



Tes Schools Awards 2026

Winner

Excellence in
Pupil Enrichment

#TesAwards



Beech Hall
School

The Griffin
Extra

Issue 11/3 - July 2026



Beech Hall School

VO No.1 SCHOOL



**Tes Schools
Awards 2026**

Winner

Excellence in Pupils

The process of application began in February and is a long, involved online application comprising seven key questions, most of which with a 250-word limit and three pieces of supporting evidence. The seven key questions are:



How do you know your school has been successful, and how do you objectively measure this success?



What makes your submission stand out from the others – what is the outstanding feature that sets it apart?



What was the biggest obstacle to your success and how did you overcome it?



What is the vision for education that underpins your work within this submission?



How have you ensured every child gets a broad and balanced curriculum?



How have you shown inclusivity and pastoral care?



300-word supporting statement

Our supporting statements took the form of parent testimonials, newspaper cuttings, a magazine editorial and a great piece of video that has combined footage over the years including a very fresh-faced Harold Ghorbanian and Rory's landing on French soil after thirteen and a half hours swimming across the English Channel, Enrichment Week, Seb motor racing at Brands Hatch, former Head Boy Amaan Mohammed singing in church at Christmas and Will taking the lead through the river as part of his winning Tough Mudder race. You can enjoy this short video of excerpts by scanning the QR code on the opposite page...

TED OL IN THE UK

l Enrichment



Beech Hall School

Here's a snapshot of the diverse enrichment experiences that
develop confidence, curiosity and wider
opportunities for every pupil at Beech Hall School.

***“Their biggest obstacle is brilliant and boy
have they overcome that”***

[TES judges]

Timeline for the awards

Stage 1

The Tes Schools Awards 2026 are open for entries. You can enter these awards for free if you're in a state or independent school based in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Stage 2

The deadline is creeping up. It's time to triple-check that you've addressed the key criteria for the category you're applying for and make sure you've pressed submit before entries close.

Stage 3

The shortlist is announced! Our website will be updated, emails will be sent out and updates will be shared across our social channels. We want to see all the celebrations, so make sure to tag us on socials @tesforteachers

Stage 4

Did you make the shortlist? Make sure you've got your ticket; you don't want to miss the spectacular gala dinner and awards ceremony. Be quick, our earlybird offer is only available for a short time.

Stage 5

It's your last chance to get discounted tickets! After 15 May tickets will be available at full price until 22 May. Keep your eyes peeled for updates about our celebrity host and special performances!

Stage 6

Who will the 2026 winners be? After enjoying a champagne reception and a 3-course meal, our esteemed panel of judges will announce the winners of the Tes Schools Awards 2026 on Friday 19 June at the prestigious Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane, London. Look out for live updates on our social channels @tesforteachers

Monday 2 February
Open for entries



Friday 6 March
Entries close



Friday 24 April
Shortlist
announcement



Friday 24 April
Tickets on sale



Friday 15 May
Earlybird booking
offer ends



Friday 19 June
Awards night/
winners announced



The number 1 school in the UK for pupil enrichment...

5 medals at the ISA National Athletics Finals...

Top 3rd in the country at the national ChemQuiz competition...

World's most successful English Channel junior swim team...

They're not bad accolades for a school of just 216 pupils are they?! Blenheim Schools, Outcomes First Group and we are, I believe rightly, proud of what our pupils and the wider school community has achieved, and I would like to use this final Griffin publication of the school year to reflect on what it took to achieve an education BAFTA against some of the fiercest competition.

The *Excellence in Pupil Enrichment* was a new category for 2026 and, unsurprisingly, one of the most popular in terms of applications. In fact, 123 schools applied for this monumental recognition, shortlisted down to just 8. Rod Williams, CEO of TES, said: "The TES Schools Awards recognise the schools and teachers whose work is changing lives every day. This year's winners represent the very best of UK education. They are raising standards, supporting their communities and finding new ways to help every pupil succeed. With a record number of entries this year, the quality of submissions was exceptional. Congratulations to all of this year's winners and finalists for the extraordinary contribution they make to education."

The judges said: "Their biggest obstacle is brilliant and boy have they overcome that," recognition of the enormous success that our pupils experience as the direct

result of hard work, commitment, dedication and resilience. The judges continued: "Children - not elite athletes - can take their place in anything they believe in."

Children can take their place in anything they believe in. Of course, we believe that and espouse the commitment every single day. Possunt quia posse videntur = we can because we believe we can. We believe it, we evidence it, but to have it ratified by not only an external body, but the most important one in education terms in the country - that's recognition!

At the start of the academic year, I spoke to our pupils about it being okay to make mistakes, it being okay for things to go wrong, it being okay for us all to be fallible. I extended the same message to every one of my colleagues and I stand by that. As the school continues to grow and evolve, and begin to understand what it means to be part of the amazing organisation that is Blenheim Schools and the Outcomes First Group, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

The school's roll is larger than it has ever been, against a backdrop, sadly, of independent school closures at an increasingly alarming rate. Our academic results speak for themselves and, for the first time, we are looking forward to seeing the outcomes for our very first group of A level students. Our pupils continue to succeed on the national stage against much larger schools and our swimmers continue to break records. This year's squad, at 17, is stronger than any previous year, and we are looking at the potential for three boats this season, with our older, more experienced swimmers hoping to become the

first team of junior boys to make the 2-way crossing, to France and back - a world record attempt!

Huge thanks to my colleagues who provide the broader opportunities every single day, offering upwards of 60 co-curricular clubs per week. Thanks to Miss Fitzgerald who coordinates this massive effort and, of course, to our children who participate with such engaging enthusiasm. I am especially indebted to Blenheim colleagues Simon Baggott and Laura Hunt who were both instrumental in helping me to write the original TES application. Throughout this publication, that application is included in its entirety here, because it puts some substance behind the application itself and the ultimate award that concludes a wonderful year for Beech Hall School, of course concluding our Centenary Year.

Charles 'Alec' Crowther joined Beech Hall School in 1925, one of the school's founding eight pupils. One hundred years later, it has grown into one of the most successful schools in the north of England, confident in its uniqueness and individuality which is why it continues to thrive.

Outstanding opportunities, driven by individual journeys.

Because no two children learn - or thrive - in the same way.

Isn't it time for something different?

Thank you for being a part of an incredible centenary year.



How do you know your school has been successful, and how do you objectively measure this success?

In 2024/25, Beech Hall School became the world's most successful English Channel relay team.

In any given term in the last academic year, we have offered between 50 and 70 co-curricular clubs. Attendance is recorded on the online platform Evolve, and analysed by our Co-Curricular Coordinator who uses the data to identify patterns of popularity, groups of pupils who are accessing the most clubs, for example boys and girls, different age groups of pupils, those with and without SEND. It had previously been identified that Year 9 girls were attending fewer clubs than their counterparts and so they were spoken to about what they would like to be provided. With several new clubs (Hot Chocolate & A Chat, Wednesday Wellbeing and Peer Mentors), this increased participation from

this group of pupils with notable successes. Overall club attendance for ten identified girls collectively increased by 800% from 16 clubs attended to 144. This included individual increases from 2 to 19, 6 to 18 and 0 to 12. It was also noted that, with this increase in girls' participation, "the ratio of girls and boys involved in clubs is now in line with the ratio on roll".

The data was used to analyse access to clubs for those pupils in receipt of local authority taxi transport as we were concerned that these pupils may be disadvantaged as a result. The majority (88%) accessed clubs either at lunchtime or parents made their own travel arrangements after school or on Saturdays, therefore ensuring that they were not disadvantaged.



What makes your submission stand out from the others – what is the outstanding feature that sets it apart?

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Macclesfield Express

Trusted news since 1811



● Beech Hall's Mencap Marvels swam a 21-mile relay from Dover to France

Swimmers' Channel challenge

With two more successful junior teams crossing the English Channel in 2024/25, Beech Hall School became the world's most successful junior squad to cross the English Channel. In the last six years, 25 children have completed an English Channel relay swim. They also topped £125,000 raised for Mencap. In October of 2024, Beech Hall pupils also became the first children to ever swim the 58.5km around 20 Bridges of Manhattan in relay, completing their challenge in 7 hours 22 minutes.

The school roll at the end of the academic year was 182. We are a small school that punches above its weight in terms of individual and collective opportunities and achievements. Having attended

the ISA regional athletics championships, Archie (Year 6) progressed to the finals in Birmingham and came away with a double gold medal in the 4x100m sprint and the vortex throw.

Such was the swim squad's English Channel success, they were recognised at the Channel Swimming Association's annual dinner with four awards – youngest relay team, fastest junior relay team, fastest men's six and youngest solo swimmer. One recent addition to the swim squad, Ruby in Year 8, her parents told me "she is so excited by the Channel swim and is absolutely loving the whole swim community. She says she's 'found her thing'."

What was the biggest obstacle to your success and how did you overcome it?

In terms of open-water swimming, the biggest obstacle has been being taken seriously in a predominantly adult world. It took several months to convince New York Open Water to allow our pupils to swim because youngsters had never done anything like this before. The organisation was skeptical and our insurer unconvinced. As they set off from the New York jetty, the CEO of New York Open Water commented “wow, they’re fast” to which our team administrator responded “I told you they’re not kids, they’re Channel swimmers!” Since that achievement around the 20 Bridges, New York Open Water has opened up its organisation to offer relays and have used the photograph of our inaugural youngsters on their website:



Providing the breadth and balance for Enrichment Week is not always easy, especially at the time in the year when staff are at their most tired. However, the transformation from Activity Week to Enrichment Week has been a really important one as it underpins both the importance and the value of these four days. I am grateful to colleagues who understand the enormous benefits of what they offer resulting in this comment from a Year 6 parent: “To say that he had a fantastic time at Cranedale would be an understatement. Everything about this trip embodied what Beech Hall is all about and every single one of the school’s aims and ethos were achieved in these four days”.







THE INDIVIDUAL JOURNEY

Because no two children learn –
or thrive – in the same way



Beech Hall offers a truly child-centred education where academic excellence, exceptional sporting and performing arts opportunities, and outstanding pastoral care combine to create a personalised pathway for every pupil.

At Beech Hall School, the uniqueness of the individual child is at the heart of all that they do. Whether that's golf or motor racing, cheerleading or maths, performing arts or open-water swimming, they focus on enabling happiness, success and individualised confidence.

Beech Hall has areas of curriculum strength that include performing arts and sports. This includes a swimming team that travels around the world to complete swimming expeditions and has become the world's most successful English Channel junior team, with ten relay crossings, raising over £150,000 for Mencap. Overseas opportunities have included the 20 Bridges relay swim around Manhattan, New York, and both relay and solo swims across the 14km Bonifacio Strait from Corsica to Sardinia.

Kindness, respect, integrity and ambition are the school values at the heart of everything they do, with staff who understand that positive and supportive relationships are the cornerstone of a happy and successful education. A balanced focus on academic attainment, sporting

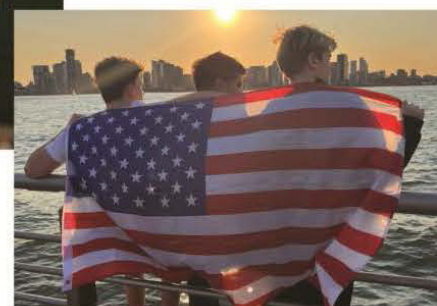
opportunities, emphasising individual strengths and celebrating traditional values are at the core of everything that is important to Beech Hall, with the ultimate focus on enabling every pupil to become the very best version of themselves, growing confidence in their own unique individuality.

Beech Hall is the leading all-ability school in the north of England, offering an enriching educational experience that builds confidence and nurtures individual success. It is also one of the country's most successful schools for open-water swimming, enabling opportunities for pupils to become world-class athletes. With facilities that include an all-year-round open air swimming pool, state-of-the-art science laboratories and design technology workshop, 8 acres of playing fields and a school environment in which children feel happy and comfortable to feel themselves, why would you not go and take a look for yourself?

Isn't it time for something different? **A**

Find out more at beechhallschool.org





L I F E C H A N G E R

Exploring the scholarship offered at **Beech Hall**, a school committed to unlocking talent from within our children

As it celebrates its Centenary year, Beech Hall remains utterly committed to offering extraordinary opportunities, shaped by individual journeys; because no two children learn – or thrive – in the same way. In order to expand this opportunity, they are offering six scholarships for the September 2026 intake of Year 7s. Will Beech Hall School be the place where your child will truly thrive?

Does your child excel in the academic world? Are they a mathematical genius who could score the full 160 marks in paper 2 of

Further Maths GCSE two years early and is heading for A-level mathematical success in the summer of Year 10? Imogen did.

Does your child compete at the highest level of their chosen sport? Do they play sport for their county, nationally or internationally? Are they the number one under-16 golfer in Cheshire? Austin is.

Does your child have the dramatic flair and ability to take the lead role in a school production? And to cut it amongst their peers on some of the biggest blockbusting movies on the international stage? Charlie does.

Does your child have the potential to excel in open-water swimming, to join the world's

most successful English Channel relay team? To become the first child to swim the 14km from Corsica to Sardinia, and to tackle the Hudson River in a 58.5km marathon swim around Manhattan, New York? Rory does.

Whilst many scholarships tend to be relatively modest, Beech Hall's offer for September 2026 is a 20% fee discount for the five years from Year 7 to Year 11, reviewable should you choose to apply for a place in the Sixth Form. Applicants must be able to represent the school positively and publicly in some form, and consent for the public use of images, photography, audio and video is a given.

Do you BMX or motor-race in European championships? Do you have the ability to score full marks in a GCSE English essay on Macbeth? Are you playing county hockey or playing off a handicap of 2.5 on the 18th? Would you like to be a part of the leading all-ability school in the north of England, offering an enriching educational experience that builds confidence and nurtures individual success?

Whether you have the brain of Einstein or the voice of an angel, the muscle-power of an Olympic athlete or the steely determination to succeed whilst those around you fail, Beech Hall could offer you the chance to be you. To stand out against the crowd, to be utterly unique and confident to be so. Isn't it time for something different? **A**

Applications should be made in writing to the Headmaster, explaining how the applicant meets the criteria for a scholarship to be awarded –
headmaster@beechhallschool.org



What is the vision for education that underpins your work within this submission?



If we take for granted our desire for all children to be happy in school and to be as successful academically as they can, the overarching goal is for every pupil in the school to develop the confidence to be the interesting, engaging, unique and sometimes quirky individual that they are. To become the very best version of themselves, enabling them to stand out from the crowd as they celebrate the facets, interests and achievements that make them them.

The school works very hard to enable every child to 'find their thing' – singing or tenor horn, basketball or swimming, performing, public speaking or Maths. Throughout this year:

- Milo has represented Great Britain at BMX championships in Latvia
- Seb has moved from karting circuit to the ginetta racing cars and is racing around the UK and Europe at 120mph
- Georgia attended her first competition at Aintree, jumping 95cm
- Austin became the number 1 under 16 golfer in Cheshire
- Rory completed his English Channel solo swim

For some pupils, it will be the academic world in which they shine, as it was for Imogen in Year 9. Two years early, she sat her Maths and Further Maths GCSE exams, achieving grade 9s in both, and scoring the full 160 marks on one of her Further Maths papers.



How have you ensured every child gets a broad and balanced curriculum?

The school's co-curricular programme offers a varied range of opportunities, sporting, musical, artistic, cerebral and academic. Sporting opportunities include basketball, open-water swimming, pool lane swimming and fun swim, Chinese boxing, touch rugby, football, girls' football, strength and conditioning (three clubs before school) and waterpolo. Clubs designed to engage girls include hot chocolate and a chat, wellbeing Wednesday, girls' football. Practical clubs include art, design & technology workshop, gardening, knitting, outdoor sketching. Performing arts includes Oliver the musical, wind ensemble, choir and there is a range of games-based clubs that includes Risk, Go, Dungeons & Dragons, and Uno. Spanish, chess, Dr Who, Film, Library and Serenity clubs provide further variety.

The school's programme is further enhanced by

the offer of Enrichment Week in the final week of the summer term. Operating over four days, the school invites pupils to select from twelve offers that includes onsite, offsite and residential options. The focus is on genuine enrichment – either to learn a new qualification, to put yourself out of your comfort zone, or to experience something genuinely new and wonderful. The offer this year included survival skills (incorporating fire lighting and den building, skinning and cooking rabbits and pheasants and the safe use of knives, axes and machetes). Eight pupils completed the course and open-water dives to qualify as PADI open-water scuba divers. Animal care, cartoon drawing, watersports, cookery, theatre skills, roller coaster design and Lego design. Fifteen pupils headed to North Yorkshire for four days of wild waterfalls, swimming in some of the most scenic spots.



How have you shown inclusivity and pastoral care?

Every pupil who wants to participate is invited to do so, in co-curricular clubs or the peer mentor programme, enrichment week or the open-water swim programme. The latter, in particular, is not for club or elite swimmers; it is for anyone who has the drive and determination for self-improvement and the desire to swim the English Channel. It is a tough programme beginning in September, with their first ever 1km swim. Some will take up to 40 minutes to complete this swim and, within six months, have halved this achievement. When Rory (Year 8 at the time) first tried out for the Swim Squad, he could barely swim and he joined the team on a two-year programme. Two years later, he completed his first English Channel relay swim; repeated it the following year and joined the group who completed the New York swim. At the end of this academic year, he became the youngest

swimmer of the year to complete his solo English Channel swim aged just 16. After leaving Samphire Hoe, he landed France 13½ hours later. He was honoured with a special school blazer and a guard of honour through the school, the pupils' idea.

The school's pastoral care is second-to-none, as highlighted in the school's most ISI inspection report. Form Tutors support pupils to select co-curricular clubs and other opportunities. Y10 pupils apply to become Peer Mentors and are trained with a whole day's external training for peer mentoring, including safeguarding and how to manage disclosures. They are paired with younger pupils, often in Year 6 or Year 7, and they learn how to engage with them, to support them and to become people upon whom the younger children can rely.



300-word supporting statement

When preparing your 300 word submission please review the entry criteria carefully. Ensure that your submission contains sufficient robust information. Please include relevant facts and figures where possible. Some categories may ask you to include details of a particular initiative or initiatives; please think carefully about these and select those that best promote your expertise.



With fewer than 200 pupils, Beech Hall School has achieved through its dedicated enrichment programme what no other school has accomplished: it has become the world's most successful English Channel junior relay team. Pupils have completed ten successful Channel crossings and received multiple Channel Swimming Association honours, including the youngest relay team, fastest junior team, fastest men's six and youngest solo swimmer. Their ambition extended even further when they became the first children in history to complete the 58.5km swim around Manhattan, New York - an extraordinary achievement rooted in inclusion, courage and community.

Open water swimming is transformative, and at Beech Hall, it is one part of a vast and deliberately accessible enrichment ecosystem. The school offers 50-70 co curricular clubs, spanning sport, arts, STEM, performance, wellbeing and adventure. Participation and engagement (tracked and analysed through Evolve) ensure equity, progression and targeted support. These experiences build towards

Enrichment Week: a celebration of diverse strengths where pupils can discover new passions, stretch beyond their comfort zones, or gain meaningful qualifications.

Impact is evident across disciplines. Pupils have raised over £150,000 for Mencap, achieved national athletics gold medals, and secured exceptional academic results, including early GCSE grade 9s with full marks in Further Maths. Throughout the year, 96% of pupils participated in at least one weekly co-curricular club, with more than 75% engaging in two or more.

Enrichment at Beech Hall is not an add on, it is the heartbeat of the school's ethos. Every child is supported to uncover the thing that makes them come alive, to clear every barrier in their path, and to realise that the extraordinary is not distant or reserved for others. It is a place they can step into - joyfully, and without fear - where courage grows, voices strengthen, and no pupil is left behind.







Breaking barriers

Getting more children and young people into open water has been one of outdoor swimming's biggest success stories. It's an encouraging example of how we can recognise and overcome barriers to outdoor swimming for a specific section of society.

As more children are being taught how to enjoy cold water safely, confidently and competently, they're showing us just what they're capable of when given the opportunity. We're seeing children with disabilities that preclude them from taking part in mainstream swimming lessons swimming down the river at Level Water's Bantham Swoosh, teenagers supporting their mental wellbeing with cold water dipping, and school kids crossing the English Channel.

"Last year, we convinced New York Open Water to let us take a group of children to swim around Manhattan. We were the first children in the world to do it," says James Allen, Headteacher at Beech Hall School. "We had the first kid to swim from Corsica to Sardinia, and next year, we're going to have an all-female team swimming the Channel for the Centenary of Trudy Ederle. It feels serendipitous."

Beech Hall is a small independent school in Cheshire whose headteacher loves open water swimming. It was while swimming a channel relay with triple crown open water swimmer Nikki Pope that the idea emerged to organising English Channel relays with groups of teenagers.

"We got talking about this stupid idea, and probably shouldn't do this, but could we offer this to our children? So we did, and we ended up training two teams the following year," says James. "We swam that summer, and the pilot said he's never had a landing like Katie Anne had that first year with 300 French people cheering her on."

'We probably shouldn't do this'

In a risk averse nation like ours, the combination of children and cold water causes much alarm. This isn't without reason – children tragically drown every summer. But the mindset of prohibiting children from swimming in open water is no solution.

Child's play



Watch out for the new generation of outdoor swimming stars, says
Rowan Clarke

Have you noticed the increasing number of young people at swim venues, events and challenges? Not just young people, but children. It's probably one of the most encouraging signs that swimming outdoors is not only growing, but also broadening in participation.

Back in September 2022, we asked how best to encourage children into outdoor swimming (*Young Hearts Swim Free*). It's still true that there are no official open water swimming pathways, so what's bringing more children and young people to open water, and why should we be celebrating this?

Left: The Watford Ocean Warriors complete their second Channel relay



Wild Waterfalls Enrichment week

This brings us back to the argument for a right to swim. If we grant children the freedom to play in cold water during the summer, we foster their natural love of water and teach them how to handle it safely.

"In my view, it is absolutely crucial that families with their children are able to swim in inland water," says Imogen Radford from the Outdoor Swimming Society. "It's a fun, wonderful, active thing to do in so many ways, but also, it's got such an important purpose in helping people learn how to swim safely and understand open water."

As well as teaching safety, playing and swimming in natural bodies of water brings children significant health and wellbeing benefits. We see improved fitness, concentration, academic success and self-esteem.

"I saw a lot of correlation between training as a channel swimmer and improvements in the classroom," says Nikki Pope, who along with her wife Cate, has been organising English Channel relays for teenagers since 2020.

James concurs. He gives the examples of students who have turned around their academic, social and wellbeing outlooks through open water swimming. It's a combination of achieving, facing fears, exercise and being in cold water.

"Swimming sets children up for life," says Jeremy Irvine, coach and Swim England Hertfordshire Open Water Manager. "They develop huge cardiovascular capacity, the stopwatch teaches them that hard work



Conor completing the relay



Coach Jeremy Irvine (left) is proud to support young open water swimmers

pays off and, when coupled with distance swimming in open water, they build mental strength and resilience."

Into cold water

The cold factor is another area of consternation when it comes to children. This is partly a question of free will, and



Swimming outdoors can be lifechanging for children

clearly nobody should ever be coerced into cold water. But there are also misconceptions about how well children handle the cold.

"I think when you couple the potentially dangerous activity with children for so many people, that level of risk is too high," says James. "Our experience in the first year or two at Liverpool Docks was some very cautious staff who didn't really want to let us put kids in the water because of the level of risk. Over the years they've come to trust us, and they recognise that our safety protocols are really good, and we do know what we're doing."

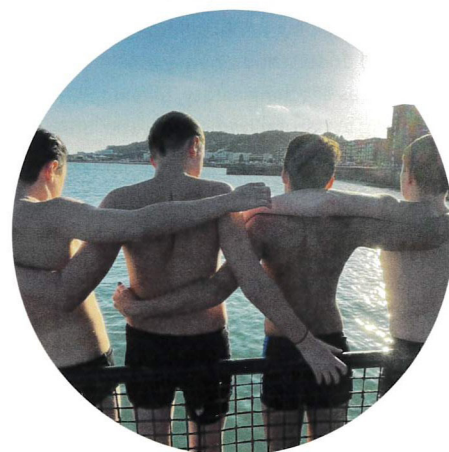
However, recent studies show that children have a smaller cold shock response and similar cooling rates to adults. The only real risk comes from their lack of subjective awareness of how cold they are, which means their supervising adults need to take responsibility for their wellbeing in cold water.

This is another huge change which has enabled more children to swim outdoors. Not only are open water event organisers, venue operators and safety support crew becoming better educated and more attuned to the specific needs of young open water swimmers, but also, there are more qualified open water coaches helping children get there in the first place.

"The growth in open water swimming in recent years has positively influenced traditional competitive swimming clubs," says Jeremy. "Lots of clubs now have qualified open water coaches and actively encourage their swimmers to give it a go."

Beyond horizons

This is a huge change since 2022. And it has opened up a whole new world of competitive and challenge swimming for club swimmers, offering not only



Dover Harbour, Mencap

opportunities for racing in open water, but also challenges where the achievement is to finish.

"At the age of 12, [Prisha] expressed her ambition to swim the English Channel. Four years later just after her 16th birthday, she reached France in under 12 hours," says Jeremy, who coached Prisha Tapre alongside his son, Felipe. "Prisha became the youngest



Dover Harbour, Mencap

British-born Indian to complete the swim and featured on all the major Indian news channels plus UK radio stations. She won the 2025 Audentior Award for young achiever of the year, was invited by HRH Princess of Wales to attend the Carol Service at Westminster Abbey, and in August, Prisha presented an amazing TedX talk on 'Swimming Past Stigma'."

Among the students he's most proud of, James offers Rory. He explains how he went from a virtual non-swimmer to being part of the Manhattan relay team and then completing a Channel solo a month after his 16th birthday.

"Rory is just the best story about why we do this," says James. "We've enabled him to find his thing. In every other walk of life, he would not be a natural athlete, but he is a phenomenal open water swimmer who has the grandest of plans, and he's a super role model for our youngsters."

Prisha and Rory's examples show just how lifechanging swimming outdoors can be for children. They also carve the way for future swimmers. As more teachers and coaches learn how to support children into open water, we're sure to see more swimming clubs and schools think beyond the pool, and more young swimmers at venues, events and challenges.

How can you get your child into open water swimming? Jeremy suggests getting in touch with your local swimming club and is happy to offer advice: openwater@swimherts.org



The pioneering 2023 junior relay team



The rope swing at Wild Waterfalls Enrichment week

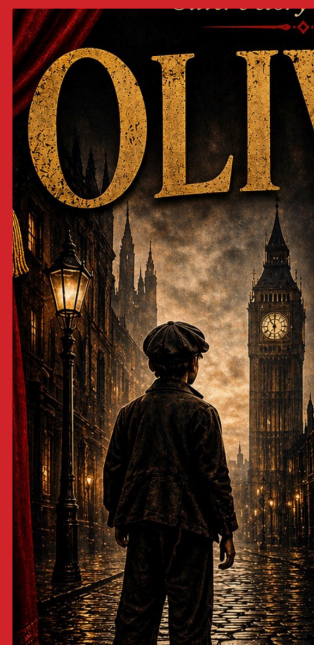
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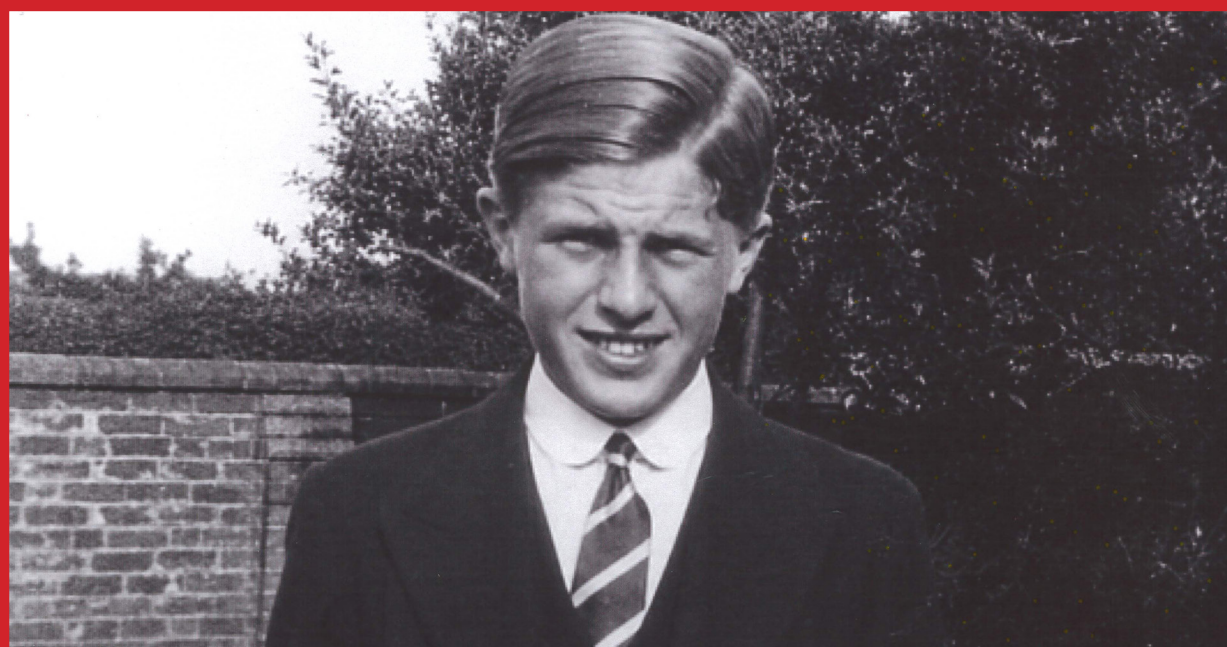
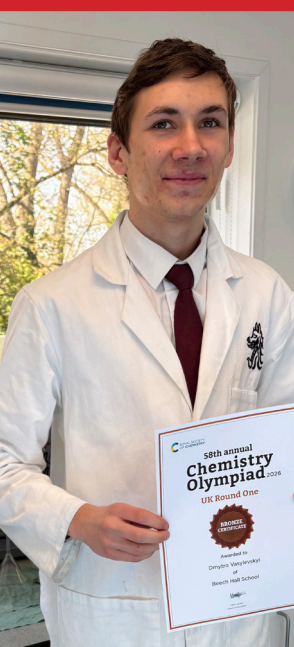


FOR

*What will
you do?*

100 Years







***“Children can take their place in
anything they believe in”***

[TES judges]