



Spotlight on Sherborne

CLASS
OF
2027

TRINITY 2026



Hello from Sherborne!

Welcome to the latest edition of Spotlight on Sherborne, especially for boys joining us in September 2027. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our recent Super Sunday event and we hope you all had a fun time exploring the school, meeting each other, and getting to know the Housemasters and some of our teaching staff.

It has been another busy term here, culminating in our Commemoration Day on Saturday 28 June, a chance to celebrate the many successes of the school year. Every year, a number of prizes are awarded in memory of Old Shirburnians, and you can read about these, and the other many notable achievements of the school year, on the Class of 2027 webpage. We have also uploaded some video and photographs from Super Sunday on that page – please scan the QR code and check them out!

We hope you are enjoying your newsletters and would love to hear what you think! If you have any comments, or ideas about what you'd like to feature in future editions, please send them over to us at classof2027@sherborne.org

Have a wonderful summer!

Next Steps along the road to Sherborne:

- **2 October 2026** – Deadline for Scholarship Applications
- **November 2026** – Boarding Open House Event
- **By January 2027** – Complete your House Preference Form
- **April 2027** – Your House is confirmed
- **June 2027** – New Boys' Day
- **Summer 2027** – Get your uniform sorted
- **September 2027** – Become a Shirburnian



Meet the Housemaster

Mr Allen – The Digby

Once a four-star hotel, The Digby was mentioned by Thomas Hardy in his novel *The Woodlanders*. More importantly, it's now home to Mr Allen, his family, and about 80 boys.

Mr Allen studied Sport Science at the University of Bath before completing a Master's degree in Strength and Conditioning at St Mary's University, Twickenham. He went on to spend ten years working in professional rugby, holding positions with Gloucester Rugby, London Irish, and the London Broncos. During this time, he also supported the England Senior Men's Rugby team under Martin Johnson,

contributing to Autumn International campaigns and an overseas tour to Argentina. After a decade in elite sport, he moved into education, completing his PGCE at the University of Buckingham. He joined Sherborne Boys from Dulwich College as Head of Physical Education and became Housemaster of The Digby in January 2026, whilst continuing to teach across the PE curriculum. Mr Allen coaches a range of sports and maintains a strong interest in athlete development and performance. Mr Allen and his wife have three children who keep them happily busy outside school life.



CLASS OF 2027



Meet the teacher

Mr Gordon

Teacher of English and Head of Lower School Scholarship

What inspired you to teach?

My passion for literature and language inspired me to teach. I'm an unapologetic geek when it comes to contemporary poetry, Jacobean/Elizabethan drama, nineteenth-century fiction, and literature of all kinds. I also love languages (I speak Spanish, French, 'kitchen' Italian and a bit of Zulu, and I'm slowly teaching myself Arabic), linguistics, translation, etymology, and the wonderfully strange stories hidden inside words.

What was your childhood dream job?

When I was younger, I was fascinated to the point of obsession by animals and wildlife and I was an enthusiastic member of the WWF (The World Wildlife Fund, not the World Wrestling Federation). My dream job was to become a game park ranger in the Kruger National Park in South Africa, working in conservation, helping to protect animals and sharing the wonders of the natural world with other people. Also, I wanted to drive cool offroad vehicles around the bush.

Surprising Fact?

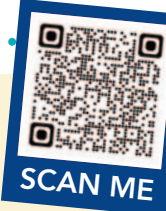
Linked to the above, I have a relatively encyclopaedic knowledge of different species of animals, particularly Southern African fauna, and I can identify them by sight. Now I think about it, the fact that I've become a teacher doesn't feel like I'm that far removed from being a game park ranger - both involve guiding, encouraging and occasionally trying to keep track of a lively group of wild animals with minds of their own.



Alan Turing Centenary Bike Ride – 100km from Southampton to Sherborne

To mark one hundred years, to the day, of Alan Turing's arrival into Sherborne Boys from Southampton train station, where he commandeered a bicycle and rode 100km to get here, members of Sherborne Schools Group re-enacted his journey, with a group of staff and pupils, arriving in Sherborne at 6pm on Tuesday 5 May. Alan Turing's actions on 4 May 1926 were a small glimpse of the man he would become: the father of computer science, the mind behind Bletchley Park, and the visionary who gave birth to artificial intelligence. The General Strike had brought Britain to a standstill. Every train stood idle.

A thirteen-year-old boy named Alan Turing was due to begin his first term at Sherborne School. Most boys would have waited. He did not. He borrowed a bicycle and rode nearly 60 miles alone through the Dorset countryside, stopping overnight before arriving at Sherborne the following morning – composed, punctual, and entirely unbothered. A Sherborne school report from 1927 showed that these actions were typical of Turing's character. "Alan has been doing distinguished work for us... his determination is remarkable."



Sherborne Boys Crowned Vase Champions at Rosslyn Park

Sherborne Boys' U18 Sevens side produced a superb two-day performance to be crowned U18 Vase champions at the 2026 Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens competition in March. Sherborne entered the Vase competition following a strong season and carried that momentum into the Sevens format with a series of impressive performances across both days. A standout performer across the tournament was Edwin, whose influence on both sides of the ball saw him deservedly named Player of the Tournament. The campaign was further strengthened by the involvement of Old Shirburnian Will Homer (M14), former England and Great Britain Sevens international, who has been working closely with the programme this term. His expertise in the Sevens game has played a key role in developing the squad's understanding and execution in this format.

Will Homer said of the win, "It's been a pleasure to work with the boys this term. They've been incredibly coachable and have taken on board the detail required to succeed in Sevens. To see them put it all together at Rosslyn Park and come away with the Vase is a brilliant achievement."

Mr Smith, Director of Rugby at Sherborne School, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for the boys and a reflection of the commitment they have shown throughout the season. Rosslyn Park is an incredibly competitive environment, and to come away as Vase winners is something the boys should be very proud of. They have embraced the Sevens game, shown real growth across the two days, and represented the school superbly."



Music

From Westminster Abbey to Courtsfest



Music permeates life at Sherborne, and the very first week of term was a great example of the range of musical opportunities: On Thursday the SB Chamber Choir and SG Madrigal Society were invited to sing Evensong at Westminster Abbey, two days later Courtsfest took over the Courts for



our annual festival. Bands from SB and SG took to the stage to perform to a very appreciative audience.



Did you know?

The Old Shirburnian Society

On 26 June we celebrated the 130th Anniversary of the founding of The Old Shirburnian Society.

When a boy joins Sherborne, he becomes part of a lifelong community. During his time here, he builds friendships and values that stay with him forever, carrying the spirit of Sherborne wherever he goes. The Old Shirburnian Society exists to keep that connection alive; boys join a global network which hosts events around the world, creating opportunities to reunite, reminisce, and forge new connections. This includes professional support and networking, university visits and, for parents, the opportunity to join the Friends of Sherborne School. You can read more about The Old Shirburnian Society, and notable alumni using the link on the class of 2027 webpage.

