

COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

IMPACT REPORT 2025



Welcome from the Headmaster

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 impact 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.

We are delighted that the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) recognised us as a **significant strength** in fostering confidence, communication, and leadership skills through wider community engagement. Many of these initiatives are pupil-led, reflecting the School's ethos of empowering boys to make a difference both within and beyond the School.

We are grateful to our many partners in the wider community and to pupils, staff, parents and governors for helping us to sustain such an enriching and impactful programme for everyone involved.

James Priory
Headmaster

For more information, or to contact us to suggest a project, please email community@tonbridge-school.org



James Fisher
Deputy Head of Co-curricular

Kat Portman Smith
Director of Community Engagement

Juliet Burnett
Head of Community Action

Sarah Walker
Community Action Co-ordinator

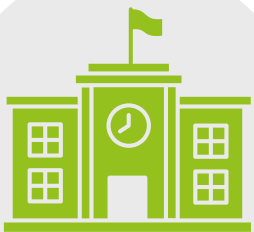
Partnerships in numbers



228
events

Over

7,000
partner members



We have worked with:

34 schools

(primary, secondary & special education providers)



6,773

Tonbridge School
staff hours



24,780

Tonbridge School
pupil hours

Community action

A broad reach for local partnerships



There are many ways that Tonbridge pupils work with our local community throughout their time at School.

Partnership projects are carefully designed to offer learning experiences for our boys whilst providing support to our partner organisations. We aim to build skills, confidence, understanding and friendships with all our partners through mutually beneficial activities.

Tonbridge Community Action (TCA) is the heart of our weekly regular volunteering programme and involves more than 110 boys working on over 15 projects. Our partners include primary schools, special schools, charities supporting those with additional learning needs, our local hospice, a food bank, day care centres and care homes.





What our **pupils** gain from it?

At its core, we want our partnerships to enhance the education of all pupils involved.

It can be shown that our pupils who take part in Community Action projects have a marked increase in their openness, confidence and sense of community.



But what do they say?

I've learnt tolerance, patience, appreciation and celebration of difference

Max, Year 11

How to be accepting and how to attack problems from different angles

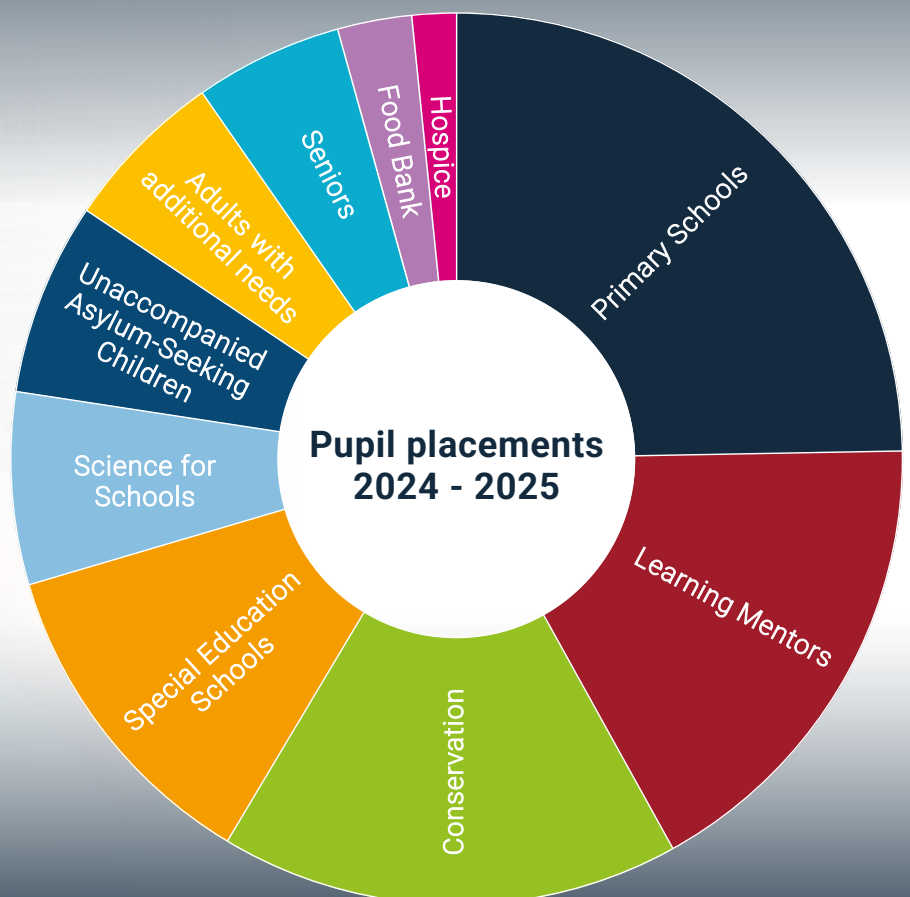
Thomas, Year 11

I think I have become a more sympathetic and patient person

Alexander, Year 12

Caring for others in challenging situations allowed me to develop a greater level of empathy for those around me, which I feel has translated to the School setting too

George, Year 12





Our Novi (Year 9)

Community involvement for our pupils begins when they arrive in Year 9 with a range of projects designed to help them feel connected to their new home town of Tonbridge and to better understand some of the issues faced by our wider world.

All the pupils visit the Tonbridge Baptist Church to learn about the range of community projects they run, including seeing first-hand the operations of their **food bank**, who regularly support 150 families a week.

The whole year group host our popular **mini-concert series**, which sees local seniors attending weekly music concerts presented by the pupils. They serve tea and coffee and chat with the guests after the concert.

I really enjoyed talking to our guests at the concert and hearing their memories of Tonbridge having lived here for over eighty years.

A Tonbridge Pupil



In the Spring Term, pupils take part in the **Reading Buddies scheme** working with partner school Long Mead Community Primary School. Over a period of 4 consecutive weeks, all pupils spend 45 minutes per week reading on a one-to-one basis with a child from Year 1 to 6. Hundreds of books are donated every year to the Long Mead Library. This is a highlight of the term, generating much laughter, and building confidence in everyone involved.

The whole year group engage with International issues by taking part in **Poverty Trap** run by the charity **Empathy Action**. This immersive workshop is developed around real lives and testimonies, and challenges the boys to work as a team whilst experiencing something of what it feels like to live in extreme poverty.

Finally, their first year finishes with the sleepout which sees them sleep 'rough' in our car park in a sponsored **'Sleepout'** for Porchlight, a charity supporting those affected by homelessness within Kent. The boys hear first-hand testimonies from those whose lives have been turned around by the support of Porchlight, and work on tasks which help them understand the challenges faced.



This year the Sleepout raised
£23,751.50
for Porchlight



Community Giving Day

The highlight of our year is our Community Giving Day, when all boys and staff are actively involved in projects on our School site and on twelve locations in our local community.

On-site, our School grounds are filled with over 650 excited Year 5 and Year 6 children from fifteen local primary schools for a day packed full of activities. They are hosted by our Year 9 and Year 12 boys as they participate in the 25+ activities on offer. The day culminates in a concert performed by our symphony orchestra, before everyone comes together for a finale event, which this year was dog and duck herding!

Throughout the day our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils work on projects at our partner's sites. Based in local charities, schools, community groups and country parks, they work on projects as diverse as digging ponds, establishing a library, designing a crazy golf course and a reading trail, creating community gardens or helping design props and theatre sets for a primary school play. The projects are

supported by skilled staff from our Estates, Gardening and Grounds teams, as well as many of our teaching and support staff.

These projects are a practical and enjoyable demonstration of our whole-School involvement in community partnerships.

As always I am so, so grateful to you and your team and your incredible boys for all their efforts today... we set an ambitious programme of events to run, things to construct and places to rejuvenate but my, did you all deliver. I felt truly humbled to see everyone in action - working hard, and engaging each and every one of our pupils and staff. It is amazing what you have achieved. Thank you so much on behalf of my whole school community.

Becks Hood Headteacher
Bishop Chavasse Primary School





Conservation

Over the year pupils work with Tonbridge staff on skills including hedge laying, coppicing, pig husbandry, orchard management and brash clearance. Much of this work happens in and around the community over the year using traditional skills and crafts to maintain local areas.

Over the last year we have worked closely with Long Mead Community Primary School and Oakley School on maintaining their trees making the space safe for their pupils. Over the year the School has removed more than 20 diseased trees, saving the school over £25,000 and making the outdoor space safe for use again. Led by Sholto Kerr (Teacher of German), a trained tree surgeon, this work has taken place over the whole year.



Thanks to the expertise and generosity of Tonbridge School, the woodland is now being safely and responsibly managed. The infected trees have been removed, the area has been made safe and the space can once again be used for outdoor learning and play. This partnership has not only restored an important natural space but has also enriched pupils' understanding of woodland management and environmental stewardship.

Karen Follows Headteacher
Long Mead Community Primary
School

School charity fundraising 2024 - 2025

Throughout the School year, all staff and pupils were engaged with a huge range of fundraising activities, which have raised more than £126,000 for local and international charities.



- Year 9 students participated in a sleepout experience in the Quad, raising awareness of homelessness and raising £23,750 for [Porchlight](#).
- Pink Day in October 2024 raised £6,730 in support of [Breast Cancer Kent](#), [Sarcoma UK](#) and [Demelza Hospice](#).
- Whole School fundraising, alongside substantial donations of food and hygiene items, raised £5,500 for local food banks, with thousands of items donated.
- A broad programme of fundraising activities, including a whole School simple curry lunch, non uniform day, pupil led initiatives and alumni fundraising, raised £43,225 for [Child Action Lanka](#).
- Two Year 13s who returned to CAL once they had finished in the School raised an additional £21,225 for CAL.
- Fundraising events held across the year at the EM Forster Theatre raised £8,800 for [DAVSS](#) (Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services).
- All Houses, School prefects and staff supported [Movember](#), raising £7,800.
- Hill Side House undertook an Iron Man sporting challenge, raising £2,700 for [CALM](#).
- The Heads of School organised a Colour Run which raised £5,000 to fund the creation of a Mindfulness and Sensory Room at Long Mead Community Primary School.
- Whole School fundraising raised £1,700 for the Royal British Legion.
- Chapel service collections throughout the year raised £14,000 in support of a wide range of charitable causes.

Secondary schools Science



SCIENCE COMMUNICATION COMPETITION: SCIENCE SNIPPETS – 4 MINUTES TO WIN IT!

Now in its fifth year, Science Snippets engages young minds across the South East in the art of science communication. Each year, over 150 local secondary school pupils submit a one-minute video on a science topic of their choice. From these entries, 22 pupils are selected to present their ideas live in the Grand Final, where they have just four minutes to inspire and inform. Through the process, pupils develop essential communication skills, deepen their scientific understanding, and gain confidence in sharing their passion for science with the wider community.

TONBRIDGE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN CONVENTION

In its fourth year, the Tonbridge Science Technician Convention is a free annual event that brings together over 120 school science technicians from 66 state schools across the region. The convention provides a much-needed opportunity for technicians to network, share expertise and connect with peers, which is particularly valuable at a time when many are working as lone technicians in their schools.

TONBRIDGE SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Now in its second decade, the Tonbridge Science Conference is an annual event that brings together over 150 pupils from schools across the UK and beyond. The conference provides a dynamic platform for pupils to showcase their research and ideas through poster displays and presentations, fostering collaboration, curiosity, and deeper scientific understanding. The event proudly welcomes participants from international schools, further extending its reach and impact within the global science education community.

SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE (SEM)

Tonbridge School is fortunate to have its own Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) expert, Ramona Szalczinger, who leads a range of interactive workshops for local primary and secondary school pupils. To date, more than 3,000 pupils from the local community have experienced hands-on access to the SEM, bringing real-world science to life.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Weekly interaction, mainly classroom-based



Science



Sports - on our site or at their site



Arts - music, drama, art gallery



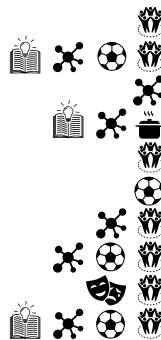
Community Events - Giving Day, conferences, training days



Cookery School

Primary Schools

- Bidborough CofE Primary School
- Bishop Chavasse CofE Primary School
- Broadwater Down Primary School
- Cage Green Primary School
- Capel Primary School
- Chiddingstone CofE Primary School
- Hadlow Primary School
- Hildenborough CofE Primary School
- Leigh Primary School
- Long Mead Community Primary School



- Mereworth Community Primary School
- Plaxtol Primary School
- Royal Rise Primary School
- Shipbourne Primary School
- Skinner's Kent Primary School
- Slade Primary School
- St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School
- Stocks Green Primary School
- Sussex Road Primary School
- Woodlands Primary School



Secondary Schools

- Hillview School for Girls
- The Judd School
- Leigh Academy Tonbridge
- The Marsh Academy
- Skinner's Kent Academy
- Tonbridge Grammar School
- Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School
- Walthamstow Hall - Junior & Senior
- Weald of Kent Grammar School



Charity / Community Group

- Derwent Day Centre
- Feast Food Bank
- Haysden Country Park
- Hospice in the Weald
- KCC UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children)
- Sustain Food Bank
- Tonbridge Baptist Church
- Tonbridge Men in Sheds
- Tonbridge Welcomes Refugees
- Ukrainian Support Group



Special Education Provision

- Multiple Intelligence Hub
- Nexus School
- Phoenix Centre for Autism, Cage Green Primary School
- Princess Christian's Farm
- Scotts Project Trust

