staff. We host secondary schools co-curricular days including Modern Languages meetings and film viewings.

Cookery School

Four primary schools have cookery lessons for their Year 5 and Year 6 children in the Cookery School led by professional chef Shenley Moore.

The Grove Centre

Tonbridge Welcomes Refugees run English lessons and Tonbridge Men in Sheds use the hall as a base for their local members to come and socialise whilst working on practical projects.

Old Big School Gallery

There are two exhibitions over the year, these are open to the public at weekends and school visits take place during term time. Talks and family workshops run alongside the exhibitions.

33,256

Individual visitors benefitting from using our facilities

3,198

Hours offered at reduced rate or no cost

12

Schools using the sports ground and swimming pool

7

Schools using the theatre

1,867

Art exhibition visitors



School Charity Fundraising

Throughout the School year, all staff and students were engaged with a huge range of fundraising activities, which this year have raised more than **£91,000** for local and international charities.

Our Year 9 (Novi) 'slept rough' in the Quad, raising over **£23,750** for the charity **Porchlight** and engaged boys in the causes of homelessness.

Pink Day in Oct 2023 raised **£6,740** for **Breast Cancer Kent** and **Demelza Hospice**.

Over **£5,500** was raised for local food banks **Sustain** and **FEAST**, in addition to thousands of donated food and hygiene items.

Fundraising for partner charity **Child Action Lanka** (CAL) took many forms, including a whole school simple curry lunch and non-uniform day. The staff and students who visited CAL in the summer also ran fundraising campaigns, in total raising over **£9,800**.

£7,855 was raised for **Princess Christian's Farm** via the School's EM Forster Theatre over the year.

All Houses, the School prefects and various staff supported **Movember** and raised over **£9,000**.

Hillside undertook an Iron Man sporting fundraiser, raising nearly **£2,700** for **CALM**.

A Year 11 student sold doughnuts and ran other fundraising initiatives, raising nearly **£3,500** for **Target Ovarian Cancer**, including generous matched funding from his family.

Over **£2,000** was raised for the **Royal British Legion**.

Over **£14,000** was given in Chapel service collections throughout the year, for a wide range of charities.

Charity Spotlight

Child Action Lanka (CAL) works to transform the lives of disadvantaged children in Sri Lanka. They provide holistic education, health care and nutrition, and promote the rights of children. Tonbridge School has partnered with CAL since 2014, sending boys on regular trips until these were curtailed by Covid and other international challenges.

We are therefore delighted that a group of students and staff, including the Headmaster, travelled to Sri Lanka in 2024 to learn from working with the children of CAL in Batticaloa on the east coast.

The facility was built in 2019 with funding from Tonbridge School and equipped with furniture and fittings that were shipped out to Sri Lanka. The Centre now supports over 650 children including a pre-school and a playgroup.

The trip was a powerful experience for all involved. The boys and staff were profoundly moved by the work of CAL, and the time they spent with the children. In particular, they gained a unique

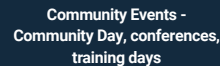
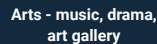
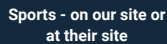
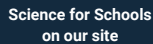
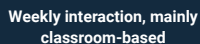


perspective on the hopes the children have for their future, and the challenges that might prevent them from reaching their goals. Since returning to Tonbridge, the boys have set up a number of fundraising initiatives for CAL and are already planning a return trip, with many intending on volunteering with CAL as part of their gap year. We look forward to seeing this relationship grow and develop.

“We are inspired by the enthusiasm and strength of these young individuals. Their dedication and compassion have left a lasting impact on both our children and the volunteers themselves. Together, we are working towards breaking down barriers to education and creating a brighter future for our amazing children.”

Debbie Edirisinghe, Founding Director of Child Action Lanka

A map of the Maidstone area in Kent, England, showing 25 locations marked with colored pins. The locations are: Biggin Hill, Otford, Kemsing, Westerham, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, West Malling, East Malling, Kings Hill, Wateringbury, Yalding, East Peckham, Hadlow, Hildenborough, Bidborough, Edenbridge, Markbeece, Pembury, Matfield, and Paddock Wood. The pins are colored blue, orange, yellow, and grey, indicating different categories or types of locations. The map shows a network of roads connecting these locations.

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