

WELCOME

TO SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS · 2024-2025



SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Service and Partnerships at Sevenoaks School



A very warm welcome to the Service and Partnerships Programme!

Our principal aim for you, as students, is for you to understand your capacity to make meaningful contributions to our immediate community and wider society. We hope that you will find the programme engaging, purposeful and rewarding.

Old Sennockians often look back and cite Service as one of the most transformational experiences they had at school. However, the positive impact upon both you and those you interact with in the wider community is largely determined by your own level of interest, commitment and initiative. It really is the case that the more you put into the Service and Partnerships programme, the more you will get out.

Participating in Service enables you to develop transferrable skills that will be key to success after school, such as decision-making, teamwork, adaptability and initiative. The activities on a Thursday are largely student-led and this gives you a fantastic opportunity to take responsibility and develop your independence.

I hope that you enjoy reading about all the different placements. Should you have any questions, do always feel free to pop into the Service and Partnerships office on the ground floor of Talbot House.

The Service and Partnerships Team

There are three sections of the programme, with a staff member responsible for each:



Educational partnerships

Mrs Strange (CJS)

Each service programme placement will be led by a specific member of staff, who you will register with each week and they will provide guidance during the session.

Mrs Poxleitner (JYP) is our Service and Partnerships Coordinator and she can be contacted via partnerships@sevenoaksschool.org



Signing Up: The Practicalities

All students in Years 10 to 12 engage in either Service or CCF during periods 5 and 6 on Thursday afternoons.

If you have selected Service, please read the descriptions carefully and pick at least four activities which you think you will really enjoy, as there are limited spaces for each activity.

Note that some activities start earlier than period 5 and may require you to have an early (or packed) lunch and be ready to leave school by 1.15pm. Most activities take place during periods 5 and 6, ending at 4.10pm.

Unless it states otherwise, all activities will be a mix of year groups, and we will work very hard to ensure you are placed in one of the four activities you have chosen.

Everyone is expected to commit themselves to their chosen activity until at least February half term. There will be some capacity to reallocate placements at this point if you were not allocated one of your choices.

CAS and Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Thursday afternoon Service programme activities will count towards the Service element of CAS (which is a mandatory part of the IB programme) and the volunteering element of DoFE.



Environmental sustainability education

Mr Lilley (PCL)



Equity, diversity and inclusion

Mr Oberti Oddi (GOO)

Educational Partnerships



Key contact for all educational partnership placements:

Mrs Clare Strange
ISP Assistant Director (Educational Partnerships)
cjs@sevenoaksschool.org

Costume and Props

You will help create, fix and organise the costumes and props used by the Drama department, helping to ensure that these are available to be shared with local schools through a new system for prop and accessory sharing.



Drama

Are you passionate about Theatre and Drama and interested in community engagement? We're seeking motivated individuals to collaborate on the development and delivery of our exciting Theatre in the Community programme.

This programme aims to leverage the transformative power of theatre to promote engagement and positive social interaction within our community. Selected participants will have the opportunity to:

- **Develop Engaging Workshops:** Work with a team to create stimulating workshops that explore various aspects of theatrical performance. These workshops will cater to diverse participants, fostering inclusivity and accessibility.
- **Contribute to Script and Stagecraft:** Participate in creating original scripts or adaptations and exploring theatrical techniques. This role requires a strong understanding of theatre principles and a commitment to quality.
- **Enrich the Community:** Be part of a programme designed to enrich the lives of community members by promoting artistic expression and appreciation for theatre.

This is a great opportunity to contribute to a meaningful theatre initiative with a positive social impact. We welcome individuals with a strong background in theatre, both theoretical and practical.



EduLit (with EduSpots)

EduSpots is a Ghanaian registered NGO and UK registered charity that aims to connect, equip and train a network of 250 local volunteers to drive community-led change through a network of 50 physical library-education spaces ('Spots') in rural Ghana.

EduLit is a programme run by EduSpots. The Service placement involves working with the EduLit Programme Coordinator in Ghana on monthly literacy challenges. This gives students a direct insight into Ghanaian culture and literacy development in a low-resource context. Sevenoaks students are involved in all parts of the process, from creating the challenges to judging the competitions and designing personalised monthly certificates of participation and excellence.

Additional projects will include creating literacy resources (such as activity cards or phonics resources) and *Kwame's Adventures* storybooks. These enable Ghanaian children to see their communities represented in fiction, with characters and events they can relate to. A wide variety of creative skills are needed for this service project, and students will be expected to take a lead in initiating ideas and shaping the creation of literacy resources. If you have a particular interest in creative writing, design, illustration and video editing you will be well suited.

Education Action Group

This group works on initiatives relating to education within the school and in connection with other institutions, both local and overseas. This academic year, we will be establishing online reading support for London-based primary school children in partnership with the charity Bookmark: <https://www.bookmarkreading.org/>

We will continue to:

- work on ideas and resources that help students with their learning
- write and design a regular education magazine and reading newsletter for Sevenoaks students
- invite visiting speakers to give talks at Sevenoaks School
- plan themed weeks and one-off events
- work with local primary and secondary schools
- make videos and podcasts
- form meaningful connections with students near and further afield.

It is an invitation to contribute to ideas about education and to work on many different, exciting projects for the benefit of others.



Education Boxes

This service group helps maintain the school's 50+ Education Boxes, ensuring all contents are in full working order and complete. Our Education Boxes contain various classroom resources (for Science, Technology, Music, Sport and Drama), are borrowed by local schools to support their teaching and provide specialist resources that would not usually be available in primary schools. Students who join this service group should have an interest in design and technology.

Fuse Schools

Fuse Schools believes that education should be engaging, fun and available to everyone. We write scripts for bite-size videos for a variety of primary and secondary school subjects. These videos are available free so everyone in the world can have access to a great education. Take a look at their YouTube channel! <https://www.youtube.com/@fuseschool>

If you would like to write scripts for the videos, please sign up. We have recently written scripts for Sciences, Maths, History and English and are in the process of writing scripts about climate change and sustainability.



Gamelan

If you enjoy percussion instruments and would like to work with primary school children, then perhaps you would enjoy teaching them how to play the Gamelan. It is traditional music from the islands of Indonesia created with pitched percussion instruments (mainly metallophones and gongs).

Sevenoaks School houses a court-sized Gamelan for community use. It gives everyone involved a wonderful experience of a different culture. You will be involved presenting information as well as helping the children with coordination and keeping to the beat. Prior musical knowledge or ability to read music is not necessary (although always useful!) as you will be taught everything you need to know.

Learning opportunities for the primary school children are: Listening, Coordination, Pulse, Pitch, Timbre, Vibration, Geography, Spirituality, Teamwork and Focus.

We spend the first three weeks learning to play the Gamelan, and welcome primary school visitors from October onwards.

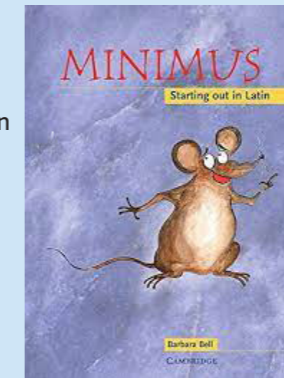


Junior Science

Do you have a flair for science and would you like to inspire and engage primary school children with the subject? By volunteering with Junior Science, you will be helping them to learn aspects of all three sciences and to have hands-on experience in our labs, using our specialist equipment. You don't have to be a science genius, but a positive interest in science plus a desire to work with young pupils is key.

Minimus

The highly accessible and enjoyable course *Minimus*, written by Barbara Bell, is designed to introduce Latin to primary-aged children and this is the resource we use in this service option.



You do not need to have continued to study Latin to take part; the course is designed such that people without prior knowledge of Latin are able to follow, understand and pick up Latin as they go along. If you found Latin challenging, you are more likely to understand the difficulties that the pupils will encounter. If, however, Latin is one of your stronger subjects, then you will be able to answer in depth some of the more searching questions the most able children ask you. Creativity, patience and the ability to plan effectively are useful skills – and you will also strengthen these skills by positively and proactively taking part in this activity.

Primary Coding and Robotics

In this Service group you'll be working on a number of different projects including CAD, First Lego League and Robotics. You will have the chance to work with local primary school children, introducing them to the world of CAD and Robotics and organising outreach events to make STEM and Robotics more accessible to the youngest members of our community.

This placement is suitable for students with an interest in a variety of areas including, but not limited to, STEM, design and media.



Primary Music

We are looking for a small group of students who are prepared to work with young children between the ages of 5 and 11. The first few weeks are spent devising two programmes, which you will teach to the children. These programmes will involve singing and movement. We will discuss appropriate musical activities, examine online resources but, above all, we will need you to be creative and invested in the construction of the programmes.

We will discuss the challenges of working with children who, for example, might not know their left hand from their right hand! As well as leading the instruction of these programmes, you should be prepared to join with the children in whole group singing activities. There is the chance later in the year to adapt the programme and it is hoped that you will bring successful experiences you remember from your early days.



Primary School Support

Do you love working with younger students, helping them to discover new subjects, accelerate their progress and develop their skills? We have a huge range of service placements with local primary schools, and you will be given the chance to express particular areas of interest if you are selected for this option. A positive interest in sharing your skills and a desire to work with young pupils are essential.

The different subject areas for 2024-25 will include: Chess, Creative Writing, French, History, Maths, Microbits, PE and Reading.



Primary Technology

Our service group runs Design and Technology classes for primary school groups. Activities range from bridge building, laser cutting and thermoforming to traditional woodworking. Students who join this service group should have good design and make skills, be confident presenting and delivering lessons, and enjoy working with primary-aged children.

Primary Tennis

In this placement you will teach tennis to visiting primary school children. Students who are patient and energetic would be successful in this option. You will also need to have some tennis-playing ability and experience.

Sailing

Sailing service offers pupils the chance to learn the necessary skills to become a qualified sailing instructor. Service students will teach the Year 9 sailors (alongside the CCF Navy sailors when they are present at sessions). In the Summer term there may be an opportunity to work with local primary school children as part of an 'Introduction to Sailing' programme. Sailors will also help maintain the school boats throughout the year.



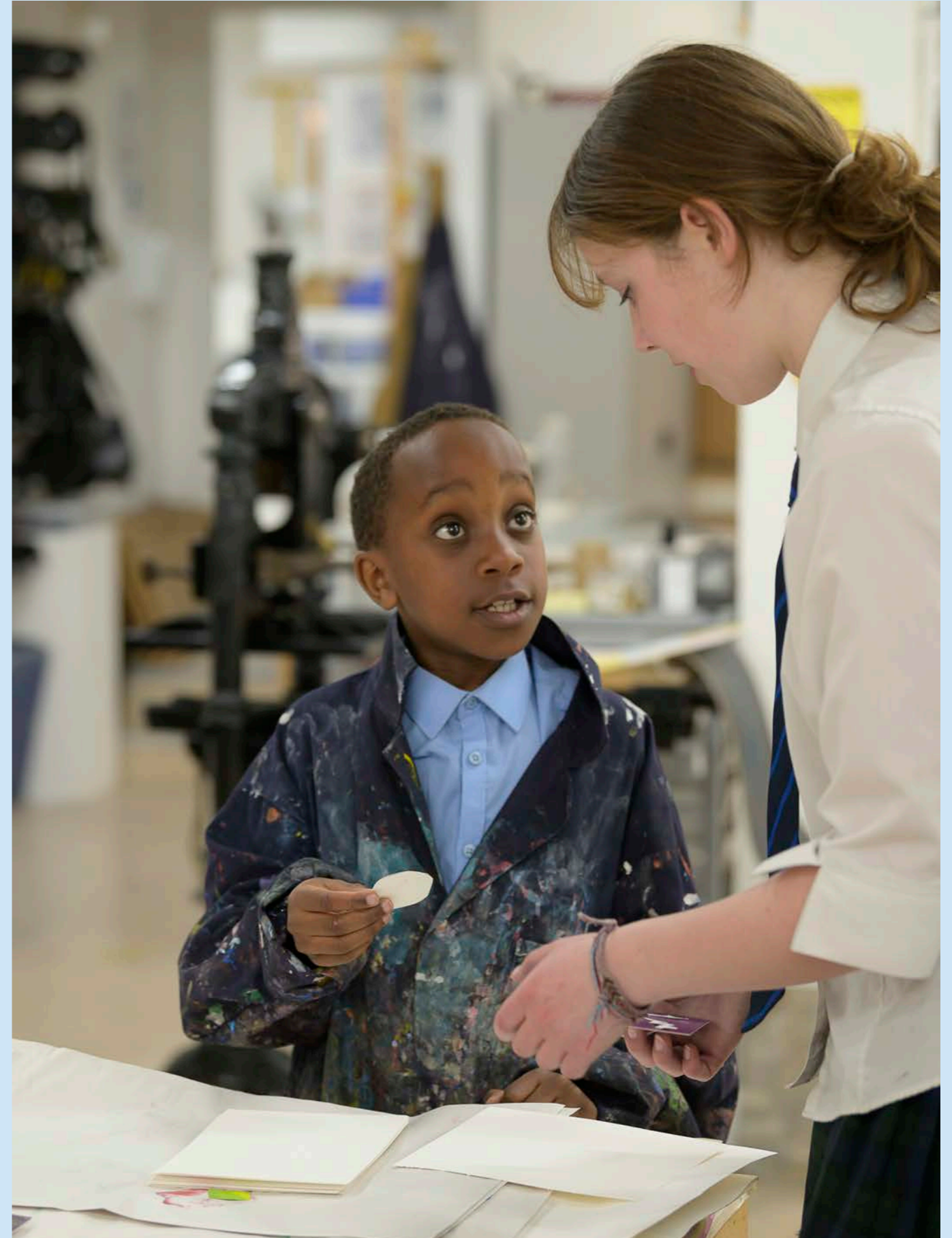
Valence School

Students at Valence School have physical disabilities and complex medical needs. This placement involves volunteering onsite at the school each week, getting to know the students and supporting the staff there. It is a very popular placement, particularly with those interested in pursuing a career in medicine.

NEW!

Wellbeing Champions (Sixth Form only)

This group will work to champion positive mental health and support students, both within our school and the wider community, to develop effective strategies to support their wellbeing. You will be involved in shaping the group's strategy and aims, developing resources and putting plans into action through initiatives both here on campus and in local primary schools.



Environmental Sustainability Education



Key contact for all environmental sustainability placements:

Mr Paul Lilley
ISP Assistant Director (Environmental Sustainability Education), pcl@sevenoaksschool.org

For the 2024-25 academic year, should students select to be involved in Environmental Sustainability Education, they will have the opportunity to be involved in a range of projects over the course of the academic year. These include:



Action for Biodiversity

According to an article in the *New Scientist* in May 2019, 'Biodiversity loss is as big a crisis as climate change', and yet we get very little opportunity in the current curriculum to explore this.

Action for Biodiversity aims to address this by monitoring and managing the biodiversity on the Sevenoaks campus – starting with the Biology Pond at the back of the SSC and its surrounding area. This includes a bog area, meadow grass, and scrub – our very own nature reserve. We have identified 157 species to date!

A group of volunteers with an interest in Ecology/Biology will monitor and manage the site and help promote it to the rest of the school (and beyond). This will involve regular surveying work which will include pond-dipping, quadrat sampling of the surrounding area and reviewing camera traps. Results will be analysed and appropriately displayed to promote the project to the school.



The Blue Team

The Blue Team collaborates with the charity Ocean Generation and works to:



- Educate in schools to reduce pollution and waste created by future generations
- Spread awareness through creative campaigns and organise events (exhibitions, annual dance show and guest speakers)
- Promote alternative products and sustainable businesses in our local community to fight plastic pollution.

You will have the opportunity to visit primary schools as an ambassador for Ocean Generation and talk about the issues threatening our world's oceans, as well as be part of the organising team for our fundraising events.



NEW!

Eco Champions

There is real demand for support in primary schools to work with pupils to empower them to take action to build a more sustainable future. Many local schools are working towards Green Flag awards, are looking to make their school site more sustainable or just want to have the opportunity to explore the environmental challenges facing the world and what can be done by the youngest members of society to combat climate change. You will work with our partner primaries to achieve their specific goals.

Environmental Action Group (EAG)

An exciting opportunity to play a part in the school's drive towards Net Zero. The EAG has set up initiatives and school policies, such as carbon offsetting for school trips, the Sevenoaks Swap Shop to highlight and reduce the impact of fast fashion, and the photography calendar which raises money for Education for All in Morocco. If you have a passion to make Sevenoaks School a more environmentally conscious place for all, then this could be the activity for you.



The Green Team

Campus Allotment: The school's allotment is fertile space where vegetables, fruit and flowers can be grown for aesthetic and consumable purposes. Students support the allotment, for example, by constructing beds and laying paths, sowing seeds and growing and tending to the young plants. Crops are harvested at different times of the year depending on what is being grown, before being distributed to local foodbanks.

No experience of gardening is necessary, just a great deal of enthusiasm about working outdoors and a willingness to learn new skills, promote sustainability and make a difference to your local community!



Seal Community Farm

Based at Seal Primary School, this project supports the maintenance and upkeep of the school's community farm. Working in a small group, you will have a chance to shift grit and woodchip to soak up the mud in animal enclosures, give the lodge a new lick of paint, and say hello to the friendly pigs, chickens, goats, tortoises and other animals. A highlight for last year's students was seeing the newborn lambs.

NEW!

Supporting Knole (Sixth Form only)

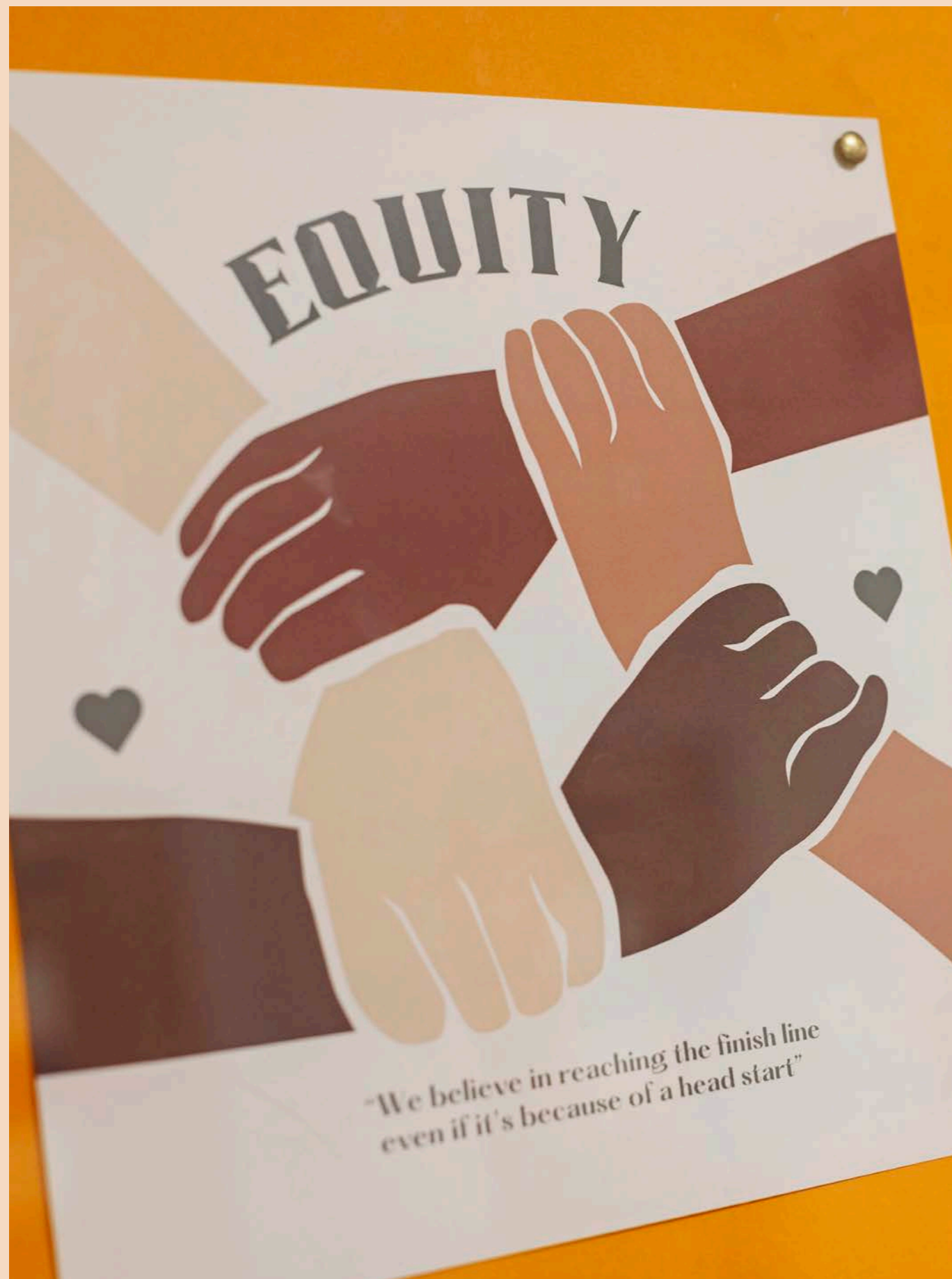
Knole is a very popular heritage visitor attraction and one of only 28 Treasure Houses within the National Trust portfolio. In a new partnership between the school and the property, four volunteering roles are available:

- **Marketing & Communications:** 1 volunteer needed
- **House Experience:** 2 volunteers needed
- **Green Court Welcome:** 2 volunteers needed

For these roles, students should have a keen interest in history, heritage and the conservation of historical objects and buildings. They should have a certain level of confidence so they can engage with the public and/or be comfortable to be in an office space with a team of working professionals. If you are interested in these roles, please ensure you speak with either Mr Lilley (PCL) or Mrs Mack (ACM).



Equity, diversity and inclusion



Key contact for all projects relating to equity, diversity and inclusion:

Mr Oberti Oddi
ISP Assistant Director (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion)
goo@sevenoaksschool.org



NEW!

The Bali Literacy Project

This is an exciting opportunity to get involved in recently established partnerships with charitable organisations in Bali. There are two strands to this placement and students would be involved in both:

- 1. Conversation:** Ever wondered what life is like in a Balinese school? Dive into the vibrant culture of Bali with us! Partnering with a local charitable organisation, we're dedicated to empowering Balinese teenagers through online conversational English lessons that boost their confidence and give them real-life practice. Join us in making a positive impact while experiencing the warmth and energy of Bali's youth.
- 2. Pen Pal Scheme:** The pen pal scheme, in collaboration with the Bali Children's Foundation, enables Sevenoaks students to write regular, personalised handwritten letters to Balinese children and children learning English. As well as supporting their language learning, the programme opens up cultural exchange and widens perspectives on both sides. The initiative was established by Sevenoaks Sixth Form students and has proved really successful. As a result, it is now being integrated into the Service programme. Topic prompts will be shared and there will be lots of support along the way!

NEW!

Charity Shop Support (Sixth Form only)

This placement involves supporting with day-to-day tasks in charity shops on Sevenoaks High Street. It is a fantastic opportunity to interact with the public, learn more about the charity and understand how this key fundraising stream works in practice. Good communication skills and a willingness to turn your hand to any task are essential!



EDI Action Group

Students who join this Service group care deeply about Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Our aim is to take action and make change within the school community to ensure that everyone is included, represented, valued and celebrated.

We are in charge of organising the EDI Week, which highlights aspects of the protected characteristics from the Equality Act 2010. We also raise funds for charities that support these causes, for instance by organising bake sales, charity concerts, film nights etc. We also invite guest speakers to talk about their experiences and we are in close contact with other working groups at school to support them in other initiatives. There will be opportunities to talk to the whole school by leading assemblies too. This Service group is the perfect platform to make change to create a more inclusive society, and change starts with small actions within our own immediate community.



Front of House

We are looking for a small team to provide foyer and concert support within The Space. Much of this will involve ensuring that performances run smoothly but it will also involve helping school staff bring these performances to the wider local community.

Much of the time required for this will involve time outside Thursday afternoons. While you will be required for a small number of Thursday afternoons throughout the year, you will usually be allowed to work in the library at this time in lieu of time spent with us at other times in the year.

You will provide ushering and general foyer support before and during performances. In alternation, you will be required to assist backstage during concerts, arranging chairs and stands as required as well as assisting the box office receiving patrons. Some concerts are short, lasting about an hour; others considerably longer, requiring you to be available between 6.30pm and 10pm. There are some short performances after school as well. You will therefore need to be available at selected after-school times and evenings throughout the year. These are agreed a term in advance and the smaller concerts are shared around so that this programme does not disrupt your evening studies to any significant extent. People who have extensive commitments to evening activities elsewhere in the school or local community should think hard about whether opting for this activity would lead to a later conflict of interest.

You will also be involved with the school's marketing team and will look at ways in which you can help them by liaising with local community groups to bring relevant concerts to the attention of people who would be interested in attending.

You will need to enjoy working as a team, supporting events and representing the school to outside visitors. Key skills required will be initiative, confidence and a calm demeanour especially under instruction.

NEW!

Laos Conversation Buddy Scheme

Be part of this small pilot group that will be working to establish an online partnership with students in Laos who want to build their English language skills and learn more about British culture. Laos is a Southeast Asian country with a fascinating history, and you will also have an opportunity to learn about the country and its culture.



Linking Ages

This activity offers two options.

1. You can choose to be a weekly visitor at a Sevenoaks care home where you help out as required by the staff. You might run an activity, play games or just have a chat with the residents. They love to meet younger people and enjoy hearing about you and your life. Over the weeks, you and they will gradually get to know each other and this 'linking ages' process becomes really rewarding for them and for you.
2. The other option is to work in a pair with another student to create a short book of stories and memories from the life of an older person. This means visiting the same person each week through the Michaelmas term; you get to know them as you do a series of 'interviews' about their past – from childhood through to the present day. Not only do you learn about the person and their experiences, but you also get a sense of how different things were in the past. Again, by doing this project, you will be 'linking ages'.

You spend the majority of the Lent term writing up your interview notes – so you need to consider carefully whether you are happy to do this editing work for several weeks. The books are produced in the Easter holidays and you present two copies (one for them, one for their family) early in the Summer term. After that, if you are in Year 10 or the Lower Sixth, you transfer to become a weekly care home visitor until the end of the term.



Local Action Group (Sixth Form only)

People in Kent have a range of challenges, with many local organisations working to support families and individuals. For example, there has been an increase in requests for support from food and hygiene banks. Many people are also feeling isolated and suffer with mental health challenges.

This group will work with local groups (such as The Hygiene Bank, Friends for Families, Loaves and Fishes, and Care for our Community) to identify needs and explore ways to help, whether through raising awareness, leading collections, creating other projects or raising funds.



MUN (Lower Sixth only)

Model United Nations is a simulation of the real UN. Students act as delegates from countries around the world and put forward different views on a range of global issues including disarmament, peacekeeping, development and the environment. You will collaborate to write UN-style resolutions, and improve your public-speaking and debating skills, both in school and, if possible, at conferences outside school, depending on how many go ahead this academic year.

There will be a fair level of commitment needed as students are required to write resolutions, undertake research and prepare speeches in their own time, but the MUN programme meets most, if not all, of the IB CAS outcomes.

To find out more, please visit the MUN Firefly page at <https://sevenoaksschool.fireflycloud.net/clubs-and-societies-2/mun>



Music Performance Group, Care Homes

Each year a small group of students in Years 10 to 13 work collaboratively to perform music which can be enjoyed and appreciated by the wider Sevenoaks community. We are looking for students who are motivated to perform live, playing solo and in duets or trios, instrumentally and/or singing. Our audiences are care home residents, not only senior citizens but also people with special needs or convalescing from health conditions. Students are expected to give a cheerful introduction to themselves, how long they've been playing and the piece or song that they'll play.

Each Thursday afternoon we go out into the community on foot to nearby care homes, weather permitting, or by people-carrier further afield or if inclement. We perform live to very receptive audiences who have welcomed Sennockian musicians for many years and value their visits highly. Staff will help with all aspects. There is no preferred style or instrument, variety encouraged: we seek students who love making music and are inventive about how to share that. We finish our concert with a group song, then chat with our audience members at the end for a short while too, to make our Service to them more complete.

This service activity will be taken by keen musicians who enjoy being collaborative and who are resourceful about bringing their own talents and those of others into the Thursday afternoon programme.



Refugee Partnerships Group

We believe in the power of collaboration to make a meaningful difference. The Refugee Partnerships Group is dedicated to enhancing English provision and creating positive outcomes for refugees. By working together, we're not just improving language skills – we're transforming lives. Join us in making a difference today.

We collaborate with Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees, a local charity. Our current projects are:

- Helping non-native speakers achieve a good level of English.

Your role: Plan and assist with the creation of amazing English lessons and materials. Let's empower these individuals by breaking language barriers!

- Raising funds for the charity and other organisations to support the learning of English.

Your role: Create your own fundraising projects. Whether it's organising events, selling cool stuff, or launching online campaigns, let's make a difference!



Riding for the Disabled (RDA)

This placement gives you the opportunity to work with children who may have physical or mental disabilities at the RDA base at Bradbourne Stables. You will help the children ride and build their confidence. You must be confident around horses and have an enthusiastic and positive manner.



Video Production

We are open to projects that will serve the community in and around Sevenoaks. In previous years, we have worked on location at primary schools, supporting them to make films and interacting with the children there. By taking part in this placement, you will sharpen your existing skills and/or develop new ones in various areas of production; this encompasses planning, execution, post-production, through to delivery.

You will always be working as a team and by the end of the year you will be able to produce a good standard of video programmes. We have access to a range of video production kit, green screens and a full graphics and effects library to support production. We use digital cameras, GoPro, Adobe Premiere Pro/After Effects and Photoshop.

NEW! Vote 16

Vote 16 is a nationwide campaign to lower the voting age in the UK from 18 to 16.

This student-led service activity will establish a public debate about the UK voting age both within the school community and beyond, with the ultimate aim of persuading Parliament to change the current arrangement. Through taking part in this placement students will:

- Engage with local and national politics (particularly valuable for students wishing to study Politics-related degrees at university)
- Better understand the formation and governance of charities and pressure groups
- Develop research, accountancy, literacy, oracy and design skills
- Increase independence and self-confidence.

External Placements

On a case-by-case basis for Sixth Form students only, the school will approve a Service placement that is arranged by a student and operates in parallel to school-arranged Thursday afternoon activities. Placements must be a commitment of two hours a week and be of genuine service to the community. If you wish to propose an external placement, please read the guidance here:

<https://sevenoaksschool.fireflycloud.net/service-and-partnerships-homepage/thursday-service>

and email partnerships@sevenoaksschool.org with the details requested.



INSTITUTE OF
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