

THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM

# The 2025 Graduation Ceremony

30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

THE BETHLEHEM CHAPEL - THE CEREMONIAL HALL OF THE CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE



Zuzi Dolejší Subterranean Glow



The English College in Prague, the first IB school in the Czech Republic, opened in September 1994 as a 6-year grammar school with high academic standards, offering the IB Diploma together with the Czech Maturita. Its Founder Patrons were President Václav Havel and HRH The Prince of Wales, now HM King Charles III.

The Graduation Ceremony serves two purposes: Graduates with outstanding achievements in both academic and cocurricular work during their IB studies are awarded prizes and all Graduates of 2025 are presented with their graduation certificates. The names of the prize winners will be announced by the Deputy Head (Co-Curriculum). They are congratulated by the Guest Speaker and handed their prize by the Senior Deputy Head.

Additionally, this year we are very honoured that we have two new named prizes:

The Tomáš Sedláček Prize for Economics The Tim Marshall Prize for Geography

The names of the Graduates are announced by the Deputy Head (Upper School). They will be congratulated by the Chairman of Governors, Denis Keefe CMG, and handed their certificates by the Headmaster.



Jan Valenta Offshore Rock

#### A Word from the Headmaster to our Parents

Unashamedly stealing from a common phrase in English about buses, at ECP, goodbyes come along in threes. The first was the Graduation Ball, a lavish affair that I'm sure you all enjoyed. Pulling up curbside almost immediately after we had the "last bell" - that fabulously disruptive and deliciously subversive tradition - but tonight, arguably the most important and grand of them all: the Graduation Ceremony. Each of the three events is symbolic of the key moment of "leaving", of crossing an important threshold. While almost everyone we are honouring today is continuing on to higher education, the celebration is both a transition into adulthood but also a journey that I described in various metaphorical forms at the ball - the thrill of the unknown in crossing a river, the joy of dancing a dance, the satisfaction of climbing a staircase or the gentle surprises one learns along a garden path. After receiving their certificates, the graduates will take their first steps on their journey walking down from the stage toward those assembled here to support and celebrate their academic achievements. Most walk calmly, smiling and scanning the crowd for their friends and family, occasionally someone punches the air triumphantly (we know who you are likely to be - so go on do it!). Worry not, no-one ever trips up despite the imagined horror of doing so! I have told the graduates that they should capture this moment as fully as they can. However, I've also warned them that memories fade, but not to fear this erosion as the experience of the moment can never be dulled by age. This, the experience of attending an exciting school

with amazing teachers and classmates will live on, long long, after many of the IB's nuggets of wisdom, faces of some more distant friends and even some of the teachers' names fade from recollection. Surviving covid and a school building move, seemingly so huge at the time will gradually recede to insignificance when compared to their life skills, their ambitions, their beautiful long lasting friendships and a sense of their place in the world. These will stay with our graduates forever.





Dr. Nigel Brown Headmaster



# GUEST OF HONOUR

## Lucie Samcová - Hall Allen

Ambassador Lucie Samcová – Hall Allen is a career diplomat. Between 2020 and 2024 she served as the European Union Ambassador to Iceland. In September 2024 she was appointed Chief of Protocol of the European External Action Service – the EU's foreign policy arm comprising over 3,700 staff and 145 diplomatic missions across the globe.

Having graduated from the ECP in 2000, she completed her university studies and was amongst the first hundreds of Czechs joining EU institutions after the Czech Republic became a member of the Union in 2004. During two decades of her active career in Brussels, at the UN in Geneva and later in Reykjavik, she worked on a wide array of foreign policy, multilateral and security issues – also including accession negotiations with countries which, just like the Czech Republic once did, aspire to join the block.





# Liza Turchyna

The Canvas of Her Essence

# LIST OF YEAR 6 STUDENTS

6A - Aqua
Tutor: James Foster

Mira Akhtyamova Sofie Balharová Michaela Rae Cyrani František Fiala Omar Ghaly Emma Goldberger Elin Herbeck Max Janovský Nela Marešová Rey Morris Karolína Muchová Oliver Sova Alex Šťovíčků Viktorie Suchánková

Alan Svítek Vanessa Thorne Jan Valenta Lucie Vašicová

6B - Ignis Tutor: Katalin Biro

Tobiáš Boček Karla Byrne Filip Čadek Zuzana Dolejší Petr Fabián Thomas Luke Fisher Sophie Maria Alexia Klomp

Anastasiia Liakhovych Christian Monari Veronika Moravcová David Nebeský Alexandra Stefanie Nemeth Amélie Nourse Adam Šefránek 6B

**6**A

Pavel Škop Daniel Víšek Lukáš Vopička Kateřina Závůrková





6C - Terra Tutor: Harprit Athwal

Šimon Císař Viktorie Hamáčková Marek Havelka Anna Jílková Alexandr Jiroušek Michal Kamiński

6D - Ventus Tutor: Gary Cossins

Tereza Červinková Tadeaš Daduliak Natálie Filipová Klára Gloverová Jana Hájková Michaela Hartová Miona Ivanović Samuel Krajčovič Anna Mária Krajčovičová Tadas Krasauskas Adam Lhoták Karolina Mammadli Lea Marie Rosická

Tobiáš Jirovec

Kiet Ngo Gia

Daniel Pokorný

Christopher Rossouw

Vladyslav Linskyi

Nadia Nebáznivá

Natalie Nebáznivá

6C

Ela Sršňová Elsa Sršňová Hubert Szykula Yelyzaveta Turchyna Kvetoslava Uhríková Ivan Vobořil

6D

Štěpán Strnad Alžběta Viačková Julie Viačková Anna Zhangová



<mark>Elsa Sršňová</mark> Unbound Series

# COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT PRIZE WINNERS 2025

THE KAREL AND JOSEF ČAPEK PRIZE FOR CZECH

# Adam Šefránek

Adam is not a typical outstanding student of Czech language and literature. His approach to his studies is unique - he always tries new things and is not worried that some might not work. This is why he discovered features that are hidden in the literary works and how he is able to connect with broader, global themes. And not only that, as a good artist, Adam can connect a picture to the meaning and through art, he finds meaning in the words. He also approached his Extended Essay in a creative way. Besides researching the historical background of the books and themes he studied, he also approached the writer of the studied book, Patrik Banga, and conducted an interview with him,

which gave him a lot of material for his work and inspiration for his thinking. In his written and oral work, there are always some unique thoughts and findings, his style reflecting a deeper understanding and desire to find the right message books have for us today.

#### THE LIGHTFOOT PRIZE FOR ENGLISH

#### Elsa Sršňová

Elsa has shown superb dedication to English Literature over the IB course. Her commitment and passion for the subject is evident in every lesson: she has gone above and beyond the expectations of the course. As an insightful and sensitive critic she is able to think both broadly and perceptively about how texts are created and their meanings negotiated. It has been wonderful to see a student explore the subject beyond the classroom and use the course content as a springboard for her own reading. We were delighted that she received a well-deserved offer of a place to study English at Cambridge next year.

# THE RONALD RANKIN PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS

### Tadeaš Daduliak

A mathematical titan in the classroom, Tadeaš has consistently shown an outstanding aptitude for the subject over the course of the past two years. Quick to grasp new concepts, he is not only one of the most naturally gifted students his teachers have taught, he matches his academic ability with an inquisitive nature, pushing him to explore content over and above that of the syllabus. Tadeaš's results have been exceptional



Elsa Sršňová Interoception 1 to say the least - achieving a Grade 7 in all but two of his unit tests over the entire course - and even those were both strong sixes. The awarding of this prize is all the more impressive given the strong competition he is faced with in a very disciplined and mathematically talented Higher Level class. We look forward to seeing Tadeaš excel in his given choice of undergraduate course, and hope that it has a high maths content!

#### THE OTTO WICHTERLE PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY

#### Tadeaš Daduliak

Tadeaš's exceptional achievement in Chemistry is a testament to his profound intellectual curiosity and rigorous dedication. His analytical ability and experimental skill, demonstrated consistently throughout his studies, have set a remarkable standard. His ability to synthesise complex concepts and apply them with precision is truly commendable. This award recognises not only his academic excellence but also his genuine passion for the field, promising a future of significant contributions.

# THE ALAN TURING PRIZE FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE

### Kiet Ngo Gia

Kiet's receipt of the Alan Turing Prize highlights his exceptional abilities. He stands out as one of the consistently strongest programmers and logical thinkers in each of the classes over



**Ivan Vobořil** Alligator Mississipiensis the years. His commitment is evident through exceptional attendance and a dedication to learning beyond the curriculum. Kiet's ability to comprehend and implement complex algorithms has been impressive. His projects and Internal Assessment have showcased both technical skill and creative problemsolving and a wide variety of frameworks and languages. His growth throughout his time at ECP has been impressive. The school anticipates his continued success in the field of computer science and engineering.

#### PHYSICS

### Hubert Szykula

Hubert has been an excellent student in Physics over the past two years. Always eager to learn, ask questions and challenge his own understanding, he has approached Physics lessons with a healthy amount of enthusiasm and effort. Hubert is an excellent critical thinker, can consider and approach physics problems with an 'outside of the box' mindset (unless it is a cat in the box), and has consistently demonstrated resilience when tackling complex questions. However, and above all, Hubert has impressed with his positive attitude and supportive nature. He brought an infectious passion for learning to our Physics class, and was always willing to support others. We wish Hubert all the best - he has been a pleasure to teach.

#### THE HELENA ILLNEROVÁ PRIZE FOR BIOLOGY

### Elsa Sršňová

Elsa is an outstanding pupil in Biology. She is capable of assimilating new and complex concepts and applying them competently to a range of contexts. Elsa establishes interdisciplinary links independently, which allows her to appreciate the sciences in a holistic manner. Not only has she been at the apex of the Higher Level Biology class due to her consistently impressive assessment scores, but also because of her levels of participation, probing questions and excellent investigative writing skills. Elsa has been a real pleasure to have in the classroom, and she will undoubtedly excel in whatever path she chooses to pursue.

# THE TIM MARSHALL PRIZE FOR GEOGRAPHY

## Emma Goldberger

Emma has been awarded the Geography Prize for her outstanding dedication and consistently strong work ethic throughout the year. Her keen interest in the subject has been evident in her extended reading and her detailed research and analysis presented in her World Studies Extended Essay. Her perceptive insights and strong analytical and critical thinking skills have enabled her to excel in demanding geographical inquiries. Notably, she is adept at interlinking key geographical concepts, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the subject's interconnected nature. Emma's focus and engagement in class discussions are commendable and the standard of her work has been consistently high. It has been a pleasure to teach her.

### THE JIŘÍ HOVORKA PRIZE FOR HISTORY

## Vanessa Thorne

From the beginning of her studies at ECP, Vanessa has demonstrated a clear talent as a historian. Her Year 2 essay on the consequences of the Paris Peace Conference already showed an impressive ability to consider multiple perspectives and all implications of a question. She has continued to do so throughout her pre-IB and IB studies: her essays are based on a precise and nuanced analysis of facts and demonstrate clear historical insights. Where Vanessa excels, however, is in research work. There is nothing she likes more than delving into historical sources, primary and secondary, and using them to develop her own understanding and arguments. Her work, such as her Extended Essay on the Tokyo Trials in the context of the Cold War, is always wide-reaching, nuanced and convincingly structured. Her enthusiasm and talent have unsurprisingly led her to choose an academic path in History and to be offered a place to study the subject at Cambridge. We look forward to following her achievements in this field and have no doubt that her professors will have the same pleasure teaching her as we have had at ECP.

## THE TOMÁŠ SEDLÁČEK PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS

### Ela Sršňová

Ela is an outstanding economist who is determined to understand rather than just accept what she learns. She considers the long-term consequence of economic policies and geopolitical events by making connections to economic theory and her other IB subjects. Ela is collaborative and generous towards her peers, for example by creating a database of real-world examples to help the class revise. Her work ethic is also exemplary and she will surely excel in her future academic and career pathway. It has been a pleasure to teach her during her IB years.

#### PSYCHOLOGY

#### David Nebeský

David has shown a genuine interest in Psychology from the beginning of Year 5. He is a very able student who is quick to learn and his approach to the course is exceptionally mature and analytical. David asks the most interesting questions, and brings tremendous good humour to the classroom. He is recognised by his peers and his teachers for his hard work and for the support he gives to others in their learning. David is particularly deserving of the Psychology prize this year because he exemplifies the IB student attributes: he brings an open and yet critical mind to his work and has played a central role in developing a class of individual students into a learning community.



Elsa Sršňová Heartstrings

# THE SIR ROGER SCRUTON PRIZE FOR THE PHILOSOPHY DR.

### Lea Marie Rosická

Lea's intellectual curiosity and philosophical insight have distinguished her as an outstanding scholar. Her contributions to class discussions have been consistently illuminating, marked by rigorous analysis and a strong ability to synthesise complex ideas. Her dedication extended far beyond the curriculum, as evidenced by her independent exploration of philosophical concepts. She wrote her Extended Essay on the topic of how Absurdism and Existentialism can help us navigate the meaninglessness of life. The essay is a fascinating read and gets right to the heart of dealing with the futility of existence. Similarly, her Internal Assessment, which delved into the intricacies of selfhood, showcased her ability to dissect complex philosophical problems with precision and nuance. This work provided a clear insight into the issue of being over time.

Throughout the past two years, Lea has consistently demonstrated not only a deep passion for philosophy but also an ability to formulate and articulate her own original and insightful perspectives. Her intellectual rigour and independent thought make her a truly deserving recipient of this prize.

# THE JAN GROSSMAN PRIZE FOR DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE

#### Viktorie Suchánková

Viktorie is a talented actor, director and designer. She makes connections between theory and practice. Her performances in IB Theatre have been strong and inspiring to younger students. She is very professional and pays close attention to detail, which raises the level of performances here at ECP. She challenges herself out of her comfort zone time and time again.

# THE SIR TOM STOPPARD PRIZE FOR DRAMA

### Elin Herbeck

Elin is an exceptional Theatre student. She has a passion for creating, performing and learning about all aspects of Theatre. She is an outstanding performer who tackles issues in thought-provoking ways. She is reflective and finds innovative ways to improve her work. She has grown so much during the two-year course, showing great resilience and perseverance. We are excited to see what she does in the future.

#### THE IAN MIKYSKA PRIZE FOR MUSIC

### Elin Herbeck

Elin is a dedicated performer who has shown commitment, independence and artistic excellence throughout her IB years. Her vocal performances are always well prepared and technically proficient.



#### Kate Závůrková Fading Impressions 6



Kate Závůrková

Nature's Anatomy

But Elin has also demonstrated progress in expression and artistic interpretation, which shows a willingness to take risks and grow as an artist. All her musical engagements at ECP have happened outside her full IB curriculum, which makes her dedication all the more impressive.

THE EVA JIŘIČNÁ PRIZE FOR ART & DESIGN

## Elsa Sršňová

Elsa is an exceptional student of the Visual Arts. Her work is imbued with both intellect and artistry: technical skill is always evident, alongside intriguing concepts, and she curated an excellent exhibition that synthesised both. Confident in exploring traditional and emerging media, Elsa has worked with tenacity to develop assured media handling skills across many art forms. She is a versatile and thoughtful artist; throughout her work can be found a fascination with realism, as well as imaginative explorations into threedimensional form and photography.

#### RUSSIAN

## Michaela Hartová

Michaela has been an outstanding academic and a role model for her classmates to follow. She is a very talented linguist. It never ceases to amaze how much she knows about the target culture. She excels in all language skills. She is able to use the Russian language fluently discussing any topic. Michaela's decision to write her Extended Essay in Russian proves her tremendous desire not only to set herself a challenge but also to understand and learn more about both Russian literature and Russian history of the 20th century. Her diligence in producing high quality work, invariably delivered on time, has been quite an achievement. Michaela justly deserves her success.

### SPANISH

## Ela Sršňová

Ela's language proficiency in Spanish is exceptional. She demonstrates a highlevel of fluency and accuracy. Her ability to use complex grammar and vocabulary is particularly impressive. In addition, her effort during the entire IB course has been consistently outstanding. We hope that in the future Elas will continue to develop her language proficiency and fluency even further.

#### FRENCH

## Michaela Hartová

Throughout the course, Michaela has demonstrated remarkable dedication, consistently exceeding expectations in all areas of assessment. Her insightful understanding of complex grammatical structures, coupled with her impressive vocabulary and nuanced cultural awareness, has allowed her to communicate with both accuracy and flair. Michaela's engagement in class discussions was always thoughtful, and her written work displayed a high level of critical thinking and sophisticated expression.

# THE OSWALD KITTEL PRIZE FOR GERMAN

#### **Oliver Sova**

Oliver is a gifted linguist, possessing a demonstrable affinity for the German language. His mastery of intricate grammatical constructs and a comprehensive repertoire of idiomatic expressions allows for articulation of remarkable precision and fluency. His choice to undertake legal studies in German underscores his ambitious nature and his willingness to embrace intellectually challenging tasks.

#### THE DR JANE GOODALL PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES

#### Emma Goldberger

Emma's work in ESS is consistently excellent. Her positive presence and insightful contributions make her a delight to teach. Her capacity to weave together different parts of the course and see the whole is truly remarkable. She possesses a deep intellectual curiosity, always pushing beyond the curriculum to explore further. Her passion for our planet, and the life it supports, and her desire to protect it are truly inspiring. With students like Emma, there is great hope for the future of the Earth.



THE ERNEST GELLNER PRIZE FOR

Tadas has shown exceptional engagement

with the central question of Theory

of Knowledge, which is how the

characteristics of knowledge itself can

vary according to both perspective and

context. While he was preparing his

Theory of Knowledge exhibition he had

several conversations with his teachers

on this theme, focusing on his distinctive

perspective on musical knowledge as

a highly skilled pianist. When explaining

his chosen exhibits to visitors on Open

Day, his communication was both

eloquent and compelling. In his TOK essay Tadas drew on his twin passions

for literature and chemistry to develop

an interesting discussion of the role that wonder plays in the aquisition of

knowledge. He is a most deserving winner

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

Tadas Krasauskas

Jan Valenta The Beach of the prize because of the intellectual growth that was evident through his willingness to grapple with this most academically demanding subject.

#### THE JAN KOVAŘOVIC PRIZE FOR CAS

### **Christopher Rossouw**

Christopher is a remarkable young man whose passion for drama is only surpassed by his dedication to others. His captivating performances have graced our stage, but it is his work behind the scenes, mentoring and guiding his fellow students, especially those younger than him, which truly sets him apart. The majority of Christopher's creativity hours were gained through his commitment to the performing arts. As a gifted dancer, Christopher has had great success in his role as a dancer in the Beetlejuice musical, and he has also worked hard to share his talent with the wider community. Notable is his commitment to teaching dance and drama to children, as well as choreographing the Graduation Ball secret dance, and the Ventus Cultural Olympiad dance performances show his commitment to working with and developing talent in others. Alongside this, Christopher has been an enthusiastic member of the mentor programme, and has been a source of inspiration and support to his Year 1 mentee. Chris embodies the spirit of collaboration and leadership, leaving an enduring impact on our school's drama community. A true inspiration, Chris is highly deserving of this award.

THE VĚRA ČÁSLAVSKÁ PRIZE FOR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT - GIRL

#### Elin Herbeck

Elin has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment in PE, particularly in her role leading dance activities. Her efforts have been outstanding, showcasing both her dedication and her ability to inspire others. Her leadership skills have been invaluable, fostering a positive and productive environment. Notably, Elin's commitment to excellence has been achieved alongside her demanding IB curriculum, highlighting her remarkable dedication and organisational abilities.

THE DOMINIK HAŠEK PRIZE FOR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT - BOY

#### František Fiala

František's passion for sports and active participation has been truly exemplary. His consistent attendance at numerous additional PE sessions, outside of his regular schedule, demonstrates a strong commitment to physical activity and a genuine enthusiasm for involvement. He displays great effort and a clear understanding of lesson structure, which, combined with his ability to motivate his classmates, makes him a true role model. His dedication and positive attitude have significantly contributed to the overall success and enjoyment of our PE activities.





<mark>Anna Jílková</mark> Monochrome <mark>Alex Šťovíčků</mark> Shrieks & Screams





Elsa Sršňová Interoception 2







<mark>Adam Šefránek</mark> Exhibition Detail

<mark>Adam Šefránek</mark> The Fish Market





Elsa Sršňová Sensation

# COMMENTS ON SPECIAL PRIZES WINNERS 2025

#### THE CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS' PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

#### Tadeaš Daduliak

Over the past six years, Tadeaš seems to have been an almost permanent fixture on the stage at Founders' Day, a reflection of his sustained excellence. While he no doubt regards himself primarily as a scientist, he also deserves recognition for his skills as a mathematician, a humanities student and as a linguist - in essence, he is the very model of a well-rounded IB student.

Beyond his academic achievements, Tadeaš's most notable personal quality is his humility and his consistent support of others as a mentor, tutor and friend. He serves as an excellent role model for all ECP students and is destined for great things. This prize, awarded to the Year 6 student with the highest overall average, including mock examinations, celebrates the sustained excellence and unwavering dedication to scholarship that Tadeaš exemplifies - qualities that are essential for outstanding performance in the IB programme, at university and in his future career.

#### THE KAREL SCHWARZENBERG PRIZE

#### Lucie Vašicová

This award recognises Lucie's efforts and impressive progress in the Humanities subjects throughout her time at the English College, especially in History and Economics, which she studied at Higher Level. Lucie is an open-minded student who is always ready to consider new perspectives and to make connections between subjects, between past and present and between different national narratives. This intellectual curiosity has led her to choose multi-disciplinary programmes in the Netherlands in which she will focus on the management of international political, social and environmental challenges. This will allow her to broaden her European horizon and to develop her understanding of the European context. There, and in her future professional career, she will undoubtedly make a difference in the lives of others, especially if she retains her open, kind, hard-working, but also her nicely ironic attitude, which was greatly appreciated by all her peers and teachers.

#### THE IVAN M. HAVEL PRIZE

#### Ivan Vobořil

Ivan has demonstrated a remarkable ability to synthesise Mathematics, Science and Art.

This award recognises Ivan's performance in Higher Level Mathematics over the past two years. An inquisitive mathematician with a natural flair for the subject, he has demonstrated a clear understanding of how abstract branches of mathematics are applied to real-life problems. His mathematical talent is evident in his Internal Assessment project, combining his ability in the subject with his passion for architecture, by modelling the Sydney Opera House using a variety of functions, then constructing his own scale model of the building and using calculus to find its volume. His work, particularly his Extended Essay on green architecture, stands out for its creativity and innovation, showcasing his masterful application of scientific principles to generate practical solutions for sustainable housing and demonstrating a unique blend of Science, Mathematics and artistic vision.

In Visual Arts, Ivan's fascination with structure, shape, balance and proportion led him down an inquisitive artistic route where he explored sustainable and futuristic architecture in a variety of three- dimensional forms, reflecting his cross-disciplinary interest in the built environment.

Ivan's holistic approach to Environmental Systems and Societies, his ability to integrate diverse fields and for truly embodying the spirit of this award, make him a truly exceptional and deserving recipient of this award. He has been a committed and driven student and a pleasure to teach.

# The LORD HOLME PRIZE FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

### Not awarded to a Year 6 student

THE HUBERT WARD PRIZE FOR SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL

#### Kvetka Uhríková

Since joining ECP in Year 1, Kvetoslava has stood out for her passion and commitment to school life and

## community. Having spent a significant part of her first two years in lock down, she still excelled because of her dedication and enthusiasm for school life, participating in Mr Gavrinev's renown online sporting challenges; getting involved in the online Cultural Olympiad and other events. As school life returned to normal, Kvetoslava became one of the 'go to' students in Terra, who could be relied upon not only to join events, but to lead others and to mentor younger members of the House and get them involved. She was the only Sports Captain for Terra for 2022 - 2023, a role that she thoroughly excelled in. Then came the IB, but Kvetoslava did not stop. She has continued to be an active member of the school community both culturally and in sports, as well as being an active member of the Graduation Ball committee. Overall, Kvetoslava's commitment and contribution to the school community has been consistent since joining ECP and she is a worthy winner of the prize.

#### THE JAN BARTA PRIZE

#### Tobiáš Jirovec

Tobiáš is a worthy recipient of this prize as he has demonstrated his leadership and skills in a number of ways such as being a mentor for Year 1. His aim and ambition is to study healthcare, nutrition and fitness and to develop programmes to enable individuals to lead fuller and healthier lives. In addition, he has pursued his semi-professional career in skateboarding, attending a number of international competitions. Tobiášs approach to everything in life is full of energy and enthusiasm; he is most definitely not a conventional student, yet there is no doubt that he will find success in his future career and endeavours.



Green Future

Tobiáš Jirovec Milo





Tobiáš Jirove Mom

# A NOTE ON THE IB PRIZES

Every year teachers nominate students who have made a notable contribution to their subject for the specific subject prize. There are also Special Prizes that recognise a student's broader talents and achievements. For these prizes students are usually nominated by the broader school community.

The highest academic prize is the Chairman of Governors' Prize for Academic Achievement. It recognizes the best academic results through the whole IB programme. The highest prize for the Service to the community is the Lord Holme Prize, to which any member of the school community can nominate any student, whose charity work is remarkable. Most of the Prizes are named after specialists in the subjects. Some special prizes are also awarded in the names of those who have had a special relationship with the College or with whom we continue to celebrate a connection.



Liza Turchyna Veil of Harmony

# **SUBJECT PRIZES**

# NEWLY NAMED PRIZES

# The Tomáš Sedláček Prize for Economics

Tomáš Sedláček, a Czech economist and author, gained international recognition for his book "Economics of Good and Evil," translated into 22 languages. He advised former Czech President Václav Havel, lectured at the World Economic Forum, and served for 16 years as a Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at a major Czech bank, as well as being a long-standing member of the Czech National Economic Council. Sedláček also authored the podcast "CzechMate." His books explore economic meaning through a philosophical lens, earning him awards and recognition as a top global thinker. He has held various advisory roles, including for the Czech Finance Minister, and was a Yale World Fellow. Currently, he is working on several new books and is a sought-after speaker and commentator, known for his engaging and interdisciplinary approach to economics.

Tomáš Sedláček's international reputation is truly something to behold, built as it is on a foundation of intellectual curiosity and a remarkable ability to connect seemingly

disparate fields. His book, "Economics of Good and Evil," was a watershed moment, catapulting him onto the global stage. It was not just another economics text; it was a philosophical exploration, weaving together history, mythology, and economic theory in a way that resonated deeply with readers across the world. The book's translation into 22 languages amplified its impact exponentially, establishing Sedláček as a significant voice in international economic dialogue. Prestigious awards, like the German "Wirtschaftsbuchpreis," and recognition as a top global thinker in Switzerland further cemented his influence. His early experience as an economic advisor to Czech President Václav Havel, and later advising the Czech Finance Minister, provided him with invaluable insights into the inner workings of policy and international relations. This practical experience, combined with his profound understanding of economic principles, makes his perspectives highly sought after. His involvement with the World Economic Forum, including lecturing at their gatherings and serving on the Program Council for New Economic Thinking, has placed him at the heart of global conversations about the most pressing economic issues. This platform has allowed him to forge connections with influential leaders and thinkers worldwide. Sedláček is also a captivating communicator, a sought-after commentator and speaker who can demystify complex economic concepts for a broader audience. His podcast, "CzechMate," further extends his reach, providing a platform for him

to explore a wide range of topics with his characteristic interdisciplinary lens. What truly distinguishes Sedláček is his unique ability to bridge the gap between economics and other disciplines, such as philosophy, history, and culture. This interdisciplinary approach offers fresh perspectives on economic challenges and makes his work relevant to a much wider audience than traditional economists might reach. In short, Tomáš Sedláček's international renown rests on his talent for weaving together complex ideas from diverse fields, making them accessible and meaningful to a global audience. His thought-provoking work and active participation in international forums have solidified his place as a leading voice in contemporary economic and philosophical discourse.

# The Tim Marshall Prize for Geography

Tim Marshall is a British journalist, author, and broadcaster, specialising in foreign affairs and international diplomacy. Marshall is a guest commentator on world events for Times Radio, the BBC, Sky News and other outlets. He writes a column for the Royal Geographical Society's monthly magazine and a weekly column for Reaction.Life.

Tim was formerly the Foreign Affairs Editor at Sky News. He's a respected voice in international affairs, known for his insightful analysis and on-the-ground reporting. His long tenure at Sky News

saw him report from conflict zones across the globe, giving him firsthand experience of major international events. He covered the Balkan wars, embedding himself in Belgrade during the Kosovo crisis, even remaining there during NATO bombing raids. He was also present for the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, reporting from the front lines. His coverage extended to the Arab Spring uprisings in Libya, Egypt, Syria, and Tunisia, and he served as Sky News' Middle East Correspondent in Jerusalem, covering the Gaza disengagement. He also headed up their Brussels bureau as Europe Correspondent. This extensive experience has given him a profound insight into global politics and conflict.

Beyond his broadcast journalism, Marshall is a successful author. His book Prisoners of Geography became a major hit selling more than 3 million copies worldwide. The book explains how a nation's geography shapes its political decisions and international relations. Its popularity led to a children's version, further demonstrating the broad appeal of his work. He has also written on the symbolism of flags in Worth Dying For, the rise of walls and divisions in Divided, and the history of football chants in Dirty Northern B\*st\*rds, demonstrating a range of interests. Shadowplay delves into the fall of Slobodan Milošević and his experiences during the Yugoslav Wars. His recent works, The Power of Geography and The Future of Geography, continue to explore the intersection of geography, politics, and the future world order. He connects historical context, like Russia's historical vulnerability in Eastern Europe, to current events, such as the invasion of Ukraine. Marshall's work provides audiences with a deeper understanding of global dynamics and the interplay of political, economic, social, and technological forces.

<mark>Zuzi Dolejší</mark> Spotlight



Tobias Jirovec Boček

# The Karel and Josef Čapek Prize for Czech

Josef and Karel Čapek were close friends as well as brothers. They entered the world of literature together, collaborating on their first books before finding their own literary paths. It was Josef who invented the word ROBOT, but Karel who first used it in his play R.U.R. As a child, Karel was already asking questions, always seeking the truth and wanting to put right what did not work. He was an excellent observer and had a remarkable knowledge of people, their lives, weaknesses and virtues. While Karel explored the visible world, Josef was more interested in the inner, invisible world. Both of them resisted Fascism and spoke out when human and moral values in society were threatened. Josef died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

## The Lightfoot Prize for English

Bob Lightfoot was an early supporter of the English College Foundation. He worked

in London as a Senior Partner in a firm of Chartered Patent Attorneys.



Tobiáš Boček Exhibition Detail

# The Ronald Rankin Prize for Mathematics

This prize is given by David Rankin in memory of his father Ronald, who lived in Liverpool from 1905 to 1974, and was an early supporter of the English College Foundation. David Rankin writes: "My father ran a food import business for a good part of his life. He had an analytical mind, but his talent for analysis was not passed through the genes to me. Indeed, he had to pay for extra tuition to ensure that I passed my Maths exam when I was sixteen years of age. So, in 1996, I thought that I would try to encourage some students in the College in the same way that my father had helped me and, with a certain sense of irony, chose Mathematics!"

## The Otto Wichterle Prize for Chemistry

Otto Wichterle is remembered as the inventor of the soft contact lens. He supported Alexander Dubček and his Prague Spring reforms and signed the Two Thousand Words manifesto calling for the continuation of the democratisation process. When Czechoslovakia was invaded by the Soviet Union, Wichterle was dismissed from his position as Director of the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry. He was unable to resume his work until 1989, when he was elected head of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and received many awards and honorary doctorates. He registered around 180 patents and wrote over 200 publications on various aspects of organic, inorganic and macromolecular chemistry, polymer science and biomedical materials.

# The Alan Turing Prize for Computer Science

Alan Turing (1912-1954) was a brilliant English mathematician and polymath who made groundbreaking contributions to computer science, cryptography, and various other fields. He is best known for developing the Turing Machine, a foundational concept in computing, and for his crucial role in cracking the Nazi Enigma code during World War II with the Bombe machine, significantly aiding the Allied victory. Beyond his scientific achievements, Turing also had interests in philosophy, biology, and poetry. Tragically, his life was cut short due to the persecution he faced for being homosexual, leading to his suicide.

# The Helena Illnerová Prize for Biology

Professor Helena Illnerová, a Czech biochemist born in 1937, is renowned for her pioneering research on biorhythms. She discovered the existence of a biological clock in mammals and its dependence on seasonal day length. After surviving her father's experiences in concentration camps, she excelled academically, leading to a distinguished career at the Institute of Physiology and a transformative year at Columbia University. Her groundbreaking work in the 1960s revealed the impact of light on hormone disruption in mice, establishing the foundation for understanding human biological clocks.

Following the Velvet Revolution, she served as Vice President and then President of the Academy of Sciences, and held leadership roles in other prestigious organizations. Illnerová is also committed to educating the public and mentoring young scientists, for which she has received numerous awards. She remains active in scientific councils and ethics commissions, demonstrating her lasting dedication to science and ethical standards.

# The Jiří Hovorka Prize for History

Jiří Hovorka's studies at the Prague English Grammar School came to an end when it was closed by the Communist regime. He was arrested for his part in resistance activities and imprisoned for 15 months. Prevented from studying, he spent his life as a manual worker, but continued learning, gaining knowledge of politics, history, literature, space flights and languages: English, Polish and German. English literature and culture became his lifelong hobbies. When the English College was established after the fall of Communism, he provided invaluable assistance to the founders and the first Headmaster. His early life under the Nazis and the Communists strengthened his belief in democracy. He was firm in his principles and moral attitudes, generous, kind and modest. As Jiří Hovorka's personality was formed by the adverse history of this country, it is fitting that our prize for History should bear his name.

# The Sir Roger Scruton Prize for Philosophy

Roger Scruton was born in 1944 and studied Philosophy at Cambridge University, where he wrote his PhD on "Art and imagination, a study in the philosophy of mind". In 1979 he was invited to lecture at the underground philosophy seminars in Prague and realised the hunger for philosophy among young people in Communist Czechoslovakia. He co-founded the Jan Hus Educational Foundation and worked with Czech and Slovak colleagues to extend the seminars to Brno and Bratislava. In

# The Jan Grossman Prize for Dramatic Performance

Jan Grossman attended the Prague English Grammar School before World War II and then, during the Occupation, took part in the Resistance against the Nazis. The Communists expelled him from Charles University, which meant he was unable to follow an academic or literary career, and

## The Ian Mikyska Prize for Music

Ian Mikyska, born in 1994, is a Praguebased Czech composer and multidisciplinary artist whose work spans music, installations, writing, and multimedia. His art explores themes of impermanence, ecology, and everyday experiences, often through the lens of perceptual concepts. 1985 the Communist regime placed him on the Index of Undesirable Persons. After 1989 he worked to establish the JHEF as an educational charity in the Czech and Slovak Republics. He published more than 50 books, including a novel about the underground university, Notes from Underground, and was an early supporter of the English College Foundation. He was awarded the Medal of Merit (First Class) by President Václav Havel in 1998 and knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2016.

so he chose to work in the theatre. He had an analytical mind and found it impossible to conform to ideology. He became renowned internationally as a theatre director, particularly for his work at the Theatre on the Balustrade in the 1960s, when he worked closely with Václav Havel on the early productions of his plays, but in the 1970s and 1980s had to work in obscurity.

His compositions have been performed internationally by renowned ensembles. Beyond music, Mikyska is a writer, translator, and co-founder of the multimedia improvisation ensemble StratoCluster. His diverse artistic pursuits and collaborative spirit have established him as a significant figure in the contemporary arts scene, both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

# The Sir Tom Stoppard Prize for Drama

Sir Tom Stoppard, born Tomáš Sträussler in 1937 in Zlín, is a highly acclaimed English playwright known for his witty dialogue and complex structures. His early life, marked by his father's death in WWII and subsequent relocation to England, shaped his diverse perspective. After a start in journalism, he transitioned to playwriting in the 1960s, achieving international recognition with "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead." His prolific career includes notable plays like "Travesties" and "The Coast of Utopia," alongside screenwriting work, including "Shakespeare in Love." A vocal advocate for human rights, particularly for figures like Václav Havel, Stoppard's contributions to theatre and film have solidified his status as a literary giant. He continues to live and work in London.



Tobiáš Boček The Curtains of Misfit (details)

# The Eva Jiřičná Prize for Art & Design

Eva Jiřičná CBE RA, a globally acclaimed architect and designer, was born in Zlín and educated in Prague before moving to the UK in 1968. She gained prominence through her innovative interior designs, notably at Lloyd's Headquarters, and established her own practice, Jiřičná Kerr Associates, working on projects worldwide. Her work is characterized by stylish, mathematically precise forms, a holistic design approach, and a subtle yet original use of materials and light. Since 1989, she has contributed significantly to Czech architecture, including projects like the Congress Centre in Zlín and the reconstruction of St Ann's Church in Prague. Recognized with numerous international awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Medal at the London Design Festival in 2018, Jiřičná continues to influence the field with her distinctive and impactful designs.



Liza Turchyna Eclipsing Boundaries

# The Oswald Kittel Prize for German

Oswald Kittel, born in 1929 in Česká Kamenice, has been a valuable collaborator with the College since 2016, sharing his personal experiences of the Sudetenland's 20th-century history with students. Growing up in a German-speaking family in what was then Czechoslovakia, he witnessed pre-war tensions and the subsequent expulsion of Germans after World War II under the Beneš decrees. Despite his wartime experiences and displacement, Kittel maintained ties with his homeland, eventually becoming Chairman of the German Association of Česká Kamenice. He has dedicated himself to fostering Czech-German reconciliation through regular meetings and ceremonies, and his contributions have been honored by the College through the establishment of the Upper School German prize in his name.



#### Alexandra Nemeth Parol ng Pag-asa Lantern

# The Dr Jane Goodall Prize for Environmental Systems and Societies

Jane Goodall, born in 1934, is a renowned British ethologist celebrated for her groundbreaking long-term research on chimpanzees in Tanzania's Gombe Stream National Park. Despite lacking a formal undergraduate degree, she earned a PhD from Cambridge University due to her exceptional field observations. Goodall's work revolutionized our understanding of chimpanzee behavior, revealing their omnivorous diet, tool-making abilities, and complex social structures. She established the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots youth program, dedicating her life to wildlife research, conservation, and education. A prolific writer and speaker, she has authored numerous books and articles. Goodall has received numerous prestigious awards, including being named a UN Messenger of Peace and a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, solidifying her legacy as a pioneering scientist and conservationist.



Tereza Červinková Played by Power



#### Alex Śťovíčků The Beautiful is Ugly

# The Věra Čáslavská Prize for Sporting Achievement - Girl

Věra Čáslavská was a Czechoslovak gymnast, coach, member of prominent sports organisations, 7-time Olympic Gold medalist, 4-time World Champion, 11-time European Champion, and 4-time Czechoslovak Athlete of the Year. During the period of political liberalisation of the Prague Spring in 1968, Čáslavská signed the 2000 Words manifesto and so became a target of the Communist regime. She was also punished by Czechoslovakia's Communist authorities for her silent protest against the Soviets. For two decades she was barred from travelling or attending major sports events and often prevented from coaching children. Following the Velvet Revolution in 1989 that resulted in the fall of Communism in Czechoslovakia, Věra Čáslavská was President of first the Czechoslovak and then the Czech Olympic Committee and a member of the International Olympic Committee. In January 1990, Čáslavská became a trusted adviser to Václav Havel, the newly-elected President of Czechoslovakia, in the area of social issues and sport.

# The Dominik Hašek Prize for Sporting Achievement - Boy

In the world of great Czech ice hockey players, Dominik Hašek is primus inter pares. One of the world's most successful goalkeepers ever, his legendary status perhaps owes most to his sterling performance in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano and the country's first and only Olympic gold medal in ice hockey. He became a hero to his compatriots and holds the highest career save percentage of all time at 0.9223. Spending most of his professional career in the NHL, he returned to Europe in 2009, signing for HC Pardubice before playing his last season with Spartak Moscow in 2012, to be inducted into the International Ice Hockey Hall of Fame and the Czech Ice Hockey Hall of Fame. He is also the father of ECP alumna, Dominika Hašková, whose successful musical career we have regularly celebrated since she graduated in 2014. A good supporter of the English College, teachers and graduates will remember Dominik Hašek's visit to school to help us celebrate our Theme of the Year to coincide with the London 2012 Olympics. With Czech paralympian cyclist, Jiří Ježek, he spoke to students about the skills and dedication needed to succeed in sport and how they are relevant in our everyday lives.











Liza Turchyna Unveiled Symphony



<mark>Zuzi Dolejší</mark> Silly



Kate Závůrková Nature

## The Jan Kovařovic Prize for CAS

Jan Kovařovic attended the Prague English Grammar School from 1945 to 1951, then studied at the Faculty of Architecture and Building at the Czech Technical University in Prague where he received his PhD. His focus on educational facilities developed there and continued during his Postdoctoral Fellowship in Trondheim. He also studied the management of education at the University of Victoria in Canada. His professional interest focused on education - from research, planning, design and the wider use of educational facilities and educational infrastructure, but also on the economy and effectiveness of education. He worked at the Educational Research Institute, the Institute for Development

The Ernest Gellner Prize for TOK

*E*rnest Gellner, a significant theorist of modernity, made notable contributions to philosophy and social anthropology. Born in Paris and raised in Prague, he attended the Prague English Grammar School (PEGS) before fleeing to England with his family during the Nazi occupation. He studied at Oxford, served in the Czechoslovak army during WWII, and later became a professor at the London School of Economics and Cambridge.

His influential work, "Nations and Nationalism," explored the dynamics of modern societies and was translated into numerous languages. After the Velvet of Educational Facilities, the Ministry of Education and the Education Policy Centre, but also for the former Greater London Council where, as an architect, he planned and designed educational facilities.

He is a co-author of the NEMES Freedom in Education and the Czech School project, the study Czech Education and Europe, and other works for the OECD and other international organisations. He was a member of the team that prepared the National Programme for the Development of Education in the Czech Republic. Jan Kovařovic served as a Governor of the ECP for 23 years, from 1997 until his retirement in 2020.

Revolution, he returned to Prague, where he died in 1995. His early experiences in Prague, including his multicultural upbringing and time at PEGS, profoundly shaped his intellectual development, as noted by sociologist Jiří Musil.



<mark>Alexandra Nemeth</mark> Bahay na Naglalakbay



Nastya Liakhovych Fluid Beautv

# SPECIAL PRIZES

# The Chairman of Governors' Prize for Academic Achievement

This prize is awarded to a student in Year 6 whose academic achievements are outstanding and who excels in many areas. The winner's name will be engraved on the stand that supports an Armada silver dish, generously donated to the College in 2011 by the late Nicholas Morris, ECF Director (1998-2012) and ECP Governor (2004-2012).

# The Karel Schwarzenberg Prize

This prize is named after our patron Karel Schwarzenberg and is awarded to a student who has shown exceptional interest in the history and spirit of European development. The prize recognises the ability to appreciate European heritage, to be able to analyse history and make connections with the current political scene. The winner of the prize must show initiative in promoting the importance of a willingness to learn from understanding history. It also recognises hard work, enthusiasm and a readiness to go above and beyond the curriculum that this student demonstrates.

## The Ivan M. Havel Prize

Ivan M. Havel, a brother of our patron Václav Havel, scientist, writer, artist and philosopher, was a great supporter of our school. His prize is awarded to a student who displays the qualities of a polymath. Specialism is increasingly important in society, but a polymath excels in more than one discipline. Primarily a scientist, who has shown exceptional talent and interest across scientific disciplines, including theoretical ones, enhancing interdisciplinary approach to the studies, showing an understanding of the humanities and creativity in the arts and the ability to apply interdisciplinary competence across several subjects. The prize recognises hard work, enthusiasm and willingness to go beyond the curriculum.



Nastya Liakhovych Peace

# The Lord Holme Prize for Service to the Community

The Lord Holme Prize is awarded in memory of the Founder Chairman of the Governors of the English College,

The Hubert Ward Prize for Service to the School

This prize is awarded to the student who has done most for the school community over the year.

# The Jan Barta Prize

This prize is awarded in the name of Jan Barta, one of the early graduates of ECP, now a successful internet entrepreneur, who has recently doubled the number of scholarships he generously supports from six to twelve. The Barta programme now has two strands: the Changemakers and Changing Lives.

This prize is in addition to Jan Barta's scholarship support and is awarded to students who use their special talents in unconventional ways, but whose endeavours suggest leadership potential and future success.



Richard Holme. Any member of the school community can nominate

a student who has worked hard for the school community or who has helped

people in need. Teachers then vote for the

winner of the award.

Nastya Liakhovych Coexist



Tobiáš Boček The Curtains of Misfit (details)

# Welcome to the English College in Prague Network (ECPN)

Congratulations to all this year's graduates. As you prepare for the next exciting chapter of your lives, you are now officially members of the English College in Prague Network.

The ECPN is an association for the wider ECP community, providing a way for everyone who has been part of the ECP family for thirty years to keep in touch, maintaining a link between the College, its alumni, their parents, former members of staff and Governors and the English College Foundation. We hope that by strengthening these links, we will in turn strengthen the ECP so it can continue to fulfil and expand its mission of educating the next generation of young people in Prague.

And as you, the Class of 2025, progress through university and your chosen careers, the ECPN will be there to help put you in touch with others who are in the same profession, to offer advice and encouragement, so that in the years to come, there will be successful ECP graduates in senior positions in all areas of Czech life, helping to make the country a better, more equitable and prosperous place.

As you will know, our graduates regularly visit the College to advise current students, sharing their experience and offering practical advice, helping to guide the next ECP generation as they prepare to make important decisions about universities and careers. As one of them said after his visit, "Not only is it helping my old school, it is helping my country." So whenever you feel homesick for the ECP, you are very welcome to come back to visit us and to share your story with those who are following in your footsteps.

The ECPN organises regular events for graduates, including the annual New Year reunion, and circulates the ECP Newsletter, so please update your details with us so that you are kept informed of the latest news and events. The ECPN secretariat is based in the College and its activities are coordinated by Gina Hearn, Director of External Relations – gina.hearn@englishcollege.cz



Kate Závůrková Remembering Series



<mark>Kate Závůrková</mark> Remembering Series



<mark>Tobiáš Boček</mark> Go Big or Go Away to games, social media, and smartyphones have become some of the most decimate to madern life, offering an American of queue that beens users deeply engaged while sublig aping their theoretics behaviours. I prioritize AI first glance, there technologies appear on gree deal-wide games allow us to create a costances thereaters, make decisions and impost with cities, and develop skills had tood to integene success. The third of tecking up, annuary batt include games allow us to create a costances thereaters, make decisions and impost with cities advertise shifts had tood to integene success. The third of tecking up, annuary batt includes games allow us to creater because the sectors and the second of the second and shifts, and the second games are constant acching that actual and and the addiction, with progression teaps, minute rangest in competitive games, where plagers betwee their unsames and the second and shift, and to antherating typitans 8 game economics often destines and actuates to keep anging amount and contained by the user to contain a charman to keep anging amount and to include pay thorum mechanics, kidden difficulty adjustments, and reward system and the include pay thorum mechanics, kidden difficulty adjustments, and reward system



Tereza Červinková Disconnected Influence

# Gaudeamus Igitur

#### LATIN

Gaudeamus igitur Iuvenes dum sumus. Post iucundam iuventutem Post molestam senectutem Nos habebit humus.

#### ENGLISH

Let us rejoice, therefore, While we are young. After a pleasant youth After a troubling old age The earth will have us. Vivat academia! Vivant professores! Vivat membrum quodlibet; Vivant membra quaelibet; Semper sint in flore.

Long live the academy! Long live the professors! Long live each student; Long live the whole fraternity; For ever may they flourish!

THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE - ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM, O.P.S. SOUSEDÍKOVA 1044/8, PRAGUE 9, 190 00, CZECH REPUBLIC