

WELCOME

TO SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS · 2026-2027



SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Service and Partnerships at Sevenoaks School



A very warm welcome to the Service and Partnerships programme!

We all share a responsibility to contribute to the communities around us. Across cultures and throughout history, progress has depended on the actions, both big and small, of people willing to devote their time, talents and energy to the service of others. At Sevenoaks, we see Service not as an addition to your education, but as an essential part of it.

The Service and Partnerships programme offers you the chance to step beyond the classroom and explore the impact you can have in the wider community. Whether you choose to work alongside community groups supporting young people, contribute to environmental initiatives, or collaborate with global partners, each experience is an opportunity to use your time, ideas and efforts to make a meaningful difference in someone else's life.

The energy, initiative and commitment you bring will shape what you gain from this opportunity. It will influence your experience and the impact you have on those around you.

Our Thursday activities are largely student-led, giving you the space to take responsibility, show leadership and develop the confidence to act independently. Along the way, you will build valuable skills such as teamwork, adaptability, communication, decision-making and initiative, qualities that are highly valued by universities and employers and will serve you throughout your life.

I encourage you to explore the placements in this booklet and make the most of what is on offer. You may be surprised by the difference you make and where it takes you.

The Service and Partnerships team

Here are the key members of staff involved in the Service programme:



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

Choosing a Service activity

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 in this booklet carefully and pick at least four activities which you think you will really enjoy, as there are limited spaces for each.

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 Diploma) and the volunteering element of DofE.



Environmental sustainability education

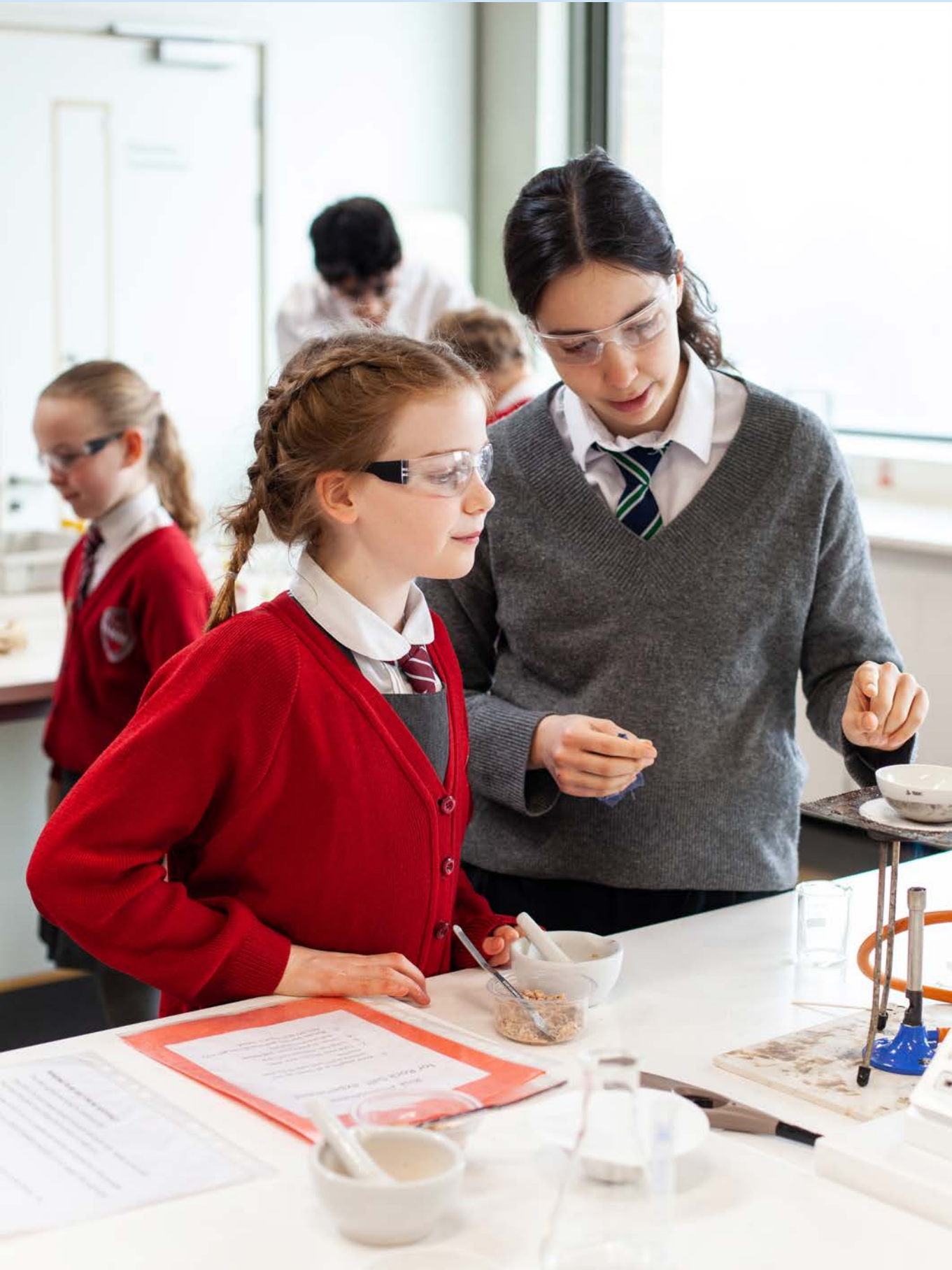
Mr Washbourn (GEW)



Equity, diversity and inclusion

Mrs Cordón Bates (ACB)

Educational partnerships



Key contact for all educational partnership placements:

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



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.

Dance

This student-led group visits local primary schools and runs dance workshops. You'll need strong communication skills and an ability to support children as they discover more about dance and develop their confidence and skills.



DigiLit (with EduSpots)

EduSpots is a Ghanaian registered NGO and UK registered charity. It 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.

DigiLit is a programme run by EduSpots. The Service placement involves working with the DigiLit 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 leads initiatives that enhance learning within the school and build educational partnerships with institutions both locally and internationally. Its projects have included:

- Providing digital education and support to older members of the local community in collaboration with U3A (University of the Third Age).
- Running sessions with local primary school students, including preparing for the transition to secondary school and developing sensory skills.
- Producing ideas and resources that support students with their learning.
- Writing and designing a regular education magazine and reading newsletter for Sevenoaks students
- Online reading support for primary school pupils who are finding reading challenging.

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



First Tech

Open to those students who are part of the First Tech challenge team. In this Service group you will be mainly working with primary school age children to introduce them to coding and CAD. You'll also be considering how to engage other students to make STEM less intimidating, more diverse and inclusive.



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 in 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 pupils 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.



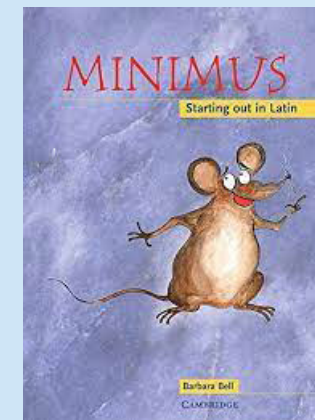
Junior Science

Do you have a flair for science and would like to inspire and engage primary school pupils 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 school age 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 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 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 Music

We are looking for a small group of students who would like 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 2026-27 will include: Chess, Creative Writing, Dance, Debating, French, History, Maths, PE, Reading and Spanish.



Primary Design 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 pupils. 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.

Fusion Magazine

Sevenoaks students share their passion for science with younger audiences by participating in the *Fusion* magazine Service group. In the process, students strengthen their creativity, teamwork, collaboration, and leadership skills.

During STEM Week, local primary pupils are invited to submit their science questions, with selected responses written by Service students featured in *Fusion*.



Environmental sustainability education



Key contact for all environmental sustainability placements:

Mr Washbourn
Environmental Sustainability Education Lead
gew@sevenoaksschool.org

Students who opt to be involved in the Environmental Sustainability Education strand of the Service programme have the opportunity to be involved in a range of projects over the course of the year as follows:



Eco Champions

There is a real demand for supporting primary schools in empowering their pupils to take action towards building a more sustainable future. Many local schools are working towards Green Flag awards. They 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 primary schools to achieve their specific goals.

Environmental Action Group (EAG)

This group supports Sevenoaks School's objective to reduce carbon. The EAG works to set up initiatives to boost sustainability (for example second-hand kit sales and swap shops), as well as seeking to influence school policy and share student voices on sustainability issues. EAG students have also sought to build connections with other local students and schools, for example through Model COP events. If you have a passion to make Sevenoaks School a more environmentally conscious place for all, then this a great forum in which to make your voice heard.

Mend It

In this placement, you'll be equipped with the skills to repair electronics that could be destined for landfill, giving them a new lease of life.



School Allotment

The school campus allotment is a 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 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 for working outdoors and a willingness to learn new skills, promote sustainability and make a difference to your local community!



Community Projects

Students involved in Environmental Sustainability service are often called upon to support specific community-based initiatives that are environment-related. This will depend on need over the course of the academic year but previous projects have included maintenance and upkeep at Seal Farm (a farm based at Seal Primary School), gardening support at a local nursing home and supporting a rewilding initiative around Sevenoaks Station..

Solefield School

Solefield School (part of the Sevenoaks Family of Schools) has a Forest School space onsite near the International Centre boarding house. As part of this placement, Sevenoaks students both act as Teaching Assistants during the children's timetabled Forest School lessons and work to develop the provision by supporting the creation of teaching resources and considering how the equipment can be enhanced and extended.

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:

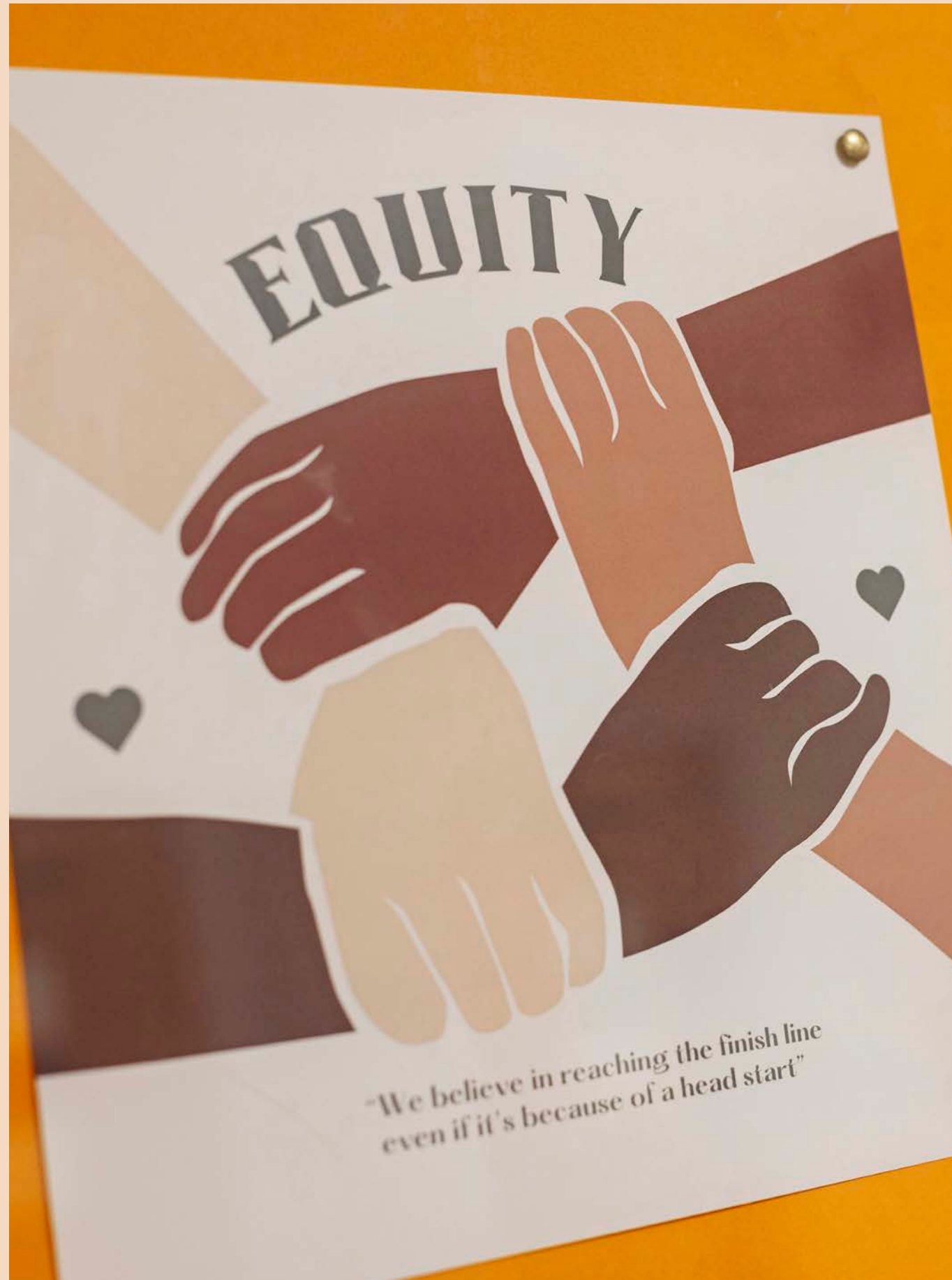
- **Marketing and communications:** 1 volunteer needed
- **House experience:** 2 volunteers needed
- **Green Court welcome:** 2 volunteers needed

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 Mrs Mack (ACM).

Please note this is a weekly commitment throughout the year and does not form part of the environmental sustainability carousel of activities.



Equity, diversity and inclusion



Poster produced by EDI service group students for Home Clothes Day.

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

Mrs Cordón Bates
ISP Assistant Director (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
acb@sevenoaksschool.org



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 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!

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!



Community Art

This is a very popular Service option, with two elements, which aims to make art accessible and therapeutic for all. Primary students visit the Art department weekly, giving them access to tremendous facilities and projects. You will develop confidence assisting with and eventually leading the workshops. In addition, a few Service students visit Hospice in the Weald each week, on rotation, to create artwork with day patients at the 'Living Well' sessions – you should be prepared to visit once every 4-5 weeks from 1.15pm.



EDI Action Group

We organise EDI Week, which highlights aspects of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010. We raise funds for EDI charities through bake sales, charity concerts and film nights, invite guest speakers to talk about their experiences and collaborate with other school working groups to support their initiatives. There are opportunities to lead assemblies, so this group is the perfect platform to make change to create a more inclusive society.

ENGIN and Pen Pals (Sixth Form only)

ENGIN is a global non-profit that helps Ukrainians of all ages improve their lives through authentic conversation with volunteers worldwide. Their innovative programme has connected over 65,000 Ukrainians and fluent English speakers for mutually beneficial relationships at the intersection of language practice, cultural exchange, mentorship and friendship. You will be paired with a student who needs English language support through regular online conversations. These sessions may take place outside of a Thursday afternoon and, where this is the case, you will be given (supervised) time in lieu.

Alongside these conversation sessions, you will also be buddied up with young people living abroad who are keen for a pen pal to both practise their English and facilitate cultural exchange and learning.



Front of House (Sixth Form IB Music students only)

We are looking for a small team to provide support for school concerts, and other performances held in The Space. As well as supporting events to ensure they run smoothly, you will be seeking to promote this cultural offering within the wider community. Much of the time required for this placement will involve time outside of Thursday afternoons and, where this is the case, you will be given (supervised) time in lieu on a Thursday afternoon.

Laos Conversation Buddy Scheme

This placement is an online partnership with two organisations based in Laos: the Savan Centre and Lone Buffalo. You will plan and deliver online English conversation classes (usually in pairs) with a small group of Laotian students who are keen to practise their English and learn more about British culture and customs. Laos is a South-east 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.

Students 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 in 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 to nearby care homes or further afield. 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 is 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.

Pembury Hospital Visits (Sixth Form only)

We are excited to be running a pilot project this year at Pembury Hospital. Exact roles and responsibilities are to be confirmed, but the hospital is particularly keen for students to work directly with patients on the frailty and dementia wards, provide concierge services in hospital and support the Trust in gathering feedback from patients and families. This is a unique experience for students keen to pursue a career in medicine and will enable you to gain experience in a hospital setting, whilst developing your communication skills, empathy and proactivity. Please note that this will be a longer session than most, running from 1:30pm to 5:30pm each Thursday.



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.

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 placement details.



INSTITUTE OF
SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL