



The Hinckley  
SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

*Building Brighter Futures*

THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2024

#142



**Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),**

On Saturday we held our first Sports Festival. It was a true display of community spirit and it was wonderful to see staff, students and their friends and families enjoying themselves and the competitive sport on display. Events such as this are so important to bring our community together and to strengthen the sense of belonging we nurture here. After such incredible feedback from those involved, we hope to hold another event later in the Summer term.

Next Tuesday, we will be welcoming families to our Year 7 Showcase Evening and holding our Year 12 Tutor Evening. These events give a priceless opportunity to discuss student progress, support and achievement and to show our young people how we can all work together to ensure they reach their full potential. Year 7 students will be showcasing a piece of work they are especially proud of during their meetings and I look forward to hearing about their hard work.

I have been blown away by the generosity shown by the local community in support of our prom support programme. From monetary donations, to dresses, suits and accessories, every kind gesture will make a big difference and allow us to remove barriers. This has been the perfect example of what we can achieve when we work together in support of our young people and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who has shared our appeal, or made a donation.

This week, as exam season has now officially begun, I would like to end by wishing all our students in Year 11 and 13 the best of luck with their examinations, on behalf of everyone here at The Hinckley School.

Best wishes, Lisa Hickman — Headteacher

## SUSTAINABILITY GROUP HELP PLANT MEMORIAL TREE

Last Thursday, members of our Sustainability Group joined Mrs Mellor in the front courtyard to plant a very special tree.



Students and staff worked together to tidy up the chosen planting spot. As they cleared the ground to make space for the new addition they discussed how they can further improve this area with the addition of wildflower seeds to encourage wildlife. Students showed great teamwork and were not afraid of hard work!

The plum tree was chosen by Mrs Mellor, parent of our former student Jack Mellor, who this tree is planted in memory of. Standing pride of place at the front of our school, it acts as a fitting tribute to his memory for our staff and students, as it grows and flourishes for years to come.

**Do you have unwanted garden equipment?** Our Sustainability Group are asking for donations of spades, forks etc to help them with their upcoming projects. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and really make a difference.

Please bring any donations to the school Main Reception during normal office hours.

# HOT CHOCOLATES FOR LIBRARY AWARD WINNERS



Students enjoyed receiving their Reading for Pleasure Awards and hot chocolates in the Library on Friday! This regular celebration congratulated book bingo winners and students who attended the Carnegie group this week.

Ms Crisp said, "Reading for pleasure is proven to have such a positive impact on wellbeing and we like to celebrate our students who engage with both Accelerated Reader and reading enrichment each week in the Library throughout the year, with initiatives like 'Hot Chocolate Fridays', as well as the end of the year 'Millionaire's Tea Party!'"

**Book Bing**  
Y7, 8 and 9

**R4's** Are you taking part?

10 pride points and Hot chocolate at STARBOOKS in the library at break

Extra prizes

Ms Crisp added, "This week, we celebrated students who had taken part in our 'Book Bingo' and our 'Carnegie' shadowing. Any students interested in taking part in one of our 'Reading for Pleasure' activities should pop into the Library at break or lunch to find out more."

**Well done everyone!**

## SUMMER SCIENCE CLUB - 'POP POP' BOATS



Students used the expansion and contraction of water vapour held in a small boiler to race 'pop pop' boats during our Summer Science Club this week.

Dr Smith would also like to award special recognition to Dan in 7WAR, for his help demonstrating how the boats work to other students.

**Fantastic engagement everyone!**



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SPORTS FESTIVAL



On Saturday 27th April, we held our first and eagerly anticipated **Sports Festival!** It promised to be a day filled with excitement, camaraderie, and thrilling sportsmanship and it delivered on all fronts. Mr Stocks, Mr Elvidge, Mr Wincote and Mr Froome would like to share the following thank you on behalf of everyone involved in the event.

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*We want to extend our deepest gratitude for your incredible support at the recent Sports Festival. It was truly heart-warming to see both parents, carers and students cheering on from the side-lines, creating an electrifying atmosphere.*

*The mixed football fixture, featuring Year 7, 8, and 9 girls' football alongside Year 7, 8, and 9 boys' rugby, was a testament to the spirit of inclusivity and sportsmanship within our community. Witnessing the seamless integration of these two dynamic sports not only showcased the talent and dedication of our students but also exemplified the power of teamwork and collaboration across different disciplines.*

*From the precision passes on the football field to the expert tackles on the rugby pitch, every moment of the fixtures was filled with excitement and passion. Your presence and encouragement undoubtedly played a significant role in making the event a resounding success.*

*Additionally, we would like to express our appreciation for your patronage of the food truck. Your enthusiasm for the delicious offerings added an extra layer of enjoyment to the day.*

*Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and participation. Your involvement is invaluable in fostering a sense of camaraderie and pride within our school.*

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Guests thoroughly enjoyed the event and took to social media to share their praise for staff and students :

- **“Absolutely fab morning .. Great team playing and a great event ...well done to the student's and all the staff definitely will be supporting these in the future especially when there's a burger van!”**
- **“It was a great morning. Hopefully you will do another before the school year ends.”**



Our younger Drama students were in for a treat last week as they were able to watch sections of the Year 13 Drama exam with an external examiner. Powerful and iconic work such as 'A Streetcar Named Desire', 'Private Peaceful' and original work inspired by theatre companies such as 'Kneehigh' and 'Splendid' were amongst the theatrical offerings by the Year 13 Drama students, some of whom are leaving us to join prestigious Drama schools as they continue their journey after THS.

"It's always a pleasure to see the students after a 7 year Drama journey reach the pinnacle of their capabilities on stage, before they leave us for pastures new," said Mrs Cook, Head of Drama and Performing Arts, "The quality of the work was reflective of the hard work, perseverance and dedication they had put in. Our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Wood said, 'that was scarily good' after observing some of the work. Well done Year 13!"



The Hinckley Sixth Form recently welcomed back a distinguished alumni, Dr. Iain Detrey, who is making waves in the field of environmental conservation. Dr. Detrey, now serving as the National Peat Advisor for the Environment Agency, shared insights from his ground-breaking work on peatland in the Shetland Islands.

Having been an active participant in numerous science enrichment programs during his time at The Hinckley Sixth Form, Iain's journey has been nothing short of inspiring. After graduating, he pursued his passion for biology, eventually delving into the intricate world of peatland research.

His most recent project, intriguingly titled "Bog in a Box: Is Long-Term Peat Storage for Future Restoration Viable?", aims to address crucial questions surrounding sustainable peatland management. Dr. Detrey's expertise is not only rooted in academic pursuits, but also enriched by practical experience gained during his tenure with the IUCN UK Peatland Programme.

During his visit, Dr. Detrey captivated students with tales from the field and insights into the importance of preserving peatlands for future generations. His journey from The Hinckley Sixth Form to leading national initiatives demonstrates the school's commitment to nurturing scientific curiosity and fostering environmental stewardship among its students.

As Dr. Detrey continues to make strides in the field, his visit serves as a reminder to current students that with dedication and passion, they too can make a lasting impact on the world around them.

**Thank you to Dr Detrey for joining us and helping to inspire our biologists!**

- Mr Boast



# NEWS FROM THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

## GOLD AWARD SUCCESS

Congratulations to Luke, who has recently achieved his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award, he will be invited to the palace at some point this year. Luke has completed all three levels of his Duke of Edinburgh's award with The Hinckley School. Well Done on becoming a Gold Award holder Luke, well deserved! - **A very proud DoFE team.**

Gold

Luke



## GOLD AWARD TRAINING WEEKEND

Our Gold group were out and about in the Dark Peaks over the weekend, exploring Bleaklow, Upper Derwent Valley, Lose Hill and Mam tor. Our young people learnt and enhanced vital navigational techniques in preparation for their next adventure including how to navigate in the dark.



On Sunday, we visited the Edale Mountain rescue base and had a very informative chat with the rescue team and a tour around their base. Despite the early mornings, cold wind and rain, all of the young people showed positive attitudes throughout and showed enthusiasm and commitment. I am sure the weekend will definitely stand them in good stead for any challenges ahead of them. Well Done all, we look forward to the next one!

## YEAR 9 AND 10—SIGN UP NOW AND START YOUR DOFE ADVENTURE!

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD**

**SILVER**

**Volunteering 6 months** Direct entrants must do a further 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

**Physical** one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months

**Skills** one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months

**Expedition 3 days 2 nights**

**Students in Year 10 can now enrol on to their Silver DofE award.**

**\*The expedition section will be completed in Year 11 starting in September.**

It has made me more confident and I have enjoyed the activities

It has been a life changing experience and if I could do it all again I would.

I enjoyed being with the people in my expedition team and have made lots of new friends.

**“Adventure, fun with friends enjoy the outdoors, personal challenge, learn a new skill, enhance your CV, create memories and much more.”**

**For more information email**  
[afennell@thehinckleyschool.co.uk](mailto:afennell@thehinckleyschool.co.uk)

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD**

**The Hinckley SCHOOL**

**“ Because there's no better way to... try new things, meet new people, discover new talents, learn new skills, see what you're made of, give to your community, feel more confident, make a difference, recognise your potential, boost your wellbeing – and know that whatever life throws at you, you're ready. ”**

**BRONZE**

**Volunteering 3 months** PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.

**Physical 3 months**

**Skills 3 months**

**Expedition 2 days 1 night**

**Students in Year 9 can now enrol on to their Bronze DofE award.**

**\*The expedition section will be completed in Year 10**

**For more information email**  
[afennell@thehinckleyschool.co.uk](mailto:afennell@thehinckleyschool.co.uk)

# YEAR 11 PRAISED FOLLOWING MFL SPEAKING EXAMS

Our Year 11 MFL students have completed their Speaking Exams (GCSE Spanish and French) this week. Ms Garcia said, "They've been preparing both at home and in school for three weeks and have worked relentlessly. During the Speaking, they are recorded and interviewed in the target language: they need to perform a role-play, describe a photo and answer up to 20 questions in their chosen language. This can be daunting, but I'm very proud of them."

Students got creative with revision strategies in the run up to their exams, for example last week they even used Jenga towers alongside the revision cards they created for themselves. For every correctly answered question (without hesitation), they were allowed to move one piece - and enjoyed biscuits! Well done on your hard work, creativity and dedication Year 11!



**"Bien hecho!"**



**"Bien joué"**

## ROBOT CLUB - ANT-WEIGHT ROBOTS



Students in our 'Robot Club' have spent the last six months designing small robot battle bots, known as ant-weight robots.

After designing their robots and producing them using a 3D printer, students then added the electronics and motors to bring them to life, and have spent several weeks testing out their designs. The group are now taking part in a series of robot battles in the style of the television show 'Robot Wars' in which they have two minutes to defeat their opponents by disabling them or pushing them out of the arena. It is hoped that some of the students will be able to represent the school in a regional robot wars battle planned for later in the summer term.



# SPRING ENRICHMENT CALENDAR

We are delighted to share our new Enrichment Calendar for the first part of the Summer Term. Providing another opportunity for our students to enjoy participating in extra curricular activities, creating life long memories, making new friends and learning new skills. Please familiarise yourself with the new opportunities on the next two pages.

## Enrichment Lunchtime – Summer 1

<b>Monday</b>				
Crafting	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	R. Crisp	Library
Music Club	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	D. Riley	MU1
Football	Lunchtime	Years 7, 8 & 11	I. Ratheram	Astro
Bridge Table Tennis	Lunchtime	Year 7	L. Clarke	Bridge
Maths Challenge	Lunchtime	Years 7&8	M. Swann	G3
Bridge Wildlife Club	Lunchtime	Year 7	K. Mason	Cambridge
Crochet Club	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	L. Wills	D10
Girls Badminton	Lunchtime	Year 9	M. Pallett	PE
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Strategy Board Games	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	R. Crisp	Library
Music Club	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	D. Riley	MU1
Girls Football & Y8 Inter-form	Lunchtime	Years 7-11	I. Ratheram	Astro
Bridge Table Tennis	Lunchtime	Year 7	L. Clarke	Bridge
Origami	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	N. Vora	D12
LGBTQI+	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	G. Birks	MPR
Geology & Palaeontology	Lunchtime	Years 7-11	A. Gadsby	L1
Sustainability Council (week 1)	Lunchtime	Invite only	G. Malin	L2
STEM Food Club (week 2)	Lunchtime	Years 7-10	J. Wilson	D20
Boys Badminton	Lunchtime	Year 9	M. Pallett	PE
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Chess	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	R. Crisp	Library
Music Club	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	D. Riley	MU1
Football	Lunchtime	Years 7, 9 & 11	I. Ratheram	Astro
Bridge Table Tennis	Lunchtime	Year 7	L. Clarke	Bridge
Creative Writing Club	Lunchtime	Years 7-11	A. Hale	H7
KS3 Film Club	Lunchtime	Years 7-9	M. Smith	H6
KS3 Electronics	Lunchtime	Years 7-9	P. Harrison	D1
Summer Science	1:30-1:55pm	Years 7&8	C. Smith	Cube
Girls Badminton	Lunchtime	Year 8	M. Pallett	PE
<b>Thursday</b>				
Strategy Card Games	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	R. Crisp	Library
Music Club	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	D. Riley	MU1
Football	Lunchtime	Years 7, 10 & 11	I. Ratheram	Astro
Bridge Table Tennis	Lunchtime	Year 7	L. Clarke	Bridge
Boys Badminton	Lunchtime	Year 9	M. Pallett	PE
<b>Friday</b>				
Scrabble	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	R. Crisp	Library
Music Club	Lunchtime	Years 7-13	D. Riley	MU1
Football	Lunchtime	Years 8, 9 & 10	I. Ratheram	Astro
Bridge Table Tennis	Lunchtime	Year 7	L. Clarke	Bridge
X-Box Club	Lunchtime	Year 9	R. Byrne	G2
Bridge Badminton (mixed)	Lunchtime	Year 7	M. Pallett	PE

## Enrichment After School – Summer 1

Monday				
Senior Rugby	3:00-4:15pm	Years 10-13	J. Elvidge	PE
Robot Wars Construction	3:00-4:00pm	Years 7-11	P. Harrison	D1
Tuesday				
Rock School	3:00-4:15pm	Invite only	D. Riley	MU1
Robot Wars Tournaments	3:00-4:00pm	Years 7-11	C. Holmes	D1
DofE Bronze	5:30-7:00pm	Year 10	A. Fennell	A9
DofE Silver	5:15-7:30pm	Year 11	A. Fennell	Cube
Wednesday				
Programming Challenge	3:00-4:00pm	Years 7-13	C. Holmes	D1
Badminton	3:00-4:00pm	Years 10-11	G. Nicastro	PE
DofE Gold	5:15-7:30pm	Year 12 & 13	A. Fennell	Cube
Y11 CNat Drop in	3:00-4:00pm	Year 11	M. Pallett	Library
Thursday				
Boys Football	3:00-4:15pm	Year 8	C. Froome	PE
Girls Football	3:00-4:15pm	Years 7-11	F. Nichols	PE
KS3 Rugby	3:15-4:30pm	Years 7-9	M. Stocks	PE
Music and Music Tech	3:00-4:00pm	Year 7-13	D. Riley	MU1
Artist's Retreat	3:00-4:00pm	Year 11	K. Webster	Art
Maths Y10 Catch Up	3:00-4:00pm	Year 10 Higher	H. Bailey	G2
Reading Outside the Box	3:00-4:00pm	Year 7-13	E. Rayson	Library
Friday				
Touch Rugby (mixed gender)	3:15-4:30pm	Years 7-11	M. Stocks	PE
Gateway Beauty Room	3:00-4:00pm	Year 8	M. French	G5

### Enrichment Awards

To celebrate your engagement with enrichment you will be presented with a Ruby, Sapphire and Diamond award in your termly celebration assemblies. As we enter 2024 why not try something new!

Ruby 30-49 sessions

Sapphire 50-69 sessions

Diamond 70+ sessions



### UNIFORM IN HOT WEATHER—UPDATE

A reminder that, as shared last year and in response to parents, carer and student feedback, students may wear a smart and formal knee length short in hot weather during the May– July term, or as communicated to parents/carers at other times of the year should the weather exceed 25 degrees. Hole in the Wall are expecting a delivery of formal shorts to arrive on Monday 6th May. Shorts are priced at £12.99 for non VAT sizes and £14.99 for sizes including VAT.