

JUNE 2026

THE CATALYST





EDITOR'S COMMENT

Dear School Community,

Welcome to the second issue of The Catalyst!

This past semester, Harrow Hengqin has hosted and participated in numerous events, ranging from the AISL Musical to the epic Harrow's Got Talent show to the diverse showcase of Chinese culture at the Chinese Culture Fair—we have not only witnessed the variety of talents and great potential of the Harrow Hengqin community. Our debut was about making a statement—a burst of energy that introduces who we are and what we stand for. But the second issue? That is where we prove we have staying power. It is where we move from a spark to a steady flame, and where a project transforms from a fleeting experiment into a lasting tradition.

When we launched our first issue, we wanted to capture the essence of life at Harrow Hengqin, but we were still discovering what that essence truly was. Now, months later, we have listened, observed, and grown. This second issue is the result of that journey—a deeper, more confident exploration of the community we are so privileged to be part of.

In this edition, we have tried to dig deeper—to move beyond the surface-level announcements and delve into what sustains the fortune of our own community. We have explored the rhythm of life on our campus: the courageous and creative points and speeches made at MUN conferences that turned ideas into potential; the roar of the House competitions that transforms our sports fields into cauldrons of passion and pride; and the laughter that echoes through the halls at lunchtime, weaving connections that will last long after we have left these grounds.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the editorial team, whose creative energy have brought this project to life. To the teachers who have supported us, offering guidance without ever stifling our vision—thank you. And to you, the reader, for holding this magazine in your hands and proving that stories still matter in a world of screens and notifications.

This is our second issue, but it is not our second act. It is merely the next verse in a song we will keep writing together.

Thank you for reading, and thank you for being the story.

With love,
Margaret



TIPS & TRICKS FROM WELLBEING AMBASSADORS

BY CASSIOPIA CHOW

From the friendships that shape our days to the supportive community that defines our school, fellowship is all around us in ways that strengthen and sustain.

At Harrow Hengqin, our recent Fellowship Week focused on the powerful theme of Anti-Bullying and creating a much-needed space for students to connect, celebrate individuality, learn how to stand up for one another, and realise the best way to combat bullying.

Led by our dedicated team of wellbeing ambassadors, the week was focused on creating a more inclusive school environment.

The goal of this week was not about discussing problems and to actively build skills and empathy to prevent bullying before it starts. The wellbeing ambassadors hoped students would leave the week with a “deeper understanding of the part they play in creating a positive community” and how it makes a difference.

A highlight during the fellowship week was “Odd Socks Day,” which was a celebration of individuality that promotes inclusivity and showcases how we are all different.

This event served as a powerful reminder that “our differences are what make us and our community stronger”.

A core event was a special assembly guided towards anti-bullying and managing stress, led by the school’s wellbeing ambassadors Gigi and Vivian.

They provided students with insights on how to navigate challenges, seek support, and maintain happiness during the academic pressures of school.

Organising a week with such an important and broad theme also caused a set of challenges.

Wellbeing ambassador Gigi (‘27) explained the complexity of planning this week.

“The greatest challenge lies in designing an activity that can engage and interest students from Grade One to Grade Twelve. Students of different ages have a range of very different interests, abilities and needs.

“We need to strike a balance between offering creativity and practical feasibility for those involved, ensuring both the diversity and inclusiveness of the activity.” This challenge was met with planning and preparation. Gigi outlined the process that took place: “First, we held a meeting to clarify the overall goals.

“Then, we conduct online research, and after that, we adjust and refine the possible themes and daily plans based on our school’s actual conditions and we develop a preliminary proposal.”

This structured approach includes thorough research and teamwork, ensuring the important message “reached everyone”.

The impact of the week was felt across year groups, just as the organising team intended.

Wellbeing ambassador Winnie Yang, who gathered student feedback, shared her observations: “From conversations with seniors, I learned that students within the same Grade tend to interact more harmoniously, while also receiving substantial support from other Grade levels. Meanwhile, the juniors revealed that younger students are developing a fresh and evolving understanding of mutual aid,” suggesting that the week successfully influenced our community and provided information that students will carry with them. While Fellowship Week has concluded, the Wellbeing Ambassadors are far from finished. This week we channeled our creativity, empathy, and communication, ensuring that the spirit of fellowship will remain a cornerstone at Harrow Hengqin.



HOUSES UNITE WITH SINGING

BY WYONNA WANG

In December of last year, Lower and Upper school enthusiastically participated in the Harrow House Song. Following 2 months of planning and practising, each house demonstrated their hard work on the last day of term.

Lyon house chose the song "This Is Me" from The Greatest Showman, expressing that "even if the world gives may perceive one negatively and express hatred, one can always find a place to shine", said Lyon House Captain Yoyo. The House held candles in their hands at the start of their performance with their heads down, with the candles lighting up their faces with the faint light, then as the music progressed with empowering lyrics, the group held their heads high and sang with pride. Not only was the song memorable, the journey of getting to the final stage of performing was also a significant one, "what I remember most is that it must be the last rehearsal before the performance of the day," Yoyo reflected, "At the last rehearsal, lower school still couldn't sing, but at rehearsal that day (the day of the performance), every lower school student could sing.... I think every member's efforts are valuable and can be seen!"



Churchill selected the song "Champion" by Carrie Underwood. "Unbreakable, Invincible,

Unshakeable and Unstoppable—the spirit of the song that describes their house." Churchill House Captain Sharon said. The rehearsal journey wasn't smooth, however, "the biggest obstacle for Churchill was age groups- needing to explain and making sure everybody understood." Despite the challenge, the House "ultimately achieved third place, precisely proving that true courage does not mean always standing at the highest point, but rather the resilience demonstrated throughout the process." "An unforgettable memory for them was cutting props and moving materials", which involved everyone in the house,

allowing everyone to feel included and as the house unites.

Tu You You favoured the song, "One Day More" from the musical Les Misérables. The song reflected "courage through blind optimism, but to face tomorrow in the midst of fear," connecting it with the theme of "courage". They "adapted to small group singing so everyone could contribute" said House Captain Abby, "at the end of the song, I felt that our house sang with great emotion, capturing the passion in the story. This was an unforgettable experience for me."

Bin Xin chose the song "Roar". It complimented the theme of "courage" with numerous tiger and lion motifs, also indicating their house color, yellow. They also added a rap in the middle of the song sung by G12 student Joshua. "During one rehearsal, nobody wanted to open their mouth and sing, including the lower school students," said House Captain Sissi, "So I pulled aside those who were hesitant and patiently taught them how to sing." Younger students were instructed with carefulness and extra encouragement, she said, which lead to the house's eventual memorable performance.

Anderson chose to combine the theme song of Zootopia "Try Everything" with the theme song from the animation 开心超人. "This song showed our house's resilience," Anderson House Captain Wendy Zhu said, "the lyrics 'I won't give up' from Try Everything shows how one stands back up after hardships". Not only did the house sing in unison, the performance itself was also memorable, with the some members of the house dressing up as the characters in Zootopia. Even our Chemistry teacher, Mr. McAndrew, dressed up as the sloth from the movie!

Sun-Yat-Sen chose the song "How Far I'll Go" from the movie Moanna. "The song is more female-oriented and is a Disney theme song, but our House has many boys," House Captain Candy reflected, "During rehearsals, only some people sang while others stayed silent. I had to adjust my leadership style—starting gently but becoming firmer—to get better results." The house performed with not only singing, but different members of the house dressed up as different characters from Moanna created a dynamic performance.

A-LEVEL STUDENTS STAGE ARGENTINA'S DIRTY WAR

BY MARGARET YANG

Between 1976 and 1983, Argentina was gripped by a military dictatorship. In the "Dirty War," an estimated 30,000 people—students, workers, intellectuals—were "disappeared": kidnapped, tortured, and murdered by the state. Pregnant women gave birth in secret detention centres; their newborns were stolen and raised by military families.

Against this machinery of silence, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo rose. Wearing white headscarves (originally baby diapers symbolising their lost children), they marched every Thursday. The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo split off to recover stolen grandchildren, using genetic databases to restore over 130 identities. This was the history Harrow Hengqin A Level Drama students chose to carry onto the stage.

From the moment the lights dimmed, tension filled the black box theatre. A low soundscape played before a single actor appeared. Using strategic lighting, students shifted between warm domestic golds (home, safety) and cold clinical blues (military arrival). One moment, a grandmother taught her grandchild to sew a white scarf; the next, lights flickered to near-darkness, leaving only a red emergency glow. The audience held its breath.

Sound became a silent character. A melancholy tango phrase began—then was cut off by screeching brakes, slammed doors, and Spanish commands. The students used soundscape to represent soldiers, avoiding direct violence on stage.

As performer Candy N. ('27) explained: "We moved from sudden role conflict... to later using soundscape and lighting to represent the soldiers' search, our escape, and the protest march. Through continuous rehearsal, we achieved a smooth performance."

A backdrop video projected archival footage of the Plaza de Mayo—rows of marching women in white scarves—and grainy photographs of the disappeared: young faces, smiling families. The effect was devastating.

Sissi Y. ('27), who played a central role, described her discovery: "Researching background material... witnessing those tragic events allowed me to deeply understand the anguish my character must have endured."

That anguish was palpable—never melodramatic, always grounded. Candy, playing a grandmother, transformed her body: shaking hands, hunched back, and a limping walk. Every movement told a story.

During the protest march scene, all actors delivered the same lines simultaneously. Candy recalled a mistake: "One of us made an error... we actually transitioned back very naturally. After the performance, we asked the audience and no one noticed. We are very proud."



The pair's creative collaboration shone through. Sissi noted: "Whether script, dialogue, character design, costumes, or stage design—everything was finalised through thorough communication."

After the final applause, the response was overwhelming. Sissi said: "They remembered this chapter of history and could truly feel the sorrow of that time." Candy agreed: "It felt amazing, even better than we expected... every audience member expressed admiration. All our efforts were truly worthwhile."

In bringing the disappeared back into the light—if only for one night—these students did more than perform. They bore witness.

DRAGONS, DUMPLINGS, AND DREAMS DISPLAYED

BY ARINA DENISOVA

On Saturday, 31st January, the energetic spirit of the Long Ducker charity race seamlessly transitioned into a day of cultural celebration as Harrow Hengqin hosted its inaugural Chinese Culture Fair. The campus was transformed into a bustling, joyful hub where students, parents, and staff gathered to usher in the Lunar New Year and share in the rich tapestry of Chinese heritage. This vibrant event served as a heartfelt communal gathering, reinforcing the school's commitment to cultural appreciation and inclusive community engagement.

The fair featured a diverse variety of interactive stalls, prepared through a collaborative effort between staff, students, and parent volunteers. These stations offered immersive experiences for all

those who attended, creating a lively place of tradition and creativity. Some highlights included a serene calligraphy station where participants learned to ink elegant symbols of luck and prosperity for the Year of the Horse, a popular tanghulu stand that delighted with its sweet treats, and tables showcasing an assortment of traditional Chinese sweets and delights. A specially designated stall also presented participants of the morning's Long Ducker charity race with commemorative medals, honoring their physical effort and charitable contributions in a tangible way.

Beyond the activities, the event was strategically designed to be an educational and sensory journey with the predominant goal of creating an environment where cultural learning happened through direct participation explained one of the event's lead organisers. The fair provided a platform for everyone to connect with traditions in a warm, accessible, and welcoming atmosphere.

This focus on authentic, hands-on experience is what defined the fair's success. The calligraphy station, in particular, became a focal point for reflection, as participants concentrated on crafting meaningful characters like '福' (fortune) and '马' (horse). This activity underscored the fair's mission to foster a genuine, personal connection to cultural practices. It was a celebration of heritage that engaged the community spirit.

By bridging the physical challenge of the Long Ducker with the cultural enrichment of the fair, Harrow Hengqin successfully curated a holistic day dedicated to community, charity, and shared joy. The overwhelmingly positive response from all attendees has firmly established the Chinese Culture Fair as a cherished and impactful new tradition. The event stands as a powerful testament to the school's role in building bridges of understanding, proving that cultural celebration is a profound way to strengthen the bonds that unite its diverse community. As families departed with lanterns and smiles, it was clear that this fair galloped straight into the hearts of all who attended.



SWIMMERS TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT AT SWIM MEET

BY MARGARET YANG

On January 17th, Harrow Hengqin swimmers travelled to Harrow Hong Kong for the Greater Bay Area Swim Meet, competing against four other Harrow schools: Harrow Shenzhen, Hong Kong Children's School, and Harrow Hong Kong. They returned not only with medals but with invaluable experience.

The Harrow schools form a dynamic community, and fixtures between them foster both sportsmanship and unity. Ms. Natalie Li, Coach of the Harrow Hengqin varsity swim group, said that competing with other Harrow schools gave students "a special sense of unity and shared identity." The event was not just a competition, she explained, "it's about building connections with students from other Harrow schools who share similar values and traditions." Competing with the larger Harrow family helped broaden the athletes' perspectives and acted as a catalyst to "grow not only as swimmers but also as individuals who understand what it means to be part of something larger than themselves."

With schools travelling to Hong Kong, the event had a significant social component. The spirit of community and sportsmanship was fostered not only in the pool but also through "joint warm-up sessions to a shared snack after the competition," encouraging "swimmers to mingle, cheer each other on, and exchange stories." This helped "break the ice and reminded everyone that while we compete fiercely in the water, we are all



part of the same Harrow family." Students taking on the role of varsity athletes gained the chance to socialise and create shared memories with other athletes, broadening their perspectives of the sport and motivating them to strive for more.

When asked about the value of competing within the wider Harrow family, Coach Li explained that it offers students a unique sense of shared identity. "It's not just about the competition—it's about building connections with students from other Harrow schools who share similar values and traditions."

The social aspect was equally significant. Coach Li made a conscious effort to create opportunities for interaction beyond the pool deck. "From joint warm-up sessions to a shared snack after the competition, we encouraged swimmers to mingle, cheer each other on, and exchange stories. These moments reminded everyone that while we compete fiercely in the water, we are all part of the same Harrow family."

Reflecting on her team's conduct, Coach Li expressed immense pride. "I was incredibly proud of the respect and sportsmanship our Harrow Hengqin swimmers displayed. Whether it was congratulating opponents after a close race, encouraging teammates after a tough swim, or simply representing the school with grace and humility—our students truly embodied the Harrow values."

As for thrilling races, one moment stood out. "The boys' 4x50m freestyle relay came down to the very last touch," Coach Li recalled. Individually, she highlighted Emily's performance in the 100m freestyle, "where she posted a personal best and really set the tone for the day."

From medal-worthy swims to personal bests and quiet acts of sportsmanship, the Harrow Hengqin swimmers proved they can compete with the best—and do so with unity and the unmistakable spirit of Harrow.



HARROVIAN “MUNERS” THRIVE IN SHENZHEN

BY MARGARET YANG

Two consecutive weekends in January 16-18th and 23-25th, may seem like just another two weekends, but for MUNers at Harrow Hengqin, they were stages for showcasing our debate, communications, leaderships skills and diplomacy at Shen Wai International School Model United Nations III (SWISMUN III) and Shenzhen College of International Education Model United Nations (SCIEMUN VI x NESSICMUN).

Model United Nations, MUN, is a simulation of the UN where students role-play as diplomats to debate and resolve global issues. The activity is arguably one of the most popular worldwide, and it has grown to a scale where there are numerous different procedures used worldwide and conferences are hosted in countless universities and schools. School conferences happen in Guangdong as well, such as SWISMUN, SCIEMUN, and SISMUN. On January 16th to 18th, Aaron W ('29), Arina D ('29), and Evan C ('31) participated in SWISMUN as the delegates of Cuba, Italy and India in the Historical Human Rights Council, Historical Disarmament and International Security Council, and the Historical Youth Council respectively, and I participated as chair for the Historical Security Council. SWISMUN was a fully historical conference adopting the THIMUN procedure, with delegates assigned to debate on topics such as the Vietnam Cambodia War and the Colombian Conflict, making the experience “challenging but also eye-opening” for Aaron. “It was my first conference, and I was nervous at first because I did not know what to expect, but afterwards, I enjoyed it a lot”, Arina reflected. I think my SWISMUN experience was a great social activity, but chairing and winning Best Chair was the cherry on top. SWISMUN marked the participants’ first conference in Guangdong and it is safe to say that they all relished it.



The weekend after SWISMUN, Arina and I eagerly participated in the SCIEMUN VI x NESSICMUN conference as President and the delegate of Ghana of the Security Council and in the Historical Council respectively. The conference was hosted in collaboration with the Network for Enriching Students and Schools in China (NESSIC), with it being NESSIC’s inaugural conference. Harrow Hengqin was not the only AISL Harrow school at the conference, Harrow Haikou also had a strong team of delegates who debated confidently at

at the SCIEMUN campus, with one of the delegates being in Margaret’s committee, as the delegate of Ivory Coast. This was Arina’s third conference, and although she was put in an Advanced Committee, she was chosen as “Outstanding Delegate”. She proudly shared the moment as “rewarding and encouraging”, as she “thought I didn’t speak enough, but now I know the importance of quality over quantity”. Margaret, as an experienced chair, won the Chair Recognition. Traditionally, conferences don’t recognise chairs with awards, but SWISMUN and SCIEMUN have made it so much more fun and encouraging for chairs”, Margaret concluded.

The Harrow Hengqin MUN Club is looking to participate in Shekou International School’s MUN (SISMUN) this October and returning to SCIEMUN this November at their seventh iteration. The student-founded organisation is also working on hosting our own conference towards the end of this year, inviting schools from across, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Hong Kong, and Macau. If you are interested in participating as a delegate or chair, don’t hesitate to email the MUN club at HHQMUN@harrowzhuhai.cn



A “QUIET” MUSICAL WITH LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

BY MARGARET YANG

“GOLIAS, go sail!”

GOLIAS is the fictional artificial intelligence (AI) system that controls students of Apex School of Crown in 2036, as it possesses the power to quantify the quality of every action students take and therefore rank them in its system in order to help teachers and educators define excellence in QUIET the Musical.

The lights were dim, and I was crossing the narrow backstage hall to get to stage left at the Grand Finale show of the musical on April 12th at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts, the Asia International Schools Limited (AISL) Musical of 2026. I heard the passionate and excited whispers from the choir as I walked past. Their excitement and passion for the show made the experience of the AISL Musical for me and the rest of the cast so much more enjoyable.

Singing is my hobby, and I love to sing (pop songs specifically); however, when it came to singing on stage in the style of a musical, it was a whole new world (if you know, you know) for me.

Preparation for the musical began more than a month before the show, I had to travel to Harrow Hong Kong every Sunday to attend rehearsals for three hours every afternoon.

However, the first preparation session came even before the rehearsals, and that was a vocal training session with Akiko Otao, a Japanese American vocal coach based in Singapore. Listening to Akiko sing was simply a pleasure. The way she sings with power and emotion is truly a skill that one would need to hone for years before mastering.

I, of course, went to the training session with no idea what to expect, as I had deciphered the songs I had to sing with our music teacher, Mr. Bulla, and found out that the notes had such a high pitch to the point where I didn’t even know what I should sing at that pitch. After singing with him, I gained some confidence in my skills, but I was far from the place I am today with my singing, so the trips to Harrow Hong Kong were more than necessary but challenging for a novice singer like me. I trained with vocalist Ms. Becky Lee, who taught me exercises that helped me gain the necessary skills to master the songs I needed to sing.

Rehearsing in Hong Kong not only gave me the chance to improve my singing, but I also had the chance to be Assistant Director and design the backdrops for the two performances in Shenzhen.

Another challenge when preparing for the play was portraying the look for GOLIAS, as it is an artificial intelligence, but in the musical, GOLIAS needed to look a certain way to portray its image as a powerful system that craves control. So, the look we ended up going for was futuristic-looking makeup that featured a combination of cool and warm colours like blue and orange to create a modern style, as well as a strip of blue on my forehead down to my nose to further amplify that robot-like style.

As for the wardrobe, I wore baggy gray trousers with a shiny silver jacket that was half-zipped, as under it was a white zip-up vest. During the performance, the coolest part of the GOLIAS look was me having a pair of transparent glasses that could change to different colours when I pressed the sides of them. The choir members would always be so surprised and intrigued whenever I transformed into GOLIAS 2.0.

After six weeks of weekly training in Hong Kong, it was finally time to rehearse at the performance venues for an entire week, which meant I would be away from school for that entire week.

During that week, I felt like I was Eileen Gu—finding time to finish homework and classwork assignments in the car and on the bus to Hong Kong and Shenzhen, during lunch breaks, and even risking the Director, Ms. Michelle Li, shouting at me for not concentrating

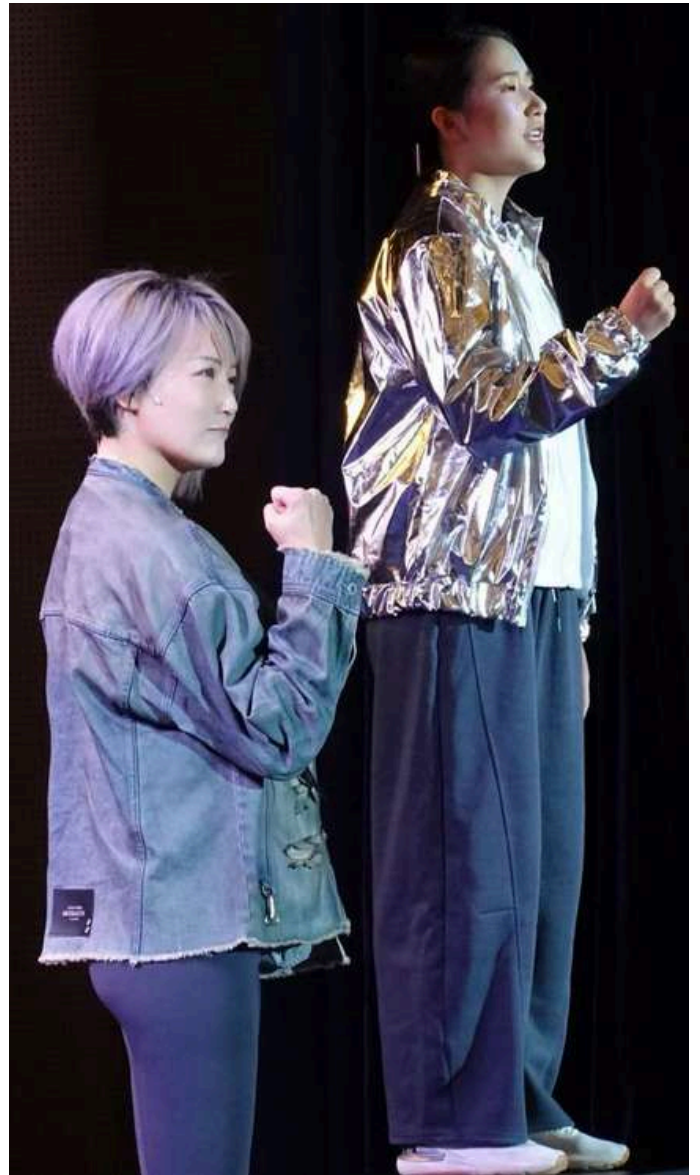
on rehearsals while working during run-throughs of scenes that I was not involved in.

During this process, I made tons of new friends, coming from Harrow Hong Kong, Harrow Hong Kong Children School, and other schools in Hong Kong that the members of the choir are from.

Looking back, my nerves that held me back from talking to the other Harrow Hong Kong students were both unnecessary and ridiculous, as I am the second oldest in the cast.

On the first performance at Harrow Hong Kong Children School, the student choir from Harrow Hengqin also went to not only watch the performance but also sing in the final song of the musical, "Ode to the Alma Mater".

When the final note of "this is who we are" ended at the grand finale show, I knew that that was the end of a memory that I will hold onto forever.



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT HARROW'S GOT TALENT

BY ARINA DENISOVA

On Thursday, 5th February 2026, the Harrow Hengqin community gathered in excitement for the highly anticipated live finals of Harrow's Got Talent. The event, a spectacular showcase of our students' remarkable abilities, featured six exceptional acts each from the Upper and Lower Schools, competing before a panel of esteemed judges and the audience, consisting of the entire school community.

The Creative Arts Department, which masterfully orchestrated the event, deserves significant commendation for their work in bringing this vision to life. A special acknowledgment was made during the proceedings for the dedicated efforts of Mr. Ferdi and Mr. Wikus from the Drama Department, whose commitment to student performance was vital in the production's success.

The judging panel, consisting of Friends of Harrow alongside our own staff members, faced the difficult task of evaluating a diverse and impressive array of performances. The stage came alive with a vibrant mix of acts, including energetic comedic skits, powerful guitar and drum solos, soulful saxophone and guitar melodies, and a performance by an Upper School band delivering a Japanese-language song.

The competition culminated in the crowning of two outstanding champions. The Lower School title was decisively won by James (G3) for his masterful and emotive piano solo, which demonstrated a technical prowess and maturity that captivated the entire auditorium. In the Upper School category, the victory was claimed by the dynamic K-pop dance duo, Jennie and Raine, whose perfectly synchronised and high-energy routine earned a tremendous reception from their peers.

The event served as a powerful testament to the depth of talent and creative spirit thriving within our student body. Harrow's Got Talent was a celebration of passion, hard work, and the courage to perform on a stage. It reinforced the vital role of the arts in our school community and has undoubtedly set a high benchmark for future showcases.



The winners of the Upper School Harrow's Got Talent, Jenny and Rainie from G6, said that: "The moment we stood on stage, we were filled with a strong sense of honour, and all our hard work paid off." They even faced a difficulty with their music not being able to be played when they were on stage, but still performed well.

Congratulations to all our finalists for their extraordinary performances, and to our deserving winners. The Harrow Hengqin community looks forward with great anticipation to next year's display of talent.



HARROW HENGQIN'S INAUGURAL GRADUATING CLASS



BY MARGARET YANG

This year, Harrow Hengqin reaches a milestone we've been building toward since day one: our very first graduating class. For the founding students among them, watching the school grow has been deeply personal.

Thea arrived as a young seventh-grader and has witnessed the completion of the new teaching building, the rise of the high school department, and even the arrival of Little Lions. "As Harrow Hengqin becomes more comprehensive and mature," she reflects, "it has also helped me grow."

Alina D. feels similarly, noting how students have grown prouder of being part of this family. It didn't happen overnight, she says, but looking back, the difference is huge.

Ask any of these seniors about the Harrow leadership values—courage, honour, humility, and fellowship—and you'll hear how deeply these ideals have taken root. For Joshua, courage has made the biggest impact, motivating him to secure a full scholarship from AISL Harrow.

Gloria L. shares that while all four values have shaped her, courage drove the changes she undertook. "It's easy to stay in my comfort zone," she admits. "But taking that step to change myself—that requires courage."

Sam puts it simply: the values help him be brave, honest, humble, and get along well with others. Alina adds that courage encouraged her to express her own ideas, honour motivated her to join activities, and humility and fellowship taught her to be

modest and helpful.

Being the first cohort to receive university offers comes with a unique sense of responsibility. Joshua describes himself as "the first and most important experimental sample" of Harrow Hengqin, grateful for the school's invaluable support.

Gloria hopes her achievements inspire younger students. "Things that seem unachievable are not legends," she says. "We are all the same. We've gone through it, and so will you."

Sam calls it a great honour to witness the school's growth and prove its educational strength. Alina feels proud to walk this path first, so that those who follow know it can be done.

As they step into the next chapter, each senior carries forward a guiding mindset. Joshua embraces challenges without fear of failure. "The most significant failure," he notes, "occurs when one ceases to attempt."

Gloria believes in slowing down to ask what kind of life she truly wants—to be grateful, optimistic, and confident. Sam stays positive and faces difficulties bravely. Thea moves forward proactively toward her goals.

And Alina wants to stay open to new things, keep learning, remember those who helped her, and do the same for others.

This first graduating class leaves behind more than university offers. They leave proof that growth takes time, courage changes everything, and being first is just the beginning.





COMPETITION & COMPASSION: DODGEBALL & CHARITY FAIR

BY WYONNA WANG

On March 28th, Harrow Hengqin held its annual Celestial Charity Fair and House Dodgeball competition—a day that brought together all six Houses and the wider Harrow family for some friendly competition and a whole lot of heart.

The action kicked off with an intense hour of dodgeball. Every House brought their A-game, showing off slick saves, quick dodges, and some seriously satisfying hits. In the end, Anderson took first place, with Bin Xin hot on their heels.

But beyond the scoreboard, what stood out was the sportsmanship. Students from different Houses jumped in to support teams with fewer players, making sure everyone had a fair shot. It wasn't just about winning—it was about building connections across the Houses.

Then came the Celestial Fair, and it was a blast. Each Student Leadership Team ran their own stall, offering everything from drinks and snacks to jelly and candy floss. The House Captains sold tiramisu alongside colourful sodas—red, orange, yellow, blue, green, and purple, each matching their House colour.

The Wellbeing Ambassadors brought squishies in all shapes and sizes, providing a much-needed stress reliever for high schoolers nervously awaiting their mock exam results.



The Student Council set up a booth supporting the Zhuhai Autism Society, selling T-shirts and tote bags printed with artwork by autistic children, plus fluffy keychains inspired by the by the dogs of Sunny Town Rescue Center.



The Young Pioneers got everyone moving with a ping-pong game offering fun prizes, while boarding students donated second-hand toys and stationery, using interactive games to get more students involved.

Personally, I couldn't resist Ms. Yvonne Yang's claw machines—stuffed with adorable toys but painfully tricky to master. It took me over ten tries to finally snag one. And Ms. Jo Bao's rabbit-themed stall? Absolutely iconic.

A special shoutout goes to Sunny Town Rescue Center, who brought along two dogs—including a familiar face, 棉花糖 (Marshmallow), a crowd favourite from past Celestial Fairs. Students got to play, pet, walk, and take pictures with the dogs, from fluffy giants to tiny pups.

The day flew by in a whirlwind of laughter, generosity, and good vibes. Whether diving for a dodgeball or digging for a prize in a claw machine, the Harrow community showed that competition and compassion make a pretty perfect pair.





HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAYS ...ALMOST!

BY MARGARET YANG

What better way to end exam week than with a themed celebration? Although there are still a few weeks of school remaining, the atmosphere in the cafeteria on Friday afternoon felt remarkably like the start of the holidays. While parents and faculty were enjoying their Summer Party in the lobby, students were celebrating in the cafeteria. As a member of the Student Council, involvement in the organising team presented an additional challenge, requiring preparations for the event to be balanced alongside external examinations, but the party ultimately proved to be worth all the effort. The event came about after the idea of organising a Prom was set aside (although that may still be on the horizon for next year).

Preparations began after lunch on Friday, and the dazzling boards and decorations created for photographs immediately stood out. Tablecloths were laid out, balloons inflated, and finishing touches added to the displays, but even before the final decorations were in place, the boards already looked incredible. Food and drinks were soon arranged across the venue, creating an impressive spread for students to enjoy. Piles of KFC burgers, wings and nuggets sat alongside snacks, drinks and treats, giving the serving tables the appearance of a feast rather than a school event.

The party began with a buzz, with House Captains at the entrance checking tickets and helping students sign in. Before long, students were making their way to the food stations, while snacks and drinks quickly disappeared. Cups decorated with lyrics written in blue by Chinese artist 五月天 and colourful straws folded into paper fruits added an extra touch of creativity. A playlist blasted through the speakers, featuring everything from CORTIS' new hit REDRED to The Chainsmokers' 2016 Billboard-topping hit Don't Let Me Down (fun fact: this song was also used in the video for the 2016 Figure Skating World Championships). It did not take long for the atmosphere to become lively. Tables filled quickly, conversations grew louder, and students from different year groups mingled in a way that is not always possible during a normal school day.

Before long, our MC, Sharon ('27), officially announced the start of the party. As the event unfolded, there was an opportunity to admire some of the most stylish outfits seen all year. The theme encouraged everyone to embrace a holiday atmosphere, and many students certainly rose to the occasion. Students such as Irada L ('37), Jenny O ('33), Emma W ('33), and Rainie B ('33) fully embraced the spirit of the occasion and helped create a vibrant atmosphere throughout the event.

Sharon then announced the first round of raffle draws. The prizes included a Nintendo Switch 2, Lego sets, and rewards that would prove particularly useful in school, such as skipping the lunch queue for a week and becoming Head of Lower School or Upper School for a day. The variety of prizes ensured that every raffle announcement was met with anticipation and plenty of hopeful ticket-checking. There was also a magic performance towards the end of the party, right before the draw for the winner of the Switch. Jenny took home the Switch and, to everyone's surprise, generously gifted it to Ms Tara Song.

As the party drew to a close, it was suddenly realised that not a single Polaroid photograph had been taken yet. A solo photograph was taken first, followed by one with fellow Editorial writer Cassi Chow ('33) and "brother" Wallace C ('32). Following an invitation from classmate Jessie B ('29), a first attempt at learning a TikTok dance was made to the French song Copines by Aya Nakamura, although unfortunately without much success.

Even those who do not usually enjoy parties would have found plenty to enjoy. There was good conversation, excellent music and, most importantly, a genuine sense that everyone around was having a good time. Looking around the room, it was clear that the event had succeeded in bringing people together.

Next year, the Student Council is looking to organise an event for older students around the same time. Can you guess what it is?



THE PHENOMENON OF THE 2026 OLYMPICS

BY MARGARET YANG

As a Taylor Swift fan (aka Swiftie), I would always correlate the end of something significant to “the End of an Era”, just like the icon’s end to her record-breaking Eras Tour. This year, something significant happened and ended—the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics—from February 4th to the 22nd. The Olympics is the summit of top athletes worldwide, coming from different corners of the world, competing and uniting for their passion, dedication, and love for the sport.

As a figure skater myself, I of course spent my Chinese New Year holiday watching all the figure skating competitions. From Team USA’s victory at the Team Event to Alysa Liu carrying two gold medals home and performing Stateside at the Gala Exhibition, I watched it all. This is the first Olympic Games that made a deep impression on me, and it was the first one that I watched with deeper knowledge of each athlete, which made each of their performances on the Olympic stage either extra tragic or extra memorable.

In men’s singles skating, 4-time US National Champion and 3-time World Champion Ilia Malinin was favored to win gold due to his ability to complete seven quad jumps in one programme, with one of them being the quad axel jump, a jump that no other athlete on this planet has ever been able to complete other than him. He delivered two almost clean programmes at the Team Event, bringing Team USA to gold at last, but in the individual competition, he failed four jumps in his Free Skate due to a panic attack, finishing eighth overall even though he was ranked first after his short programme. His short program not only consisted of Ultra-C element jumps, but his artistry and performance with the pieces of music defined the power of figure skating—force and elegance combined to create an image of the story in the programme—making me watch his programme at least 3 or 4 times throughout the holiday.

The figure skating world was deeply surprised by his performance in his free skate and had no other way of acknowledging this but to encourage him and cheer him on, while some, like me, hoped that he will win gold four years later at the Alpes Olympics in 2030. Not only was his performance pitiful, but Korean figure skater Cha JunHwan, winner of the Asian Winter Games and a favourite to be a medalist, failed his quad toe-loop jump and finished fourth. Fourth is arguably the most unfavored number in sport—it is so close yet so far from the podium. This was JunHwan’s third Olympics, and although he was getting better and better every time, he wasn’t able to obtain a medal at any of them, a pity for all athletes.

An athlete that did well in competitions prior to the Winter Olympics but wasn’t favored to receive a medal was Kazakhstani figure skater Mikhail Shaidorov. He delivered five quad jumps in his free skate successfully, and because of his clean performance, he finished first, taking the place that others may have expected Malinin to take. He was astounded, but the first thing Malinin did when the final results were announced was go over to Shaidorov to give him a hug and words of encouragement. This showcases true sportsmanship—the courage and the strength that it takes to stand up again and cheer for those who succeed and celebrate their victories together.





In the world of Ice Dance, an aspect of figure skating that may be the least known to outsiders, three-time World Champions (2023, 2024 and 2025) Madison Chock and Evan Bates from Team USA were favored to get gold at the Olympics, with their main opponent being Laurence Fournier Beaudry and Guillaume Cizeron from Team France. Their captivating performance led them to win gold at the Team Event, but in their individual event, they were placed in second, with a score difference of less than one point. They have announced their retirement this season after the World Championships, and that will also mark the end of their Olympic journey. Ms. Chock and Mr. Bates have participated in four Olympic events from 2014 to 2026. Their ranking has improved each time, and they finished fourth in the Beijing Winter Olympics, and second in Milan—the two rankings that athletes may feel the most regret receiving. But France’s gold was well-deserved, with the beauty of their performance and technical elements combined perfectly in their rhythm dance and free skate. I watched Ms. Chock and Mr. Bates’ and Ms. Beaudry and Mr. Cizeron’s rhythm dance at least three times.

With the ISU’s assignment of the season’s Ice Dance theme being 90s-themed music, the pairs’ performance to Lenny Kravitz’s hits, namely Fly Away and American Woman, and to Madonna’s disco hit, Vogue.

In Women’s Singles Skating, Russia has been the conqueror of first place or of the entire podium for the past 7–8 years, but ever since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022, Russian and Belarusian figure skaters have been unable to represent their country in any of the International Skating Union (ISU) competitions, with their only chance of competing being at the Olympics in the identity of an AIN athlete, hence, athletes may lack experience in international competition before competing at the Olympics.

Nevertheless, athletes like Adeliya Petrosian have shown their best performance on the Olympic stage, even after an injury in 2025 that hindered her ability to complete Ultra-C jumps. Adeliya is known for her artistry and ability to portray an image through her programs, and in her short program skating to Michael Jackson, she surely did so. Other favored athletes are Amber Glenn, Isabeau Levito, and Alysa Liu from Team USA,



with Amber having an advantage in her ability to complete a triple axel; Isabeau being able to perform with great stability and artistic expression under pressure; and Alysa delivering passionate and expressive programs with fascinating spins and choreography. Coincidentally, Taylor Swift was actually the artist who introduced the world to Amber, Alysa, and Isabeau, the “Blade Angels” with a video that was released by National Broadcasting Company (NBC) Sports, which Alysa responded with gratitude and pride at the 2026 iHeart Radio Music Awards when she made her speech and presented Taylor her awards. Although it was a pity that Amber did not complete her triple loop successfully, her comeback in her free skate surged her ranking from 13th to 5th overall. This was the 26-year-old’s first Olympics, and her sportsmanship shone from inside out—when silver medalist Kaori Sakamoto was crying after her free skate due to not completing a jump sequence, Amber gestured to photographers to not take pictures of Kaori and leave her alone; she also signaled the crowd to stand and cheer for Russian-Kazak skater Sofia Samodolkina after her free skate. The most memorable athlete for me at this Olympics was Alysa Liu, a skater who retired in 2022 after the Winter Olympics and returned in 2024 and won the 2025 World Championships. For Alysa now, skating is an outlet for artistic expression and the pursuit of passion, and her relaxed approach to competitions allowed her to land all her jumps gracefully, while delivering the turmoil and elegance of the song Promise by Laufey and the passion of MacArthur Park by Donna Summer perfectly, with the crowd standing at the end of her program, cheering for her loudly. Her smile glowed, and she showcased to the world her “best skating”, while getting another gold medal for her exceptional



performance under Olympic pressure.

At the end of each figure skating competition, there will be a gala exhibition performance that consists of outstanding skaters in their respective categories. Skaters not only perform a program, but some even put on a show, like how Mikhail did with Kung Fu Panda, interacting with other skaters to show the might of Kung Fu Panda. Alysa Liu skated to PinkPantheress' song Stateside, which helped bring the song viral across all platforms. This year, the song for the finale was Viva La Vida by Coldplay, a song that almost all are able to recognise, that celebrates life and liberty.

As I watched all the skaters—the ones who stepped on the podium, the ones who didn't, the ones who failed their jumps, the ones who completed them all, the ones who were satisfied with their result, and the ones who were not—gather together on the ice to skate to the lively music and celebrate their joy and years of hard work, the harmonious picture is something that always brings me to tears and will forever be in my head. It shows that at the end of the day, as long as you have passion for what you do, the joy and fulfillment will always be what's truly left behind. As the final notes of Viva La Vida faded, I realised that this Olympics, like Taylor Swift's tour finale, wasn't just an ending—it was a permanent imprint on my heart. For every athlete who stumbled or soared, the true victory was simply being part of this fleeting, beautiful moment where passion outshone every medal count.





BOOKS & MOVIES FOR SUMMER VACATION

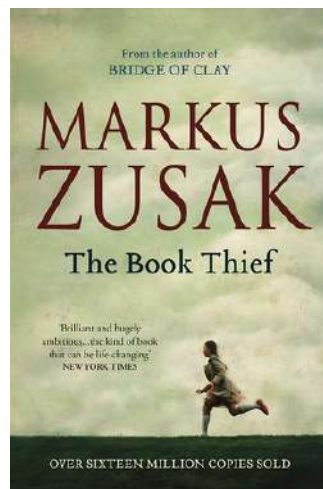
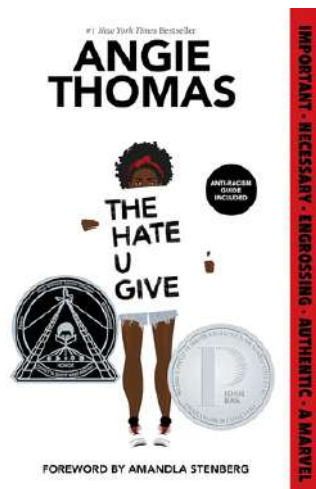
BY ARINA DENISOVA

Books

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

This powerful contemporary novel centers on sixteen-year-old Starr Carter, who is caught between the poverty of her predominantly Black neighborhood and the wealthy, white prep school she attends. Her fragile balance shatters when she becomes the sole witness to the police shooting of her unarmed childhood friend, Khalil. Forced to confront the media circus, community pressure, and her own grief, Starr's journey is one of finding her voice and deciding to fight for justice in a world that tries to silence her.

Reason for Recommendation: This novel is a masterclass in empathy and social courage, showing that finding and using your voice is one of the most powerful acts of resistance and self-definition. It compellingly argues that justice begins with the courage to speak your truth, no matter how frightening it may be.



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Set in Nazi Germany, this unique and haunting tale is narrated by Death itself, who is fascinated by a young girl named Liesel Meminger. After the death of her brother, Liesel is sent to a foster home, where she finds solace and rebellion in stealing books. As the war escalates around her, she uses the power of stories to bring hope and comfort to her neighbors, including a Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Reason for Recommendation: It demonstrates that humanity and beauty can persist even in history's darkest chapters, reminding us that our words and stories are not just escapes, but essential tools for preserving our souls and connecting with others on the most fundamental level.

Scythe by Neal Shusterman

In a perfected future where humanity has conquered death, hunger, and disease, a new order called the Scythehood exists to control the population through sanctioned gleaning. Teenagers Citra and Rowan are chosen as reluctant apprentices to an honorable Scythe, forcing them to master the "art" of taking life in a world that has forgotten its meaning. They are soon thrust into a deadly moral and political contest that will decide the soul of their utopia.

Reason for Recommendation: This gripping dystopian novel forces readers to confront profound questions about mortality, ethics, and power. It suggests that the meaning of life is intrinsically tied to its impermanence, and that true compassion often requires making impossibly difficult choices.

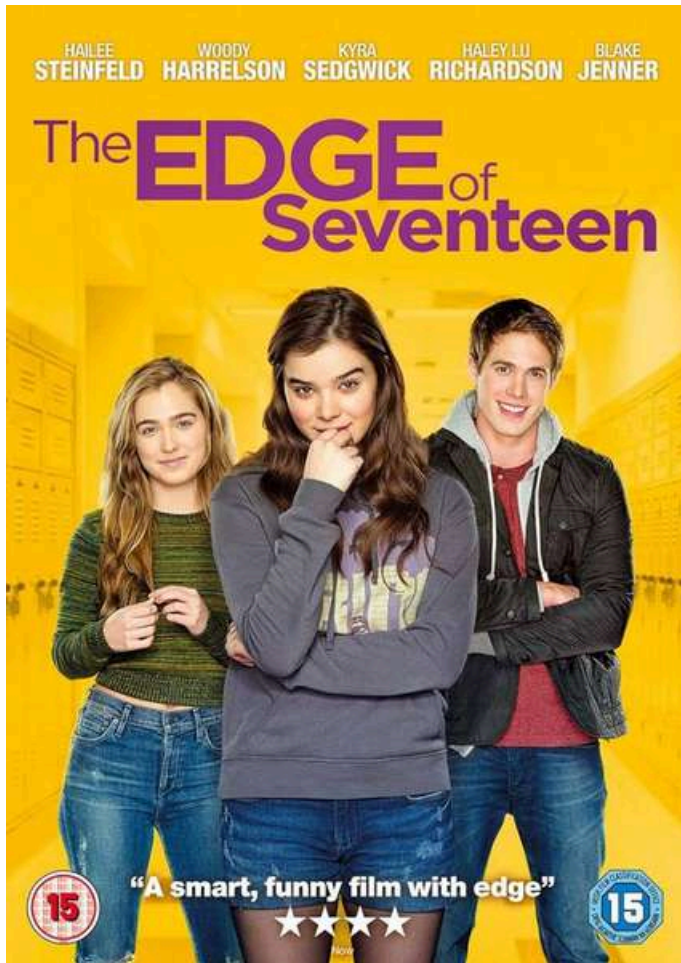
Reason for Recommendation: It perfectly captures the isolating feeling that your personal crises are world-ending, while simultaneously offering the comforting truth that everyone is struggling, growing, and capable of change. It validates the messy, painful, and awkward journey of growing up without offering easy solutions.

Movies

1. The Edge of Seventeen (2016)

This sharp and authentic comedy-drama follows Nadine, a cynical and socially anxious high school junior who feels perpetually out of step with the world. Her already difficult life implodes when her only friend, Krista, starts dating her seemingly perfect older brother, leaving Nadine feeling utterly betrayed and alone.

The film tracks her cringe-worthy missteps and raw emotional turmoil as she searches for a new sense of self and connection.



2. Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022)

Evelyn Wang, a struggling laundromat owner buried under taxes and family tensions, is suddenly swept into a mind-bending adventure across the multiverse. She learns that only she, by connecting with the lives of her alternate selves, can stop a mysterious and destructive force.

This chaotic journey becomes a profound metaphor for a mid-life crisis, regret, and the overwhelming choices that define a life.

Reason for Recommendation: Beyond its stunning creativity, the film delivers a powerful message: in a chaotic and often nihilistic world, the most radical and meaningful act is to choose kindness, empathy, and love. It argues that our connections to others give purpose to the infinite possibilities of existence.



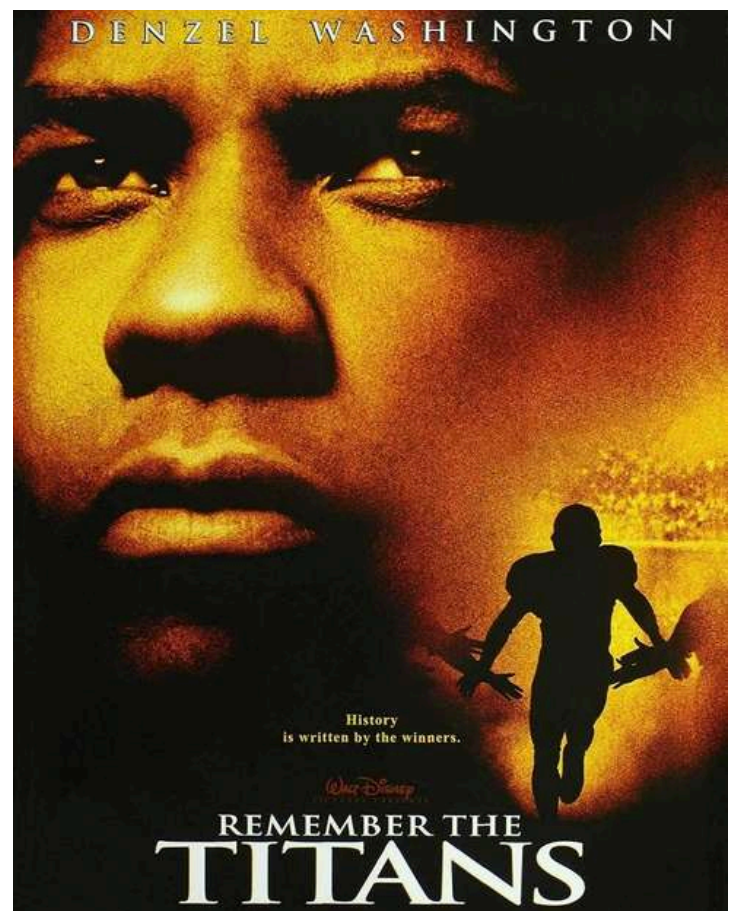
3. Remember the Titans (2000)

Set in 1971 Virginia, this inspiring sports drama follows the true story of Coach Herman Boone as he is appointed to lead the newly integrated T.C. Williams High School football team. Facing rampant racism in the community and deep-seated hostility among the players, Boone and his assistant coach use the discipline of the game to force the team to confront their prejudices and unite.

Their season becomes a pivotal journey about overcoming division through respect and shared purpose.

Reason for Recommendation: It is a timeless lesson in leadership, integrity, and the hard work required to overcome prejudice and build genuine community. The film shows that change begins not with grand gestures, but with the daily choice to respect, understand, and fight for the person standing next to you.

This summer's selection urges us to embrace empathy, find our voice, and confront difficult truths. Whether through Starr's courage, Liesel's stories, or Evelyn's kindness, these powerful narratives remind us that personal growth and justice begin with the courage to connect, resist, and choose compassion.



Graduation Quotes



Gloria Lo

It's okay to take time, pause and think.
What do you truly want? Ask yourself
that question whenever you're lost.



Alina Du

Be proud of how far you've come but
stay humble about how far you still
have to go.



Joseph Xue

You will achieve goals if you pursue every
possible endeavor with courage.



Gam Zhao

Enjoy your school time and keep
working hard for your future.



Thea Lim

Be happy every day!