

12th December 2025

Dear Parents, Staff, Alumni and Friends of Heritage School,

You will be forgiven for expecting to receive a copy of The Skylark from us today. The reason why we are sending you this letter instead is that we are in a period of transition in our administrative staff team. Also, we are taking the opportunity to do a general review of our marketing and communications activities.

Windows into school life

The good news is that the life of the school has, of course, continued unabated throughout the Autumn Term. On our website there are dozens of [photo galleries](#) that provide windows into some of what our pupils have been up to. Why not take a look? The [news page](#) also contains short articles about some of these events and more besides. Here are some galleries that caught my eye. Click 'more' to see additional photos of the activity and 'news', where relevant, to learn more.



Lower Prep's first week of term ([more](#))



Upper Prep baking ([more](#))



Year 2 making Roman helmets ([more](#))



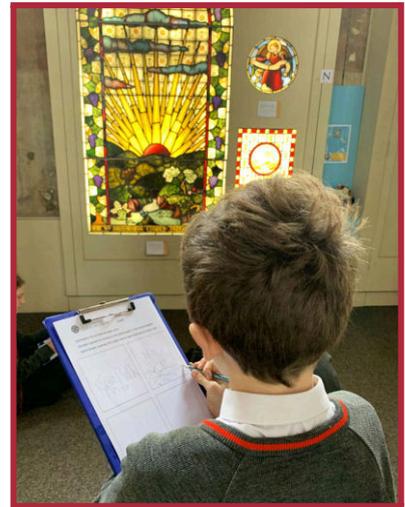
Year 3 visit the Fitzwilliam Museum ([more](#))



Year 4 Art ([more](#))



Year 5 countryside ramble ([more](#))



Year 6 visit the Ely Stained Glass Museum ([more](#))



Year 7 visit the Tower of London ([more](#))



Year 8 perform *The Tempest* ([more](#)) ([news](#))



Many Year 8 - Year 10 pupils go to Aguilas, Spain ([more](#)) ([news](#))



English Schools Cup Cross Country ([more](#)) ([news](#))



Year 11 Geography coastal fieldwork ([more](#))



24-hour Camp for Seniors ([more](#)) ([news](#))

The fire of living thought

I recently enjoyed reading a report published by the think tank Civitas called [Renewing Classical Liberal Education](#). In it they argue that various developments in culture, such as an obsession with what is measurable, an over-emphasis upon technical analysis, and the marginalisation of the spiritual domain, have gradually eroded this once dominant educational tradition. The assumed purpose of schools these days, the authors write, is to prepare pupils for work and so boost incomes and gross domestic product. By contrast, a real education maintains its focus on the intrinsic value of what they describe variously as ‘the cultivation of the human spirit’ or ‘personal and spiritual freedom’ or ‘fully developed capacities’ or ‘life in all its fullness’ or ‘the good life’. Real education should help pupils move towards this fullness in various ways, including by cultivating the imagination through our greatest stories, through a curriculum that nurtures a moral and aesthetic sensibility, by getting pupils to engage robustly with ideas, and by prioritising personal discipline and virtuous habits.

There is a great deal in this report that aligns with the Charlotte Mason tradition which informs our work at Heritage School. Indeed, one of Charlotte Mason’s mottoes was ‘a liberal education for all’. I was reading a section of her 1906 book *Formation of Character* recently and was struck by critiques similar to those identified in the Civitas report. She describes teachers in her time who were ‘hidebound pedants’ focussed solely upon getting facts in, or whose instruction was ‘entirely critical and analytic’. She readily grasped the deadening effect of such a soul-less education, and she knew that children as embodied spiritual beings deserve so much more. A real education, she argues, is one that brings pupils into contact with the greatest ideas and the greatest minds. Why is this so important? Because the mind only grows by ‘thought kindling itself at the fire of living thought’. *The fire of living thought*. I’m sure we’ve all had that experience, where it feels as if the mind has been set ablaze by an idea. It seems to me that this is the serendipitous space where education is at its most thrilling and formative.

Bursaries

Last night we enjoyed our annual Christmas Concert and Nativity at St Andrew's Baptist Church. What a great event it was. At the end of the concert, we took a retiring collection in support of our Bursary Fund.

In order to help families access a Heritage education, *would you consider making a contribution to our Bursary Fund this Christmas?* We want to see as many children as possible benefit from what Heritage has to offer, and we want to support families currently in the school who are experiencing financial pressure, a pressure that has substantially increased in the past year.

In order to give to our Bursary Fund, you can make a gift via the [support us page of our website](#).



In the spring, a generous donor put forward £20,000 of match funding for gifts to our Bursary Fund. We had raised over half of that, and, wonderfully, about £700 more was given last night. Our goal now is to raise the remaining (just over) £9,000 and so make the most of the match funding. *Can you help us achieve this?*

Some supporters might like to consider a legacy gift to our Bursary Fund. Please contact Catriona Buchanan, on bursar@heritageschool.org.uk, for any questions you may have about giving to our Bursary Fund.

I hope you enjoy a restful and happy Christmas.

Warm regards,

J Fletcher
Headmaster