



THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE  
ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM

# The 2026 Graduation Ceremony

29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

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



Martin Chytil  
Float

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# Programme

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## **Procession of the Graduates**

*March of the Legion of Students / Pochod studentské legie by Bedřich Smetana*

## **Headmaster's Welcome Address**

Dr Nigel Brown

*In the Mists - Leoš Janáček*

Marina Žiaranová (piano)

## **Address by the Guest of Honour, the Rt Hon Sir Nick Gibb**

*Memory - Barbra Streisand*

Kavita Doddová (voice and piano)

## **Presentation of the Prizes by the Guest of Honour and Tony Emmerson**

*Viva La Vida - Coldplay*

Anhelina Romenets, Hugo Řehák, Thomas Jan Maynard,  
Emma Országhová, Dieu Linh Do (band)

## **Address by the Chairman of Governors**

Denis Keefe CMG

*Somewhere Over the Rainbow - Trad*

Adaëlie Linda Crosby (voice)

## **Gaudeamus Igitur (anonymous)**

*The ECP Students and Teachers Choir*

## **Presentation of Certificates by the Chairman of Governors and Dr Brown**

*Leaving Home - Camyllo*

Eliška Tuček (voice) with Max Minkowski (violin), Jacob Lööf (piano),  
and Kilian McGrath (cello)

## **Vote of Thanks by a Representative of the Graduates**

Esme Erika Kálovcová

*No Tomorrow - Orson*

Maxim Sláčík, Leo Keates, Marina Žiaranová, Alfred Austin Souček, Tarik Younis (band)

## **Procession of the Graduates**

*Trumpet Tune and Air by Henry Purcell*

**Organist: Michal Hanzal**

**Trumpeter: František Bílek**

*Please join us for a glass of wine and light refreshments after the ceremony*



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.

The Graduation Ceremony serves two purposes: Graduates with outstanding achievements in both academic and co-curricular work during their IB studies are awarded prizes and all Graduates of 2026 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 four new named prizes:

*The Professor Brian Cox Prize for Physics*  
*The Sir Anthony Seldon Prize for History*  
*The Viktor Frankl Prize for Psychology*  
*The Federico García Lorca Prize for Spanish*

The names of the Graduates are announced by the Senior Tutors and Tutors. They will be congratulated by the Chairman of Governors, Denis Keefe CMG, and handed their certificates by the Headmaster.



Emilie Kašparová  
Scriptures of the Unseen

## A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER TO OUR PARENTS

Unashamedly stealing from a common phrase in English about buses and repeating a thematic idea from last year when I said that, at ECP, goodbyes come along in threes. The first is the Graduation Ball: amazing, wonderful and so 'Czech'. Most recently we had the Last Bell - actually the only bell of the year as we stopped using the bell for the start and finish of classes. Despite the high jinx, the students honoured and respected the new building finally putting to rest even the most ardent opposition amongst the staff - being subversive and respectful is a fine balance that only the brightest of cohorts can manage - and this year's did wonderfully. Tonight though we have arguably the most important and grandest of them all: the Graduation Ceremony. Each of the three events are 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 and a journey that I described in various metaphorical forms at the ball over the years. This year I leaned heavily into the idea of a journey in space because the theme for the ball was *Per aspera ad astra* - a Latin phrase meaning through hardship to the stars. Of course the reference to hardship consciously included the tragic loss of Karel Otto Tlustý, whose

family appreciated everyone's presence at the humble and touching farewell at the Břevnov Monastery in December. Karel was a popular student, and his teachers loved him for his humility, kindness, and sense of humour. As I said at the ball, it is a truism to say our lives will never be the same without him, but his family firmly believe he is watching us now from the stars. Once again I implore you to remember him with love just as Karel would have wanted. But for the rest of the graduating class their more earthly journey continues despite my reliance on the metaphor of space. Journeys, wherever they are, have beginnings, middles and endings. Today is, if not the beginning, an early waypoint, but the best is yet to come. On behalf of myself and the entire staff at ECP, we wish you not just success, but a life defined by beauty, purpose, and the courage to keep reaching for your own stars.



Dr. Nigel Brown  
Headmaster

*Nigel S Brown*

# GUEST OF HONOUR

## The Rt Hon Sir Nick Gibb

Nick Gibb is a British politician who, over the course of a ministerial career spanning more than a decade and serving under four Prime Ministers, has been widely recognised for his contribution to education policy. He is particularly credited with helping to raise literacy and numeracy standards across English primary and secondary schools.

A chartered accountant by training, with a degree in law from the University of Durham, Nick Gibb moved from a career at KPMG to become Member of Parliament for the constituency of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton on the English south coast, in 1997. During his time as Minister for Schools, he was a staunch advocate of evidence-based teaching, playing a leading role in the introduction of systematic phonics for reading and a knowledge-rich national curriculum.

He has also been a consistent champion of the principle that all pupils, regardless of background, should have access to a rigorous and well-structured education.

Sir Nick has also spoken of his long standing interest in the history of education and intellectual life in Central and Eastern Europe during the Cold War, including his experience of smuggling samizdat literature into the former Soviet Union - a powerful reminder of the importance of intellectual freedom and access to knowledge.



Nico Cirkl  
Exhibition

# LIST OF YEAR 6 STUDENTS

**6A - Aqua**  
Tutor: *Kilian McGrath*

6A

Anna Marion Andrášková  
Alesia Dmitrijeva  
Natálie Duffková  
Jiří Fiala  
Ilian Gergišák  
Karolína Anastasia Hamdanová  
Aiden Valeri Hanzal

Kristian Jablonský  
Maxine Lili Janeček  
Daniela Kadeřábková  
Emilie Kašparová  
Leonard Keates  
Tomáš Mašovský  
Kateřina Joan Poston

Ondřej Staněk  
Petr Šťovíček  
Samuel Emil Talacko  
Viktorie Tošnerová  
Ivan Vahin  
Filip Vávra

**6B - Ignis**  
Tutor: *Daniel Ibbitson*

6B

Jakub Čáp  
Nico Cirkl  
Adaëlie Linda Crosby  
Karolina Dymáčková  
Eileen Griffin  
Amelie Hauptman  
Jakub Jaroš

Aneta Krejdlová  
Kateřina Křivanová  
Karolína Kubias  
Anastasija Kulakovskaja  
Leontina Markovičová  
Michael Pardeller  
Viktorija Sorokina

Tomáš Svoboda  
Arina Tsybizova  
Martin Tuchscher  
Marek Vaněček  
Tarik Younis  
Marina Žiaranová

**6C - Terra**  
Tutor: *Gaelle Vassogne*

6C

Sophie Brauchli  
Kavita Doddová  
Melánie Kidrič  
Adam Kotrba  
Alexander Kubarski  
Alan Kyjovský

Veronika Maximova  
Matěj Michal  
Aleksandar Parvanov  
Gabriela Popiolková  
Elen Sauerová  
Kamila Singh

Martin Slezák  
Alfred Austin Souček  
Karel Otto Tlustý  
Tadeáš Vácha

**6D - Ventus**  
Tutor: *Eva Smith*

6D

Soňa Balážová  
Tomáš Balko  
Karolína Chvátalová  
Martin Chytil  
Tadeáš Havlíček  
Esme Erika Kálovcová  
Veronica Giselle Kálovcová

Petr Kroupa  
Anna Litster  
Joseph Litster  
Anhelina Romenets  
Maxim Sláčik  
Sofie Sláčíková

Joshua Paul Stewart  
Nicolas Topolánek  
Eliška Tuček  
Renée Tůmová  
Tereza Zadinová  
Yuxuan Zheng



Sofie Sláčíková  
Exhibition

# COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT PRIZE WINNERS 2026

THE KAREL AND JOSEF ČAPEK PRIZE  
FOR CZECH

## **Karolína Kubias**

Karolína has made enormous progress in her IB studies. She has discovered and developed her literary talent and has become an insightful literary critic. In her written work she is precise in her language, clearly states arguments, provides deep analysis and proves her understanding of broader cultural issues. Not only has she worked hard over the two years, but she also went beyond the curriculum. She has set a very good example to other members of the class and her presentations were not only well-assessed, but also appreciated by her classmates for their clarity and depth. Karolína is also able to connect her literary knowledge with everyday life and understand how literature can enrich our lives and society.

THE LIGHTFOOT PRIZE FOR ENGLISH

## **Maxine Lili Janeček**

Maxine's careful and considered nature has allowed her to develop into an insightful literary critic. She has a clear flair for language, writing with the ability of a native level speaker, and often provides novel insights into texts. Her internal assessments showed analysis that was both hyper-focused on linguistic choices and showed understanding of broader cultural issues. She has continued to read widely around the course, and we wish her the best in her higher education, where she is studying literature. Maxine is to be congratulated on this well-deserved recognition of her engagement with English across the IB course.



Anhelina Romenets  
Exhibition

## THE RONALD RANKIN PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS

### Tarik Younis

Tarik is a quintessential scholar whose participation raises the level of classroom discussion. He does not merely absorb new concepts; he interrogates them, challenging complex theories and examining problems through a sophisticated critical lens. Tarik thrives on the rigours of the Higher Level curriculum, demonstrating a rare academic maturity and a growth mindset when mastering the most demanding material. His exceptional coursework - an exploration of power and exponential functions beyond the real number system using complex numbers in 3D Euclidean space - reflected his remarkable drive to extend his learning beyond the syllabus. Tarik seamlessly bridges technical skill



Nico Cirkl  
Inretio

with creative application, embodying the profound curiosity and diligence of a true mathematician.

## THE OTTO WICHTERLE PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY

### Elen Sauerová

Elen has excelled throughout the IB course. She combines an excellent work ethic with great intellectual curiosity, which has enabled her to consistently attain the highest grades. She is incredibly perceptive and has regularly questioned ideas and challenged any inconsistencies presented with competing scientific theories. She has particularly thrived in areas where biology and chemistry overlap and will no doubt excel studying further in this field.

## THE ALAN TURING PRIZE FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE

### Petr Štoviček

Throughout his time at ECP, Petr has consistently embraced the most rigorous challenges, proactively seeking to surpass the confines of the standard curriculum. He possesses an inherently inquisitive and independent mindset, demonstrating a particular curiosity and flair for the technical intricacies of assembly coding and low-level systems. Beyond his technical proficiency, Petr stands out for his genuine interest in the wider applications of Computer Science, effortlessly forging connections between abstract logic and real-world impact.



Nico Cirkl  
Initium



Nico Cirkl  
Pietas

He not only possesses the requisite skill set to excel as an engineer but also demonstrates an unwavering drive and a sophisticated motivation to learn. It has been a pleasure to work with Petr over the past half a decade, and he fully deserves the accolades that his dedication has secured.

#### THE PROFESSOR BRIAN COX PRIZE FOR PHYSICS

##### **Kavita Doddová**

A passionate and determined Physics student, Kavita has always approached her Physics studies with a critical mind, and an ability to solve complex problems. She has consistently demonstrated excellent subject knowledge, and rarely has a lesson passed in which Kavita has not confidently answered questions, or posed them to strengthen her own understanding. In particular, her Physics Extended Essay, which explored the harmonic motion

of large-scale structures using a very novel method, enabled Kavita to showcase her ability in 'thinking outside of the box' when tackling engineering problems, and to appreciate the wider context of Physics. She is a very worthy winner of the first Professor Brian Cox Prize for Physics and her teachers have every confidence that she will excel in her future engineering studies and career.

#### THE HELENA ILLNEROVÁ PRIZE FOR BIOLOGY

##### **Kateřina Joan Poston**

Kateřina has consistently demonstrated a real passion for Biology, through her insightful observations, high level contributions and impressive subject knowledge. She has developed all the skills necessary to become a brilliant biologist and it is clear that these skills will help her massively in her pursuit of a medical career.



Sofie Sláčíková  
Onion Tree

#### THE TIM MARSHALL PRIZE FOR GEOGRAPHY

##### **Sophie Brauchli**

Sophie is an excellent student of Geography. Her conceptual insight and adept application of geographical skills have allowed her to make valuable, perceptive contributions to classroom discussions. Her consistent engagement in class during the two year programme has been commendable. Sophie's deep interest in and extensive knowledge of global issues were clear as she consistently linked current events to the varied themes covered throughout the geography course. Her excellent work ethic and the high standard of her work make her a deserving winner of the Geography prize.

#### THE SIR ANTHONY SELDON PRIZE FOR HISTORY

##### **Natálie Duffková**

This award recognises Natálie's achievements and attitude to learning, but also her impressive potential. Natálie is an excellent IB student who especially shines in History thanks to her exceptional dedication to her studies. She possesses a remarkable grasp of the material, down to minute details, and she is especially adept at combining factual precision with in-depth analysis. This was particularly evident in her Extended Essay comparing and contrasting the racial legislation of the United States of America and of Nazi Germany. Her understanding of landmark

legal cases such as Pace v. Alabama and the way she familiarised herself with historical context, concepts and a vocabulary that were new to her, bode extremely well for her academic future. Moreover, Natálie is an absolute pleasure to work with, thanks to her enthusiasm, humility, sense of humour and constant readiness to support and inspire her peers. We are certain that we will see great things from her in the future.

#### THE TOMÁŠ SEDLÁČEK PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS

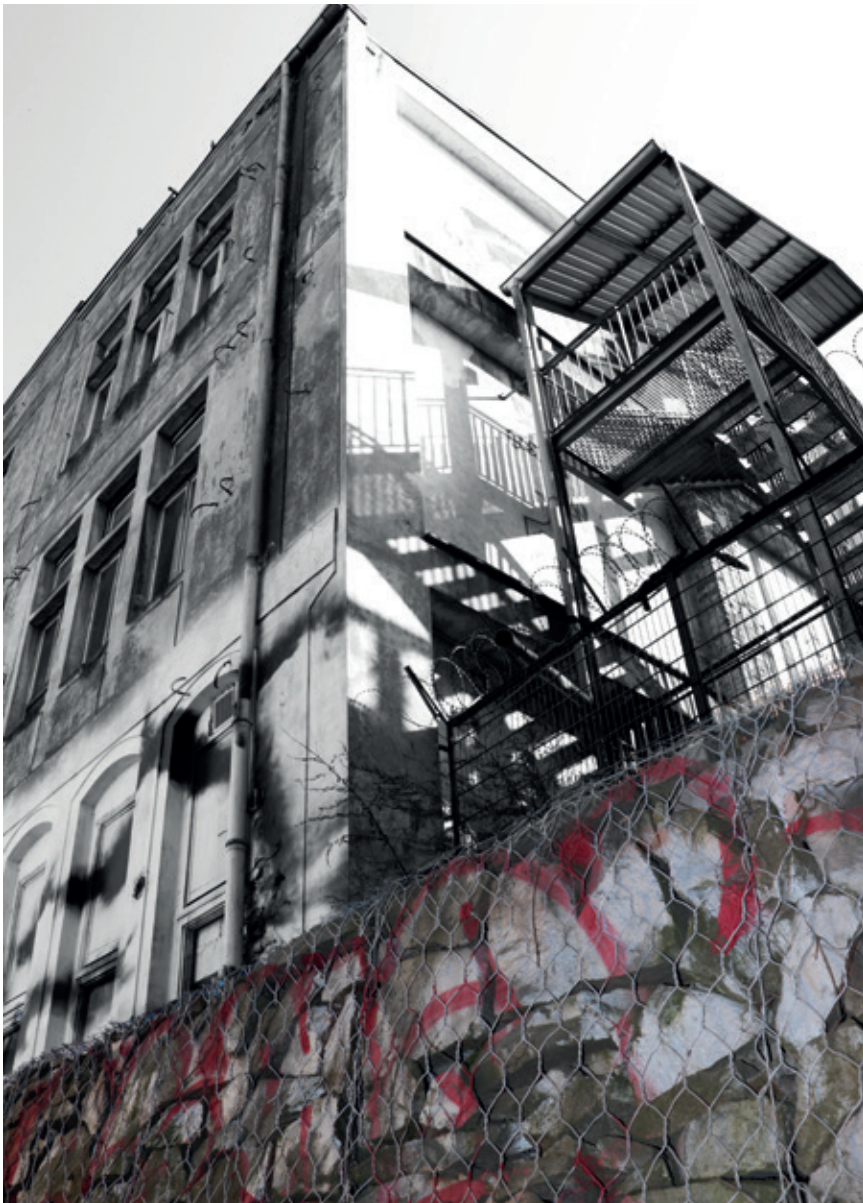
##### **Aleksandar Parvanov**

Aleksandar has all the hallmarks of a great economist. He is a deep thinker who applies the concepts of cost-benefit analysis, opportunity cost and incentives to consider issues and solutions. He is able to work both in the realms of mathematical certainty and real-world ambiguity. A truly interdisciplinary thinker, he synthesises perspectives from across his subjects to sharpen his critical analysis, marking him as an intellectual leader who understands the vital role of economics in shaping a better society. Aleksandar has worked hard and brought energy and ideas to our lessons and he thoroughly deserves this year's accolade.

#### THE VIKTOR FRANKL PRIZE FOR PSYCHOLOGY

##### **Leonard Keates**

Leonard's dedication to learning over the past two years has been truly



Jakub Jaroš  
The Gallery Wall Series

exceptional. His remarkable organisational skills and self-motivation in his studies have set him apart from his peers. Thanks to his diligent approach and outstanding academic ability, Leonard has consistently achieved top grades in Psychology. Moreover, his contributions to class discussions have been invaluable. His peers deeply appreciate his generous support and insightful questioning, which foster a collaborative learning environment. Leonard's passion for Psychology not only enhances his own learning, but also inspires those around him.

#### THE SIR ROGER SCRUTON PRIZE FOR PHILOSOPHY

##### **Tadeáš Vácha**

Tadeáš is an exceptional student of Philosophy. His commitment to the subject over the past two years has been beyond doubt. His contributions in class were always first rate in terms of ideas and analysis. He has shown great dedication to the subject and has regularly gone above and beyond the required learning to extend his knowledge in this subject. His rigorous analytical mind meant he was always focused on catching the nuance in complex arguments, understanding that philosophical discussion is not about pitching quick answers, but about deep, critical engagement. He chose to extend his philosophical knowledge when writing his Internal Assessment on the intricate question concerning the tension between determinism, chance and moral agency. This work provided a clear insight

into the nature of free will and personal accountability. Tadeáš is an outstanding example of the ideal Philosophy student; a rigorous thinker who is intelligent, insightful and critical.

#### THE JAN GROSSMAN PRIZE FOR DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE

##### **Leontina Markovičová**

Leontina has a natural talent for acting and performing. Her Solo Project, based on the theory of Tatsumi Hijikata, proved that she was willing to take creative risks and leave everything on the stage. This is only possible when you are so fully prepared that you trust yourself to improvise if things go wrong, but stay true to the material. As Lady Bracknell in ECP Theatre Company's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, she commanded the stage with nuanced facial expression and fan work, showing a level of understanding of the power of characterisation to create tension and comedy. We are so proud of Leontina's growth and confidence and hope she will continue performing as she moves on to university.

#### THE SIR TOM STOPPARD PRIZE FOR DRAMA

##### **Gabriela Popiolková**

Gabriela has shown excellent skills in all aspects of Theatre. Her Extended Essay was a masterful investigation into immersive theatre, rooted in well-researched theory and her firsthand



Martin Chytil  
Rubik's Prisms



Martin Chytil  
Holographic Dimension

interviews with directors and performers of a local Czech Theatre Company. She directs with meaning and precision, thoughtfully crafting an outstanding Solo Performance earlier this year based on the theories of Anne Bogart's Viewpoints. Gabriela is a fantastic Theatre Practitioner in her own right and we look forward to her using her creativity and ability to make meaningful connections between theory and practice in her future career.

#### THE IAN MIKYSKA PRIZE FOR MUSIC

#### **Room 113: Tarik Younis, Marina Žiaranová, Maxim Sláčik, Alfred Austin Souček, Leonard Keates**

Awarded the Ian Mikyska Prize for Music for their commitment to live performance. Through the recent years of disrupted rehearsal spaces, this group of students have pushed through, rehearsed with attention to detail and performed with energy, precision and musical expression. They have individually demonstrated progress on their respective instruments, but also shown how much work and dedication it takes to become a cohesive band rather than a group of individuals playing together.

#### THE EVA JIŘIČNÁ PRIZE FOR ART & DESIGN

#### **Sofie Sláčíková**

Sofie is an exceptional student of the Visual Arts. Her work is imbued with both intellect and artistry: technical skill is always evident, alongside her willingness

to explore and experiment with a diverse array of materials and processes, Sofie curated an excellent exhibition that synthesised contemporary imagery with traditional Czech folk crafts. She is a versatile and thoughtful artist; throughout her work can be found a fascination with her local culture, as well as imaginative explorations into three-dimensional form, fashion and textiles.

#### THE FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA PRIZE FOR SPANISH

#### **Amelie Hauptman**

This prize is awarded to Amelie for her extraordinary dedication and linguistic flair. Despite starting Spanish in Year 2, later than many of her peers, Amelie demonstrated remarkable tenacity to close the initial gap with incredible speed. She has not only met the IB standards, but has gone beyond expectations, showcasing a natural aptitude for the language and a deep curiosity for Hispanic culture. Amelie's journey is a shining testament to the fact that with passion and hard work, large distances can be bridged.

#### FRENCH

#### **Alfred Austin Souček**

Having attended a French lycée for his primary education, Alfred initially studied German at ECP. In Year 5, he joined the French class with a renewed passion for the language and its culture. His wonderful sense of humour and natural communication skills have

facilitated steady progress and made him a pleasure to teach. As Alfred intends to pursue language studies beyond ECP, we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

#### THE OSWALD KITTEL PRIZE FOR GERMAN

#### **Karolína Kubias**

Karolína stands out as a truly gifted linguist whose dedication to German is both profound and inspiring. Her work is marked by a rare stylistic ease, allowing her to convey insightful perspectives with a fluency that far surpasses her current level of study. By successfully completing her Extended Essay in German, she has demonstrated a high level of academic independence and linguistic mastery. Karolína is entirely at home in the German language and culture, and her plan to study at a German university is a natural next step for a student of her remarkable caliber.

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

#### **Matěj Michal**

It is with great pride that we present the Dr Jane Goodall Prize for Environmental Systems and Societies to Matěj Michal. This award recognises a student who demonstrates not only academic excellence, but also a profound understanding of the interconnectedness of our global systems. Matěj's Internal

Assessment, which explored the complex correlation between national wealth and carbon dioxide output, showcased a sophisticated command of data and a critical eye for global inequities. Furthermore, his mastery of the new Higher Level lens of Environmental Law distinguishes him as a forward-thinking scholar. Matěj has proven himself capable of addressing the climate crisis through both scientific and systemic perspectives. Much like Dr Goodall, Matěj exemplifies the curiosity and dedication required to advocate for a more sustainable future. Matěj is to be congratulated on this well-deserved recognition of his hard work and intellectual depth.

#### THE ERNEST GELLNER PRIZE FOR THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

#### **Tadeáš Vácha**

Ted has consistently demonstrated an aptitude for and excellent skills in thinking about and discussing knowledge questions. He has been equally strong in bringing up examples from the outside world, as well as specifics from his IB studies, in building arguments and exploring different points of view. Ted's critical thinking has been evident in his participation in class discussions as well as in his own written work. Theory of Knowledge prepares students for higher education in that it asks questions that are often open-ended, difficult and abstract. Ted has excelled in building skills reflecting on and answering these kinds of questions, which will serve him



Sofie Sláčiková  
Roots of Culture



Sofie Sláčiková  
Vase (top left) Blossom (top right)  
Interwoven Family (bottom)

well at university and beyond in critically thinking about what, how and why we learn and know.

#### THE JAN KOVAŘOVIC PRIZE FOR CAS

### Amelie Hauptman

Amelie's journey through CAS has been nothing short of exemplary, characterised by a seamless blend of creative ambition and unwavering global citizenship. From the athletic discipline of snowboarding and dance to the technical rigour of writing, filming and editing her own short film, Amelie has consistently pushed her personal boundaries. Her leadership as a member of the UNICEF Youth Advisory Board and her role in hosting their national exhibition highlight a sophisticated level of engagement with international issues. Possibly her crowning achievement was leading the MUN in hosting our multi-continental conference. This spirit of service extended to her 'People in Need' fundraiser and advocacy for children in Gaza, demonstrating a profound sense of empathy. Whether choreographing original pieces for the Talent Show and Graduation Ball or organising the intricacies of Founders' Day, Amelie has enriched our school community through the arts and collaboration.

#### THE VĚRA ČÁSLAVSKÁ PRIZE FOR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT/GIRL

### Aneta Krejdllová

Aneta Krejdllová is the highly deserving recipient of this award, recognising her

incredible dedication and exceptional athletic talent. She consistently leads by example, with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Aneta has been a standout performer across inter-house competitions, bringing great energy to every event. Most notably, she proved herself to be an outstanding skier, delivering a fantastic performance in the slalom competition. Her leadership and sporting achievements make her a truly inspiring role model.

#### THE DOMINIK HAŠEK PRIZE FOR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT/BOY

### Michael Pardeller

Michael has demonstrated excellent overall performance in Physical Education, consistently achieving high standards across all activities. He shows a highly positive attitude towards learning, always engaging fully and striving to improve both his individual performance and teamwork. Michael is an exceptional student who deserves this award due to his outstanding leadership as a Sports Captain, his commitment to the school's sporting life, and his exemplary sportsmanship. He has represented the school in football and basketball inter-school competitions, where he has performed at a very high level. In addition, Michael excels in baseball outside of school, further highlighting his dedication and talent in sport.



Daniela Kadeřábková  
Career in Suspension



Eliška Tuček  
The Eroding View

# COMMENTS ON SPECIAL PRIZES WINNERS 2026

## THE CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS' PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

### **Marina Žiaranová**

Marina Žiaranová is a student of rare intellectual calibre and determined mindset. Throughout her time at the College, she has maintained an exemplary academic record, consistently achieving the highest possible attainment and effort grades across the rigorous IB Diploma curriculum.

In the sciences, Marina's performance is nothing short of outstanding. Her teachers describe her as possessing a natural aptitude for Mathematics and Physics. Her Extended Essay, a sophisticated exploration of the physics of guitars, demonstrated not only a mastery of technical theory and meticulous data collection, but also a remarkable breadth of academic understanding throughout a plethora of subjects. Beyond the sciences,

Marina has displayed a remarkable gift for analytical thought. In English, her thought-provoking arguments and high level of vocabulary led to the highest mark in her cohort during the mock examinations. Furthermore, her Theory of Knowledge work highlights a sophisticated ability to connect abstract philosophical concepts to concrete, real world examples; a hallmark of a truly critical thinker.

Marina's excellence is not confined to the classroom. She is a multi-faceted individual who has enriched our community through her creative flair, performing in the student band and at Open Mic nights. Whether supporting the Model United Nations, contributing to the ECP Times, or competing in the Cultural Olympiad, Marina approaches every endeavour with the same tenacity and curiosity that defines her academic life.

For her sustained excellence, her proactive engagement with scientific inquiry, and her balanced commitment to the life of the College, Marina is a most deserving recipient of the Chairman of Governors' Prize for Academic Achievement.

#### THE KAREL SCHWARZENBERG PRIZE

##### **Eileen Griffin**

Eileen has been the Karel Schwarzenberg Scholar at ECP for the past six years and it is only fitting that she is awarded this prize as she embodies the values that characterised its founder. Eileen has constantly displayed an open and inquisitive mind exemplified by her always pertinent, and sometimes memorable, questions in History lessons. She is constantly making connections between her subjects, especially in the Humanities, and is equally at ease with difficult concepts and with historical facts. Eileen is academically rigorous, dedicated, but also mindful of others and she has

been a leading force in our community since her first year at ECP. When deciding on her academic future, she was focused on choosing a course of study that would put her in the best position to contribute to social and political equity. If she continues to show the same level of intellectual ambition, enthusiasm and empathy that she has demonstrated during her time at the English College, she is sure to do so.

#### THE IVAN M. HAVEL PRIZE

##### **Marina Žiaranová**

Marina has an extraordinary ability to weave together the analytical precision of science with the expressive depth of the arts. Her unique interdisciplinary talent was showcased in a sophisticated coursework exploration centered on a harmonograph, which she meticulously built and adapted to account for complex dampening forces, then performed a rigorous mathematical analysis of the resulting Lissajous curves,



Sofie Sláčiková  
Interwoven Family

transforming raw data into stunning geometric masterpieces. This rare capacity to bridge the gap between mechanical engineering, trigonometric modelling and aesthetic composition marks Marina as a true polymath who approaches every challenge with a combination of scientific rigour and artistic vision.

#### 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

##### **Joseph Litster**

Joseph has made an outstanding contribution to the school community this year through a powerful combination of his natural leadership and genuine care for others. He has been a true unifying force within his year group, playing an important role in keeping spirits high. He has consistently risen to the occasion when people have needed support, bringing his peers together while ensuring everyone has felt valued. He connects easily with others and has gradually grown into someone who has earned the respect and trust of students across the community. He is known for his warmth and charm, as well as his willingness to step forward and lift the mood when energy has been low. Thoughtful, highly communicative and committed to others, Joseph has demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility towards those around him.

#### THE JAN BARTA PRIZE

##### **Anna Marion Andrášková**

This award is presented to Anna, a student whose time at the College has been defined by a rare blend of academic resilience, entrepreneurial spirit and steadfast integrity. Anna has made an indelible mark on the ECP community, most notably through her leadership of the Václav Havel Scholarship (VHS) auction. Approaching the role with distinct professionalism, she consistently sought out unconventional and innovative methods to secure unique items, ensuring the event's success, through her natural knack for entrepreneurialism. Beyond her charitable endeavours, Anna's diverse interests - ranging from the Investment Club and competitive sport to the Cultural Olympiad - demonstrate her ambition and well-rounded character. What truly sets her apart, however, is her personal strength. She has demonstrated true resilience, navigating a series of challenges with grace while remaining a committed and high-achieving student. She is known for "doing things her own way," remaining fiercely loyal to her ideals and proving herself to be a selfless and devoted friend to those around her. As Anna embarks on the next chapter of her life, we have no doubt that her ambition and unique perspective will lead her to excel in any career path she chooses. Congratulations, Anna, and good luck on your onward journey.

## Tomáš Mašovský

The Jan Barta Prize honours the high-impact spirit of its benefactor - a quality Tomáš embodies through his quiet excellence. An understated workhorse who thrives without seeking the spotlight, he has become a pillar of our community through academic mastery and practical initiative. Tomáš translated Economic theory into impact by organising a charity tennis tournament, securing autographed items for auction and raising nearly €900 for underprivileged youth. Beyond this philanthropy, his commitment to the school includes serving as a dependable leader in House roles and setting up a Finance and Investment Club to empower younger students. What sets Tomáš apart is his intrinsic desire to truly understand each concept,

self-studying complex ideas until he is satisfied. This intellectual curiosity serves as the foundation for his entrepreneurial drive. Tomáš's determination to excel is not limited to his own achievements, he is also committed to giving back to the community. In doing so, Tomáš captures the essence of the entrepreneurial spirit: seeing a need and having the discipline to meet it. Tomáš does not shout his achievements; he simply delivers them, leading by example to earn the respect of the school community through his persistent hard work and humility. In his ability to combine a sharp mind for business with a heart for service, Tomáš perfectly mirrors the entrepreneurial legacy of Jan Barta. He leaves the school not just with high marks, but with a blueprint for how to lead with integrity.



Anna Litster  
Structured Nature



Ivan Vahin  
Suspended Paneláky



Martin Chytil  
Ascending Order

## A NOTE ON THE IB PRIZES

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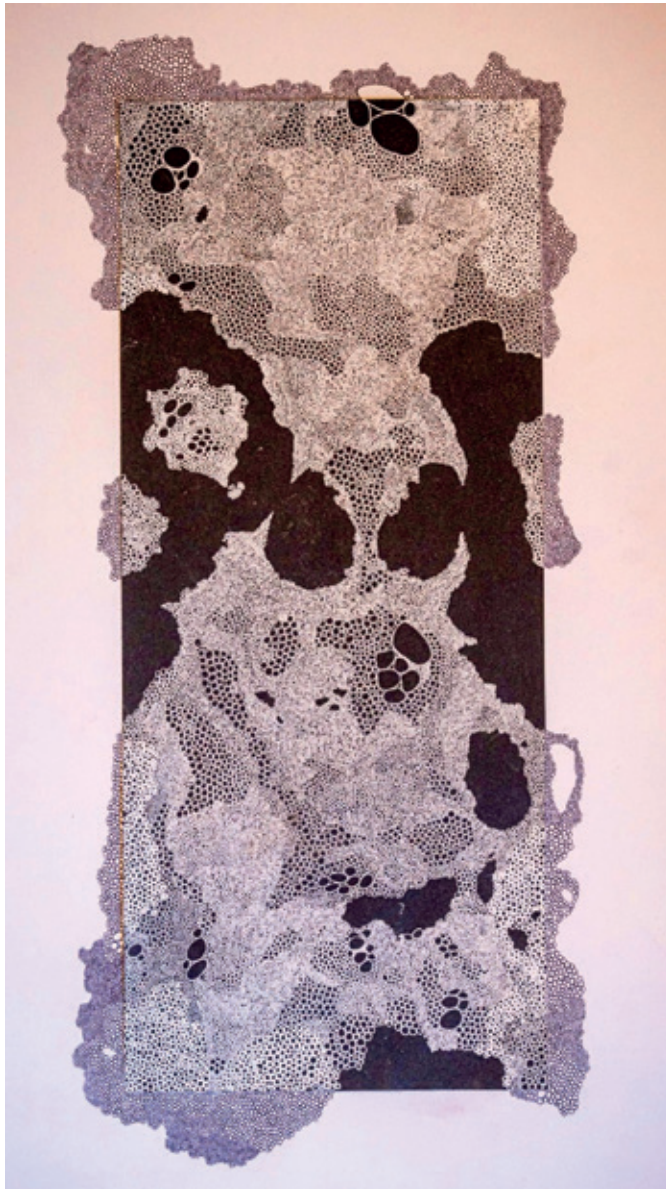
Every year teachers nominate students who have made a notable contribution to their subject for the specific subject prize. There are also Special Prizes that recognise a student's broader talents and achievements. For these prizes students are usually nominated by the broader school community.

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.

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Soňa Balážová  
What Makes Us

# SUBJECT PRIZES

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## NEWLY NAMED PRIZES

### **The Professor Brian Cox Prize for Physics**

Professor Brian Cox is one of the most prominent physicists of his generation and an inspiring communicator of science to global audiences. A particle physicist and Professor of Physics at the University of Manchester, his research has contributed to major international collaborations, including work at CERN, home of the Large Hadron Collider, where scientists

explore the fundamental structure of the universe. Beyond academia, Professor Cox is widely known for his work in science communication. Through acclaimed television series such as *Wonders of the Universe* and *The Planets*, and radio show and podcast, *The Infinite Monkey Cage*, he has brought complex ideas in physics and cosmology to millions, combining clarity, enthusiasm, and a deep sense of wonder about the natural world. Earlier in his career, he was also a musician,

performing with the bands D:Ream and Dare - an unusual path that reflects the breadth of his talents and interests.

Brian Cox has received numerous honours for his contributions to science and public engagement and he continues to play a leading role in inspiring young people to pursue careers in STEM. In 2020, he was awarded a CBE for services to the promotion of science.

We are therefore extremely proud that Professor Cox has agreed to lend his name to the IB Physics Prize at the English College in Prague. His association with this award reflects the values we seek to celebrate: curiosity, analytical rigour, and a passion for understanding the fundamental laws that govern our universe.

### **The Sir Anthony Seldon Prize for History**

Sir Anthony Seldon is widely known for his authoritative biographies of British Prime Ministers, including studies of John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Boris Johnson and Liz Truss. His work has helped shape public understanding of political leadership in recent decades, combining rigorous scholarship with a rare ability to bring contemporary history to life.

Alongside his academic achievements, Sir Anthony has had a remarkable career in education. He has served as Headmaster of Wellington College, Epsom College

and Brighton College, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buckingham, and in 2009, founded the Wellington Academy, the first state school to carry the name of its founding independent school. Throughout his career, he has been a passionate advocate for character education, wellbeing and the transformative power of schools to shape not only intellect, but also values and resilience.

Sir Anthony devised AI in Education, the Museum of the Prime Minister and the Western Front Way. He is also the co-founder of Action for Happiness, reflecting his longstanding commitment to mental wellbeing and the development of happier, more fulfilled lives.

In recognition of his contribution to education and contemporary history, Sir Anthony was knighted in 2014.

We are therefore very proud that Sir Anthony has agreed to lend his name to the IB History Prize at the English College in Prague. His association with this award reflects the values we seek to celebrate: intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and a deep engagement with the forces that have shaped our world.

### **The Viktor Frankl Prize for Psychology**

Viktor Frankl was a visionary Austrian psychiatrist and psychotherapist whose life and work redefined our understanding of the human spirit. As the founder of Logo-

therapy—often heralded as the “Third Viennese School” of psychotherapy alongside Freud and Adler—Frankl proposed a revolutionary shift in the psychological landscape. He argued that the primary drive of a human being is not pleasure or power, but the “will to meaning.” His belief that life holds potential meaning under any conditions, even the most miserable ones, has made him one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century.

Frankl’s intellectual journey began in Vienna, where as a young student he corresponded with Sigmund Freud and collaborated with Alfred Adler. However, his theories were truly forged in the crucible of the Holocaust. Between 1942 and 1945, Frankl survived four Nazi concentration camps, including Theresienstadt and Auschwitz. Amidst unimaginable brutality, he became a profound observer of the human condition, noting that those who found a “why” to live for were the most likely to endure. This harrowing experience transformed his academic theories into a lived philosophy, proving that while we cannot always choose our circumstances, we retain the ultimate freedom to choose our attitude toward them.

The publication of his seminal work, *Man’s Search for Meaning*, catapulted Frankl onto the international stage. Dictated in just nine days following his liberation, the book has sold millions of copies in dozens of languages and remains

a cornerstone of both psychological and philosophical literature. It is not merely a memoir of the camps, but a roadmap for resilience that continues to resonate with readers navigating their own “existential vacuums.”

Throughout his later years, Frankl’s influence spanned the globe. He held professorships at the University of Vienna and several American universities, including Harvard and Stanford, and founded the Viktor Frankl Institute in 1992. His legacy is defined by a tireless commitment to the idea that scientific enquiry and the search for the soul are not mutually exclusive. In a world of increasing complexity, Frankl’s work serves as a timeless reminder that the search for meaning is the most profound and necessary journey a human being can undertake.

### **The Federico García Lorca Prize for Spanish**

Federico García Lorca is widely regarded as the most significant Spanish poet and playwright of the 20th century. In a career spanning less than two decades, he revitalised the Spanish canon by weaving together traditional folk roots with bold, avant-garde experimentation. Often credited with inaugurating a second “Golden Age” of Spanish theatre, Lorca’s work transcends national boundaries, speaking to universal themes of passion, repression, and the human spirit.

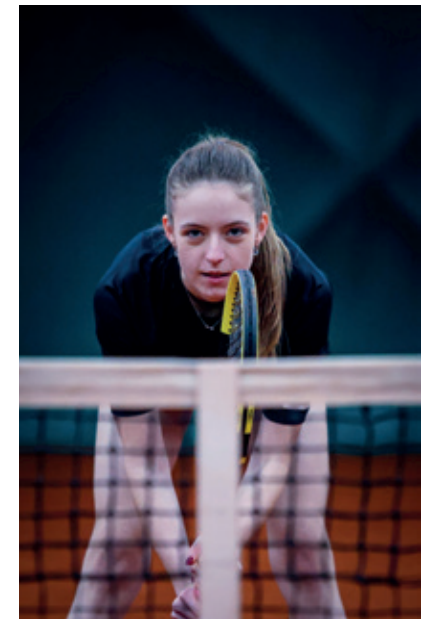


Daniela Kadeřábková  
Expiration Date - 17 Years Old

Born in the heart of Andalusia, Lorca's artistic identity was deeply rooted in the rural traditions and music of his homeland. Originally trained as a gifted pianist, his deep connection to cante jondo (deep song) provided his poetry with a unique rhythmic and lyrical quality that remains a defining feature of his work. His move to the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid marked a pivotal moment in cultural history; there, alongside Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel, he became a leading light of the "Generation of '27." This group of visionaries sought to bridge the gap between Spanish heritage and European modernism, a feat Lorca achieved spectacularly with the publication of *Romancero gitano* (Gypsy Ballads), which elevated Andalusian folklore to the level of global myth.

Lorca's influence extended far beyond the page and onto the stage. Through his travelling theatre company, *La Barraca*, he brought classical Spanish drama to the rural masses, democratising art in a way few had dared before. His "Rural Trilogy"—comprising the tragedies *Blood Wedding*, *Yerma*, and *The House of Bernarda Alba*—remains a cornerstone of international theatre, celebrated for its searing exploration of social codes and the stifling of individual freedom. His time in America further broadened his perspective, resulting in *Poet in New York*, a haunting critique of industrial isolation that solidified his status as a world-class social commentator.

Tragically, Lorca's life was cut short at the age of 38, executed by Nationalist forces at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. Yet, his legacy as a symbol of cultural freedom and artistic courage remains untouched. He is remembered not only for his technical mastery but for his pursuit of *duende*—that dark, soul-stirring power that lies at the heart of all great art. Today, Lorca stands as a testament to the enduring power of the creative voice against the silence of oppression.



Daniela Kadeřábková  
Under the Lens



Esme Kálovcová  
You, Me, Us and Them

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### 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

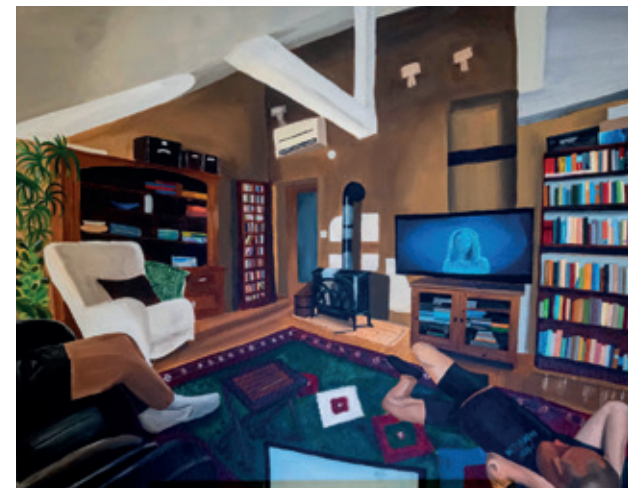
and wanting to put right what did not work. He was an excellent observer and had a remarkable knowledge of people, their lives, weaknesses and virtues. While Karel explored the visible world, Josef was more interested in the inner, invisible world. Both of them resisted Fascism and spoke out when human and moral values in society were threatened. Josef died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

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### 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.



Esme Kálovcová  
Sunday Afternoon

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### 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!”

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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 organisations. 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.



Jakub Jaroš  
The Gallery Wall Series



### The Tim Marshall Prize for Geography

Tim Marshall is a British journalist, author, and broadcaster specialising in foreign affairs and international diplomacy. Formerly the Foreign Affairs Editor at Sky News, he spent thirty years reporting from the front lines of global conflicts, including the Balkan wars - where he remained in Belgrade during the Kosovo crisis - and the Arab Spring. He served as a Middle

East Correspondent in Jerusalem and headed the Sky News bureau in Brussels. Marshall is the author of the international bestseller *Prisoners of Geography*, which explores how physical terrain shapes political destiny. A respected commentator for the BBC, Sky News and the Royal Geographical Society, his work bridges the gap between historical context and the shifting landscape of the contemporary world order.

### The Tomáš Sedláček Prize for Economics

Tomáš Sedláček is a Czech economist and philosopher celebrated for his interdisciplinary approach to the “soul” of economics. He served as an economic advisor to President Václav Havel and spent 16 years as the Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at a major Czech bank. He gained international acclaim for his book *Economics of Good and Evil*, which has

been translated into 22 languages and traces economic thought through history, myth and philosophy. A former Yale World Fellow and a long-standing member of the Czech National Economic Council, Sedláček is a frequent speaker at the World Economic Forum. Throughout his career, he has advocated for bringing the ethical foundations of Western society into the center of economic debate.



Anna Litster  
Picture Perfect City

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## 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 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.

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## 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 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.

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## The Ian Mikyska Prize for Music

Ian Mikyska, born in 1994, is a Prague-based 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. 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.

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## The Sir Tom Stoppard Prize for Drama

Sir Tom Stoppard, born Tomáš Stráussler in 1937 in Zlín, was 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.



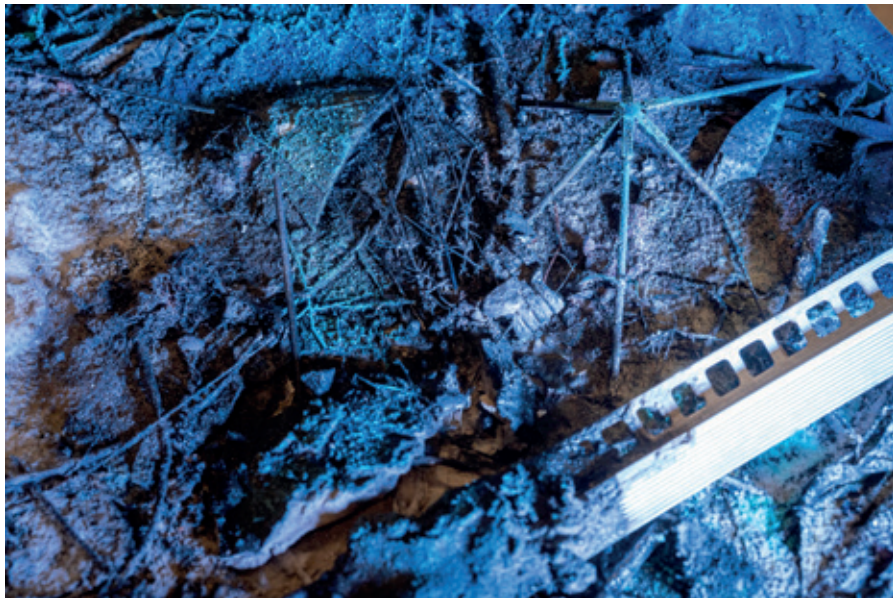
Nico Cirkl  
Peccatores

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## 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.



Ivan Vahin  
Surface Tension

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## 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 honoured by the College through the establishment of the Upper School German prize in his name.



Ivan Vahin  
Surface Tension

## The Dr Jane Goodall Prize for Environmental Systems and Societies

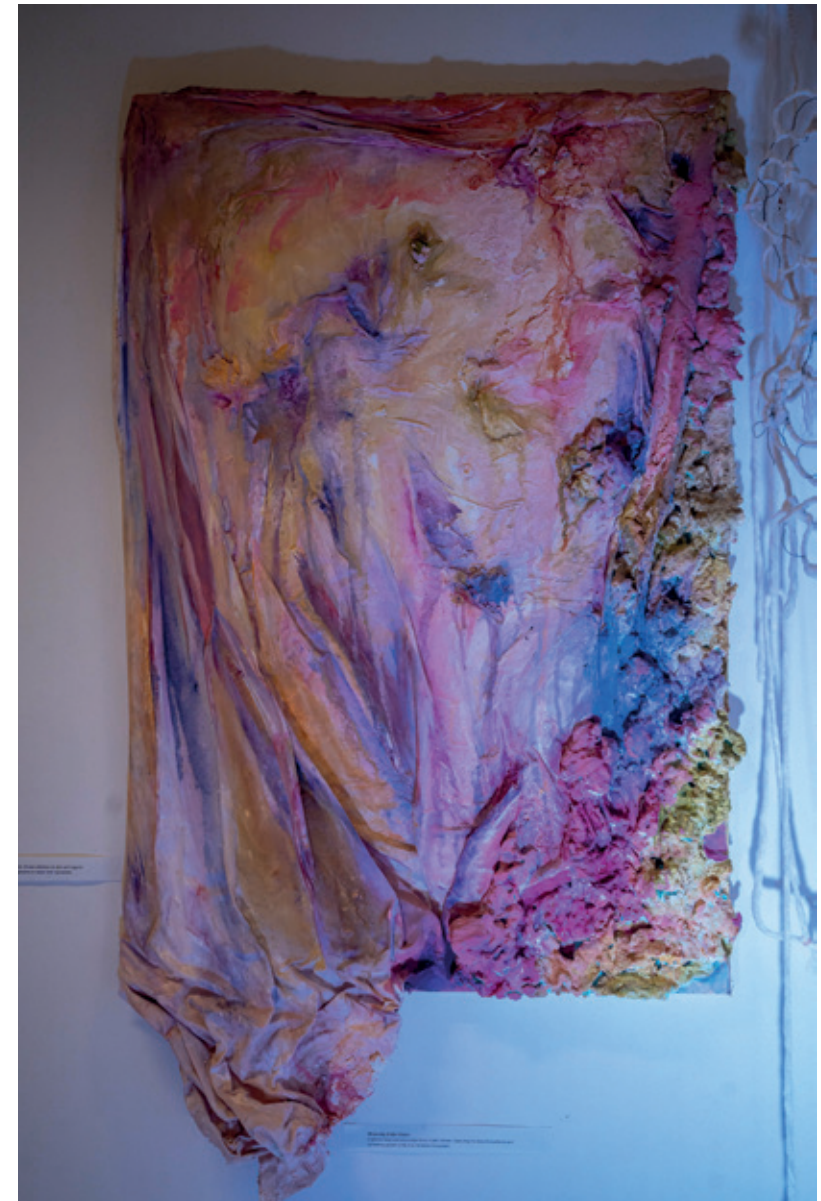
Jane Goodall, born in 1934, was a renowned British ethologist celebrated for her groundbreaking long-term research on chimpanzees in Tanzania's Gombe Stream National Park. Despite lacking a formal undergraduate degree, she earned a PhD from Cambridge University due to her exceptional field observations. 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 authored numerous books and articles. Goodall 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.



Soňa Balážová  
Decay



Soňa Balážová  
Regeneration

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### 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.

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### 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.



Karolína Hamdanová  
Constructing Childlike Perfection



Ivan Vahin, System Failure (Top Left)  
 Ivan Vahin, Surface Tension (Top Right),  
 Ivan Vahin, Concrete Memory (Bottom Left),  
 Eliška Tuček, The Silent Coup (Bottom Right)  
 Anna Litster, Overlapping City (Far Right)

### 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 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 was 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.

### The Ernest Gellner Prize for TOK

Ernest 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 Revolution, he returned to Prague, where he passed away 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.



Soňa Balážová  
The Composition

# SPECIAL PRIZES

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## **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).

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## **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.

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### 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.



Esmé Kálovcová  
You, Me, Us and Them

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### 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,

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.

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### 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.

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### 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.



Nico Cirkl  
Divitiae



Anhelina Romenets  
St Angelina

## 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 over 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 2026, 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, or at university in the same country, 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](mailto:gina.hearn@englishcollege.cz)



ECPN New Year Party 2026

# Gaudeamus Igitur

## LATIN

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

*Vivat academia!  
Vivant professores!  
Vivat membrum quodlibet;  
Vivant membra quaelibet;  
Semper sint in flore.*

## ENGLISH

*Let us rejoice, therefore,  
While we are young.  
After a pleasant youth  
After a troubling old age  
The earth will have us.*

*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.  
SOKOLOVSKÁ 320, PRAGUE 9, 190 00, CZECH REPUBLIC