



Celebrating 60 Years

Spirit of The Banda

Friday 27th February 2026

A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER

We continue to receive news of success from our Year 8s who have applied for scholarships to their chosen senior schools. Many congratulations to the following who have gained awards to schools in the UK: Erin (Academic Scholarship to St George's Weybridge), George (Art Scholarship to Sherborne) and Michael (Sports Scholarship to Monkton Combe). We look forward to announcing more in the very near future.

Several year groups have enjoyed trips out of school this week: Year 7 had a fun-packed day of teamwork and leadership challenges at Peponi; Year 4 visited the Nairobi War Cemetery; whilst Year 3 headed to Mlango Farm this morning.

It was great to welcome musicians from the Rift Valley Academy into school today and for our pupils to collaborate with them, culminating in a wonderful concert this afternoon.

There's plenty more going on in the coming weeks and we wish our Year 8s the best of luck next week as they sit their mock examinations.

James Moss-Gibbons



See Jan Week 9 events overleaf

Follow us on:



SECONDARY SCHOOL VISITS



Steyning Grammar School



State Boarding School

Ms Sarah Murton, Head of Boarding will be visiting
The Banda School on
Wednesday 4th March between
12:15 - 2:00 pm

If you would like to discuss opportunities and learn more about what
State Boarding can offer, contact us to make an appointment.

Book today!

+44 (0) 1903 817601
sgsboarding@sgs.uk.net
www.sgs.uk.net

Affordable Excellence
Flexible Boarding
State Boarding from Year 7 - Sixth Form
Beautiful Location in the Heart of Sussex UK
Easy Access to London airports

Word OF THE Week

Omit

To leave something out.

CHALLENGE: ADD THIS WORD TO YOUR WRITING THIS WEEK!

**Stop asking
"How was your day?"**

**What is something you
are really good at
that makes you
feel proud?**



Harry Belafonte Michael Buerk Dionne Warwick Dame Claire Bertschinger Lionel Richie

STAND TOGETHER AS ONE

THE FAMINE THE MUSIC THE IMPACT



We Are The World
USA AFRICA

A DUNCAN AMIN PRODUCTION
Produced by SALIM AMIN & CHIP PUNGAN. Written, Directed & Edited by CHIP PUNGAN. Original Music Score by CHRIS SPEERS. Co-producers: TRIP TISHAH & ROBERT HICK.
Sound Design & Mix - RANDY REED. Graphics - JONAS ELMERHOF. Associate Producer & Assistant - THERESA PFEFFER.
with special thanks to the Jane D. Peltz Foundation, Women Women & Independent Business

SCREENBOUND

Film Screening and photographic exhibition at The Banda – ‘Stand Together as One’ Wednesday 11th March 6pm (for 7pm screening)

Tickets are Ksh 1000 and can be bought at the door, or in advance through this link:
[Tickets for film screening](#)

We are very grateful to Salim Amin (Banda alumni) for bringing this screening and accompanying exhibition to The Banda community. On 11th March we will be showing ‘Stand Together as One’ in the Main Hall, and displaying iconic images from The Mohamed Amin Collection, sought after by collectors worldwide. There will be the opportunity to purchase some of these images through a silent auction. Everyone from our community is invited (note the film viewing rating is PG).

Background to the film and images:

Forty years after the recording of We Are The World, the pop anthem still resonates for music lovers worldwide. We Are The World remains a benchmark for what is possible when musicians come together in a common cause. When drought hit Ethiopia in 1983, millions of people in the war-ravaged nation were denied

food relief by a ruthless dictatorship. More than one million people starved to death.

The treacherous war zone didn’t stop Kenyan Photojournalist Mohamed Amin or his BBC colleagues Michael Buerk and Mike Wooldridge from venturing into the heart of the crisis. The skilled frontline team risked their lives to tell the truth behind what many consider the worst humanitarian disaster of the 20th century.

Inspired by the historic global reporting of these valiant Journalists, the world took note and musicians galvanized on two continents. They chose to stand together as one in efforts which would lead to raising both world attention and millions of dollars in an attempt to help.

Led by Harry Belafonte, Lionel Ritchie, Quincy Jones and others, the historic recording session resulting in the landmark song We Are the World took place as well as the establishment of the United Support of Artists for Africa (USA for Africa) organization. Their efforts didn’t stop the civil war or solve world hunger, but even today, their success provides a blueprint for what’s possible.

Stand Together As One features the final on camera interview with artist-activist Harry Belafonte, the final on camera interview with We Are The World organizer Ken Kragen, and never-before-seen-footage of the famine restored for this production. Stand Together As One is a production of US-based Duncan Entertainment and Kenyan-based Camerapix.

Proceeds from the screening and auction:

Proceeds will go towards the Angel of Hope school feeding programme. Angel Of Hope is a community initiative founded by Angel Ina Njeru, a Grade 7 student at Kinyanjui Road Junior Secondary School, who is also a passionate model, contortionist, and youth advocate. Moved by the needs of a fellow student lacking school essentials, Angel launched the program with the help of her parents and friends to support underprivileged children with uniforms, stationary, and school meals. So far the initiative has sponsored many dozens of students with a vision to reach tens of thousands more and inspire hope and joy in education.

LEVEL 2 NCSA SWIMMING REPORT

Huge congratulations to The Banda Swim Team for an outstanding performance at the Level 2 NCSA Swimming Meet! Despite a demanding and busy season, our 9 representative swimmers showed incredible grit and determination, bringing home a fantastic haul of medals. Their hard work in the pool is truly paying off.

Liseno Waigwa delivered an outstanding performance, striking Gold in the 50m Freestyle. Aaliyah Botes secured a Silver medal in the 50m Freestyle and added a Bronze in the 100m Individual Medley, while Dylan Nolan earned a Silver in the 50m Freestyle together with a Bronze in the 50m Butterfly. Nashipae Mepukori also performed strongly, claiming a Silver medal in the 100m Breaststroke. It's not just about the podium finishes; it's about the spirit of the entire team. We are so proud of how all our swimmers represented The Banda against tough competition.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Atticus (4DM) for his impressive tennis achievements over the half term break. Atticus competed in the Bumble Bee 10 & Under Green Ball Tournament at Nairobi Club, where he played brilliantly to reach the semi-finals. He also took part in the Junior Tennis Tournament in Limuru, where he won the 10 & Under category and finished 2nd in the 12 & Under category — an outstanding achievement. Well done, Atticus!



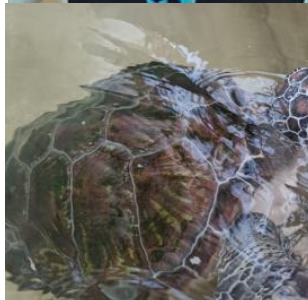
Watamu 2026

Over half term a group of children from Years 6 to 8 experienced an exciting and fun 5-day trip to Watamu. They were kept super busy with a range of different activities, in between which they were either swimming in the huge hotel pool, playing football on the beach, diving into the ocean waves, playing cards, or eating ice cream and pancakes!

For the ocean and conservation themed activities we had a tour around the snake park and watched the milking of a red spitting cobra. We got a boat out to see the magical dolphins and then went snorkeling on the beautiful reef. We took a long walk along the stunning Garoda beach collecting plastic as we went and had fresh coconuts and time in the markets as our reward at the end. We visited Eco-World to learn about the problem of plastic and Local Ocean to learn about turtle conservation. Some children opted to try out some scuba diving in the pool and completed their PADI Bubble Maker. We all experienced an early morning yoga session at the beautiful Treehouse overlooking the ocean.

Here the children learnt about mindfulness and practiced not only yoga poses but some meditation as well. For a historical activity we walked around Gedi ruins and the children were fascinated to hear how the people lived all those years ago. For some community work we visited Blue Bell School to meet the children and play some football. We also donated all of the shoes you gave (82 pairs!) and the money from our bake sale. Thank you!

Overall it was a wonderful trip. The children were a delight, they had so much fun and they made many life long memories.





WELLBEING

Wellbeing is the foundation for learning at The Banda and is interwoven into all aspects of school life. When children feel safe, known and valued, they thrive both academically and socially. This week saw the launch of our newly updated Wellbeing Vision which includes the following aims and objectives:

- To develop a positive culture which regards wellbeing and mental health as the responsibility of all.
- To promote and protect mental, social, academic, physical and emotional wellbeing across the whole school community.
- To actively promote student & staff wellbeing & positive mental health.
- To continue to prioritise professional learning & staff development on wellbeing & mental health.
- Recognise, track and address the different types of wellbeing & mental health needs across the school.
- To work with parents and community members to support wellbeing & mental health.
- To partner with other schools & specialist services to support different needs.

Wellbeing is promoted on an explicit level through our PSHE curriculum, our wellbeing form tutors sessions and focus weeks, our value system and through whole school wellbeing initiatives. Pastoral care is at the heart of what we do at The Banda and we recognise that it's the daily relationships, not just policies and programmes that shape how a child feels. We also have a fantastic, dedicated Wellbeing Centre where our School Counsellor, Rosa, is on hand on a full-time basis to assist pupils and staff who may require her guidance. Steer Tracking, a more formal method of tracking pupil wellbeing in Years 3-8, was introduced in 2022. This enables us to regularly monitor and strengthen pupils' self-regulation, identify hidden social-emotional risks, and provide detailed, personalised support plans.

This week also saw the launch of our "Wellbeing Shot Outs" where pupils can be nominated by their peers or members of Staff for:

- Kindness and helpfulness
- Resilience and Perseverance
- Positive Leadership
- Community Spirit
- Upholding school values
- Including others

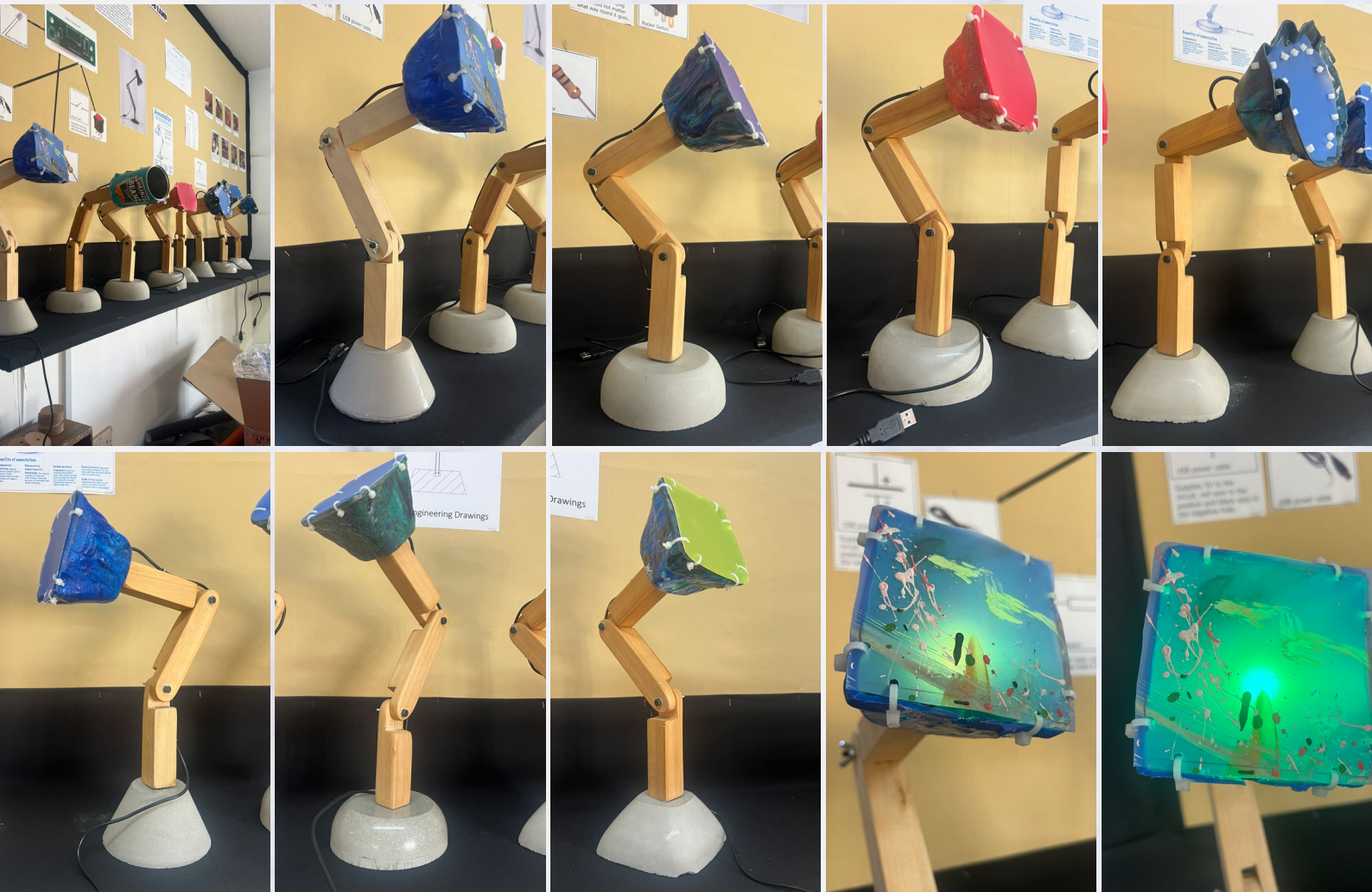
The nominated children (and Staff!) are then recognised and celebrated in Assembly with a round of applause and a special jingle.

Our school wide wellbeing focus this year is to improve our self disclosure. Lower self-disclosing students are more likely to hide or mask their thoughts, ideas, opinions, and feelings, rather than share them with others. We are using a number of tips and strategies across the school to work on this.

Our vision is that our wellbeing programme will not only equip our pupils to succeed in school, but to flourish in life!

YEAR 8

Year 8's night light DT projects have now been finalised and are fully working. It has been wonderful to see the pupils applying their creativity and problem-solving skills as they designed and completed their projects. In RS, Year 8 worked collaboratively in groups to research their topics and prepare key points and supporting ideas for their upcoming debates.



YEAR 7

In Science, Year 7 investigated chemical reactions and carried out practical experiments to test for different gases. The pupils enjoyed observing the reactions and using scientific methods to identify the gases produced.



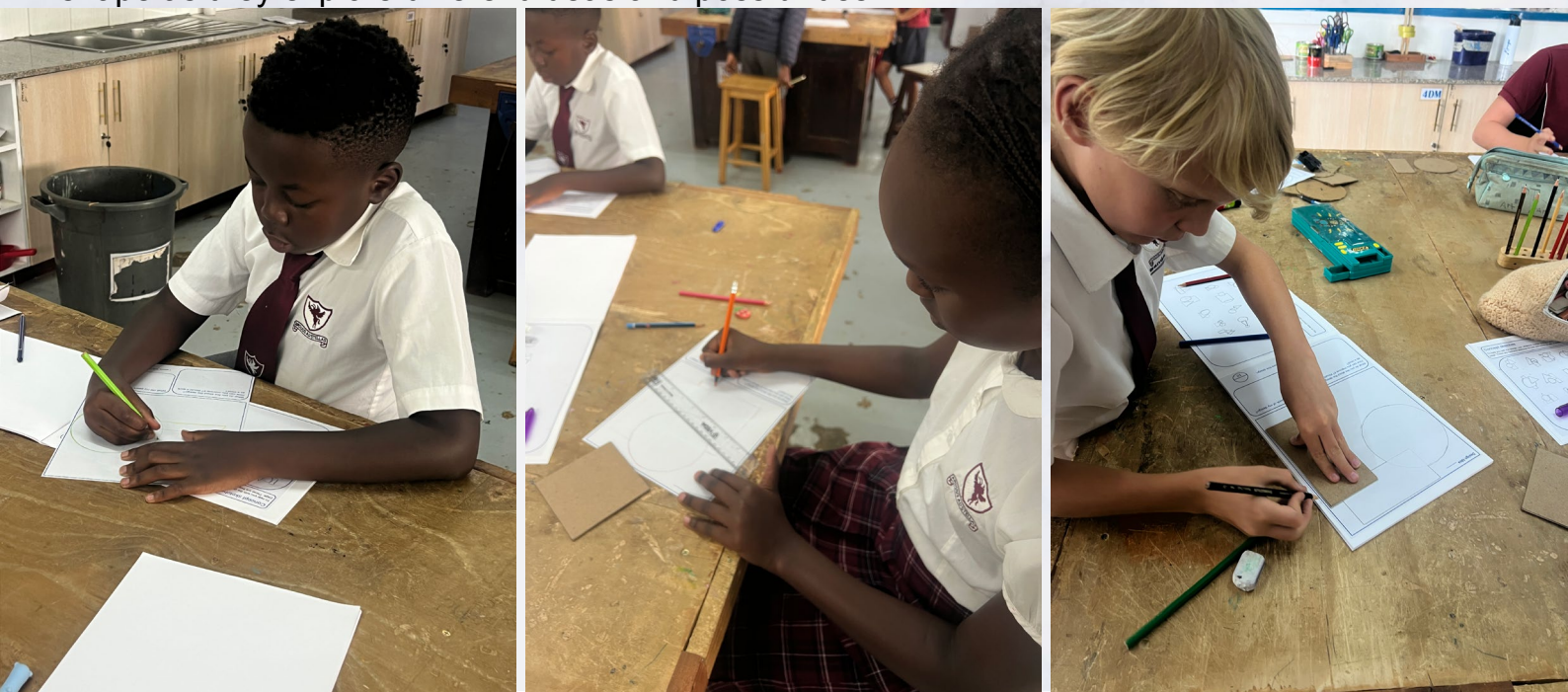
YEAR 6

Year 6 historians are stepping beyond the books and into a “battle of wits”, as we introduce formal debate skills. They find it incredibly empowering to “challenge” the past and the present, and love the competitive spirit and the chance to prove their point in high-energy and respectful dialogues. History is a series of choices, and we want our students to analyse those choices from every angle.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have begun sketching ideas for their next DT project, carefully thinking about their designs and how the final product might look. It has been exciting to see their creativity take shape as they explore different ideas and possibilities.





YEAR 5

Year 5 have been learning about the Great Rift Valley in Geography. This week they learnt about the Rift Valley lakes including which are freshwater lakes and which are saline. They carried out a group research task on a particular lake, finding out information about how the lake formed, details about its size, depth, and type of water, biodiversity in the lake and the threats and human impacts on the lake.



YEAR 5

Instead of just playing computer games, our Year 5 pupils are learning to build them! Using the visual programming language Scratch. This experience is not just about fun; it builds the logical 'building blocks' that the children will later use when they progress to professional coding languages like Python.



Word OF THE Week

JUNIOR

Wistful
A little sad while thinking about something you want or miss.

CHALLENGE: ADD THIS WORD TO YOUR WRITING THIS WEEK!

LOWER SCHOOL - YEAR 4

In Year 4 we looked at the types of ration items that people were given during WW2. We looked at real life ration books and packets of food. We discussed what we would miss the most from our favourite food menu if we were rationed.



YEAR 4 TRIP

The Year 4 children had a truly memorable experience on Thursday as they visited the Nairobi War Cemetery. The day provided a unique opportunity for the children to connect with the past, learning the stories of World War II soldiers and the work done by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to keep their memories alive. Beyond the history lessons, the children explored the deep symbolism behind different headstones too. A big well done to Year 4s for showing such great respect.



YEAR 4

In DT, Year 4 pupils have begun bringing their designs to life and have been carefully entrusted with using power tools. The children have shown great responsibility and focus as their projects start to take shape.



YEAR 3

This week we had fun playing headbantz. We had to ask questions to work out what we were.



YEAR 3

We have been busy in Year 3 making Trojan Horses and painting flowers using watercolours.



YEAR 2

As part of their Science topic 'Animals Including Humans' Year 2 were learning about life cycles. They had a really interesting lesson ordering the 21 stages of a chicken egg changing from an embryo into a chick.

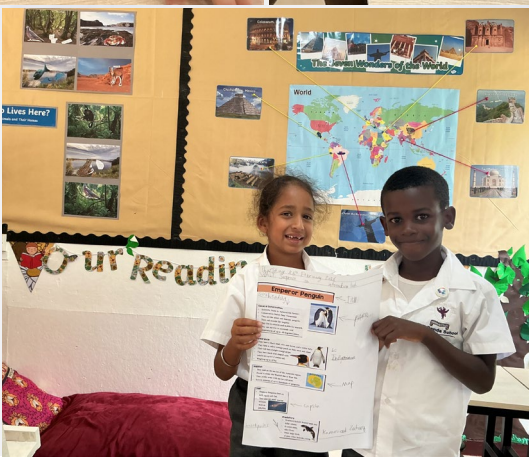


In Numeracy, the children learnt how to measure in centimeters and metres, then worked in groups to measure the assembly hall.





The children also worked in groups to identify features of information texts in non-fiction books.



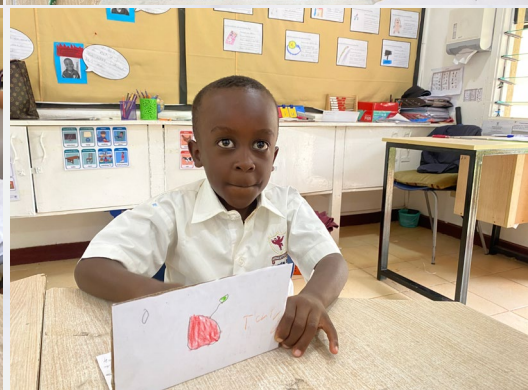
YEAR 1

Year 1 Art pupils have carefully begun making their clay frogs by rolling out the clay. They are completely absorbed in the lesson, showing deep concentration as they use templates to create the body of their frogs.



YEAR 1

In Humanities, we looked at how computers have changed the world today! After discussing the evolution of tech, we got crafty and created our own tablets and laptops out of recycled cardboard.



PEGASUS EARLY YEARS - RECEPTION

Year 5 pupils spent some time reading with Reception children on Thursday, sharing stories and building friendships. It was lovely to see the older pupils guiding and encouraging their younger reading partners.



RECEPTION

Reception children have loved their new Veterinary surgery role play area experience. Gianni even went as far as to rescue a real lizard he found in the playground, which sparked a whole conversation and discussion about what reptiles need to be healthy.

In Maths, we introduced TIME which kicked off with some fun activities that had timer challenge. Then we made O'clock time which was so much fun.



NURSERY 2

This term we are learning about people who help us, and why they are so important. This week we focused on road safety. We learnt how to cross a zebra crossing safely; courtesy of James, who is The Banda's wonderful Lollipop man, and Sam the van driver.



NURSERY 1

Nursery 1 joyfully re-enacted We're Going on a Bear Hunt, squelching through mud, swishing through grass, splashing through water, and tiptoeing into the dark cave. Their playful adventure brought the story to life, full of energy, imagination, and laughter.





RISING STARS

The Rising Stars are learning about Juicy Fruits. They saw and touched different types of fruits, munched on fruit salad and enjoyed sticking pictures of their favourite fruits on a paper plate fruit basket.



WEEK 9

MENU

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MORNING BREAK

Tomato Sandwiches
Fruit

Lemon Cake
Carrot Sticks

Vanilla Cookies
Fruit

Vegetable
Samosas
Fruit

Flapjacks
Cucumber Sticks

LUNCH: SOUP

Butternut Soup

MAINS

Margarita Pizza

Tandoori
Chicken with
Onions and
Peppers

Pasta Carbonara
(Pork / Chicken)

Halal Beef

Beef Stir Fry

Fish Goujons

PEY: Chicken
Goujons

VEGGIE

Margarita Pizza

Tandoori Tofu
with Onions and
Peppers

Vegan Kebabs

Veggie Pasta in
Cream Sauce

Vegetable Stir Fry

Chickpea & Veggie
Patties

SIDES

Sweet Corn
Sliced Tomato, Eggs
Potato Salad
Cucumber
Coleslaw

Potato
Wedges

Grated Cheese

Seasonal
Vegetables

Steamed Rice

Assorted Salads

Chips

Tartar Sauce
Seasonal
Vegetables

**DESSERT
MAIN SCHOOL**

Yoghurt

Ice-Cream

Fruit Salad

Pineapple
Crumble/
Custard

Fruit Platter

**DESSERT
PEY**

Yoghurt & Honey

Pixie Oranges

Fruit Salad

Pineapple
Crumble

Fruit Platter

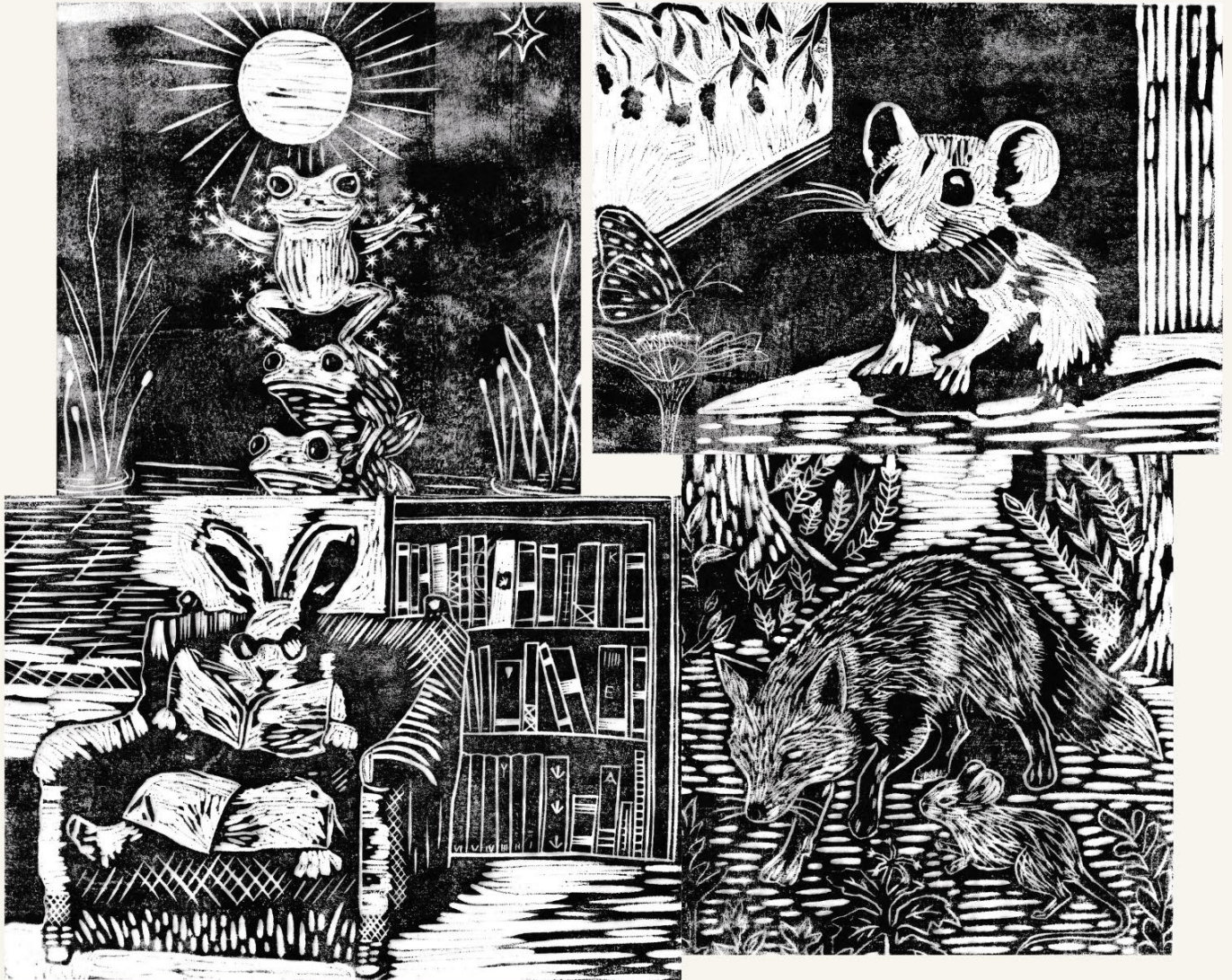
- 95% of what we serve is cooked on-site by our catering staff
- We cater for varied food preferences in our menu and always have Halal and allergen free options
 - All eggs are free range and organic as well as many of the vegetables

Menu is subject to change

NOTICE BOARD

ILA'S ADVENTURES

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KEYA PUNJA
BANDA ALUMNI



BOOK LAUNCH

ORIGINS DANCE COMPANY WILL BE SHOWCASING AN EXCERPT FROM THE
SHOW THAT WILL BE LAUNCHING AT THE END OF MARCH!

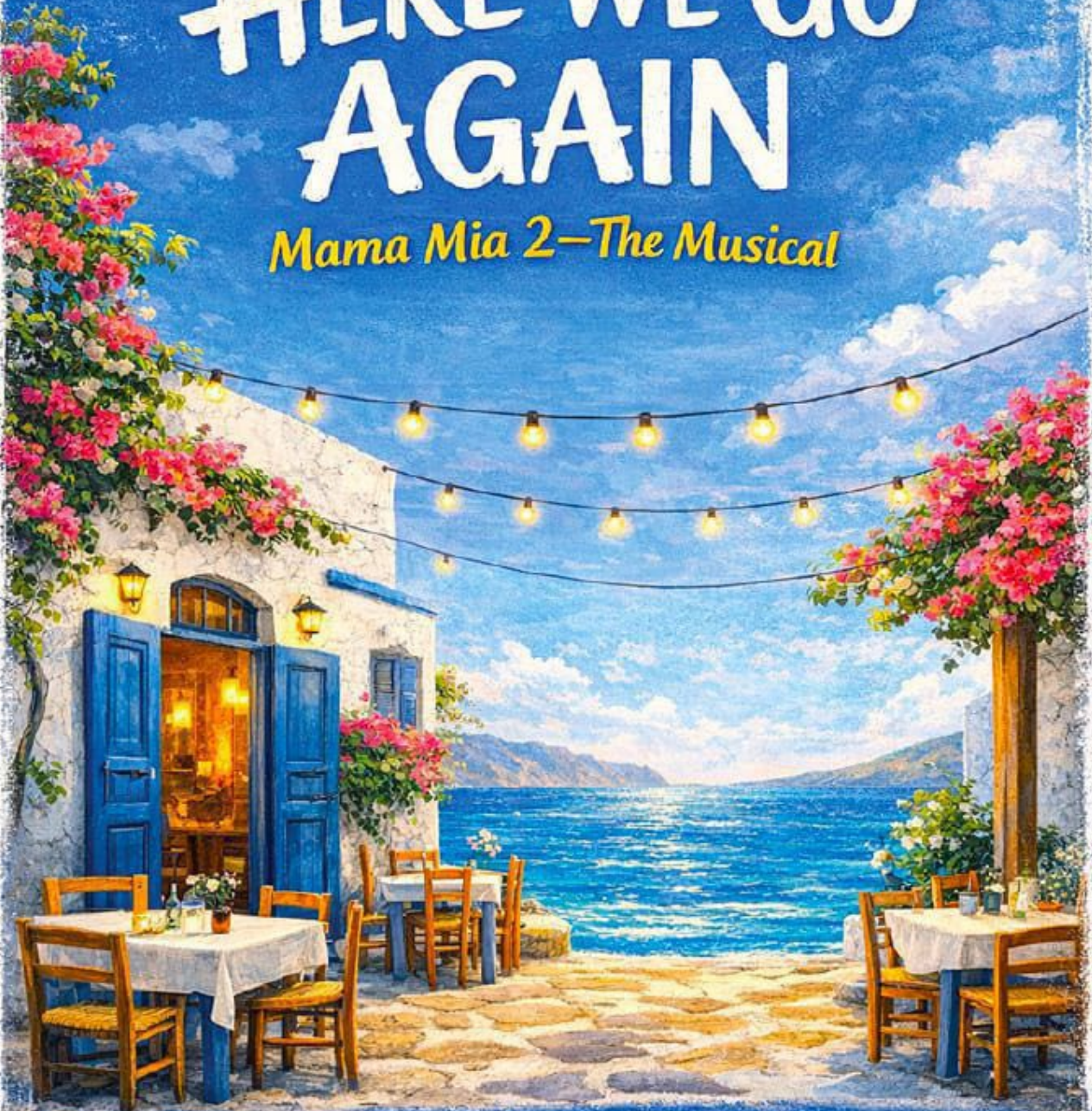


7TH MARCH - 5PM
RHINO HOUSE, KAREN PLAINS ROAD

NOTICE BOARD

HERE WE GO AGAIN

Mama Mia 2 – The Musical



Back to the island where it all began....

19th, 20th & 21st March 2026 | 19:00

CUEA Auditorium



www.KENYA **BUZZ** .com

Adults 2,500 Children Kes 2,000

KADS
Kenya Amateur Dramatics



NOTICE BOARD

Decorate an Egg Competition

Open to All including staff.

Decorate an Egg – be imaginative.

Deadline Monday 23rd March 2026

1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners will be decided from all entries.
There will also be an overall winner in Lower School and an overall
winner in Upper School.

A prize for the winning staff member.

All entries to be delivered to the Art and D&T rooms.



Have a lovely weekend!