



The Hinckley  
SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

*Building Brighter Futures*

THURSDAY 27TH JUNE 2024

#148

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),



This week presented a challenge that I have never faced as a Headteacher, when after a power cut on Monday evening, we were informed that National Grid were unable to return power to the school. Closing the school to our community is always our last resort, however after guidance from engineers, site inspections and without phone lines, fire alarms and door access systems working, we were left with no other choice. As I am sure you will understand, this loss of power meant we were limited in the ways we could communicate without phone lines or server access and I would like to sincerely thank all our parents, carers and the wider community for sharing our notices online and for showing such a touching amount of support and understanding. We will continue to be powered by a generator for the foreseeable future, until National Grid can find a permanent solution, however we are pleased that all systems and access have now returned to normal.

This week was Inspire Week, an opportunity for us to provide each year group with exciting, inspiring and new experiences for them to learn from, be enriched by and remember for a lifetime. From trips to Skegness, Coombe Abbey and Alton Towers to a Bring Your Parent to Work Day, cooking workshops and Sixth Form Taster Days, the experiences available to our students this week were astounding and I would like to thank our Year Teams for arranging such impressive events. Our week ended on a high with our annual Sports Day, which proved once again to be a highlight of our calendar as tutor groups took on challenges and students showed friendly competitive spirit and sportsmanship. Weeks such as this truly highlight our sense of community and showcase how truly unique our school is. Thank you to everyone who made this week so special.

As part of Inspire Week, our Year 12 students took part in work experience. A number of students spent this week on placements with staff in school and their contributions to making Inspire Week a success have been monumental. One such student is Artem, a future journalist, who has spent the week co-writing our newsletter—I hope you enjoy reading his articles in this edition.

Next week, we welcome our new Year 7 students and their families for our Transition Events. Our team can't wait to meet them all and help them settle into life at The Bridge.

Best wishes, Lisa Hickman — Headteacher

**INSET DAY: PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO STUDENTS TOMORROW, AS FRIDAY 28TH JUNE IS AN INSET DAY**

## WELCOMING OUR FUTURE SIXTH FORMERS



On Friday 21st June, we welcomed all 2024 applicants who now hold a Conditional Offer, to our Official Offer Holder Day. This event gave our new cohort their first chance to sample sixth form life, enjoy lessons in their chosen subjects and meet their new classmates.

It was wonderful to see students from across Leicestershire come together to form a new and vibrant year group community, enjoying a fresh start and new friendships. We welcomed back many of our year 11 students, who can now build on their existing strong relationships with staff and sense of belonging to reach their full potential over the next two years. During the day students took part in a breakfast welcome, team building activities, information sessions and

of course subject tasters. It was a pleasure to get to know them all better and to see how we can support their dreams. We now look forward to seeing our new students again at enrolment in August.



*Students First | It's About Learning | No Barriers*



# SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE DAYS

Our two Year 10 Experience Days were a resounding success, with students from The Hinckley School and Redmoor Academy joining us this week to get their first taste of the opportunity, independence and sense of community that is available by studying A Level or BTEC Level3 courses in our sixth form.

During their Experience Days, students got to explore our bespoke sixth form centre, took part in a sixth form themed music quiz, had the chance to ask our current students questions and sampled three of our sixth form courses. Staff thoroughly enjoyed meeting our potential future students, planning and delivering inspiring and engaging sessions based around level 3 content. Ms Vora praised students for their incredible work during their Art and Photography taster as they experimenting with mixed media art techniques on portraits to visual portray a narrative, while Mrs Cook, Head of Drama, showed how impressed she was with the levels of engagement and creativity in Drama and Theatre.

The event success was thanks to the hard work of our subject specialists and Year 12 student ambassadors who played a key role in organising the event. Acting as ambassadors, the sixth formers ensured everything ran smoothly, providing support and guidance to Year 10 students.

## Student Ambassadors—Here to Help

In the library and science blocks, Year 12 students prepared and organised materials for experiments, making subjects like physics exhilarating. Their efforts also ensured that books and resources were readily available, creating a stimulating learning environment. This experience was invaluable for the sixth formers, who balanced their studies with the responsibility of assisting others, particularly in the science block where detail is critical.

Mrs. Tedstone emphasised the importance of organisation and accepting initial mistakes to make students feel comfortable and less disoriented. By keeping things orderly and involving students in various activities, they gained diverse experiences and learned effectively.

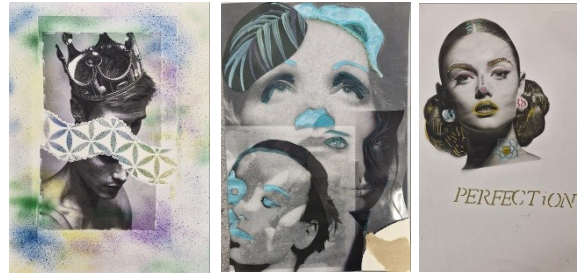
For Year 10 students, lessons were designed to spark interest and intrigue. History classes, for example, discussed popular events with a focus on mysteries, linking them to subjects like psychology and criminology. This interdisciplinary approach aimed to ignite curiosity and inspire further exploration.

The collaboration between Year 10 and Year 12 communities during the Year 10 Experience Days not only ensured a smooth experience, but also fostered a sense of belonging and showcased our unique seven year journey. Sixth Formers gained practical teaching and organisation skills, while Year 10 students benefited from an enriched learning environment and supportive guidance from older role models. Learning invaluable insights into the welcoming community and exceptional experiences that await them here at The Hinckley Sixth Form.

*- Article and photography by Artem, Year 12*



The Hinckley  
SIXTH FORM



## CULINARY CREATIONS PASS THE TASTE TEST!

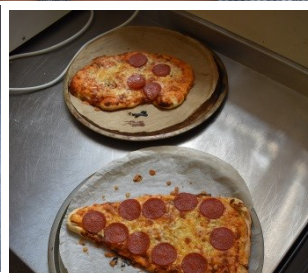


Our Year 8 students were hard at work in the Food Department on Wednesday as they enjoyed rustling up pizzas, flapjacks, cookies and cupcakes with Ms French.

Selecting their own topping combinations, students got creative by even making stuffed crusts filled with cheese or sausage!

One student even made his own gluten free version - very impressive work.

 **The Gateway**  
At The Hinckley School



## YEAR 9 ENJOY THE SUNSHINE AT COOMBE ABBEY

Year 9 students enjoyed a day out at Coombe Abbey on Wednesday as they enjoyed the sunshine as a year hub community.

This event presented a lovely opportunity to explore the picturesque abbey grounds, enjoy a picnic, play football and relax with friends.

We hope students enjoyed this chance to spend quality time as a year hub, embedding their sense of belonging, cementing friendships and making treasured memories.

 **YEAR 9 Hub**  
At The Hinckley School



# CLASS OF 2024 ENJOY MASQUERADE PROM

We are delighted to share that both staff and students enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Year 13 Masquerade Prom. Mr Boast called it, "a resounding success!" with everyone involved enjoying an evening of dancing and celebrating to mark the bitter sweet end of an incredible sixth form journey.

Getting prom-ready on the hottest day of the year was a slight challenge for the team, but everyone showed great team work to bring it all together in time. Mr Boast shared his praise for everyone involved, "Many thanks from all of us at The Hinckley Sixth Form to the Prom Committee and Hinckley Rugby club for putting on such a wonderful celebration to mark the end of Year 13. It was brilliant talking to so many students about their amazing plans for the summer, next year and beyond. Having finished their seven year journey with us – we have no doubts that come results day we will see them heading off to the most amazing futures."



# STUDENTS EMBODY OLYMPIC VALUES AT ANNUAL SPORTS DAY



Our annual Sports Day saw students embody Olympic Values and showcase community spirit, team work and cooperation as they learnt about the importance of participation and supporting others.

During the morning, students took part in Tutor Group Challenges including, Rounders, Touch Rugby, Just Dance, Zumba, Football and Dodgeball, as well as slower paced sessions such as reading, walking, film club and a quiz.



These hub sessions allowed students to have fun in their year group communities before the final afternoon events.

The afternoon saw glorious sunshine arrive and the start of our Sports Day events. The first event started at 12:30pm, with healthy rivalry, friendly competitive spirit and teamwork right from the start.

Students took on track and field events including javelin, discus, shot, 100 metres, 200metres, 300metres, 600metres, high jump, relay and tug of war. While waiting for their events, students spent time enjoying the lovely weather with their friends and eating ice creams, which as you can see from the photos, proved very popular!

This annual event is always a highlight of the year for everyone here at The Hinckley School, and blessed with perfect weather, this year was no different. It was wonderful to see students and staff enjoying time spent as a community and supporting and encouraging each other no matter the end result.

An official results table of all events/races will be released online next week. **Well done to everyone who participated!**



# EXCITING NEWS: OUR SCHOOL LEADS THE WAY IN CORNHOLE!



We are thrilled to announce that our school is the very first in Britain to practice Cornhole, a popular American sport. This exciting development marks a new chapter in our physical education program, offering students a unique and enjoyable activity that promotes coordination, focus, and friendly competition.



## What is Cornhole?

Cornhole is a game where players throw bags filled with artificial beads/pellets from a distance, aiming to land them into a hole on a wooden stand positioned vertically. The simplicity of the game, combined with its competitive nature, makes it a hit among all age groups. The main difference between the American and English versions lies in the materials used for the bags and slight modifications to suit our Year 9 students' abilities.

It's been a year since our school introduced Cornhole, and it has quickly become a favorite among students. Unlike its American counterpart, which is usually played outdoors, we have adapted Cornhole for indoor play, ensuring it can be enjoyed regardless of the weather. This adaptation has made the game more accessible and safer for our students.

## Expert Guidance from Mr. Pallett

Our PE teacher, Mr. Pallett, is at the forefront of this initiative. As a member of the prestigious Ashby Baggers community, ranked 37th in the UK, Mr. Pallett brings a wealth of experience and passion to the game. His unique approach to teaching Cornhole emphasizes inclusivity and fun, ensuring that every student, regardless of skill level, can participate and enjoy the game.

Mr. Pallett is known for his ability to tailor the game to fit the students' abilities and expectations. He pays special attention to those who might feel bewildered by the game, providing extra support and encouragement. His methods focus on keeping activities short, diverse, and engaging, which helps maintain students' interest and enthusiasm.

## Providing Unique Opportunities

Most recently, during our 'Inspire Week', Sixth Form students at The Hinckley school had the unique opportunity to gain work experience by mentoring Year 9 students in Cornhole. This experience helped them explore whether they want to pursue a career as a PE teacher or in the sports industry. Observing and guiding younger students offers valuable insights into the challenges and rewards of teaching sports. They quickly learnt that making students excited about a new game can be more challenging than it initially appears, requiring creativity, patience, and effective communication. This hands-on experience not only helped our sixth formers clarify their career aspirations and enhance their problem-solving and leadership skills, but also provided Year 9 students with a fun and competitive first experience of the sport.

**- Photography and article by: Artem, Year 12**

# REMINDER - FUNDRAISING FOR CANCER CHARITIES

Two students in Year 10 are aiming to raise £1,000 for three cancer charities, for a very personal reason and we are proud to be supporting their incredible fundraising plans.

On their Just Giving page Marlow shared, "In April of this year, our family was given the devastating news that my mum had got breast cancer. There were no signs or symptoms; it was only diagnosed through a routine mammogram. After several weeks and tests, she has now started her battle against breast cancer. She is the strongest and most positive person I know and I know this journey she has to face will only make her stronger. In support of my mum's journey me and my friend have decided to do a sponsored head shave in school, where my friend will donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust. We will also be raising money for The Osbourne Trust, Little Lifts, and Breast Cancer Now. These charities have become a lifeline to our family, providing us with much-needed support at a time when we need it most."

The pair are currently planning a non uniform day for the last day of term- with a £2 suggested donation to be paid in advance via Parent Pay and a sponsored head shave which will take place on Monday 1st July 2024!



In the meantime, please visit their Just Giving page to read more about the charities they are fundraising for and to donate:

[Crowdfunding to Raise money for several charities that are supporting our family since my mum was diagnosed with breast cancer. on JustGiving](#)

## NON- SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

DONATE £2  
ON PARENT  
PAY AND  
RECEIVE A  
TICKET TO  
PARTICIPATE



12.07.24

### LITTLE LIFTS

PROVIDING HAND  
PICKED GIFTS TO  
SUPPORT THOSE  
WITH BREAST  
CANCER

### THE LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST

PROVIDING FREE  
WIGS TO  
CHILDREN  
AFFECTED BY  
CANCER AND  
FUNDING  
RESEARCH INTO  
CHILDHOOD  
CANCER

### BREAST CANCER NOW

FUNDING  
RESEARCH INTO  
BREAST CANCER  
TO ENSURE THAT  
BY 2050,  
EVERYONE  
DIAGNOSED WILL  
LIVE AND BE  
SUPPORTED

### THE OSBORNE TRUST

PROVIDING SUPPORT  
FOR CHILDREN WHOSE  
PARENTS HAVE BEEN  
DIAGNOSED WITH  
CANCER



QR CODE  
FOR  
FUNDRAISER  
PAGE

# CONNECTING OUR STUDENTS WITH POSITIVE LOCAL PEERS



## Entrepreneurs Inspire Students with Real-World Lessons

On Wednesday, a group of entrepreneurs and family members of current students, visited The Gateway to deliver engaging lessons on the practical applications of education and the importance of GCSEs. These sessions aimed to inspire students by showcasing how their studies can translate into real-world success.

### Real-World Learning: Buses and Business

The entrepreneurs shared stories from a wide variety of companies and industry sectors, with one visitor highlighting how various school subjects are vital in running a bus company. With Mathematics used in scheduling and budgeting, geography in planning routes, and IT in managing operations. This practical approach helped students see the direct relevance of their studies.

### Importance of GCSEs

The visitors stressed that GCSEs are not just academic milestones but essential tools for future success. They explained how subjects like English, Science, and History contribute to a well-rounded skill set that employers value. By linking these subjects to real-world scenarios, students gained a new appreciation for their education.

### Insights from Chris Maughan

Chris Maughan, an entrepreneur who runs his own business, was just one of the many guest speakers to share valuable insights. He highlighted that while he obtained a degree and followed a

traditional path, success can come from various routes. "Society often dictates that a degree is the only way to succeed, but flexibility and exploring different paths can also lead to success," he explained.

### Breaking Stereotypes and Encouraging Opportunities

The entrepreneurs encouraged students to challenge stereotypes about degrees and careers. Success is not solely dependent on obtaining a degree but also on skills, experiences, and personal attributes. They stressed that practical knowledge and a proactive attitude are crucial in the property sector and other industries.

**We would like to sincerely thank all parents, carers and community members who volunteered to inspire our students by sharing their stories.**

**- Article written by Artem, Year 12**



# AN INSIGHT INTO THE RETAIL SECTOR WITH HIGHCROSS SHOPPING

Many thanks once again to the amazing team at The Highcross Leicester who have worked with and welcomed our Year 8 students as part of the Unbox Your Future programme this week.

Heading the session was former student Raquel, who since graduating from The Hinckley Sixth Form, has gone on to lead the Human Resources Team at the company.

The students toured the behind the scenes sections of the building which makes up 40% of The Highcross, giving them unique access to these private areas normally off limits to shoppers. During their visit they had a chance to look at and help out in the control room, as well as finding out about all the fantastic, diverse career opportunities in the retail sector.

We look forward to continuing this project and work with the Highcross in 2024-25. - Mr Boast





# SPRING ENRICHMENT CALENDAR

We are delighted to share our 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



## YOUR MAY SAFEGUARDING & WELL-BEING NEWSLETTER

Please [click here](#) to read your latest Safeguarding & Well-Being Newsletter from Mrs Priestnall and her team. If you have any questions about the information found in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the team using the email address found in the welcome address.