RISING STARS

BEST MAGAZINE COVER

BEST NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGE

BEST ILLUSTRATION & ARTWORK

BEST PRINTED PUBLICATION

BEST DESIGN & LAYOUT

BEST CARTOON

BEST BUSINESS & MARKETING STRATEGY

SOCIETY, COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABILITY

BEST PHOTOGRAPH

PETER RAY AWARD FOR BEST PODCAST

WRITER OF THE YEAR: FICTION

WRITER OF THE YEAR: NON-FICTION

BEST HUMOUR

EDITOR OF THE YEAR

2026 DESIGNATED PUBLIC: ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

BEST MAGAZINE

BEST NEWSPAPER

TERRY MANSFIELD AWARD FOR TOMORROW'S TALENT

THE HARRISON CUP

SHINE

SHINE SCHOOL MEDIA AWARDS

2026

4 FROM THE CHAIR

6 PRINTING & PAPER

7 FROM THE MASTER
MEET THE STATIONERS

8 RISING STARS

10 THE JUDGES

11 BEST MAGAZINE COVER
BEST NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGE

12 BEST ILLUSTRATION & ARTWORK
BEST PRINTED PUBLICATION

13 BEST DESIGN & LAYOUT
BEST CARTOON

14 BEST BUSINESS & MARKETING STRATEGY
SOCIETY, COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABILITY

15 BEST PHOTOGRAPH
PETER DAY AWARD FOR BEST PODCAST

16 WRITER OF THE YEAR: FICTION
WRITER OF THE YEAR: NON-FICTION

17 BEST HUMOUR
EDITOR OF THE YEAR

18 2026 DESIGNATED TOPIC: ABUSE OF POWER
MOST INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER

19 SCOOP OF THE YEAR
BEST MAGAZINE

20 BEST NEWSPAPER
TERRY MANSFIELD CBE AWARD FOR TOMORROW'S TALENT

21 THE HARRISON CUP

FROM THE CHAIR

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE HIGHLY COMMENDED AND WINNING STUDENTS OF SHINE 2026.

To laugh is one of the best things we can do as human beings. It's one of our most natural impulses. Sometimes it's gentle humour because someone says something sweet and funny. Other times it's because someone told a bad joke or because they slipped over on a banana in the street. Admittedly that's not actually that nice reason to laugh, but let's be honest, sometimes those things are out of our control.

However to actually make someone else crack up deliberately is one of the hardest things to write. To do that in a smart, clever way that isn't unkind or at somebody else's expense is even more difficult. People get paid a lot of money to be funny. Actors and directors say that a good comedy is much harder to make than a good drama, but be honest, which would you rather watch: Wuthering Heights or Toy Story 5?

Funny TV shows we love stay with us and even when they start to look dated, we still watch them. How else to explain the fact that you guys love watching Friends, which was made before the iPhone was invented. One theory is that world events are so depressing and at times overwhelming, that pure escapism and comedy holds massive appeal. In your Shine entries for 2026 we kept finding either magazines that focussed on satire or silliness. Some were pure wit, teasing teachers or creating a comedy of errors. Reading these, it felt that wit was something that Shine had been sleeping on. That's why this year we've got a surprise for you. We've introduced a new award this year, for 'Best Humour.'

Creating an prize for wit is one of several ways we've found that our awards are shaped by your entries rather than the other way around. This year you guys gave our judges a run for their money. We've found submissions been better, sharper, more uncompromising, less conventional.

There's an old cliché about awards ceremonies that says 'I was honoured just to be nominated.' For our highly commended and winning students of 2026, that's no joke.

Richard

Richard Chapman
Chair, Shine School Media Awards

RICHARD CHAPMAN

PRINTING & PAPER

DENMAUR INDEPENDENT PAPERS AND PUREPRINT WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE WINNERS OF THIS 2026 SHINE AWARDS, AND GIVE A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUBMITTED AN ENTRY THIS YEAR.

Denmaur

Denmaur has supplied the paper for this year's brochure which has been printed on Garda Silk 200g/m² (text) and IQ Print 350g/m² (cover). Both grades are made from FSC® certified pulp sources, and the carbon emissions of their manufacture has been offset via the World Land Trust's Carbon Balanced Paper scheme.

Over the years, paper has suffered from suggestions that it's not environmentally friendly. But that couldn't be further from the truth. Here's why.

Paper (and board) is made from trees, a natural and renewable resource that absorbs atmospheric CO2 which is retained in timber and paper products. Trees for paper and timber production are only harvested from commercial forestry that carries a sustainably managed certification, such as FSC® or PEFC.

Paper comes from the top section of a tree where the wood is thinner and of less commercial value. The bulk of the tree is used for construction timber and furniture, and so paper can therefore be regarded as a byproduct.

The carbon emissions associated with paper production are reducing each year through the implementation of decarbonisation plans at national and corporate levels. Meanwhile, it is still viable to offset the emissions of paper production through a valid carbon programme such as the World Land Trust's Carbon Balanced scheme, which regenerates and protects standing forestry as well as habitats for biodiversity and endangered wildlife.

Finally, paper fibre can be recycled up to 10 times! Once the fibres become too short for forming paper again, they have a use as a soil improver in agriculture and horticulture. So, what once came from the ground, goes back into the ground – how circular is that!

Danny Doogan
Marketing and Sustainability Director, Denmaur

Pureprint

Pureprint proudly supports the Shine School Media Awards, celebrating young talent in UK secondary schools.

As a leading UK publication printer, we are honoured to recognise the students' dedication in writing, editing, design, and fundraising.

We are committed to fostering the next generation of media professionals.

Richard Osborne
Managing Director, Pureprint

CARBON BALANCED PAPER
www.carbonbalancedpaper.com
CBP036409

FROM THE MASTER

THERE IS NOTHING AS EXHILARATING AS WORKING TO A DEADLINE, HITTING IT AND SEEING THE RESULTS OF YOUR CREATIVITY, STRESSES AND STRAINS IN PRINT OR IN A DIGITAL PLATFORM.

If you agree with this statement you are probably one of those shortlisted for today's Shine Awards. You will be one of the writers, producers, artists or technical whizzes who have made today's awards a beacon for editorial and visual skills. You can take pride in further enhancing the reputation of the Shine Awards for developing those with ambitions to become visual and writing professionals of the future.

As Master of the Stationers and Newspaper Makers Company I am proud of the team of Liverymen, Freemen and supporters who have once again brought together today's awards. They have facilitated a marriage between the ancient history of this company from the scribes of old, through the early days of William Caxton to day's world of social media and AI.

I am prouder still of the young people and the teaching staffs, the results of whose work we see today. As with recent years, the quality of writing, photography, camera work, design and artistry is outstanding. Sometimes brilliant, often innovative and always produced with a commitment to be "the best".

I know that our team of judges of experts and leaders in journalism, design and production had the hardest decisions to select shortlists and then winners: the calibre of entries was outstanding.

Congratulations to all here today. You are all winners. Previous Shine award participants have gone on to secure careers in editorial, design and other creative professions. I am certain that will be the future for some of you.

We are happy that the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers can continue to be the bridge between schools and today's world of content and communication. Thank you for being part of this important journey.

Doug Wills
Master, The Stationers' Company

MEET THE STATIONERS

Stationers' is unique for a 600-year-old company in that the vast majority of our 900 members are actively involved in the complete range of trades within the communications and content industries.

This spans paper, print, publishing, packaging, office products, newspapers, broadcasting and online media.

Membership has been drawn from across the UK and increasingly now throughout the world. There are corporate members as well as individual members.

Over the years, the technology we use may have changed from pen and ink to print and online links – but our name and passion has always remained the same: to engage with and support the communications and content industries.

Visit us online at **www.stationers.org**

RISING STARS

THIS YEAR THE CHAIR WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLY COMMEND NINE NEWCOMERS WHICH SHOW GREAT POTENTIAL.

The PEAKS Perspective - War Babies Series
AKS Lytham, Lancashire

DM Standard - Sixth Form Magazine
Dene Magna School, Gloucestershire

CFS Times
Chichester Free School, West Sussex

Aspire
Falinge Park High School, Greater Manchester

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the very first edition of The Yearbook: a Wetherby Pembridge magazine. This is a place where, as part of our community, you will be able to express yourself and your opinions in an environment that shows you respect and no judgement. We are here for everyone.

The name 'The Yearbook' is commonly associated with a book that sums up a formative year for a student cohort, probably the most important of their academic and school life. We have called our magazine this because we will publish yearly. We also want this magazine to showcase the diversity and complexity of our new school community in the same way displaying images of students captures individuality in a 'classic' yearbook.

The theme for our first edition is 'Identity'. The world right now is very fractured, with different conflicts circling around opposing beliefs and ranges of identity. As young people, we are developing and exploring our identities within this world. This first edition offers a platform for the thoughts, interests and passions of the inaugural Wetherby Pembridge class of 2026. These are our school years. This is our community. We are going to make it count.

Ava

Ava Porter-Pringle
Editor-in-Chief

The Yearbook 03

Ava Porter-Pringle
Wetherby Pembridge School, London

More
St Thomas More High School for Boys, Essex

The Clocktower
Ripon Grammar School, North Yorkshire

Fidelis Today
Maria Fidelis Catholic School, Camden

Flame
Meadowhead School and Sixth Form, Sheffield

THE AWARDS & THE JUDGES

EVERY YEAR YOUR ENTRIES ARE JUDGED BY A STELLAR PANEL OF EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD WHO GIVE THEIR TIME TO HELP SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE NEXT GENERATION OF MEDIA STARS.

WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. WE COULD NOT RUN THIS COMPETITION WITHOUT THEM.

THIS YEAR'S JUDGES WERE:

Alison Strachan, Managing Director, Shepherds Bookbinders

Andrew Gregory, Night Editor, Daily Mail

Bettine Pellant, CEO, Picon (Printing Industry Confederation)

Bill Bowkett, News Editor, GBNews.com

Carol Tullo OBE, Under Warden, The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers

David Poyser, Writer & Podcaster

Eliza Clark, Shine alumnus

Emma McNiven, Brand Relationship Manager, Foilco

Gareth Rubin, Sunday Times Bestselling Author

George Thornicroft, Shine alumnus

Dr Glenda Cooper, Associate Professor of Journalism at City St George's University of London and UK director of the European Journalism Observatory

Ian Leggett, Upper Warden, The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers

James Mates, European Editor, ITV News

Jessica Barclay, Director of People & Operations, The Observer

Jonathan Samuels, Sky News Anchor

Josy Forsdike, Freelance Picture Researcher

Katherine Whitbourn, Deputy Chair of Shine; Readers' Editor, The Observer

Laura Silverman, Freelance Writer and Editor

Liz Ross Martyn, Director of Marketing & Engagement, The Printing Charity

Luke Chapman, Marketer & Writer specialising in culture, society and arts

Matt Hornby, Chief Creative Officer, Foilco

Michael Harrison, Past Master, The Worshipful Company of Marketors

Nicholas Tattersall, Executive Editor, Reuters

Paul Clements, Deputy Comment Editor, The Independent

Richard Chapman, Chair of Shine; Creative Director, Richard Chapman Studio

Richard Hartley-Parkinson, Executive Editor, Metro

Dr Sharon Maxwell Magnus, Head of Media Group, University of Hertfordshire

Stephen Marchant, Learning Officer / Comic Art Curator, The Cartoon Museum

Stephanie Alexander-Jinks, Co-founder, The Artworks Illustration Agency

Tom Morris, Creative Director, Morrisstudio

Tomini Babs, Social Media Consultant

Trish McCaffrey, Production Director, Hello!

Will Jacks, Art Director, Hearst

THANK YOU

BEST MAGAZINE COVER

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Reign
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington

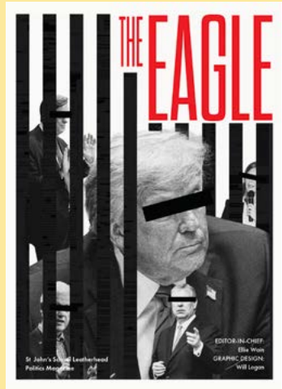
This pop-art celebration of England's north-east history merges images of a high-speed train with Stephenson's Rocket to striking and eye-catching effect.

The Beacon
King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, Birmingham

An escaped cat is the star of Xin and Anfal's colourful, humorous and imaginative wraparound illustrative cover.

Supported by **Pureprint**

WINNER



The Eagle

St John's School, Leatherhead

It's a short journey from redacted copy to the polarising figures of our time depicted behind bars. The Eagle picks the hottest topic of our times and skewers the protagonists with razor-sharp graphic design. Our judges were unanimous in praising this outstanding cover.

BEST NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGE

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Academical
Hummersknott Academy, Darlington

Bold presentation with an innovative drone shot as the main picture. Judges loved the three image-driven tasters for stories inside.

The Reason
Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton

Simple, easy-to-navigate front page with tantalising message about an interview with the head teacher. Judges wanted to read that.

Supported by **Denmaur Paper Media**

WINNER

The Tunstall Times

High Tunstall College of Science, Hartlepool

A busy, confident front page with a clear idea of how to make it newsy. The picture is used well and the strong headlines create a powerful sense of impact.

BEST ILLUSTRATION & ARTWORK

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'Front Cover' by Ewan Leatherbarrow, UGS Perspectives, Urmston Grammar School, Urmston

Excellent composition and technique.

'Together' by Kate Ignatiuk, Two Zero One Bromsgrove School, Bromsgrove

Stunning drawing.

'The Impact of Ice Training' by Corrie Mayhew, Blue, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith

Excellent original illustration style.

'Dear Vera' by Zin Yang and Lina Hmamly, The Beacon King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, Birmingham

You can really feel the love and warmth for the character in this.

Supported by **The Artworks Illustration Agency**

WINNER

'Detached' by Autumn Rowlinson

Tarporley High School & Sixth Form College, Cheshire

Perfectly captures the title and is executed with considered technique and atmosphere.

BEST DESIGN & LAYOUT

HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Beacon
King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, Birmingham

Eye-catching and very well illustrated cover design. High quality production throughout.

EXiA
City of Norwich School, Norwich

Good use of uncoated paper and strong graphic layouts with space for the text to 'breathe'.

The Reason
Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton

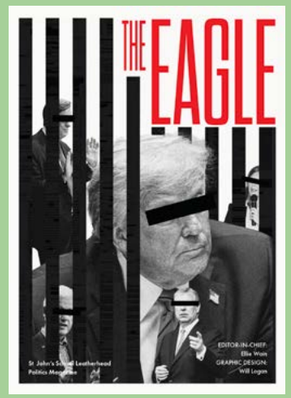
Very well designed and laid out; layout not too cramped. Clear use of colours to denote different sections/topics. Strong cover image.

Dovecote
Yarm School, North Yorkshire

Very high production quality. Consistent layout; especially like the contents page - felt very much like something you would see on the newsstand.

Supported by **Foilco**

WINNER



The Eagle

St John's School, Leatherhead

Brilliant and powerful cover design; strong contemporary interior graphics; we especially liked use of block colour and oversize fonts/ numbers for section headers and contents.

BEST PRINTED PUBLICATION

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Reveal
Pate's Grammar School, Gloucestershire

A highly professional publication with seamless design, print and production that creates a compelling, engaging read.

The Eagle
St John's School, Leatherhead

A well-printed magazine where high-quality print is integral to the communication of the content.

The Reason
Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton

Strong combination of stock, design, format and layout results in a newspaper that would sit comfortably on any newsstand.

IW
St George's School, Edinburgh

Great format - portable, pocketable and well-constructed.

Supported by **The Printing Charity**

WINNER

Reign

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington

Unusual soft-touch stock coupled with a fantastic bright cover image makes you want to pick this up and hang onto it. Appealing, professional, well laid-out.

BEST CARTOON

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'The Sunset Series' by Liza Anton, Two Zero One Bromsgrove School, Bromsgrove

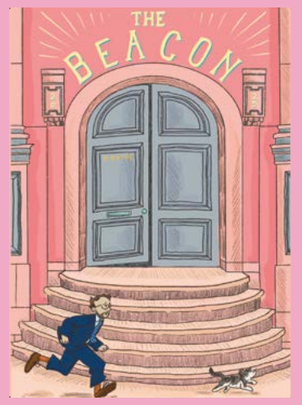
Bold art, great message.

'Evolution Ape' by Ted Camplin, EXiA City of Norwich School, Norwich

Nice layout and design, with a clever storyline.

Supported by **The Cartoon Museum**

WINNER



'Get the cat!' by Xinyan Wang, The Beacon

King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, Birmingham

Excellent composition. Terrific figure drawing. Explanation of working methods shows a very professional approach and sensitive use of digital tools. Xinyan is one to watch.

BEST BUSINESS & MARKETING STRATEGY

HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Castle
Reigate Grammar School, Reigate

'Created by students for students' was more than a slogan, it reflected a team with a clear understanding of branding. With impressive leadership, the group of eight created a strong identity across both the publication and its merchandise.

Reveal
Pate's Grammar School, Gloucestershire

A strong entry with a clear community focus. Particularly impressive was the partnership with a local business, where pupils created a full rebrand to fund the magazine's printing.

Supported by **The Worshipful Company of Marketors**

WINNER

Dovecote

Yarm School, North Yorkshire

Yarm's submission stands apart for its clarity, organisation and ambition, showing a reflective, professional editorial team delivering strongly on our criteria. Their 'Giving Back' ethos, encouraging another school to enter the Shine Awards, is particularly noteworthy and a model for future participants. A uniquely excellent entry.

BEST PHOTOGRAPH

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'Port Mulgrave' by Corrie Mayhew,
Blue
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith

A set of beautiful photographs that give a sense of desolation and they pick out beautiful detail.

'Shooting Hand' by Frasier Warren,
DM Standard - Sixth Form Magazine
Dene Magna School, Gloucestershire

Judges praised a great standalone photograph, with lovely composition.

Supported by **Bobst UK & Ireland**

WINNER

'The Reluctant Bride Reclaimed' by Samanthi Shanjeevan, IW

St George's School, Edinburgh

Stunning images, way ahead of the MET Gala theme! The use of the muted tones reflect the renaissance artworks. Judges loved the inclusion of the BTS images and the credits for the props give a nod to the people who are involved in image creation.

SOCIETY, COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABILITY

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Aspire
Falinge Park, Rochdale

This article makes the readers aware that a local area that has significant wildlife importance may be sold for development. I liked that it had a call to action to object to planning permission.

Dovecote
Yarm School, North Yorkshire

Committed to charitable impact and social responsibility. Articles cover social awareness, collaboration with Christmas Fair and Summer Fair. Engage with students throughout the school, staff, parents. Introduced pre-sales to reduce wastage.

Supported by **Picon**

WINNER

The G & L Times

Godolphin and Latymer, London

An excellent example of community. The publication addresses a number of topics - an interview with a former local MP highlighting the choices that young people have in shaping their future. A report on a Saturday Teaching Initiative for primary school students. They have a Sustainability Committee and aim to produce a net zero plan.

PETER DAY AWARD FOR BEST PODCAST

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'War Babies Series' - The PEAKS Perspective
AKS Lytham, Lancashire

A strong community initiative with positive outcomes and clear intent. Visual content from recording sessions could further enhance engagement and impact. Strong rapport between hosts and guests shows confident, natural interviewing and real journalistic promise.

'Behind The Algorithm Podcast'
Workington Academy, Workington

Strong audio-visual production with engaging, personable hosts whose chemistry makes the podcast highly enjoyable and accessible. The series has a clear structure and purpose, creating a strong sense of continuity and audience expectation. There is evident journalistic skill in the questioning and delivery, especially impressive given the presenters' age.

Sponsored by **Voodoo**

WINNER

'The Revival of British Basketball', Global Academy

Global Academy, Hayes

Strong, engaging storytelling with clear structure, purpose, and audience focus. A compelling hook and high-quality production, enhanced by effective archival audio. The narrative moves through past, present, and future, linking Olympic legacy with current developments. It sits well within a wider series and leaves the listener wanting more.

WRITER OF THE YEAR: FICTION

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'Where Light Cannot Follow' by Yuhe Tian, Dovecote
Yarm School, North Yorkshire

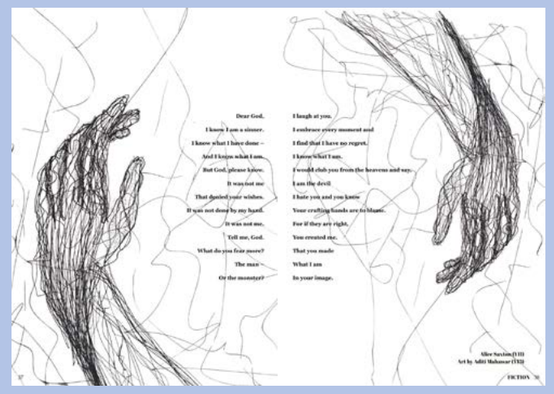
This work showed real accomplishment and confidence with words, as well as a maturity of language. We really liked the exploration of a loss of innocence and the transition to adulthood. The piece was both thought-provoking and emotive.

'Red Haired Rookie' by Harry Watson, Inscapism
Inscape House School, Cheadle

This has a lot of drama and action, some great dialogue and we want to read on to find out whether Bobby and Ruby will find their dad - and will the rest of the band get in? We had a real sense of the writer enjoying the act of writing - and that transmitted itself to the reader. Look forward to Chapter 8.

Supported by **Dr Glenda Cooper**

WINNER



Dear God,
I know I am a sinner.
I know what I have done –
And I know what I am.
But God, please know.
It was not me
That denied your wishes.
It was not done by my hand.
It was not me.
Tell me, God.
What do you fear more?
The man –
Or the monster?

I laugh at you.
I embrace every moment and
I find that I have no regret.
I know what I am.
I would club you from the heavens and say,
I am the devil
I hate you and you know
Your crafting hands are to blame.
For if they are right,
You created me.
That you made
What I am
In your image.

Alice Saxton (Y11)
Art by Aditi Mahasar (Y13)

FICTION

'Dear God' by Alice Saxton, EXiA
City of Norwich School, Norwich

Creative and rebellious - a work William Blake could have called his own. The structure reflects the voice, self-image and outlook of the narrator: a rebel angel. The angel has attempted to subvert the structure of the moral world-imposed God, and the author of this poem is subverting the structure imposed by the canon of English literature. Experimentation and railing against what has come before is the genius of creative writing.

WRITER OF THE YEAR: NON-FICTION

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'Mamdani's Money Pit – who really pays'
by Felix Samuels
The Eagle
St John's School, Leatherhead

A spirited - and counterintuitive - critique of Mamdani's spending plans for New York, which was as engaging and convincing a takedown of the cost of his rent controls, 30-dollar minimum wage and free bus policy that I've read by professional economists.

'Chaos in the Capital' by Orla Bond
DM Standard - Sixth Form Magazine
Dene Magna School, Gloucestershire

Loved this. Three strongest areas: funny (teacher hitting the curb), illuminating (electronic pass readers) and a decent scoop (MP reveals the council may freeze bus fares at £2).

Supported by **Professor Lord Blackwater**

WINNER

WHAT BOMBS COULD NOT DESTROY:
MY HEART IN GAZA

By Noora AbuHamad

We were driving across the Sinai desert – a vast landscape of sun-bleached sand and soldiers with guns. Seven hours into our journey, authorities stopped our vehicle for the fourth time in the scorching August heat. We sweated in our seats and waited patiently for our turn. Exhausted, we packed our packaged lives through the checkpoints to be searched and questioned yet again.

We were travelling somewhere that the British government had advised against going to for more than a decade and that is where I'm from;

Gaza - a place in Palestine struggling to exist

My parents, my four younger siblings and I moved to Gaza in August 2023 to be with our grandmother, aunts, uncles and 30+ cousins. This was a family we rarely were able to visit due to the Israeli occupation. My father's family is native to Gaza; they have been farmers and traders in Gaza for generations and ever-centurions. My family owned their land and built ancestral homes, unlike 70% of the population in Gaza who are refugees from inside what is now Israel. These Palestinians have been confined to refugee camps in Gaza since 1948 - unable to return to their homes in the erased towns and villages beyond the militarized border.

When we arrived at our home in Gaza, my extended family and neighbors were so joyful and welcoming, knowing the struggles people faced to enter Gaza. My family all resided in the same neighborhood, so our evenings were full of laughter, food, and games with our cousins.

By September, we had unpacked and furnished our house, putting in new desks and chairs and a bunk bed for my twin brothers. My siblings and I started at the only British school in the territory, making a daily 30-minute commute to Gaza City.

The destroyed buildings and the craters we passed on the drive to school were not remnants of the distant past but part of the occupiers' policy of "mowing the grass". This euphemism refers to Israel's cyclical bombing of Gaza every few years since imposing a blockade on the strip in 2007, the year before I was born.

We only had access to electricity 6-8 hours a day, so the lights would turn off in the middle of dinner, the fan turned off during the hot nights and the running of the washing machine was unpredictable. Our school textbooks never arrived due to the Israeli blockade, but teachers still taught and we still learned.

The beach was our favourite place to escape and only a few miles west of our home. However, reminders of the Israeli occupation were never far away. After sunset, the lights from Israeli military ships lined the horizon, silent watchmen ensuring Palestinian fishermen did not venture far for their catch. If they fished too far from the coast, they risked being shot.

Israeli navy boats on the horizon.

These patrolling ships, the crowded refugee camps, my struggles across the Sinai, and the constant power outages were examples of the many ways Palestinians' lives are controlled from afar by a faceless army, lacking the freedom I barely noticed growing up in Manchester.

22

'What bombs could not destroy' by Noora AbuHamad, Perspectives
Urmston Grammar School, Urmston

Gripping first-person piece by Manchester student whose family moved to Gaza in August 2023 to start a new life, only to find themselves trapped after October 7 attacks. They escape when borders reopen. The details are chilling and insights thought-provoking. This is a writer who has the capacity to make a mark on the world.

BEST HUMOUR

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'My First Year at a British School'
by Claire Olajide, The De Astonian
De Aston School, Market Rasen

Thrillingly witty, Claire's story of her first year in a British school veers from amusing, affectionate teasing of her fellow pupils to a sweet reflection on twelve months spent in an environment full of 'weirdness.'

The Beacon
King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls

Playful, funny, irreverent, this great magazine pokes affectionate fun at teachers, has self-deprecating anonymous confessions and 'cat of the month' calendar. Our judges praised "a highly enjoyable, witty publication."

'Facts Corner' by Henry Theobald, CFS Times
Chichester Free School, Chichester

Did you know that one bolt of lightning can make 100,000 pieces of toast? Are Henry's fun facts the best thing since sliced bread?

Supported by **Miles Preston**

WINNER

The DM Standard

By Orla Bond, Y13

Chaos in the Capital

Y12 LEARN ABOUT POLITICS PAST AND PRESENT, AND QUESTION WHETHER MR HARRINGTON REALLY HAS A DRIVER'S LICENSE

Setting Off

The journey to London started bright and early, making it out of the service station unscathed - well, almost. Every time we turned into the service station, we were subjected to shouts, and a wine aisle kind of offering to the gods of traffic lights, as we hit the curb five times. Perhaps Mr. Harrington just really wanted to make sure it was still there.

If that wasn't enough, we soon found ourselves in the centre of London, missing our turning and performing a U-turn in dramatic fashion, directly opposite the London Eye. Tourists enjoying the scenic riverside views were instead treated to the sight of a confused school minibus executing a three-point turn in one of the busiest parts of the city. At this point we were basically just a moving tourist attraction ourselves.

Westminster

Once we finally arrived at Parliament, our education guide took us on a fascinating tour in the House of Commons, we learned about the modernisation of voting, where MPs now use electronic badges instead of paper slips to record votes in the Headquarts. This transition has made the voting process far more efficient, reducing the time needed for divisions and allowing MPs to focus more on legislative debates. We also explored how, due to the televisation of parliamentary sessions, it has become easier for the public to gain access to what really goes on in government, increasing transparency and accountability. This means that now, MP's and politicians are now under greater scrutiny from the public, ensuring that their actions (or inactions) are visible to their constituents.

A particularly intriguing historical detail we uncovered was the role of women in parliamentary history. In the past, female spectators were forced to watch debates from a separate viewing gallery

Mike Peel - www.mikepeel.net

'Chaos in the Capital' by Orla Bond, The DM Standard
Dene Magna School, Gloucestershire

A hilarious story of the school trip to Parliament played for laughs, with every aspect of the day building as a comedy of errors, right to the point where the students wonder if their teacher even has a driving licence. A worthy inaugural winner of this category.

EDITOR OF THE YEAR

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Mallory Abrey-Sims, The De Astonian
De Aston School, Market Rasen

Mallory's leadership of this magazine combined an impressive variety of topics including coverage of local issues. Judges praised proper reporting and a smart variety of stories.

Arianna Enserro, The G & L Times
Godolphin and Latymer, London

A very professional publication with sharp, well written reporting combined with lighthearted moments such as the crossword and a history of the school. Judges commended Arianna's skilful oversight of the project.

Sanya Ahmed, Fidelis Today
Maria Fidelis Catholic School, London

Our judges praised Sanya's initiative in starting a successful newspaper club, encouraging students from across the school to get involved, saying it is 'an inspiring story of the power of journalism.'

Supported by **Metro**

WINNER

Charlton Cooper, Reveal
Pate's Grammar School, Gloucestershire

Judges praised Charlton's great leadership, showcased in particular by his house style guide. Stories looked at past pupils with clever formatting, particularly the piece on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, combined throughout with strong design.

2026 DESIGNATED TOPIC: ABUSE OF POWER

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'Abuse of Power' by Darcey Stonehouse
'Eva Braun' by Julia De Abreu
Wrapped
Reed's School, Surrey

Judges praised two very different interpretations of abuse of power in this issue of Wrapped. We recognise both a chilling poem by Julia De Abreu about Hitler's mistress and a really really clever article by Darcey Stonehouse written from the perspective of the abuser of power.

'Reclaiming the Canvas' by CJ Arnott & Samanthi Shanjeevan
IW
St George's School, Edinburgh

This is incredibly imaginative. The students have selected a series of paintings depicting the subjugation of women and recreated them with the help of the props department showing women as 'empowered'. A really clever idea.

Supported by **Heidelberg Graphic Equipment**

WINNER

Flame

Meadowhead School and Sixth Form, South Yorkshire

With the whole magazine is dedicated to this year's topic, Flame is a worthy winner. The cover is particularly striking, depicting a mannequin being manipulated by a puppet master. Judges particularly praised the articles about the use of CCTV and the ways in which literature helps us understand the abuse of power.

SCOOP OF THE YEAR

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'Open Door' by Arthana Pradeep
The Dovecote
Yarm School, North Yorkshire

A fascinating article about the lack of understanding surrounding migrant and migrant conflict issues. Some excellent interviews with pupils who've had their own experiences of this.

'Leigh-on-Sea's Eroding Shoreline: When Will the Cliff Edge Reach Residents' Doors?' by Poppy Chambers
More
St Thomas More High School, Westcliff-on-Sea

The Essex coastline is facing serious threat from erosion. A fascinating topic with a strong environmental message. The reporter has done a really good job getting comments from local residents affected by this huge issue.

Supported by **London Press Club**

WINNER

'To Vote or not to Vote? An interview with Ex MP Mark Field' by Yasmin Elam Nasser

Godolphin and Latymer, London

Judges loved this G&L Times interview with a former MP. Yasmin's got a really good story, directly addressing the newspaper's core readership on a nationally important issue: whether to bring the voting age down to 16.

MOST INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Sarah Peacock
De Aston School, Market Rasen

"Her impact goes far beyond the articles; she has helped us find friends, discover a new world of creation and become better people."

Antonia Breslin
Yarm School, North Yorkshire

"Works tirelessly behind the scenes, she always finds a way to 'make it happen.' She gives us all a sense of belonging."

WINNER

Andrew Williamson

Workington Academy, Cumbria

Andrew's students said of him, "he doesn't just teach skills, he believes in us before we believe in ourselves."

Supported by **Shepherds Bookbinders**

BEST MAGAZINE

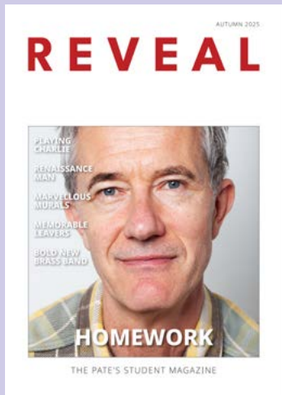
HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Eagle,
St John's School, Leatherhead

So controversial it was practically hot to the touch, this issue of The Eagle is outstanding. One issue of the moment is tackled after another from Trump, ICE, Epstein to Mamdani.

Supported by **Hello!**

WINNER



Reveal Magazine

Pate's Grammar School, Gloucestershire

Judges commended Reveal as a fantastic all-rounder. A well designed magazine with a smart, informative mix of topics, such as a former pupil's life as an undercover reporter, poetry and experiences of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe – all combined with full-page student art.

BEST NEWSPAPER

HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Reason
Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton

Beginning with a full-page cover image, a smart departure for The Reason, this is a great issue, packed with stories laser-targeted at its readership from coverage of school exam news to SpaceX.

The Tunstall Times
Tunstall College of Science

A proper school newspaper which covers topics other publications didn't reach. Judges particularly praised coverage of the aftermath of the Hartlepool riots.

Supported by **Daily Mail General Trust**

WINNER

THE MARTLET

SUMMER 2026 | ABINGDON SCHOOL'S LEADING NEWSPAPER | ISSUE 41

INSIDE
3 Tailfeathers — NEWS: INTERVENING AN SIP
6 TWITTERINGS WITH TEACHERS: MR TAYLOR — FEATURES: REWILDING BRITAIN
12 Maggie's Muddles — MORE MISC FILE 2 — LAST PAGE: SAXOPHONE REVIEW
16 SUMMER TERM QUIZ — SPORT: HOW TO KILL A CLUB

Moldova: The Former Soviet State Fighting for Sovereignty

Callum Lord explores the EU ambitions of Moldova, a country linked very closely to Abingdon School

It is not every day that a Moldovan school trip is the most country-world merge with their neighbour.

But for Moldova, European premier nation, the ongoing tension from Russia are force. Since 1991, Russia has maintained a presence in the breakaway region of Transnistria, a pro-Russian region in the east of Moldova. While Transnistria is internationally recognised as part of Moldova, Russian troops still stationed there, and it effectively operates as an independent territory, with its own currency, government, parliament, flag and anthem. Office labelled a 'tumor' that cannot, it has always served as a reminder of Moldova's fragile sovereignty and vulnerability to Russian influence.

Despite this, Moldova has been steadily turning its face West, towards Europe and, in particular, to the European Union. However, after current president Maia Sandu narrowly defeated pro-Russian, pro-European president Maia Sandu to consider all possible options to preserve her country's sovereignty and independence.

Moldova, which lies between Ukraine and Romania, has been recognised by Putin's Russia as an independent state since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. However, this has not been without significant challenges from Russia.

Abingdon girls Scouters helping out at a Moldovan school, Petre Ştefănescu, as part of the annual trip

Internet shutdowns, disappearances, economic pressure; the decline of journalistic freedom

Michael Jones Jones explores the pressures on journalism

On the 8th January 2026, Iran imposed a nationwide internet outage as a mean called to hinder access to crucial this information. This incident is another in a series of actions taken by Iran's government to increasingly constrain world wide. Such a blackout reflects a broader pattern of restricted data and access to accurate information for everyone.

Iran is one of the most important pillars of democracy. For people in voting an informed manner or protesting against injustice, access to reliable information, the press is the mechanism that ensures this. Article 19 of Iran that protects press freedom is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and it states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

This right is under threat from numerous shutdowns and economic pressure imposed by governments around the world. In the UK, one of the main sources of information is the BBC, which is constantly under threats of accusations of bias and possible government interference due to the licence fee, enforced by parliament. Yet, it is still popular, with over 4 in 5 people in the UK, with each around 27% calling the BBC, Sky and ITV their main sources for hard news. This statistic shows that the trust in the Press is still relatively high, and is ranked as the 32nd best country in the world for press freedom, this is a substantial problem when the decline of trust in the press worldwide.

As of the 5th February 2026, 1,500 journalists killed, and 400 journalists are in detention (according to the organisation RSF). This is an increase from last year, when the RSF reported that over 80% of countries reported around 27% calling the BBC, Sky and ITV their main sources for hard news.

The world is slowly losing its grip on democracy, and the

Continued on page 6 »

The Martlet
Abingdon School, Oxfordshire

Earthquakes, rewilding, Moldova and pressures on journalism in global hot-spots. Judges praised this whipsmart, engaging issue of The Martlet, saying, "it had it all."

THE TERRY MANSFIELD CBE AWARD FOR TOMORROW'S TALENT

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Andrea Yeo
The G & L Times
Godolphin and Latymer, London

Andrea clearly has a strong sense of the student body and its need for a publication that united them, where none previously existed. Our judges appreciated her fresh perspective as a new student from Singapore and were deeply impressed by her strong initiative and resilience.

Ethan Fletcher
Reign
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington

Reign's Instagram shows a clear understanding of audience engagement, with the 'JackSucksatLife' interview successfully raising its profile. Ethan is a fluent, natural presenter and judges commended his advocacy for podcast facilities.

Supported by **Hearst Magazines UK**

WINNER

Annabel Cochrane, The Clocktower

Ripon Grammar School, North Yorkshire

This year's student of the year has not only created a magazine from the ground up, but made a huge success of it and left a lasting legacy for the future. The Clocktower was produced to a high standard, without precedent or school facilities. Judges particularly praised Annabel's teamwork and care for the magazine's contributors, evident through mentoring peers and publishing a diverse range of content.

THE HARRISON CUP

WINNER

Volodymyr Podobiedov
Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton

Our 2026 winner of the Harrison Cup is a Ukrainian refugee who came to the UK in 2022 not speaking a word of English. He then rose to become editor of Ermysted's school magazine. As our judges put it: "We admire Volodymyr's outstanding determination and skill. In his articles he strongly demonstrates a desire and flair for making complex scientific discussions accessible and appropriate for his student audience."

Supported by **The Stationers' Foundation**

THANK YOU

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

SPONSORS

BABILA LIMITED
BARNARD & WESTWOOD
BOBST UK & IRELAND
DAILY MAIL GENERAL TRUST
DENMAUR PAPER MEDIA
FOILCO
HEARST MAGAZINES UK
HEIDELBERG GRAPHIC EQUIPMENT GROUP
LONDON PRESS CLUB
MILES PRESTON
PICON
PUREPRINT
SIGN SPECIALISTS
THE PRINTING CHARITY
THE STATIONERS' FOUNDATION
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MARKETORS
VOODOO

MEDIA PARTNER

METRO

SUPPORTERS

BELL HOUSE
CARLO TEOFILO
HELLO!
PRINTWEEK
PROFESSOR LORD BLACKWATER
SDS GROUP
SHEPHERDS BOOKBINDERS
THE CARTOON MUSEUM

Shine Chair **Richard Chapman**
Shine Deputy Chair **Katherine Whitbourn**
Competition Manager **Anneliese Cooper Blake**

Design by **Richard Chapman Studio**
Printed by **Pureprint Group**
Paper supplied by **Denmaur Paper Media**
Cover foiling supplied by **FoilCo**

www.shine-schoolawards.org
shine@stationers.org
x **@shinemediawards**
instagram **@shineschoolmediaawards**

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE ON A JOB WELL DONE

ABINGDON SCHOOL, ABINGDON-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

OAKS LYTHAM, LYTHAM ST ANNES, LANCASHIRE

BROMSGROVE SCHOOL, BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE

CHICHESTER FREE SCHOOL, CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX

CITY OF NORWICH SCHOOL, NORWICH, NORFOLK

DE ASTON SCHOOL, MARKET RASEN, LINCOLNSHIRE

DENE MAGNA SCHOOL, MITCHELDEAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ERMYSTED'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL, SKIPTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

FALINGE PARK, ROCHDALE, GREATER MANCHESTER

GLOBAL ACADEMY, HAYES, GREATER LONDON

GODOLPHIN AND LATIMER, HAMMERSMITH, GREATER LONDON

HIGH INSTALLCOLLEGE OF SCIENCE, HARTLEPOOL, COUNTY DURHAM

HUMMERSKNOTT ACADEMY, DARLINGTON, COUNTY DURHAM

HYDE HOUSE SCHOOL, STOCKPORT, GREATER MANCHESTER

KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM

MARIA FIDELIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL, EUSTON, GREATER LONDON

MEADOWHEAD SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM, SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

PATE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL, CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL, KEZWICK, CUMBRIA

QUEEN ELIZABETH SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, DARLINGTON, COUNTY DURHAM

REED'S SCHOOL, COBHAM, SURREY

REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, REIGATE, SURREY

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL, RIPON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL, MURRAYFIELD, EDINBURGH

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, LEATHERHEAD, SURREY

ST THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, ESSEX

TARPORLEY HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, TARPORLEY, CHESHIRE

URMSTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL, URMSTON, GREATER MANCHESTER

WETHERBY PEMBRIDGE SCHOOL, NOTTING HILL, GREATER LONDON

WORKINGTON ACADEMY, WORKINGTON, CUMBRIA

YARM SCHOOL, YARM, NORTH YORKSHIRE

THE STATIONERS' FOUNDATION