Discovery Centre
Celebrating Ten years



‘Over the past decade, our partnership with the Lillingstone Trust has inspired curiosity, widened opportunity and enriched the lives of thousands of young people across our community.’

Ian Chislett – Headteacher, Royal Latin School

Introduction from Headteacher

The Lillingstone Trust is an education charity based in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. Its Chairman, John Lane, believes passionately that science holds the key to the nation's future, and is determined to bring its wonder and understanding to the whole community.

The Trust was one of the principal donors towards the construction of our Discovery Centre in 2015, and its generosity is recognised in the naming of the Lillingstone Trust Community Laboratory. That support has continued ever since, funding a rich annual programme of science and sports science lectures, together with an outreach programme now reaching 14 local primary schools. Each year, the Trust's bursaries also enable a number of our sixth-form students to go on to study STEM courses at university.

This report offers a glimpse of the remarkable partnership we have enjoyed at Royal Latin – one that has enriched and inspired the lives of so many, both within our school and across our wider community. On behalf of everyone at Royal Latin, thank you to the trustees for your enduring support.



Ian Chislett
Headteacher
Royal Latin School



Ian Chislett (left) with John Lane and the Lillingstone Trust committee at the 10th anniversary Lillingstone Lecture in July 2026

10th anniversary year highlights

10th Anniversary Lillingstone Lecture: Dame Maggie Aderin – 'Reaching for the Stars'





In July 2026, over 200 students, parents, alumni and members of the wider community gathered at Royal Latin for a fitting way to mark a milestone: our 10th anniversary lecture with Dame Dr Maggie Aderin MBE, the space scientist and broadcaster who has spent her career persuading the world that science belongs to everyone.

Dame Maggie traced her journey from a childhood spent gazing at the stars to a career at the forefront of space science, and did so with her natural warmth, humour and honesty. She spoke about the obstacles and her achievements and her impressive determination to succeed in a field where she often had to challenge expectations. Her core message was that you can reach for the stars – be curious, resilient and ambitious.

This special evening was a fitting celebration of the 10-year partnership with the Lillingstone Trust – a milestone made all the richer by an inspiring lecture that delivered the spark that our partnership exists to light.

'***It was such a privilege to be able to attend this wonderful talk from such an esteemed scientist . . . we thoroughly enjoyed the talk and Dame Dr Aderin's honesty and openness about her career.***' *Lecture attendee*

In the 10th academic year of our partnership we delivered:

Lillingstone Lecture Series

4 science lectures and 3 sports science lectures with 550 lecture attendees

Primary School outreach

Science Festival with 425 Year 5 students

300 pieces of science equipment loaned to local primary schools during the year

Sports Science outreach:

Football, Netball and Multi Skills Festivals with 300 children from local primary schools

Supporting future teachers

Primary Staff PE Training Course held for SCITT teacher trainees and local primary school teachers

Looking back at 10 years of partnership













‘Thank you for inviting us to the Science Festival. The children had an amazing time and have been talking about it all week.’
Primary school teacher (Science Festival)

‘Thank you for a fantastic evening. It was a wonderful way to introduce them to the wonders of science. My 10-year-old has been full of questions ever since. Many thanks for a wonderful opportunity.’
Brownie parent

‘I just wanted to say a massive thank you for all the effort and time you’ve put into planning today. The children had a really good time!’
Primary school teacher (Sports Festival)

Wednesday night’s Lillingstone Trust community lecture was terrific - full house, with very intelligent questions from the audience including many sixth formers . . . You should feel very proud.”
Lillingstone Lecture attendee

‘I am so grateful to have been awarded the scholarship - thank you so much. It really has enabled me to be focused during times of stress and levelled the playing field between myself and my peers.’
University scholarship student

‘Really enjoyed it, a good mix of practical and theoretical tasks. Thank you.’
Teacher trainee



Each year about 400 Year 5 children have taken part in our annual Science Festival week.



100s of Children from 14 local primary schools have participated in our sports festivals.



5,000 attendees from the school and local community have attended over 70 Science and Sports Science Lillingstone Lectures.



Every year around 20 teacher trainees and local primary school teachers benefit from a course on teaching PE.



A diverse array of community groups have used the Lillingstone Trust Community Laboratory – from U3A Science, to the Fire Service, Scouts, Citizens Advice Bureau, to name a few.



Around 30 RLS students have benefited from the Lillingstone Trust Scholarship Scheme, enabling students from lower-income families to study a STEM subject at university.