



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

July 2025 Edition 24

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Together, We Cann

By Shane Baker, Headteacher



That's a Wrap!

As we bring the 2024-25 academic year to a close, I want to reflect on what has been a truly productive, successful, and exciting year here at Cann Bridge School. A key highlight was Ofsted recognising our rapid improvements during their November 2024 inspection. We are proud of how far we've come, and even more determined to our progression value.

Summer Term Highlights

The summer term always seems to fly by, and this one was no exception. From analysing pupil progress, hosting Parents' Evening, our fantastic Leavers' Prom, and the 14-19 Celebration Assembly, to welcoming visitors curious about our work — it's been a full and rewarding term.

I'm delighted to share that most pupils have made greater than expected progress across many areas of our assessment frameworks. This reflects the positive impact of our new curriculum, launched in September 2024. We hope you found the pupil progress reports helpful, alongside Evisense Learning Journals, to initiate conversations at Parents Evening, and we look forward to developing them further to keep you even more informed about your child's learning journey.

Following parental feedback, some parents asked to be able to meet with their child's new class teacher before the end of the academic year. Feedback from some parents indicate this was a welcomed and positive development.



Disney-Themed Leavers' Prom

This year's Disney-themed Prom was absolutely fantastic — and yes, Cann Bridge really knows how to throw a party! DJ Lee led the music with expert skill, and it was great to see learners who've been learning DJing during Personal Development Club working alongside him on the night.

A huge thank you to Tracy and the Post Bridge College team for organising the event and to the pupils who designed and prepared an impressive buffet. Thanks also to the Friends of Cann Bridge for contributing towards the costs. A special farewell to Tracy, who is retiring after 25 years of dedicated service to Downham School/Cann Bridge School — including over 15 years of leading our Proms. You will be greatly missed.

14–19 Leavers and Achievers Ceremony

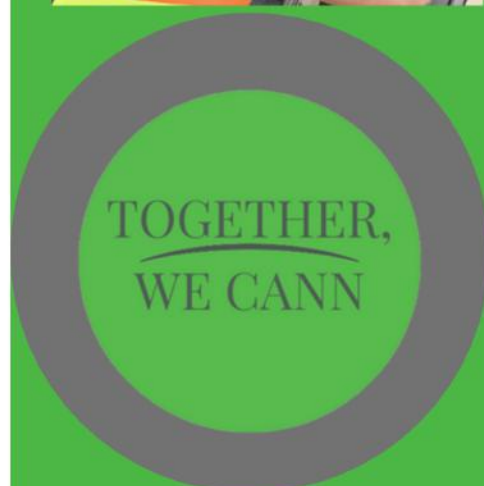
This year, we proudly awarded learners with Nationally Recognised Qualifications through our new NOCN accreditation programme, as well as Arts Awards, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Ten Tors, Travel Training and Work Related Learning certificates.

We said goodbye to nine wonderful leavers: Tristan, Mariam, Jack, Sam, Samuel, Darcie, Alex, Maddie, and Sonny. Some have been with us since Nursery, while others joined more recently — but every one of them has left their mark. It's been an honour to watch these young people grow. We wish them every success as they step into adulthood. Huge thanks to Jennie for the putting the event together including the wonderful film montages.

Sports Festival

This year's Sports Day evolved into a full-day sports festival! With support from Babcock and PEM Disability volunteers, we ran a host of sporting events across Key Stages, followed by a picnic lunch on the field. Thank you to all families who joined us on a beautifully hot summer's day — and to the Friends of Cann Bridge for raising £164.40 at the refreshment stall.

Thank you also to James for coordinating the day, and congratulations on retaining our Gold School Games Award following reassessment! My favourite days at Cann Bridge are always when we all come together.





Summer Show: A Night at the Musicals

Our end-of-year show was another triumph! Watching our learners sing, sign, act, and dance — some stepping onto the stage for the first time — was truly inspiring. Our learners are great performers and I was very impressed.

Thank you to Friends of Cann Bridge for supporting the event with refreshments. The rain held off for our afternoon picnic and games, dancing, raffle and awards. It was great for our families be part of our end of term awards ceremony. Thank you, Lee, Nikki and Emma, for coordinating this spectacular event.

Fundraising, Facilities & Community Support

Our community's generosity has helped us achieve so much:

- Friends of Cann Bridge raised an incredible amount this year, including £501.50 from our sold-out Quiz Night. They've committed to raising £10,000 for outdoor and playground developments and this term bought most classes teaching and learning resources. Thank you.
- Princess Yachts donated 24 laptops, supporting our growing computing and digital curriculum. This will make a difference to our provision.
- Sports Premium funding, alongside donations from local lodges, has enabled new Lower School playground resources.

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Well done to the six learners and staff who completed a challenging two-day expedition in the heat — even if Jennie may have underestimated the route and distance! The encouragement from families at the finish line made it extra special. Thank you to the staff who volunteered in the evening, overnight and morning to enable this to take place.

Friday Personal Development Clubs

This new initiative this year has been a big hit! Learners have explored Road Safety, DJing, instruments, singing and signing, and art. Our Art Club have produced fantastic pieces of art showcasing our pupils' creative abilities so well. Plus our Gardening Club has successfully grown produce in the Science Garden, thanks also to a dedicated parent volunteer.

School Council

Our school councillors have helped improve the environment by campaigning for safer crossings, designing recycling posters, and adding planters at the entrance. Thank you to Katie for coordinating their work. We look to further enhance the school council to support local and city-wide campaigns in the new year.

Rebound Therapy Expansion

Thanks to Rachel Polson's leadership, rebound therapy has expanded with new flexi-bounce trampettes, allowing more pupils to benefit from in-class sessions. Those with higher physical needs will continue using our large trampoline for tailored support.

Attendance Matters

Our school attendance rate is 92.7%, well above the national average for special schools. Thank you for prioritising attendance — it truly makes a difference in your child's progress and outcomes.

Holiday Club Update

This summer, Nikki is running our Holiday Club with support from Fit and Fed funding. It is great to see such a range of activities have been planned for this summer and hope many of you are able to attend. Unfortunately, due to limited staffing availability, spaces are reduced for our Summer Club; Nikki will contact families about places where possible.



Staff Achievements

Congratulations to all staff who have completed professional development this year, including:

- Cory (Level 3 Apprenticeship)
- Maggie Antell (Early Career Teacher Programme)
- Staff achieving Level 2/3/4 TA qualifications and Functional Skills



New Initiatives and Exciting Developments

- My Child at School (MCAS): We're moving all communications, payments, and key updates to MCAS in September. Please ensure you've registered.
- New Home-School Communication Books: These will launch in September in a durable wallet to help keep class messages organised.
- Healthy Schools Award: Led by Rachael, we're progressing toward accreditation with your input vital to our success. More details to be shared in the new academic year.
- Let's Go Zero: We're developing a Climate Action Plan to help Cann Bridge become a net zero school!



New Faces and Congratulations

- We welcome 9 new learners and their families in September, remaining an oversubscribed school. This year we received over 120 consultations for places at our school!
- Congratulations to Claire, Peter, Jamie, Sian and Lucy on their promotions to Senior Teaching Assistant roles.
- Welcome to Amelia, joining our teaching team as Maggie begins maternity leave.
- We look forward to welcoming 3 Psychology Degree students completing a year long placement with us starting in September. Working 4 days a week supporting in class, shadowing meetings, leading on small projects.



Personal Highlights from the Year

Some of my favourite moments this year include:

- Taking students to Gran Canaria in March
- Launch and impact of our Nurture Breakfast and Toothbrushing offer
- Developing our library, Lower School Playground and IT infrastructure
- Launching our phonics progress tracking system
- Seeing the success of our new curriculum
- Growing partnerships such as Boringdon Hall Hotel and National Trust Saltram for Work Related Learning opportunities
- Watching our amazing pupils win the National Tycoon in Schools Award in London
- Hearing our KS4 students perform a powerful original Cann Bridge song with Far Flung — a performance we'll all learn and sing at Friday assemblies next year which incorporates our Behaviour Values!
- The Winter and Summer Show!





Looking Ahead: School Development Priorities

Our leadership team has completed a detailed review of our Self-Evaluation Framework, drawing from pupil data, learning walks, stakeholder feedback, and surveys. As a result, we've identified five key priorities for 2025–26:

1. Improving Writing outcomes
2. Enhancing the Impact of Phonics delivery
3. Developing Computing and Digital Skills
4. Enriching our Music provision
5. Continued improvement in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

More details about the 2025–26 School Development Plan will be shared in the new academic year.

Final Words

During the summer holidays our reception area is having a makeover. I have uploaded a video showcasing some of the wonderful teaching and learning that has taken place this year on Facebook, YouTube and our website.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide wonderful opportunities for our pupils. Cann Bridge is a fantastic school, and it's the strength of our community that makes it truly special.

On behalf of the Governors and myself, I wish you all a happy, restful, and safe summer break.

Warm regards,

The Arts at Cann Bridge – A Year of Growth and Creativity

Over the past year, the Arts have continued to flourish and evolve across the school. In Art and Design, we've seen remarkable growth at all key stages, with learners expressing their creativity through a diverse range of mediums, materials, and techniques. Each project has been enriched by exposure to a variety of inspiring artists, craftspeople, and designers, sparking imagination and deepening engagement. Feedback from both staff and learners has been overwhelmingly positive, with many sharing how much they look forward to and enjoy their art lessons.

Looking ahead, Music is a key focus for development in the coming year, and we are delighted to have already made significant progress. We were fortunate to collaborate with the wonderful charity Jessie's Fund, who provided two exceptionally talented musicians to work with us for a week. During their time with us, they led engaging, hands-on projects with learners from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 4. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for teachers and teaching assistants to observe high-quality, interactive music teaching in action. In addition, staff benefited from expert-led training to help build confidence and skills in delivering music education.

There are many more exciting developments on the horizon for the Arts next year—stay tuned!

Emma Vinnicombe
Creativity & The Arts Curriculum Team Lead









School Term Dates 2025/26

	September 25					October 25					November 25					December 25				
Monday	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	26	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Thursday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
Friday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	

	January 26					February 26					March 26					April 26				
Monday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Tuesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Wednesday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Friday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	

	May 26					June 26					July 26					August 26				
Monday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31
Tuesday		5	12	19	16	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	
Thursday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	

The school year comprises:

Teaching days (statutory)	190
Professional development days ¹	5
Occasional days ²	5
sub-total	200
School holidays	53
Bank holidays	8
Saturdays and Sundays	104
Total	365

School terms:

term	start	end	days
1	8 Sep 25	24 Oct 25	35
2	3 Nov 25	19 Dec 25	35
3	6 Jan 26	13 Feb 26	29
4	23 Feb 26	2 Apr 26	29
5	20 Apr 26	22 May 26	24
6	2 Jun 26	23 Jul 26	38
Total			190

Notes:

1 Professional Development Days (INSET Days)

2 Occasional Days

What's coming up...

23rd July - Last Day of Term

3rd-5th September - Professional Development Days (Closed to pupils)

8th September - Pupils return to school

12th September - Class Newsletters and Timetables will be sent home

Further dates will be shared shortly in our annual Family Engagement Calendar

Further details
about Family
Training/ Workshops
& Family Café
dates are sent
separately

Friends of



CANN BRIDGE SCHOOL

The Friends of Cann Bridge brings together families, staff, and the local community to raise essential funds to support the work of Cann Bridge School. Our efforts range from fundraising for large appeals to funding smaller educational resources and opportunities. Can you help us to make a difference? You can also use our QR code to donate today.

LEARN MORE



www.cannbridgeschool.co.uk/families/friends-of-cann-bridge



Cann Bridge School Fund Charity Number 288503

Our Mantra, Vision & Values



We Cann...

Together, we aspire to create a nurturing school community by being aspirational, learner focused, collaborative and progressive.

We develop each learner's communication and independence through their school journey to prepare them for the wider world through creative and personalised learning, actively contributing to society, leading to healthy and fulfilled lives.

Together, 'We Cann...' be

Aspirational

**Learner
Focused**

Collaborative

Progressive

Our Behaviour Values at



We Cann...



Our Safeguarding Team



To safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people, working together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our school to identify, assess and support those children and young people who are suffering harm.



Karen Hunter
Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DSL)
Deputy Headteacher



Shane Baker
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)
Headteacher



Jen Ferrett
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)
Assistant Headteacher



Nikki Burrage
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)
Family & Learner Support
Advisor



Jackie Carter & Michelle Prue
Link Governors for Safeguarding

**Safeguarding
is everyone's
responsibility**

Our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Adult Safeguarding Policy and protocol are available on our website.
Report any concerns and incidents through CPOMs or directly to the Safeguarding Team.
You can make contact with governors by emailing cbclerk@torbridge.net.
Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH): 01752 668000, or 01752 346984 out of hours: mash@plymouth.gov.uk for allegations of abuse to children.
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 01752 307569 or LADO@plymouth.gov.uk for allegations of abuse made by staff, visitors or volunteers.

Call 999 if the child is in immediate danger

***Safeguarding is everyone's
responsibility***

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.



2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.



3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.



4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.



5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.



6 SUPERVISION IS KEY



For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

7 DON'T GO TOO FAR



When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED

For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.



9 FLOAT AND CALL 999



If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

10 TEACH WATER SAFETY



Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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FAMILY HELP AND INFORMATION LINE

Need help or advice about your own family?

**Are you a practitioner who wants to get some advice about a family
you are working with?**

Get in touch using our new Early Help and SEND advice line.

Our Family Support Workers are here to talk about any worries or answer your questions.

We can offer support around:

- Parenting guidance
- Emotional wellbeing
- Social and emotional development

- Relationship worries
- Education worries
- School attendance
- SEND concerns
- The SEND process



Book a conversation now at www.plymouth.gov.uk/familyhelp

Welcome & Goodbye

We say goodbye to:

Tracy Temple
Trinity Squires
Deeanne Banks
Courtney Kelly
Chamdini Pannipitiya Arachchige
Emma Johnson/Bell
Sam Lane

Maternity Leave:

Maggie Antell

In September we welcome:

Amelia Crick
Chloe Balkham
Fran Bench
Sarah Brennan
Sarah Chapman
Laura Coombes
Beth Hildyard
Leteasha Paul
Katie Smyth
Kathryn Williams
Tyler Ireland

Psychology Placement Students:

Skye Byers-Ross
Lauren March
Sinead Gogan



Learn more about our fantastic staff team on our website
www.cannbridgeschool.co.uk/about-us/staff-classes

Our current vacancies:
www.cannbridgeschool.co.uk/about-us/vacancies-volunteers

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