

DECEMBER 2025



## Festive Greetings from the Truro School Boarding Community

As the term comes to an end, boarding has been full of energy, laughter and plenty of memorable moments. Alongside the Christmas fun, decorating the houses, festive treats, film nights and trips to local markets and lights, pupils have made the most of a wide range of activities.

Surfing sessions on the Cornish coast, paintballing adventures, ice skating trips and horse riding outings have all been highlights, giving boarders the chance to try something new, challenge themselves and, most importantly, have fun together. Even the quieter evenings, sharing meals, chatting in the common rooms or relaxing after a busy day, have helped make this a really special term.

What has stood out most, however, is the way friendships have grown across the boarding community. Pupils of all ages have supported one another, with older boarders setting a brilliant example and younger pupils settling in with confidence. From cheering each other on during activities to simply enjoying each other's company at the end of the day, there has been a genuine sense of warmth and belonging in the houses.

As everyone heads off for the Christmas break, they take with them great memories, stronger friendships and plenty of stories to share ready to return in the new year refreshed and excited for what's to come.

We wish all of our boarding families and community a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

David McKeown  
Head of Boarding



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## Joy and Festivities in Boarding

Boarders, staff and guests gathered in the Chapel for the final Boarders' Chapel Service of the term. Led by Rev Helen, the service began with a lively game of 'pass the parcel', as boarders unwrapped a series of props including a carrot, angel halos and a star.

Each item represented a character from the Nativity story, allowing everyone to take part in an Instant Nativity narrated by Rev Helen. With members of the congregation playing roles ranging from the donkey to the angels, the service offered a fun and interactive retelling of the story of the first Christmas.

Following the service, everyone retired to the Dining Room to enjoy a delicious Christmas dinner, complete with roast turkey and all the trimmings.

It was a festive occasion, bringing boarders and staff together as one family to celebrate this joyous time of year. We would like to thank Rev Helen and all the staff who helped to make both the celebration and the dinner possible.





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## Boarders Enjoy Magical Evening on the Ice

Our boarders enjoyed an evening of ice skating at the Eden Project. Best known for its striking biomes and lush indoor rainforests, the Eden Project is one of Cornwall's must-see attractions, and it proved to be a brilliant setting for some winter fun.

After lacing up their skates, the boarders headed onto the rink, mixing confident gliding with plenty of wobbles and laughter. Whether they were trying skating for the first time or showing off a few practised turns, everyone enjoyed the chance to relax together after a busy week.

Trips like this are part of what makes boarding in Cornwall so special. With incredible places to explore right on our doorstep and a strong sense of community in the Houses, our boarders get to experience a real mix of adventure, friendship and the best of Cornish life.



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## A World of Christmas from Our Boarding Community

This festive season, our boarding community has come together to create a special installation in the chapel, celebrating the rich diversity of their home and family traditions.

The display offers boarders, both local and from around the world, a chance to share how they celebrate the festive season with their fellow pupils. Launched at our Artisan Craft Fayre, the installation features beautifully handmade and decorated works in paper, clay, and wood, crafted by the boarding houses. We are pleased to share with you the words of our vibrant boarders:

"In Spain, on the 6th of January, the 3 Kings of the East, came to Jesus and gave him 3 presents: Gold, Incense and Myrrh".

"In Provence, we have Santons, which are small, hand-painted clay figurines. traditionally handmade by local people, arranged to represent the villages. We place Jesus into the crib, during the night of the 24th December and at Epiphany we place the 3 Kings into the scene".

"In Ukraine, we have different types of Christmas songs – koliadky (comes from the word calendar), to celebrate the birth of Christ and shchedrivky (comes from the Ukrainian word for generosity) for 'Generous Evening' on December 31st. It is believed that the more carollers who come to the house, the more fortune and wealth will be brought to the family the following year. One of the most famous Christmas melodies – 'Carol of the Bells', is originally a Ukrainian carol called Shchedryk (composed by Mykola Leontovych), and is based on ancient Ukrainian folk songs".



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"In France, a Yule Log is called – 'Buche de Noël'. Historically, families burned a large wooden log on the fire, sprinkled with wine or spices for good luck — this tradition inspired today's cake".

"The symbol which represents Christmas traditions in Germany is the Christmas tree. We always get a massive one with fairy lights and decorations – it means a lot to me".

"In Ukraine, traditionally, children prepare and perform 'Vertep Performances'. Vertep is a portable puppet theatre and drama which presents the nativity scene and other mystery plays. The essential attribute of the vertep is the Christmas star, which is considered a symbol of joy, as it bears the news of the birth of Jesus".

"In Germany, we celebrate Nikolaus on the 6th December, by putting shoes out and filling them with sweets".

"In Hong Kong people go out for dinner to meet relatives or friends and after dinner, people will exchange gifts".

"In Germany, we celebrate Christmas in a very big way. We go to church and eat together as a family, we eat Plätzchen – German Christmas biscuits and Lebkuchen – Gingerbread."

"In Italy, we bake Cookies and eat a special cake, called a Panettone. We decorate our house with a big tree and a house with Jesus and Maria in it".

"In France, we have 'The 13 Desserts of Provence': A Provençal tradition where families present a buffet of thirteen desserts after the Christmas meal, symbolising Jesus and the 12 apostles. It includes items like nougat, dried fruits, pompe à l'huile, candied fruits, and more. At Epiphany, we eat galette des rois, a frangipane tart or Provençal brioche with candied fruits. The youngest person hides under the table and says a name for each slice; whoever gets the fève becomes King or Queen for the day".

"In Hong Kong, Christmas is a colourful celebration enjoyed by people of different cultures. Streets are decorated with stunning Christmas Lights and decorations. People watch the spectacular light shows along the Victoria Harbour. Friends and family love to go out to take pictures. Hong Kong has a mix of Western and local traditions, which makes Christmas in HK a joyful and unique festival".

For Truro School pupils, the display is available to see in the entrance to the chapel. Please do take a look at this beautiful Christmas celebration of boarding memories and traditions.

Thank you to everyone in the boarding houses who participated towards the display, and to Rev Helen for bringing everyone together!



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## A Look Back at the Autumn Term

As the term draws to a close, it has been a joy to look back on an exceptionally busy, vibrant and memorable few months for our boarding community at Truro School. From the very first days of the academic year, our boarders have embraced new opportunities, forged friendships and made the most of everything Cornwall – and boarding life – has to offer.



We began the year by warmly welcoming our new boarders, who joined us from near and far, including the Isles of Scilly, China, Germany, France, Italy, Lithuania and Spain. Their induction programme helped them quickly feel at home, from familiarising themselves with the school campus and boarding houses to exploring the city of Truro through a lively 'selfie hunt'. Working in teams, boarders discovered shops, landmarks and hidden corners of the city, gaining confidence in their new surroundings while building friendships along the way.



The first weekends set the tone for an action-packed term. Boarders enjoyed a fencing taster session in our on-site salle, spent time with boarding's favourite four-legged friend, Alfie, and took on the thrills of Adrenaline Quarry's Aqua Park, climbing, jumping and bouncing their way through a huge inflatable playground set within Cornwall's dramatic landscape. Back in house, there were moments of celebration too, including birthdays with cakes, cards, flowers and plenty of singing.

Even when the Cornish weather intervened, spirits remained high. A rained-off Camel Trail bike ride was replaced with bowling and arcade games at Trethorne Leisure Park, where Nicco bowled an impressive 97 points to take the win. In Malvern House, the girls embraced their induction challenge by creating personalised door posters, each setting a key aim for the year ahead, before ending the evening with chocolate fondue and an energetic game of Just Dance.



Making the most of our coastal location has been a highlight throughout the term. Boarders headed to Perranporth to surf with Perranporth Surf School, catering for all abilities and



showcasing the importance of outdoor education at Truro School. Weekend surf trips and Wednesday Afternoon Activities have continued to give boarders regular access to the sea. Other outdoor adventures included a trip to Land's End for mini golf and spectacular views, a horse-riding excursion through the countryside and coastline of St Agnes, and a competitive outing to Cornwall Football Golf, where Serhii, Jago and Jaden earned podium places.

Back in boarding, evenings have been filled with creativity, competition and plenty of laughter. From mocktail-making and movie nights to sushi evenings, hot pot suppers, ice cream sundaes and lively games of



Werewolf, boarders have enjoyed spending time together and creating a true sense of community. Chocolate-themed nights, cheese and chocolate fondue evenings, and even a 'children's birthday party' to celebrate two Sweet 16s ensured there was never a shortage of fun – or food!

House competitions have also been a feature of the term, including Trennick House's annual pool competition, where Aidan retained his title for the third year running. Roller skating at Roller's Roller Rink in Redruth revealed some surprise superstar skaters, while a paintballing trip to Big Dunks near Wadebridge brought adrenaline-fuelled teamwork and excitement, even in wet weather.



We have been especially proud to celebrate our boarders' achievements and contributions. Monthly 'Boarder of the Month' awards recognised those who consistently embraced boarding life with enthusiasm and kindness, including Emilia G, Felicity, and Trennick's Senior and Junior winners Brody and Henry. Emilia was also among a group of Sixth Form international boarders who confidently led a whole-school assembly for European Day of Languages, sharing readings and prayers in their native languages and highlighting the power of languages to open hearts and minds.



As the term moved towards its festive finale, our boarding community turned its attention to Christmas. Boarders decorated their houses and the dining room, visited Truro's Christmas Market, and worked with Rev Helen to create beautiful celebration pieces reflecting how Christmas is celebrated around the world. Using paint, clay, paper and plenty of glitter, they crafted decorations that express their cultural traditions and family memories, soon to be displayed in Chapel as part of the Artisan Christmas Fayre.

It has truly been a wonderful term for our boarders and we are incredibly proud of how they have supported one another, thrown themselves into new experiences and contributed so positively to boarding life at Truro School. We look forward to sharing many more moments with our boarding community in the year ahead.





