

July 2025

35 Years and Counting...

'Students will be the most precious gift of any journey at the Sheiling'. These are the words of Corine van Barneveld, our Principal, words that indicate her unwavering motivation, commitment and passion for providing the very best in education and care for the children and young people at The Sheiling Ringwood.

It has been a special journey for Corine and, on 11th July, students, staff and trustees along with several special guests and family members came together to celebrate Corine and her journey from co-worker, House Mother and Head of Care then to Principal in 2011, reaching an exceptional 35-year Anniversary.

Trustee David Lincoln commented, 'this incredible organisation truly changes lives and helps our young people to live as independent a life as possible and, whilst times have changed and the ways of working have moved on, the anthroposophical approach remains at the heart of what the Sheiling does.'

This ethos is led by, and through, Corine's unwavering relationship with the Sheiling and every member of staff and each student feeling part of the journey.

A fitting celebration where students were at the forefront presenting beautiful and thoughtful gifts, joining in the whole community buffet lunch and being keen to chat to Corine and our guests.

Wonderful speeches, a themed cake, an ice-cream van and, with good fortune, spectacular weather meant that the whole Sheiling community and guests could spend the afternoon together sharing memories and experiences.

There were a few happy tears and many moments of surprise - especially how the event was kept a surprise from Corine for many months!



Creative Talents

It has been another successful term for those students attending art enrichment sessions. They have all been brilliantly creative. Staff have commented how every student has progressed throughout the sessions showing increased confidence with each task and producing an increasingly high standard of work.



Birthday Boating

New adventures are warmly welcomed and so are birthday treats! This term, Kessi's Class combined the two. They enjoyed a trip on a small boat along Christchurch River. It was a glorious day full of sunshine and happy sailors, a wonderful way to celebrate a student's 16th birthday.



Splash Happy

Jill's Class visited Quomps Splash Park in Christchurch and it was a big hit. Set in the beautiful surroundings of Christchurch Quay, the enclosed splash park and shallow paddling pool has water jets and sprays, a water play pump, channels, sluices, 3D fishy friends and durable rubber flooring perfect for fun with friends on a warm day.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Sheiling College has offered the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award again this year. The award is split into four categories each with three sections: Physical, Skill and Volunteering, along with a final expedition involving overnight camping. Students selected activities that interested them within the categories and in which they wished to improve their abilities within the skill sections. Some well-considered choices were made including cycling, canoeing and volunteering in the community. A great number of personal achievements were celebrated throughout the range of activities. It was wonderful to see every student develop new skills.



QE2

Kessi's Class enjoyed a visit to QE2 Activity Centre near Southampton. They participated in a wide range of adventurous activities including archery, obstacle courses and tackling the zip-wire. Staff were delighted with the confidence, determination and teamwork shown by the whole class.



Dream Ticket

Visiting the train station is a passion of one of our school students. She is interested in watching the trains come and go and, from time to time, she hops aboard for a short ride for fun. A particular love is chatting with the station staff, always asking a thoughtful question or two. The friendly atmosphere and the buzz of people travelling to new places is a source of excitement and motivation.

One day, while having a cheerful chat with school staff whilst at the station, she probed a little further and enquired whether working at the station might be a possibility. Could I experience working here? To her delight, the answer was a resounding yes!

The next step would be submitting an application for station staff to consider. Excited and determined, and with some excellent teamwork with staff

member Gamze, she worked hard creating a CV, filling out the application and practising for any potential interview.

Brilliant news arrived and the next stop was an interview! All the dedicated practise shone through. Looking smart with a special outfit and a favoured hairstyle, confidence was high.

In came the offer of a role that would include making station announcements and checking customer tickets. A perfect fit for someone sociable and enthusiastic. The bonus of a travel pass and smart Southwest Rail uniform made this a dream come true!



BBQ Builder

A college student, with a keen interest in building and construction, was given the perfect project. He helped to design and build a permanent brick BBQ at Feirefis House alongside Pat from our Facilities Team.

Construction Manager Will, who is leading our new school classroom build, Parsifal, heard of the special project and was also keen to help. Will donated his time and contributed materials to ensure the finished BBQ was to a high standard and reflected the student's commitment.



Parent Forum

During the May Parent Forum meeting we received updates from various departments across the school and college, Trustees, Health & Therapies, Residential, Finance and Facilities.

Updates included the new school classroom building, Parsifal, the proposal for a new college double classroom, college students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and much more. It's amazing how much happens each term.

A new email address for parents to stay informed and share information has been set up to run alongside the Facebook group.

If you would like to be added, please email sheilingparentforum@outlook.com or search for Sheiling Shares on Facebook.

The May meeting 'Spotlight' was on nutrition and this was a topic requested by parents. The presentation was informative, interesting and provoked many questions leading to further discussion.

The next meeting will be in October and will have a different format as it is combined with the Transition event. The Parent Forum will meet at noon for a light lunch, followed by the meeting. Parents can then choose a site tour, visit the Transition event, or do both.

The February 2026 meeting Spotlight feature will be on Total Communication, with the May 2026 Spotlight yet to be confirmed. If there is a subject you would like covered or to attend the events, please email Health@thesheilingringwood.co.uk

Helen and Kai.

Parents and Parent Forum Leads

College and Beyond

A college Silver Group student co-presented with their teacher, Ceri, at the City University of New York's 'Strengthening Neurodiverse Communities in College and Beyond' conference.

The presentation was virtual and not in person - not sure the budget runs to tickets to New York! - but was a fantastic experience, nonetheless.

The presentation was entitled 'EmpowerED' and told the story of our collaboration with the University of Winchester. The audience was international and comprised mostly of academics. Eloquent and confident, Ceri was so pleased with her co-presenter and amused as he spoke with much enthusiasm about buying burgers in the university's cafe.

Doing such a good job as a Sheiling College student ambassador, he was also invited to join the recent 'Inclusion in Higher Education UK' (IHE-UK)'s meeting to share his experiences of working with University of Winchester students. Not only a wonderful ambassador for the Sheiling but for neurodiverse inclusion - well done.



Summer Festival Fun

On Saturday 21st June, we held our Summer Festival and what a day we were treated to!

We were delighted to be welcoming students, parents, staff and the public onto our beautiful campus.

We were equally pleased to share that the overall event raised a tremendous £11,025. The Sheiling team is appreciative to have raised this wonderful sum towards a zip wire for students which will be installed over the summer break.

It was a very warm day and we were pleased that visitors braved the heat and kept themselves topped up with tasty treats from the BBQ but also refreshing drinks and cooling ice creams! All whilst enjoying a range of family activities, circus workshops, stalls and shows plus fabulous live music throughout the day.

A great day was had by all those involved and we all look forward to hosting a Summer Festival again next year on Saturday 20th June 2026.



Brilliant Bronze

College students have been attending Diverse Abilities Treehouse site in Bournemouth frequently since December as a key part of regular volunteering placements for the DofE Bronze Award Programme. They have helped with grounds keeping duties, weeding and clearing to keep the site looking lovely. Other tasks were watering plants and some students even enjoyed hoovering indoors!

The placement has been a great success. Students have given positive feedback about their enjoyment and what they have learned from working hard. Recently, Treehouse Marketing and Volunteering Executive, Becky, presented the team with certificates to acknowledge their efforts.

This was a special moment and made each student feel proud of their commitment. Following the success of this year, we're hoping to continue the placement into the next academic year.



Our Environment

Steve, part of our wonderful Facilities Team, (and dedicated to finding the best solutions to any problems) found an adaptation that converts our electric G-Wiz vehicles from lead acid to lithium batteries. The first vehicle adaptation has been completed by Steve, which should ensure our favourite maintenance vehicle serves us for at least another 5 years of economical service. More of our facilities fleet will also be converted as part of a maintenance schedule.

Our Sheiling bees are doing well despite some national and local challenges this year including disease, weather conditions and local identification of an Asian Hornets nest, which can be harmful for bees. However, despite these threats, we saw an early harvest of honey in June and quickly sold out via Reception. We keep our fingers crossed for another harvest if the current hot weather does not affect the foraging for the busy bees or they will need the honey in their hives themselves.

Josh, a new addition to the Facilities Team as our part-time gardener, has worked tirelessly in our Sensory Garden and also the large, raised flower bed at our Reception entrance. He has created wonderful displays and tended a wide variety of plants and shrubs, ensuring they flourish. Josh continues to work with other departments with a focus on continual enhancement of our large Sheiling site. Fully embracing his role at the Sheiling, Josh also wowed us all with his musical talent at our Summer Festival and other members of the team made a wealth of beautiful wooden items that were sold at the festival. We love multi-talented staff!



Volunteer

It was wonderful to welcome Tara from local company, Talus Health, which encourages its staff to volunteer locally and allocate time each year for this purpose. We were fortunate that Tara was keen to spend time learning more about us and volunteering on our site for the benefit of our students. Tara got stuck in helping Gary from Facilities and Sally from the lower school by building a mud kitchen for Jill's students. An exciting project completed and a very popular one too!



Dove Delivery

College students visited the University of Winchester to deliver handmade origami doves. The doves were a contribution to the project, 'One Thousand Doves of Peace'; the installation symbolises solidarity with people in war zones and hope for peace.



Steps to Success

A tremendous effort has been made by a determined college student. Forming one element of his Duke of Edinburgh's Award, he completed several walks in the lead up to a final expedition.

A challenging but enjoyable series supported by staff through wonderful local scenery. The keen Lifeboats enthusiast and supporter undertook his final walk across Hengistbury Head in June. This completed his Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award and also raised money for the RNLI. A fabulous effort!



Creative Kindness

One of our fabulous Student Council members expressed an interest in connecting with a nearby youth homelessness charity. She had spotted people in the local area living on the street, cold, hungry and uncomfortable and she wanted to help. Her idea was to create tie-dyed clothing to raise funds. Her goal was to find a charity supporting local young people and her research led her to Step-by-Step.

Taking her ideas to art counselling sessions with enthusiasm, she completed the steps needed. Choosing colour combinations and patterns, mixing dye, rinsing, washing and drying each item, creating labels, promoting her goods and, ultimately, displaying and offering them at our Summer Festival were all part of this amazing project. So far, she has tie-dyed 16 t-shirts, 5 pairs of socks and 10 scrunchies all in a little over 3 months and has raised £175 for Step-by-Step. A representative from the charity visited school to collect the wonderful contribution and praised the creativity, determination and kindness that has been shown.



Meet the Trustee

Hello! My name is Vanda North and I am thrilled to be a Trustee at The Sheiling Ringwood. You may remember dear Joan Dampney, who was the Trustee for the Parent Forum, who has now retired from the Board, and I have the great honour of following in her footsteps in the role of Parent Forum Trustee.

As a parent or carer, your involvement, as far as you are able, is so very important for the wellbeing of your child. This also provides valuable feedback to the staff teams and aids and informs the direction the Sheiling takes.

I am always thrilled when you share your stories with me! I so enjoy hearing how the Sheiling has helped and made such a positive difference to your child and your lives. And I equally wish to hear how we can do better, if you have any questions, or just want another opinion on a matter.

The Sheiling creates such an amazing environment, pulling from its long history with Camphill and constantly looking for ways to keep the values, ethos and strong, affirmative morals, so necessary in these days.

The 'skills' I bring to share with you are:

1. Boundless belief in the possibilities for each human to thrive
2. Infinitely creative (sometimes a bit crazy) idea generation
3. 55 years of refining & sharing resilience and stress management processes
4. 35 years of exploring the 'learn to learn' process. Learn HOW to learn, then add the content.
5. Using my experience as a dyslexic thinker to support others
6. Sharing ways for everyone to have more JOY in their lives and
7. Boundless enthusiasm to be present with you and assist however I am able.

However, you also need to know that I am not good at spelling (sic); or a lot of details; or sitting still for more than 45 minutes!

My current status is partially retired, with many extra activities, including:

- Volunteering at the Ferndown Food Bank, where I have also been talked into face painting and being a story telling elf!
- Gardening, with our 17 raised beds full of fruits and vegetables
- Raising bees and gathering our first honey
- Being a founding member of The Change Maker Group Ltd. where we help people and companies thrive whilst adopting change
- Sharing my 8 step/minute resilience building process called Mind Chi, around the world
- Enjoying time with my friends and family and 'hunky Hubz'!

I realise that, for many of you, attending the Parent Forum in person may not be possible and I would still like to hear from you by email: Vanda@MindChi.com I will always respond as soon as I am able.

Please do come up and say 'Hello!' I am the one with pink hair and a big grin, easy to find!

vanda



Festival Calendar

We aim to create a beautiful and inspiring annual cycle of celebrations that enrich each year for both students and staff. The summer months bring some of our favourites and the fine weather is a bonus when joining together as a community.

The Midsummer Festival this year was an array of colour, poetry, dancing and an ice-cream treat together around the campfire!



Amazing Achievements

As a registered Pearson Centre, we offer Functional Skills (English and Maths) for students who will benefit from this qualification.

These vocational qualifications will allow our students to access further education or courses in line with their career aspirations and recently we were thrilled for students who gained their Maths qualification.

A wonderful achievement and a proud moment for students and staff. Students received their certificates during a special assembly, well deserved after all their hard work. Well done!



Dates for your Diary

Summer Break
25th July - 31st August

Half Term Break
20th October - 31st October

Christmas Break
**22nd December -
2nd January**

Autumn Term Commences
1st September

Christmas Crafts Event
30th November



Social Media

We are keeping our X (@sheilingringwd), Facebook (@sheilingringwood) and LinkedIn (The Sheiling Ringwood) pages up-to-date. So check them out to see what is happening across the campus, events, see great new pictures, fundraising news and even keep in touch. Our YouTube channel (The Sheiling Ringwood) is another fantastic source of information and activities or you could link with us on Instagram (thesheilingringwood).



Enjoy the Summer Break