

River of Hope 2025

Norfolk & Norwich Sails



riverofhope.co.uk

Artist Summary



Lead Visual Artist: Ali Atkins

Workshops and Residencies 2023-2025

Created are designs that celebrate the importance and value of Norfolk's unique waterways. From rare and protected chalk streams to a diverse network of rivers, broads and wetlands, Norfolk is home to internationally important habitats and the wildlife they support.

Over the last two years I have been fortunate enough to work with students from 16 Norfolk schools who have shown incredible insight and understanding of their local environments and the challenges they face.

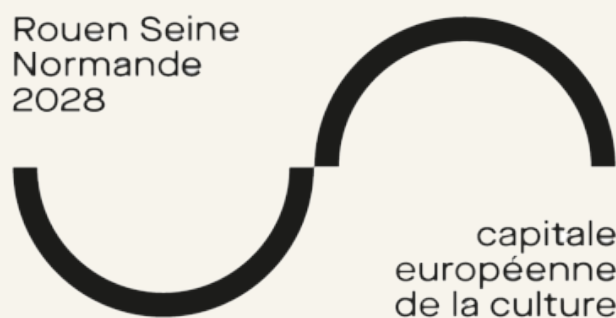
Their creative voice is presented as a series of sails designed to celebrate, raise awareness and invoke conversations on the delicate balance of sustaining healthy rivers now and in the future.

This exhibition is their opportunity to use visual art to express their hopes and concerns and ask us all to connect, value and protect our surroundings.

City Partner



Rouen Seine
Normande
2028



Supported by



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Primary Schools



Ali set out a series of creative, environmentally themed activities and collaborative work for teachers to explore local rivers with their pupils. These activities were designed to support and elevate the use of visual arts within the classroom to create designs that celebrate all that our rivers have to offer.

Using the theme of communication as a starting point, the schools were encouraged to come up with coded environmental messages using the international flag code to include in their designs.

Throughout the project the primary schools have produced two sails each, celebrating their local rivers and its wildlife, whilst highlighting our need to connect and protect.

West Lynn Primary School



Heacham Junior School



Snettisham Primary School





St. Nicholas Priory Primary School



Clenchwarton Primary School



Walpole Cross Keys Primary School



Gaywood Primary School



Secondary Schools



The high-school students produced designs by developing a unique colour story and coming up with a palette of creatively named colours to describe both positive and negative features of their local environment.

In groups, students were encouraged to interpret and represent through their colours both the physical features of the river/landscape and their emotional responses to it.

This collaborative approach offered the opportunity for all students to have environmental conversations, develop ideas and come together in the full design process of their sails.

Displayed are 20 unique colour stories, which collectively contain 320 ROH (River of Hope) 'new' colours, coordinated motifs and images to support their themed designs.

Thorpe St. Andrew High School

Hear My Prayer

Dear our wonderful river,

I require your help.

I have many fears of the world,

I need more answers,

I want to solve all problems,

I have too many questions,

There are too many problems.

I'm not asking for power,

I'm not asking for money,

I'm asking for peace,

I'm asking for joy.

So hear my prayer,

And please allow the world

To have calm flowing happiness

And only tears of joy.

I know I'm asking for a lot

But I believe you really care

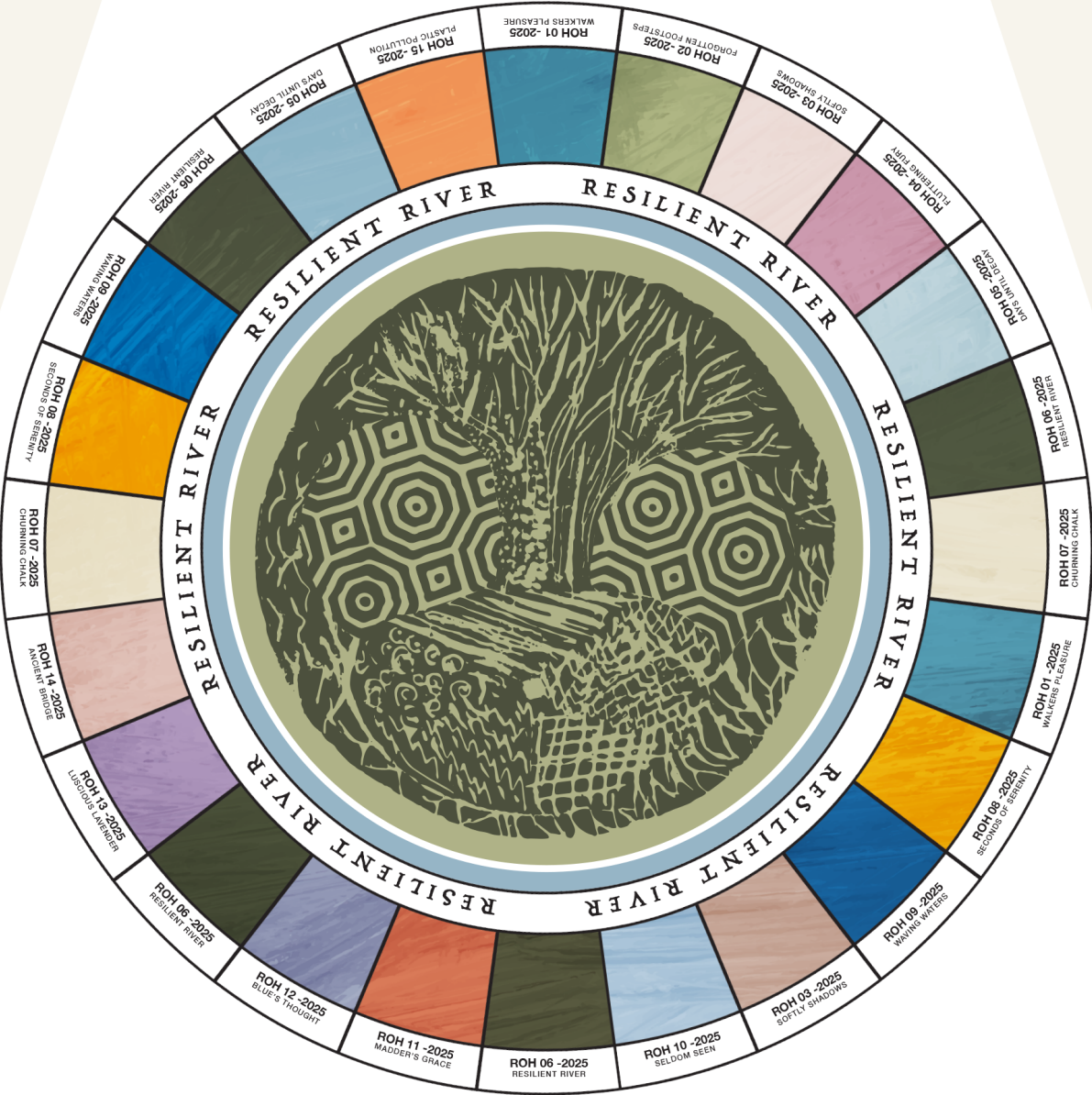
So please help me river

Because I'm trusting you

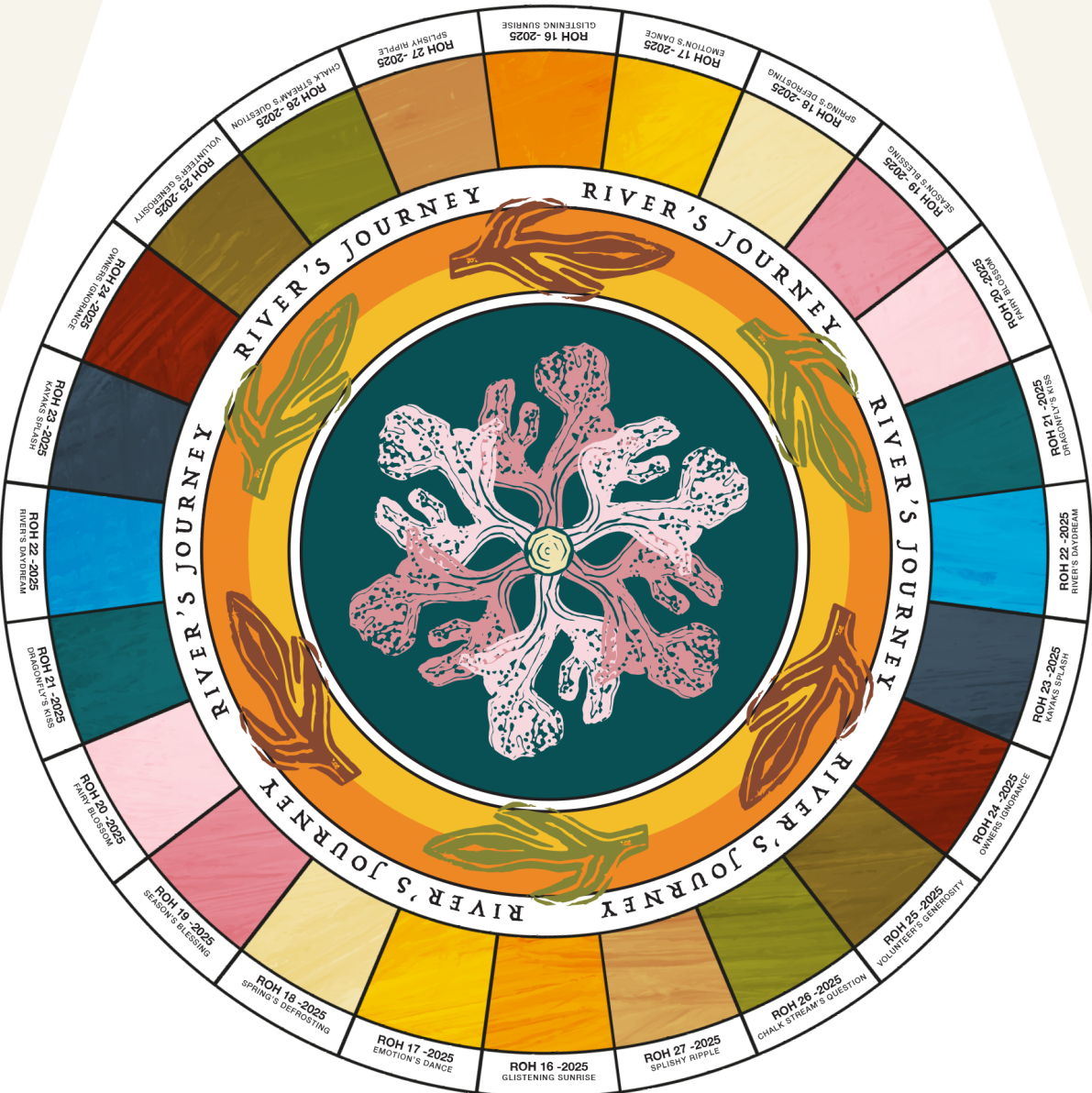
So please, hear my prayer.

Izzy Hart, Thorpe St Andrews

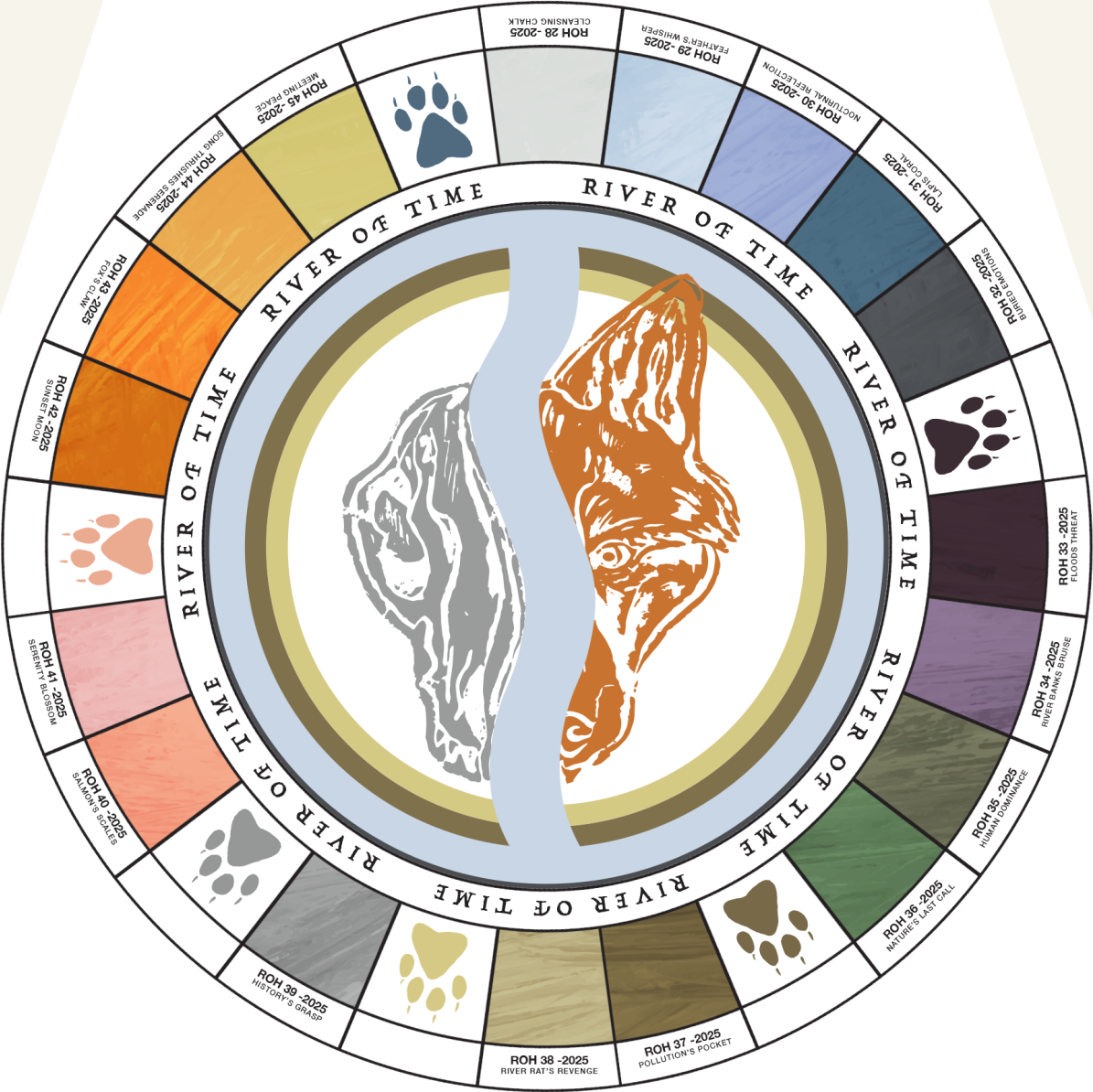
Thorpe St. Andrew High School



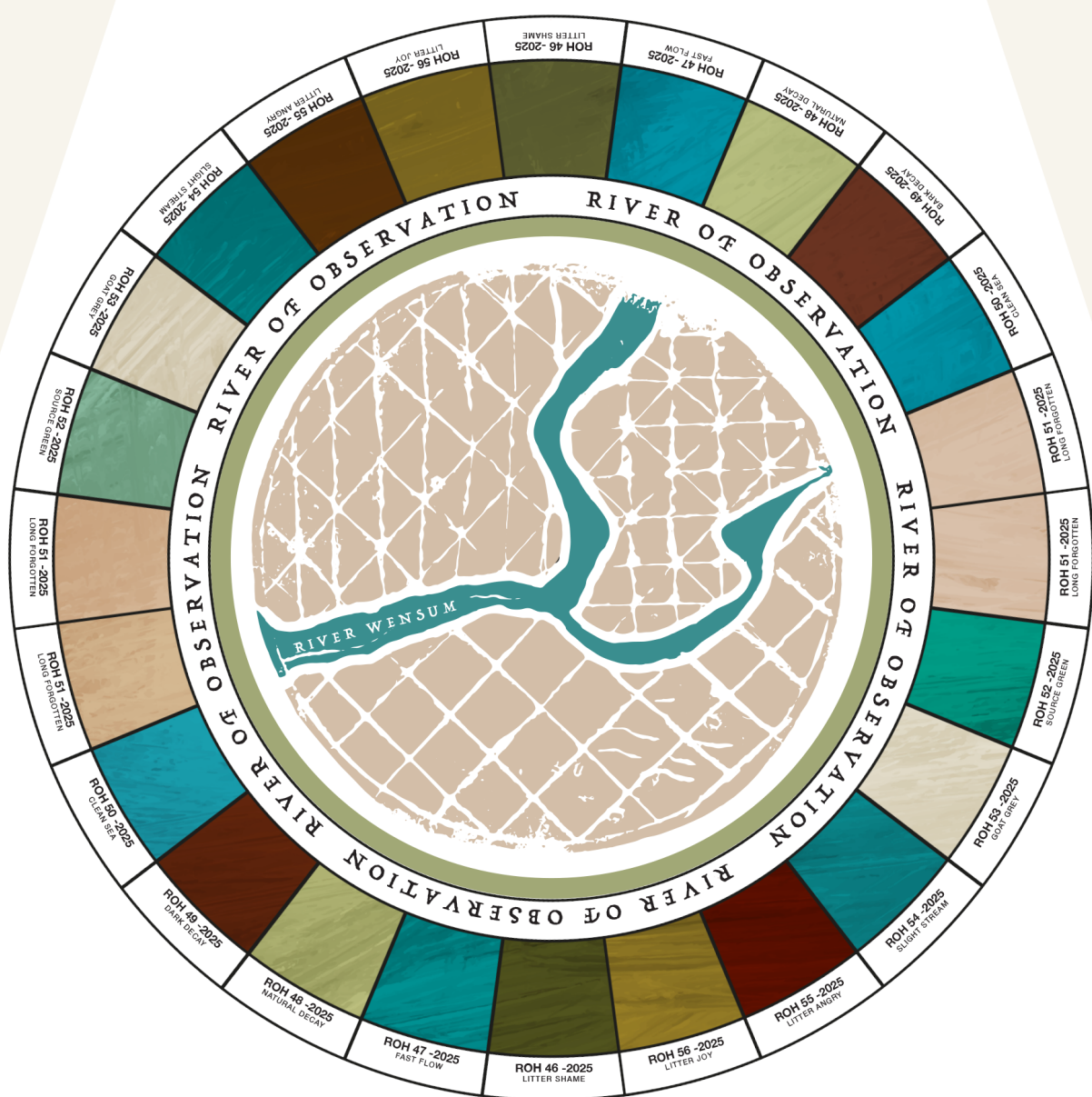
Thorpe St. Andrew High School



Thorpe St. Andrew High School



Thorpe St. Andrew High School



Hope

And then it happened.

What happened?

The river happened.

The river runs of rocks and reeds.

Bull rushes bending and spreading their

Seeds, as the river journeys on.

The leaves danced to the surface

The light cascades down through the canopy.

The canopy of ever-changing leaves.

The river widens and begins to race,

Under bridges and over glistening pebbles,

Lying alone and forgotten on the river's bed.

The ebb and flow of the ride draws the rider

Steadily onwards.

And then the river meets the gushing sea.

Reborn into something wonderful.

Something hopeful.

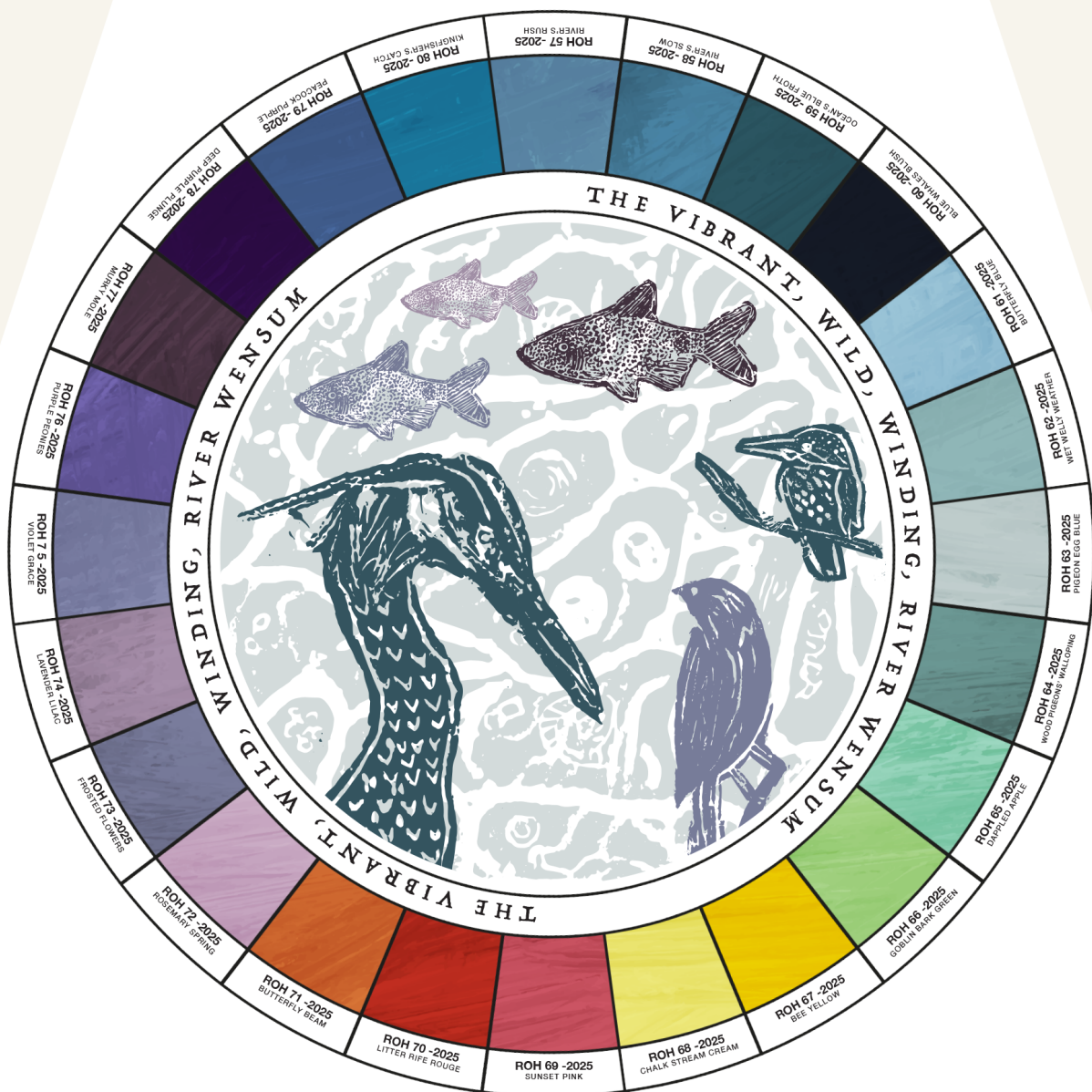
And now it's gone.

What's gone?

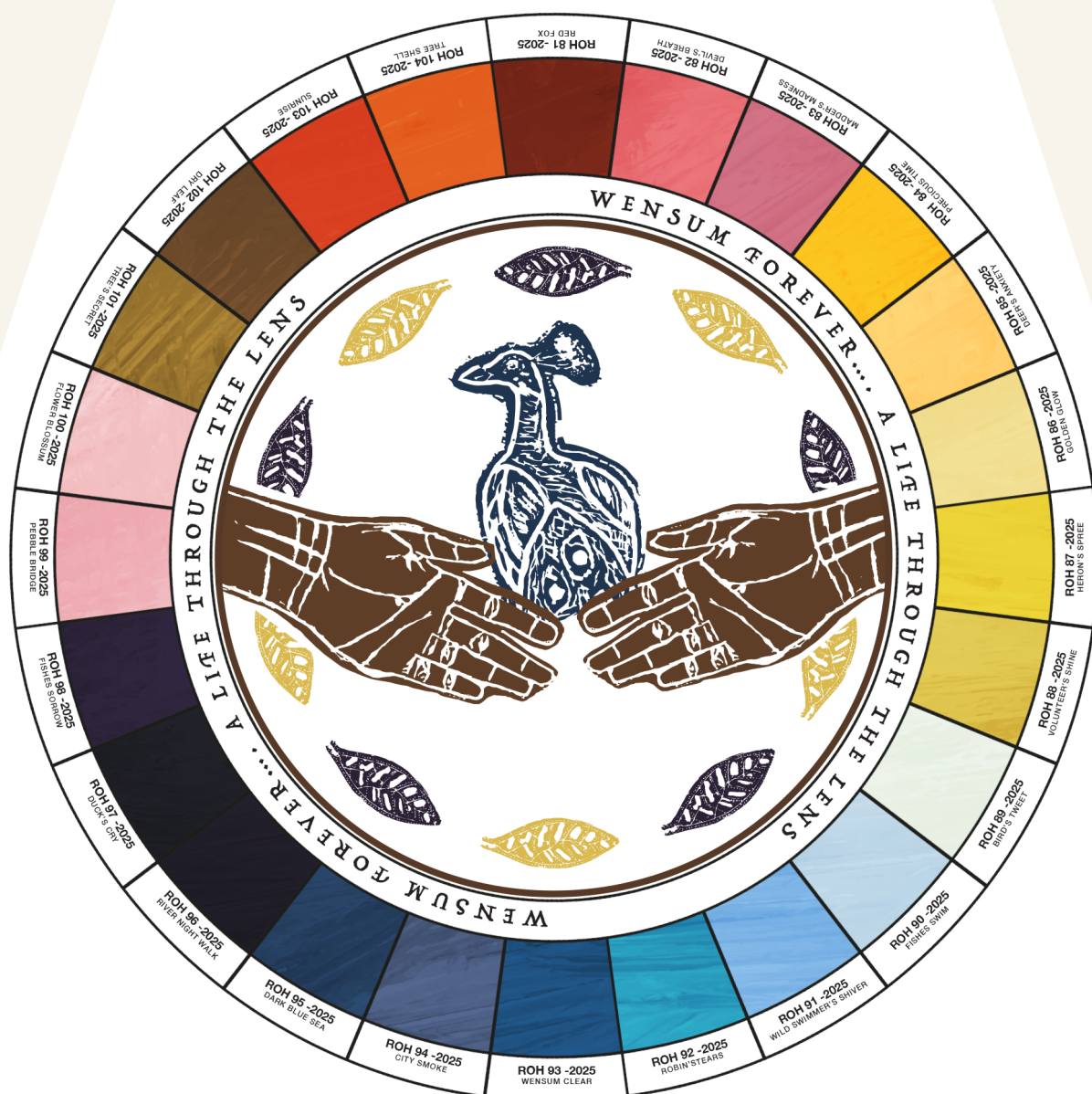
The river's gone.

Florence Jackson, Aylsham High School

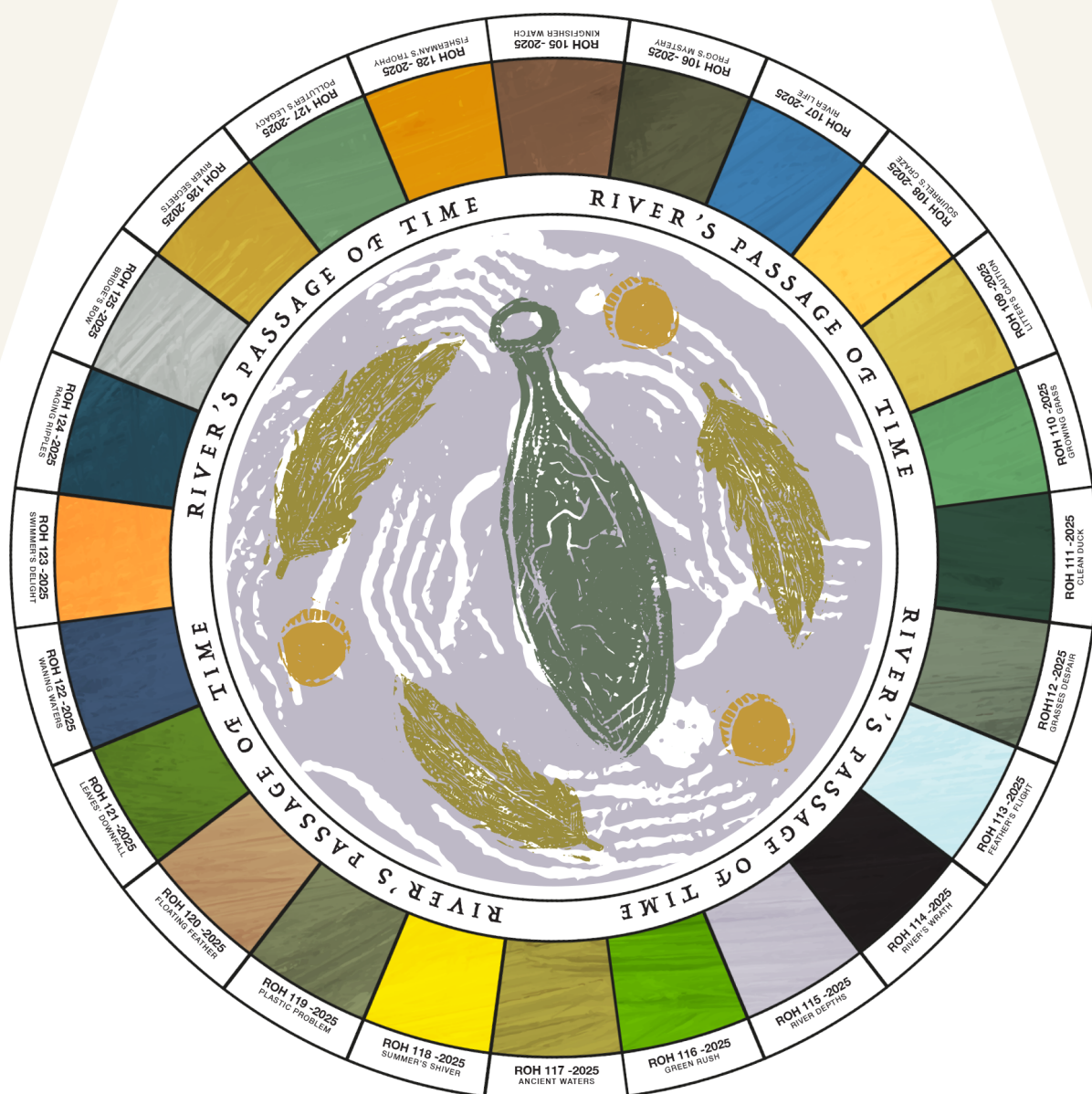
Aylsham High School



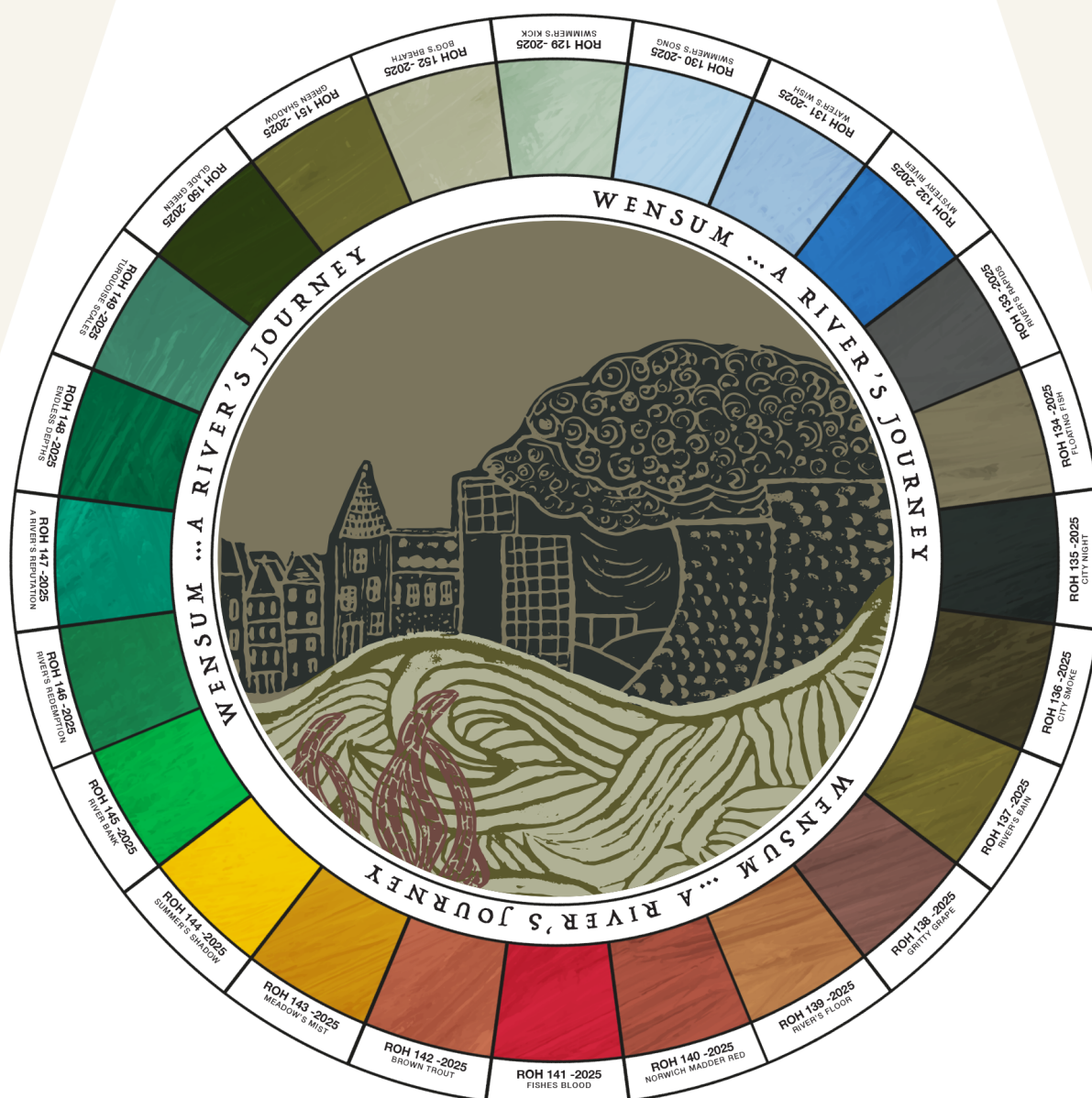
Aylsham High School



Aylsham High School



Aylsham High School



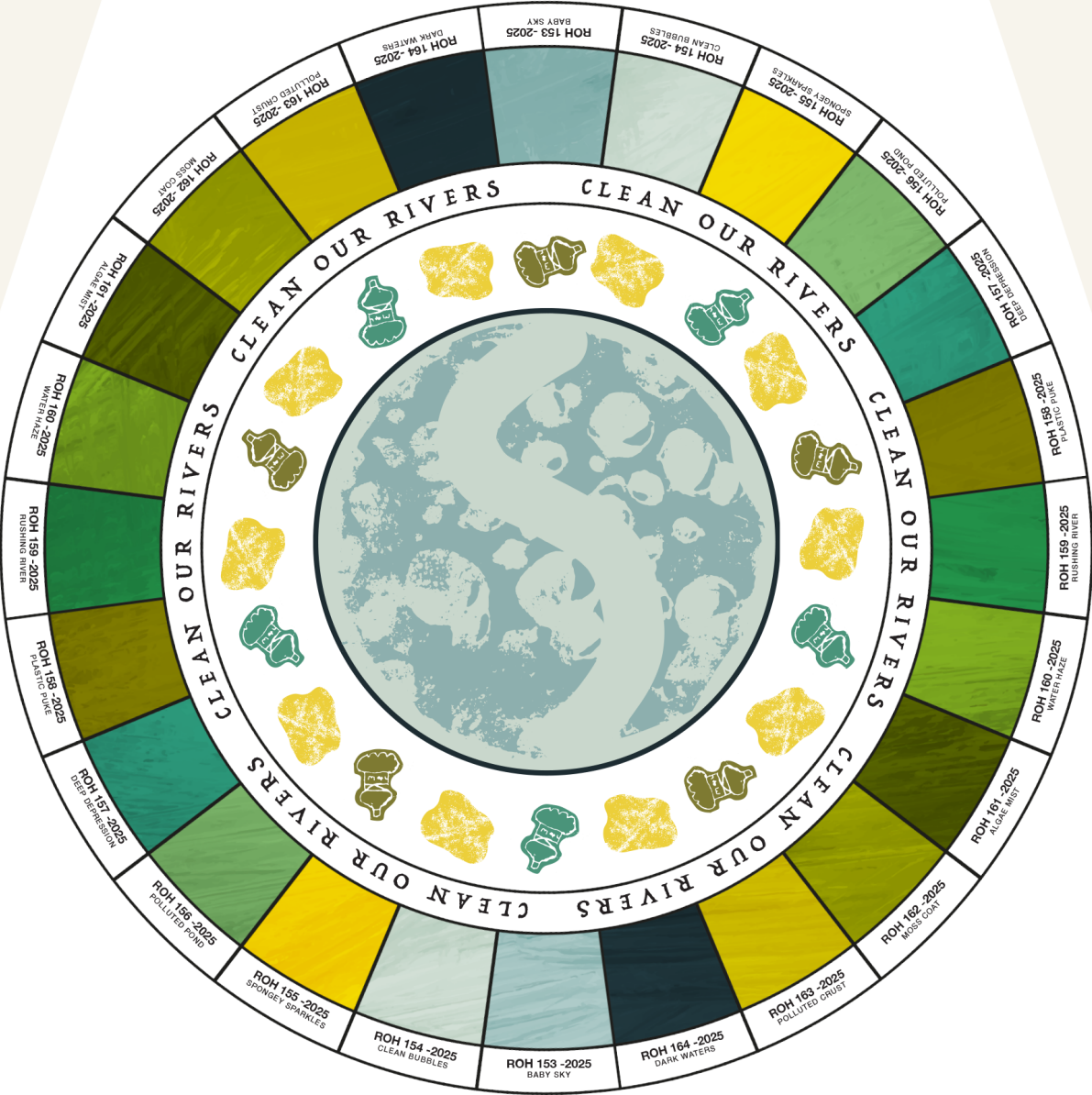
Notre Dame High School

If I Was a River

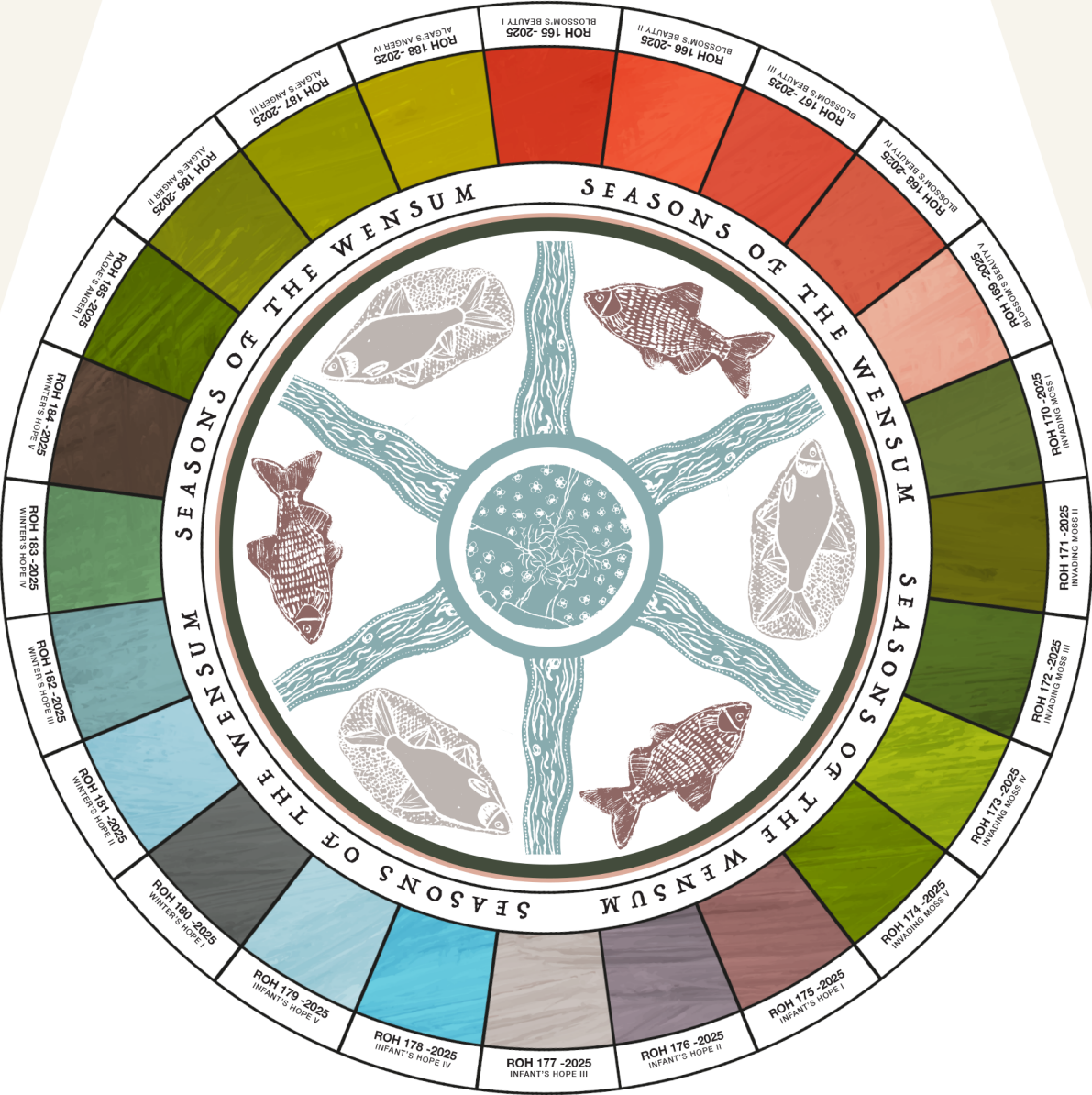
The world would be black and white, the skies
would bear no rain and the ground no fruit. If
I was a river, I would go against the tide and
break all expectations and glide along the skies.
If I was a river, a man would appear and paint
back the world with all sorts of cheer. IF I was a
river, that man would always come and clean
up all the rubbish and put it up in a shelf. If I was
a river, the grass would start to grow.

Rohit Anthony Pradeep
Notre Dame High School

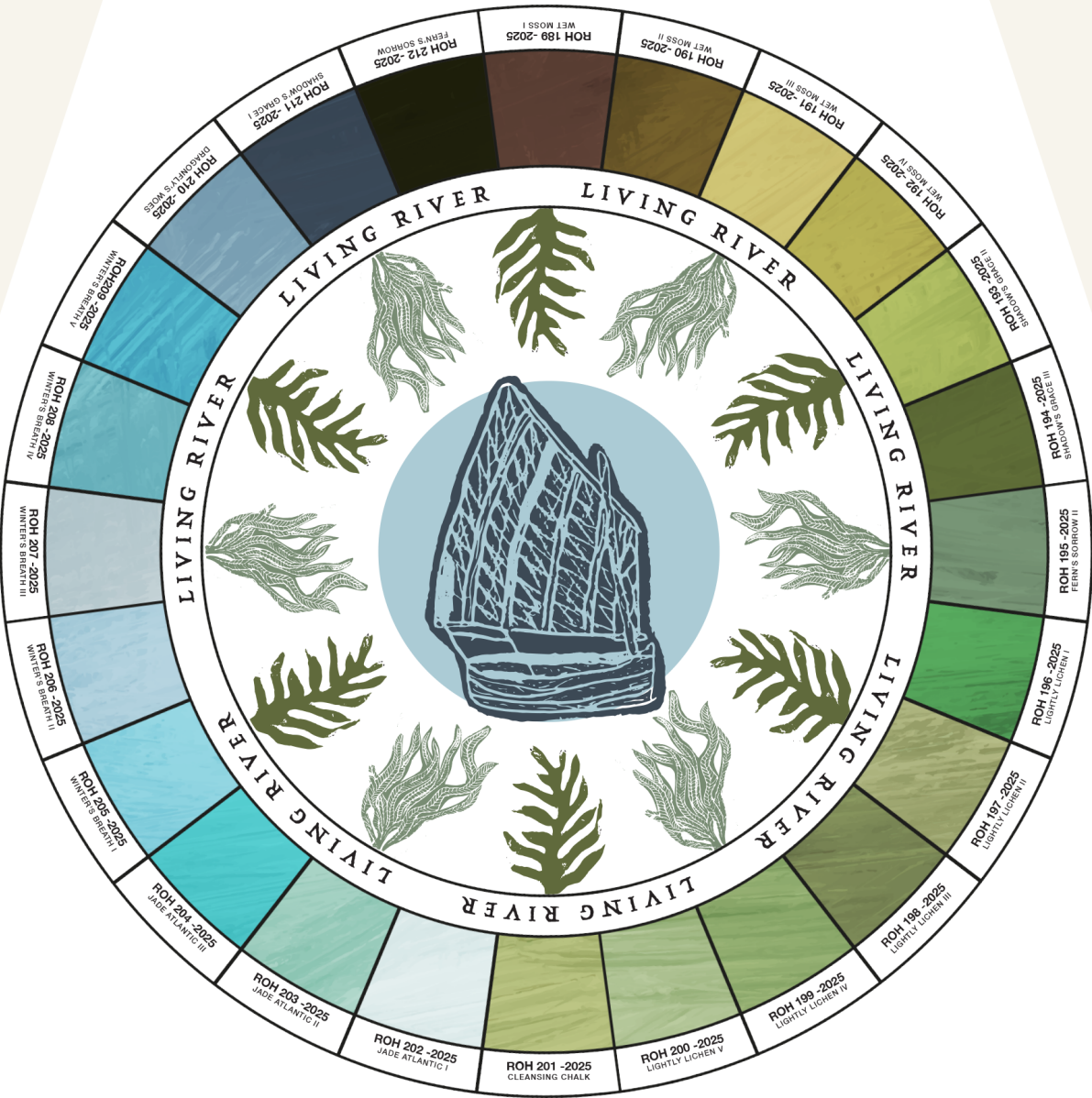
Notre Dame High School



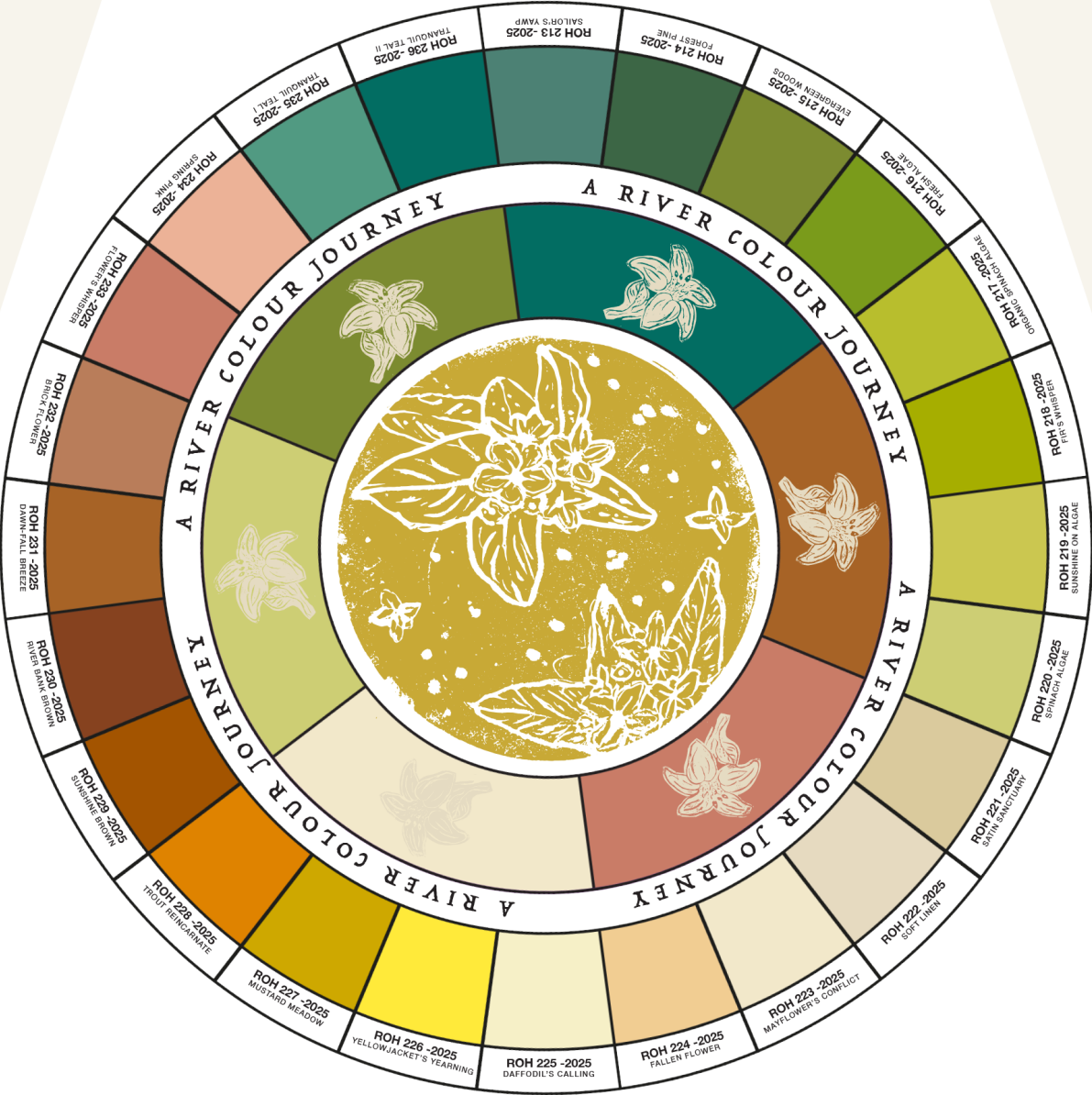
Notre Dame High School



Notre Dame High School



Notre Dame High School



Ormiston Victory Academy

Floating

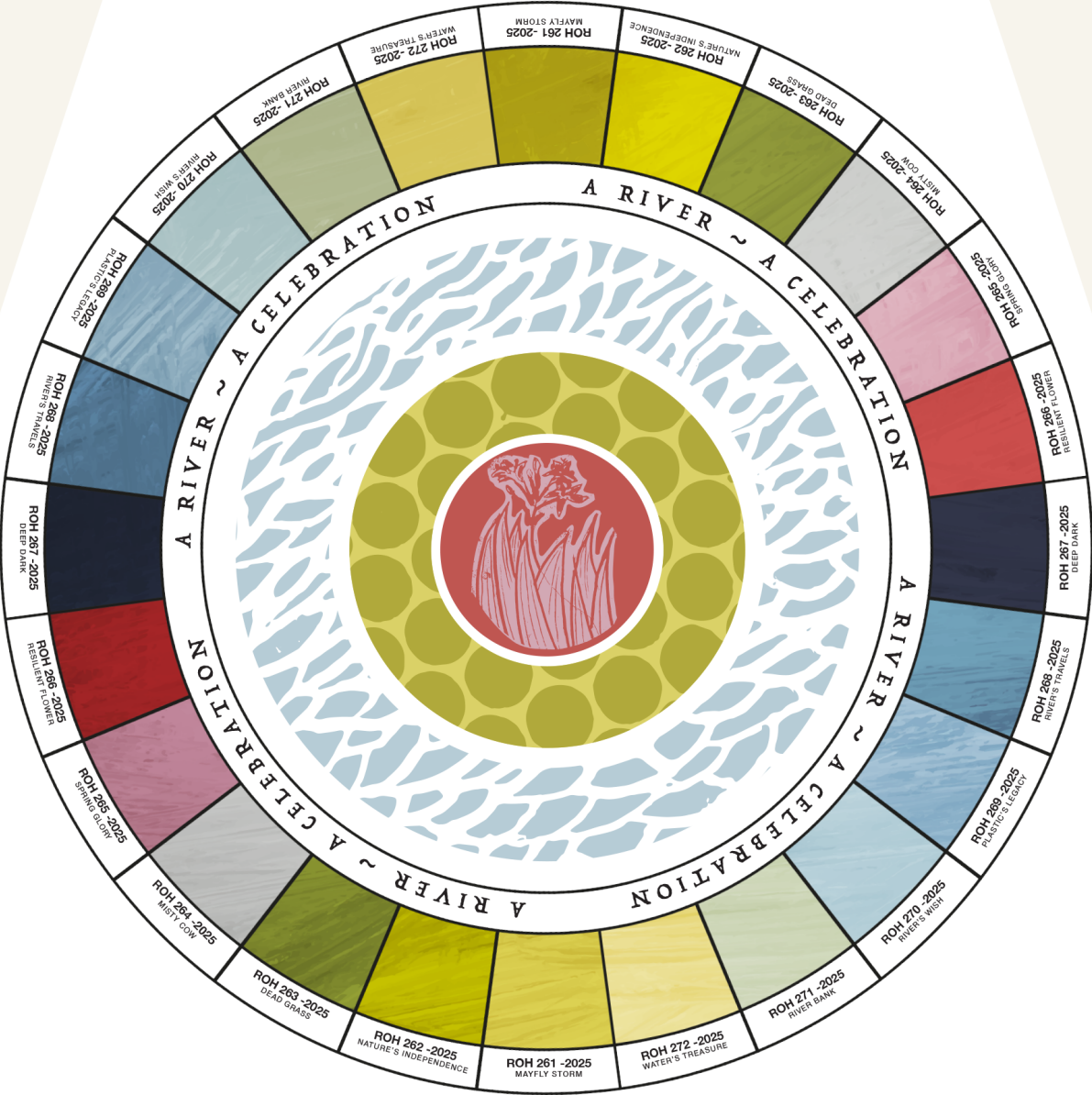
I float with the wind that the leaves dance with, hoping
to one day dance with them. I float with the birds
battling the wind wanting to help but never belong. I
float as the dance dances on the river, wanting to just
but never quite asking. I float as people pass, joyous
and full of life as I hope for a better future. I float, only
wishing but never doing.

Cristina Dogaru, Ormiston Victory Academy

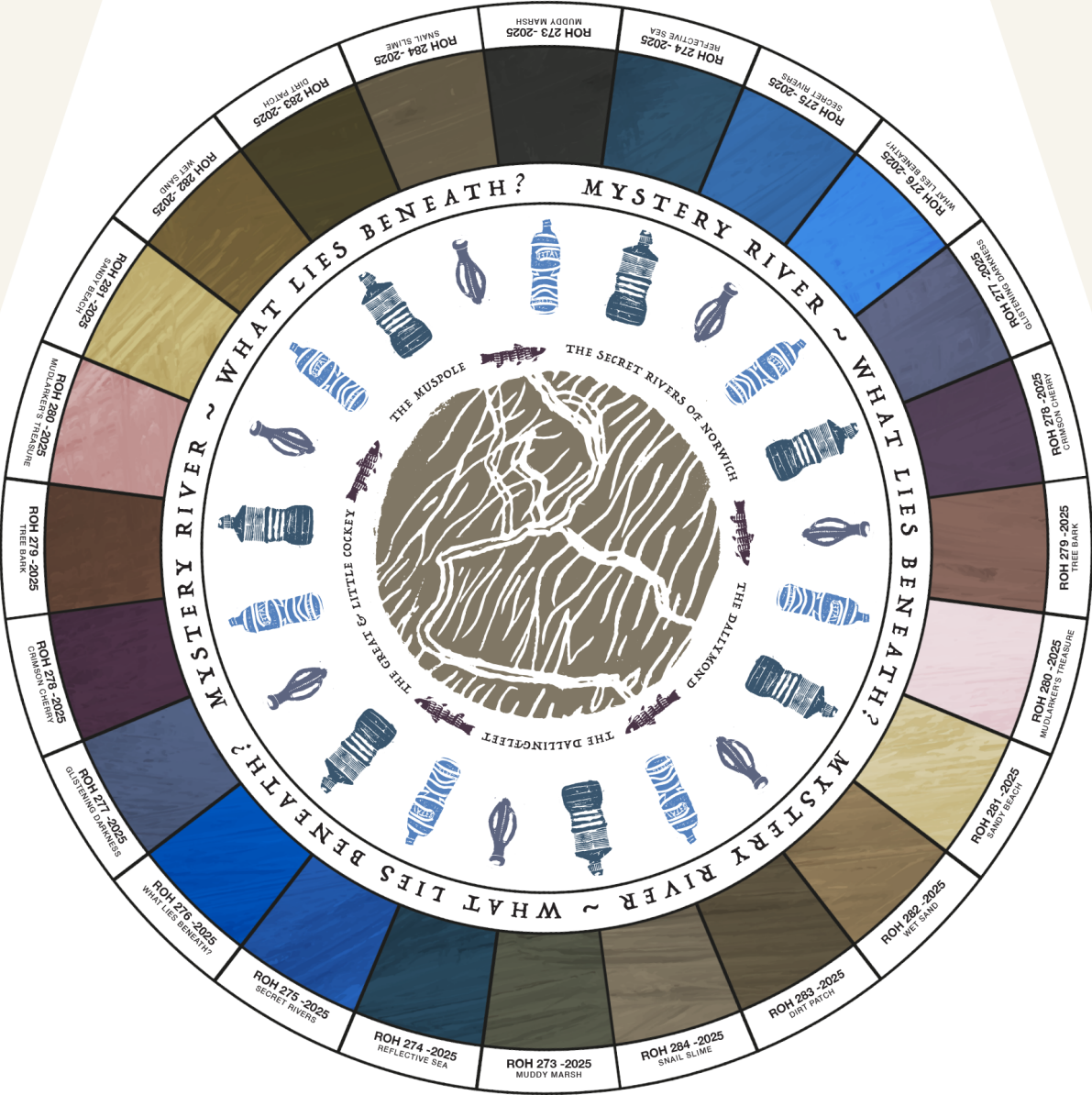
Ormiston Victory Academy



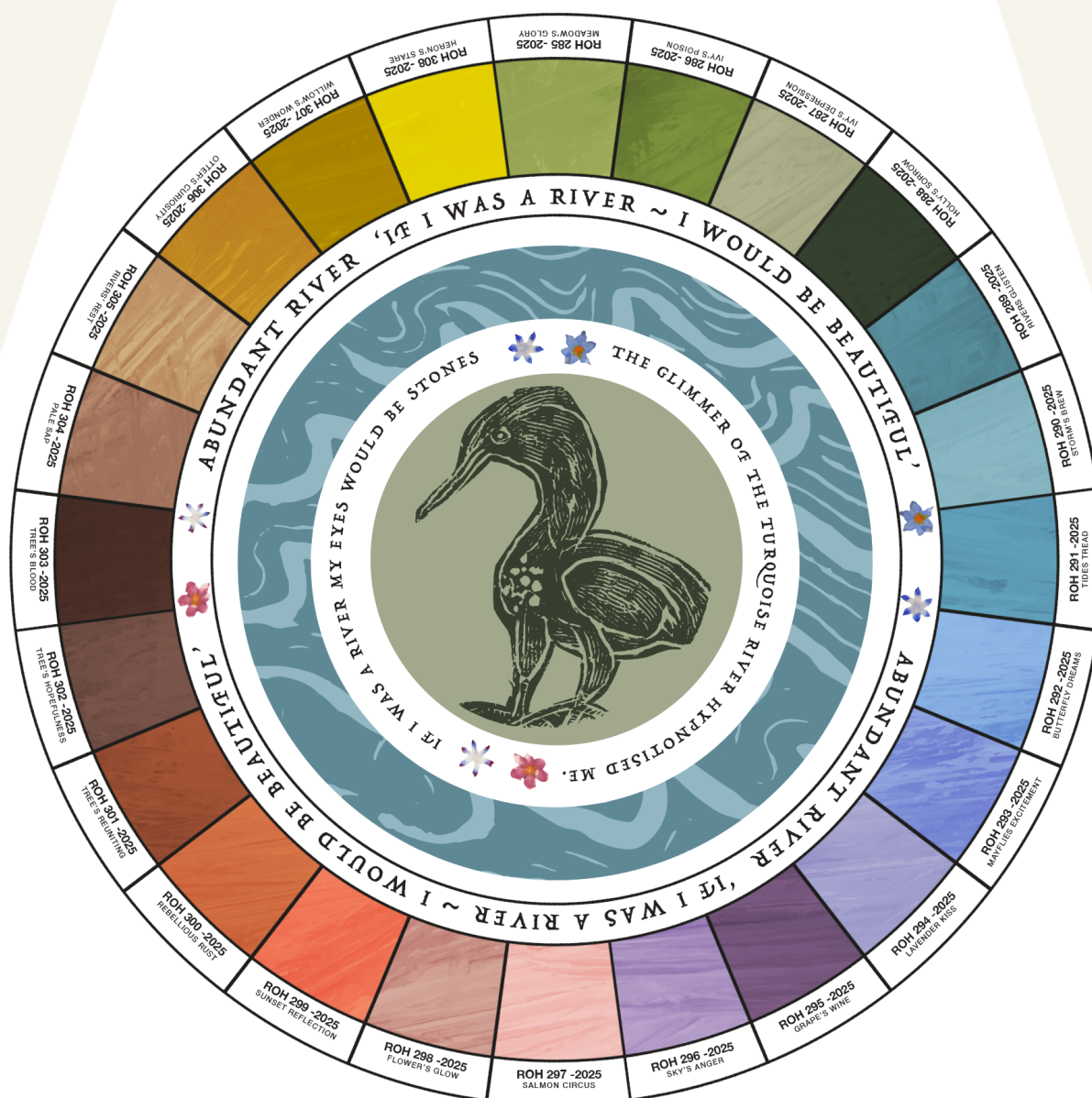
Ormiston Victory Academy



Ormiston Victory Academy



Ormiston Victory Academy



Taverham High School

At The River I was

At the river I was freed

I could feel all bad thoughts and feelings leaving me.

At the river, I was up on the wind,

Letting it blow me along with it on its journey
downstream.

At the river, I was a tadpole

Almost insignificant to the rest of the world but still alive
and aware.

At the river, I was allowed to be myself

Young, wild and free.

And like this river, I would like to forge my own path,

I would like to make my mark

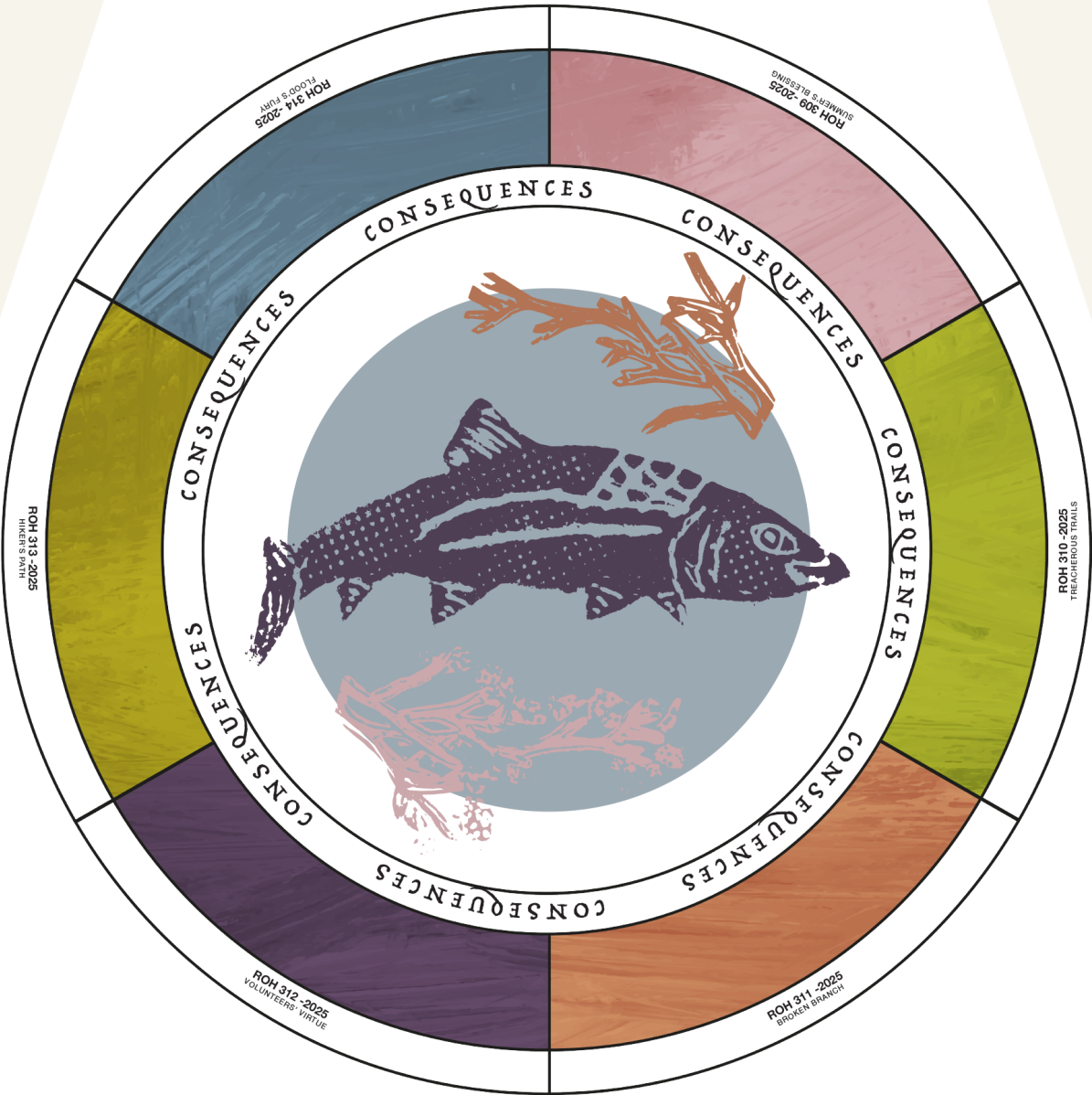
Carve my life and very being into the Earth.

Because at the river,

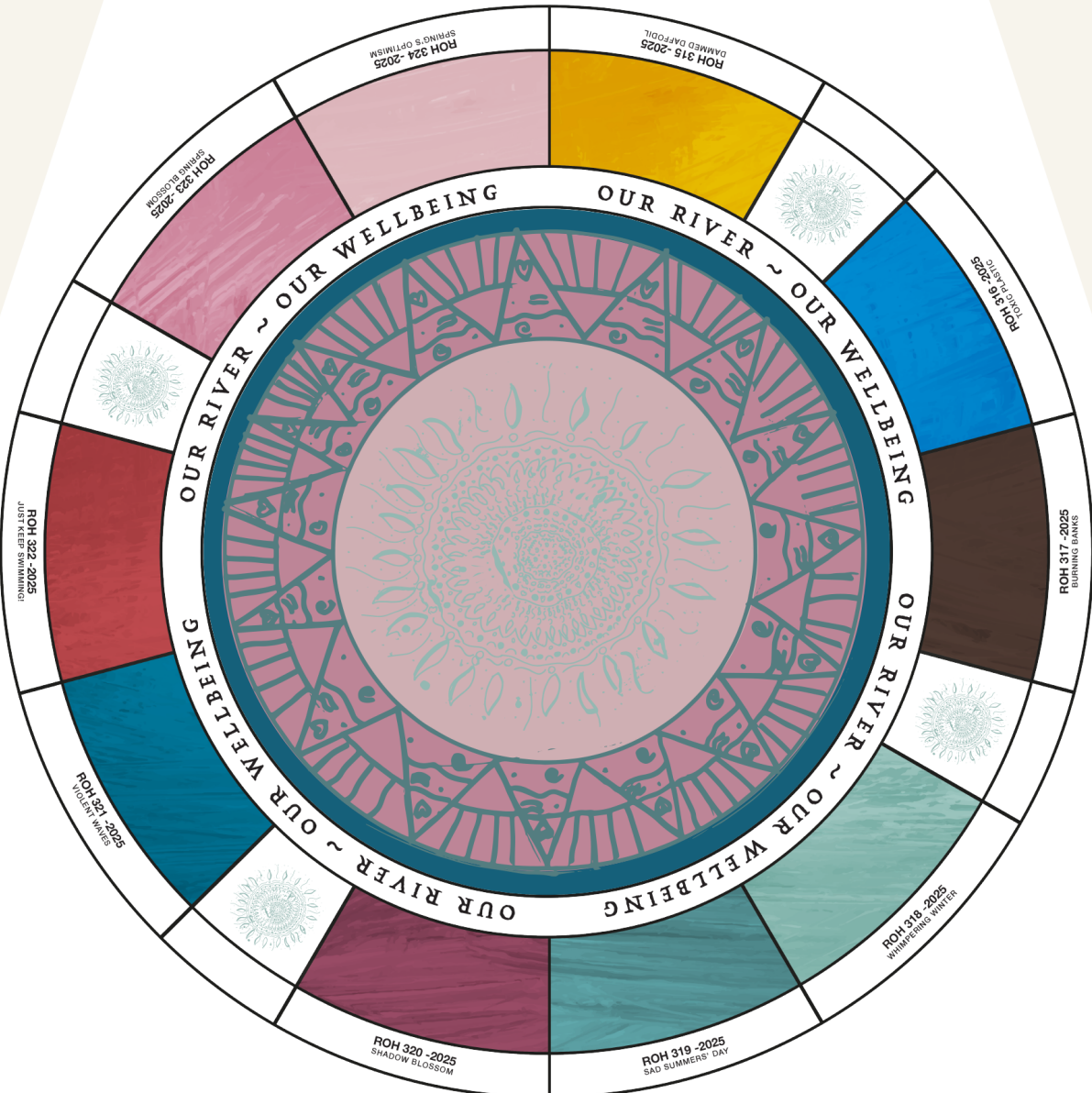
I was freed.

Erin Lemon, Taverham High School

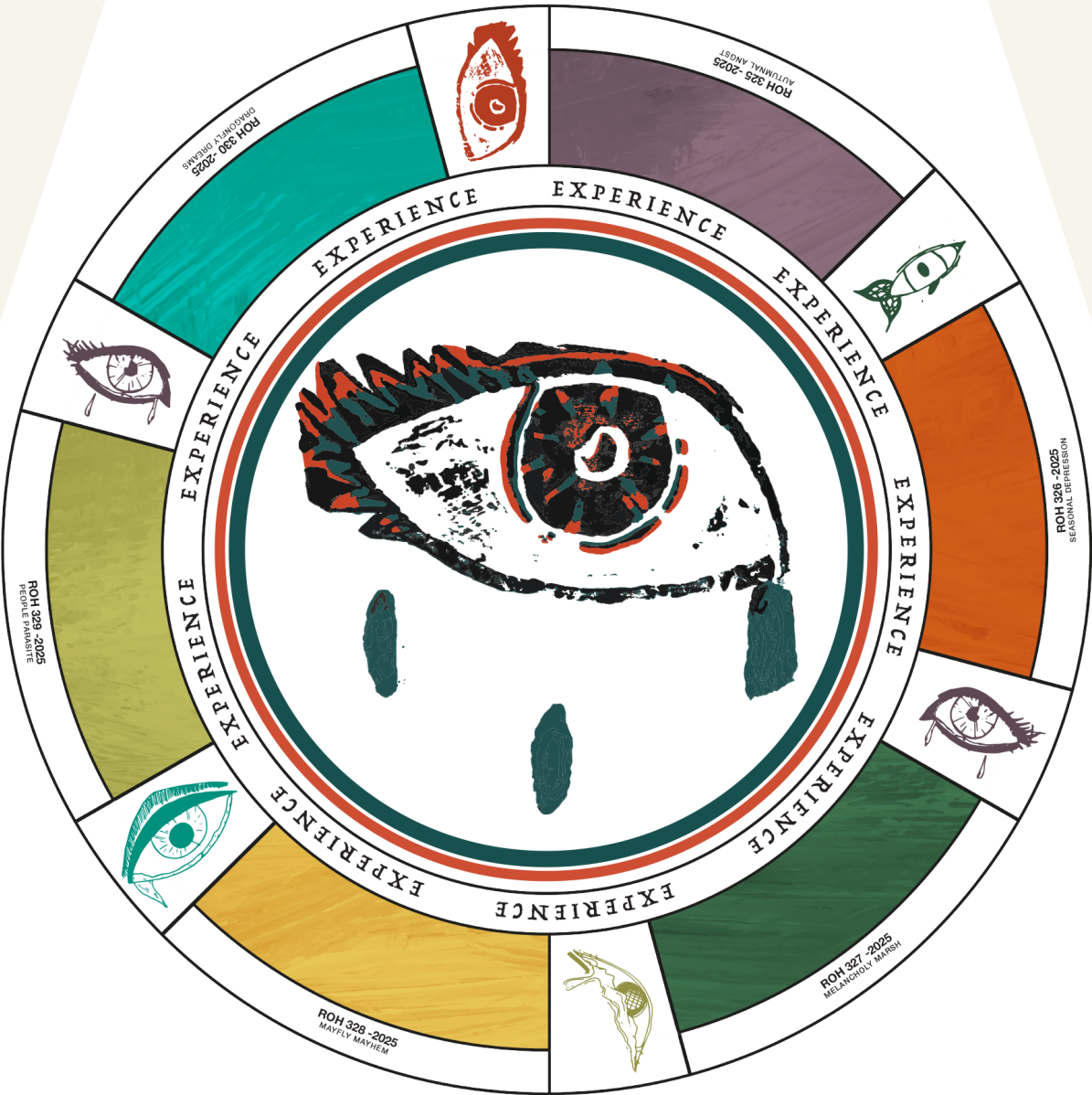
Taverham High School



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