



YEARS OF
HIGHLANDS

08 JULY 2026

25

Celebrating 25 years of Highlands

On 8th July, the Highlands community came together to celebrate a truly remarkable milestone as we marked 25 years of Highlands School. It was a memorable occasion that brought together current students, staff, governors, alumni, former staff, families and members of the local community to reflect on the school's incredible journey and celebrate everything that has been achieved since Highlands first opened its doors in 2000.



The formal drinks reception

The afternoon began with a formal drinks reception, where guests enjoyed canapés and refreshments while reconnecting with familiar faces and sharing memories from across the school's history.

It was wonderful to welcome back many former members of staff, including Highlands' very first headteacher, Monica Cross, whose leadership helped lay the foundations for the school we know today.

The reception created a warm and nostalgic atmosphere, with past and present members of the Highlands family coming together to celebrate a shared history spanning a quarter of a century.



The formal celebration

Guests were then welcomed into the main hall for the formal celebration, expertly compered by head student Elena Giudice and year 10 student Abel Kala, who guided the audience through the afternoon with confidence and professionalism. Throughout the event, guests enjoyed inspiring speeches from Councillor Chris Dey, former Highlands student, Paralympian and world record holder Anthony Bryan, Chair of Governors Matt Miller MBE and headteacher Mr McInerney, each reflecting on Highlands' achievements and the positive impact the school has had on generations of young people.

A particularly special moment came when guests watched a surprise video message from Sir Tony Blair, who officially opened Highlands 25 years ago. His thoughtful congratulations on the school's anniversary provided a fitting reminder of how far Highlands has come since its earliest days.



The formal celebration

The celebrations were beautifully complemented by a series of musical performances from some of Highlands' exceptionally talented students and staff. Lily Theodorou and Mrs Miller delivered an outstanding performance of *Part of Your World* from *The Little Mermaid*, while Raphael in year 12 captivated the audience with a stunning piano recital as guests entered the main hall, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.

Guests were also presented with a specially produced 25 Years of Highlands commemorative programme, created exclusively for the occasion. The keepsake publication celebrated the school's rich history through a timeline of key milestones, memorable moments and achievements from the past quarter of a century. It featured a *Highlands Through the Years* retrospective, historic photographs, stories of the school's journey, reflections from former and current students, staff, governors and alumni in a special *Voices of Highlands* section, and a heartfelt tribute to Mr Tuton, who has been part of the Highlands community since the school first opened its doors in 2000. The programme provided guests with a lasting reminder of the school's remarkable journey and the people who have helped shape its success over the past 25 years.

You can red the full programme [here](#).



The time capsule

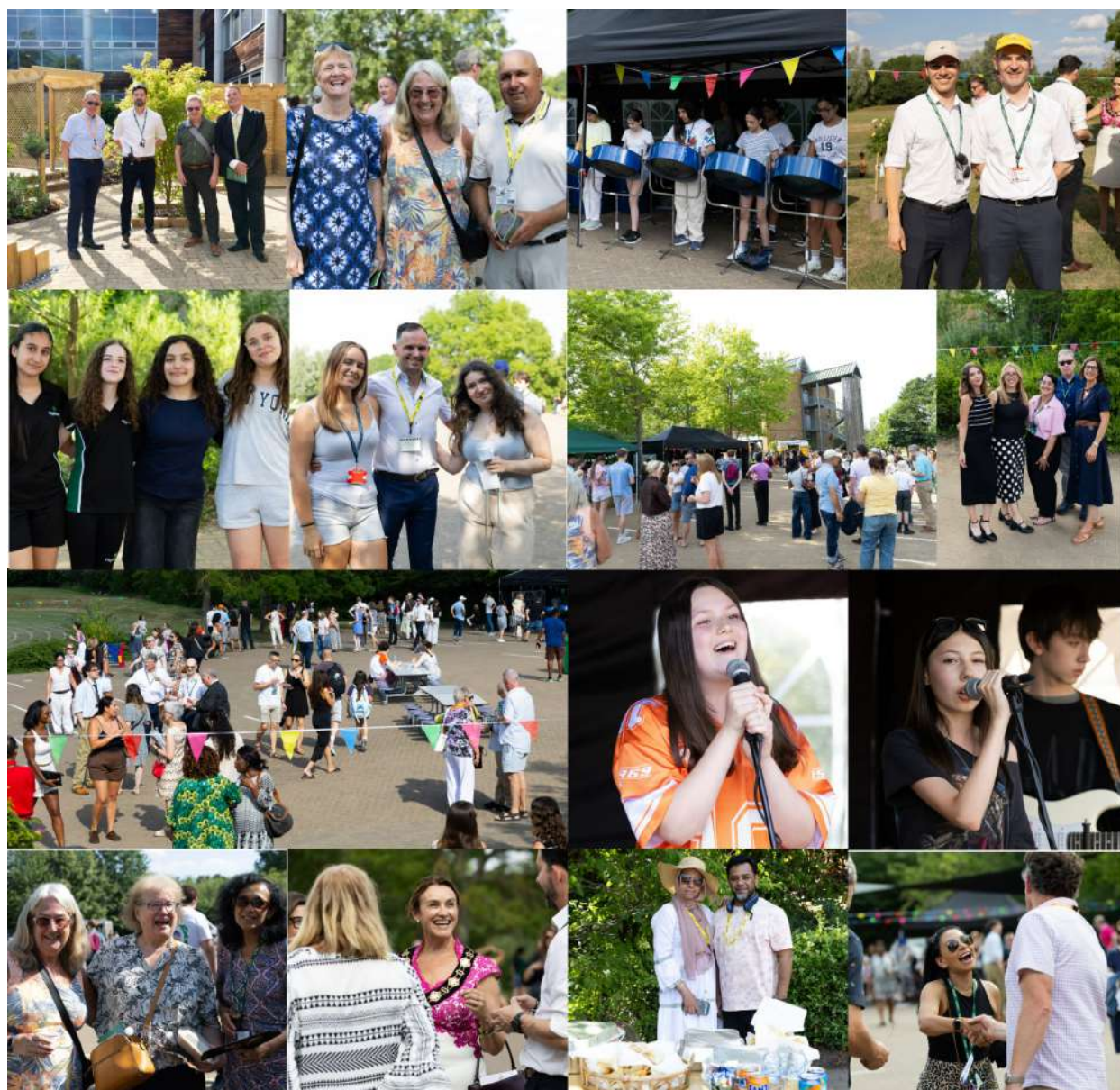
One of the most memorable moments of the afternoon was the time capsule ceremony. The Mayor of Enfield, Councillor Emma Supple, buried a specially prepared time capsule containing photographs, memories, school memorabilia, newsletters, student work and other treasured items representing life at Highlands in 2026. The capsule will remain sealed for the next 25 years before being opened by a future generation of Highlands students, creating a lasting connection between the school's past, present and future.



The community festival

Following the formal proceedings, the celebrations continued with a vibrant anniversary festival across the school site. Guests enjoyed a fantastic selection of food trucks, house charity stalls, games and activities for all ages, alongside steel pan performances, live music from our school rock bands and entertainment throughout the afternoon.

Our wonderful house stalls raised £222.52 to split between their house charities, thank you to all of the families and guests for their support.



The community festival

The festival created a wonderful opportunity for former students and staff to revisit the school, catch up with old friends and celebrate alongside current members of the Highlands community, while our house charity stalls also helped raise valuable funds for their chosen charities.



The community festival

The entire event was filled with pride, laughter, friendship and community spirit. It was a fitting celebration of the people, memories and achievements that have shaped Highlands over the past 25 years and a wonderful reminder of the school's enduring values.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we do so with great pride in everything that has come before and with genuine excitement for the next chapter in Highlands School's story.



The community festival



As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations, we created a special commemorative video celebrating the people, memories and milestones that have shaped Highlands over the past quarter of a century.

A huge thank you to all of the students, staff and former students who took part and helped bring our story to life. To watch the full-length anniversary film, [click here](#). For our anniversary social media reel, beautifully filmed and edited by Sahara Cakir in year 12, [click here](#).

