

# NEWSLETTER

22ND JANUARY 2026



The Hinckley  
SCHOOL



Next week, students in Year 11 and 13 will be sitting mock examinations. This is an important opportunity to practise examination skills, build confidence, and reminds students of the unique experience of sitting in exam conditions. We encourage all students to approach the week with focus, resilience, and a positive mindset, knowing that the purpose of mocks is to support learning and growth. The results will allow us to reflect on student progress and enable us to work together to fill any knowledge gaps.

Alongside this academic focus, I am delighted to congratulate the many students who have represented the school in recent football, badminton, and rugby fixtures. From being undefeated in boys badminton doubles, to our first ever girls rugby fixture against Lutterworth on Wednesday. Our students and the school have a lot to be proud of and I would like to thank those involved for their commitment, and teamwork - they reflect the values we strive to instil in all our students.

This week, we were pleased to announce a new partnership between The Hinckley Sixth Form and Coventry Rugby, providing students with the opportunity to combine high-quality post-16 study with an elite rugby programme delivered by Coventry Rugby Academy. This pathway will provide players with exceptional academic and on-pitch opportunities and we are delighted to be able to support students from across North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire to access both a strong academic environment and high-quality rugby development.

A Rugby Open Event will take place on Thursday 5th February, 7pm-8:30pm at The Hinckley School to offer prospective students and their families the opportunity to meet with our Sixth Form staff and the team from Coventry Rugby Academy to discuss this exceptional opportunity. To register to attend, please [click here](#).

Kate Grocock | Head of School



## National Year of Reading

This year, The Hinckley School is proud to be taking part in the National Year of Reading, a nationwide celebration designed to inspire a love of reading in children and young people. The initiative aims to highlight the importance of reading for pleasure, learning and well-being, while encouraging schools, families and communities to work together to make reading a daily and joyful habit. Throughout the year, we will be "going all in for reading" with a range of activities, events and challenges designed to motivate pupils of all ages - from discovering new authors and genres to sharing favourite books and stories with one another. Our goal is simple: to help every child see reading not just as a skill, but as something to enjoy, explore and treasure.

We were delighted to launch our National Year of Reading with a talk from award-winning author Tom Palmer, who delivered an inspiring and highly engaging talk to our Year 7 students. Tom shared his personal journey from being a reluctant reader at school to becoming a prize-winning writer whose books are now enjoyed by children across the country. He spoke honestly about the challenges he faced with reading when he was younger, helping pupils to see that it's okay to struggle and that with perseverance, support and the right books, reading can become something truly powerful.

Students enjoyed hearing Tom talk about how he became an author, where his ideas come from, and how books can help bring history, sport and real-life stories to life. He also encouraged pupils to see reading as something that can support their learning and personal development. We would like to thank Tom Palmer for such a memorable start to our National Year of Reading.



## Celebrating Our Shining Sports Stars

The Hinckley School enjoyed a successful and action-packed Sporting Week, with students across multiple year groups demonstrating not only sporting ability, but also the character, values, and mindset that define our school community. Throughout the week, students embodied our motto, Sic Parvis Magna – greatness from small things, showing that true success is built through effort, resilience, and pride in the small moments.

On Monday, nine students represented The Hinckley School at a badminton event. All students performed brilliantly throughout the day, displaying excellent skill, focus, and composure. More importantly, they showed outstanding sportsmanship, respect, and humility in both victory and challenge. Their commitment to preparation, teamwork, and positive conduct reflected the very best of our sporting culture, representing the school with real PRIDE and upholding the highest values both on and off the court.

Tuesday evening saw a demanding schedule of county fixtures. Our Year 9 boys Football team, competed in a county play-off against Brookvale Groby and St Martin's. Despite a strong and determined performance, the boys were ultimately unable to secure the results they were hoping for. However, their attitude in adversity, willingness to compete, and refusal to give in demonstrated resilience and mental toughness. This fixture served as an important reminder that growth and development often come from challenge, and that greatness is built through perseverance and learning.

The evening concluded with a County Cup Quarter-Final for our U15/U16 boys against Catmose College. In a fiercely contested match defined by grit, discipline, and togetherness, the boys produced an outstanding team performance to secure a well-earned 17-8 victory. Every player played their role, supporting one another and committing fully to the team effort. The match was a true reflection of Sic Parvis Magna, with small actions – tackles made, support lines run, and encouragement shared – combining to produce a great result. The boys now progress to the County Cup Semi-Final, where they will face St Martin's in the coming weeks.

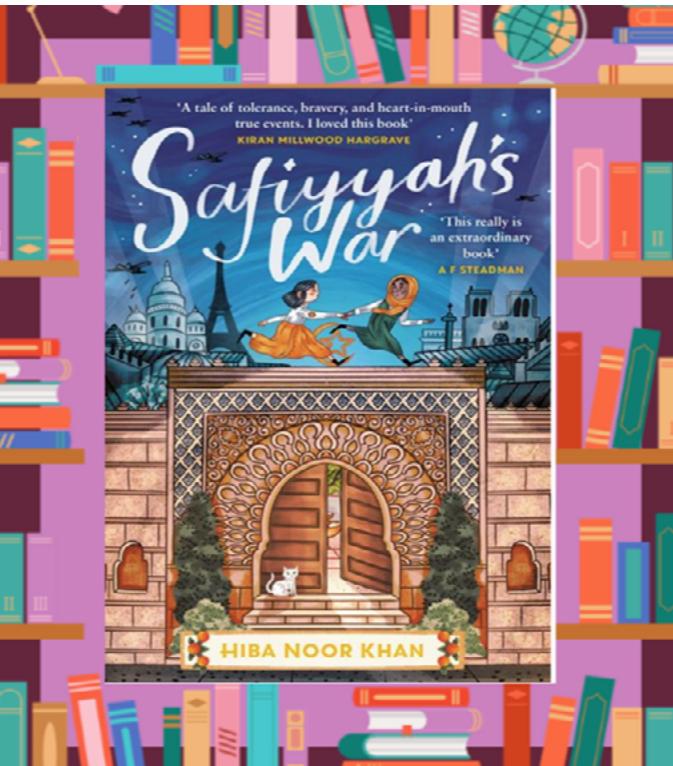
The week concluded with our girls' rugby group travelling to Lutterworth High School for a training session and T1 match. Despite extremely challenging weather conditions, the girls showed exceptional character, resilience, and pride in representing the school. Their positivity, commitment, and willingness to compete under difficult circumstances were exemplary. Ultimately, it was the conditions rather than the rugby that proved decisive, but the experience served as another step in their development. We now look forward to providing the girls with another opportunity to play in more favourable conditions.

Overall, this week was an excellent showcase of the dedication, teamwork, and character shown by students across The Hinckley School. Across all activities, pupils demonstrated that success is about far more than results – it is about effort, attitude, and the courage to keep striving for improvement. Through these small daily actions, our students continue to build something greater, truly living our motto: Sic Parvis Magna.



## Launching - Book of the Week

To help celebrate the National Year of Reading, our Librarian, Ms Crisp, will be sharing her 'Book of the Week' to inspire our community to read for pleasure and to expand their imaginations by exploring new worlds thanks to incredible authors. Her first 'Book of the Week' is shared below:



## Book of the week

**Safiyyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan**

Genre: Adventure/Historical fiction

Age group: 11 – 15

Pages: 322

Difficulty level: Confident readers

This book was inspired by the true story of how the Grand Mosque of Paris saved the lives of hundreds of Jews during World War II.

When war comes to the streets of Paris, Safiyyah's life changes for ever. Her best friend's family have fled, and the bombing makes her afraid to leave the mosque where she lives. But something happens that means that Safiyyah has to start to run the dangerous errands around the city.

Soon, hundreds of persecuted Jews are seeking sanctuary at the mosque. Can Safiyyah find the courage to lead the Jews to safety?

## News from our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme

### Silver DofE Training Day

Our first outing for 2026 was on Saturday, as the Silver group headed to Fineshade Woods near Corby. The day consisted of learning how to micro navigate through the wood using pacing, timings and bearings.

In the afternoon, they were given a set route to navigate and made their way through Wakeley woods to Harringworth. All of our young people were fantastic, engaged and coped very well with the rain. They were able to adapt when we had to change plans due to the flooded footpaths. Well done all. - A Fennell



### Congratulations on completing your award!

Congratulations to the following young people who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh's awards recently.

<b>Bronze</b> Lola-Ava Emily Isobel Sophie		<b>BRONZE</b> Volunteering 3 months Physical 3 months Skills 3 months Expedition 2 days 1 night
<b>Silver</b> Anne Mary		<b>SILVER</b> Volunteering 6 months Physical one section for 6 months, with the other for 3 months Skills 3 months Expedition 3 days 2 nights



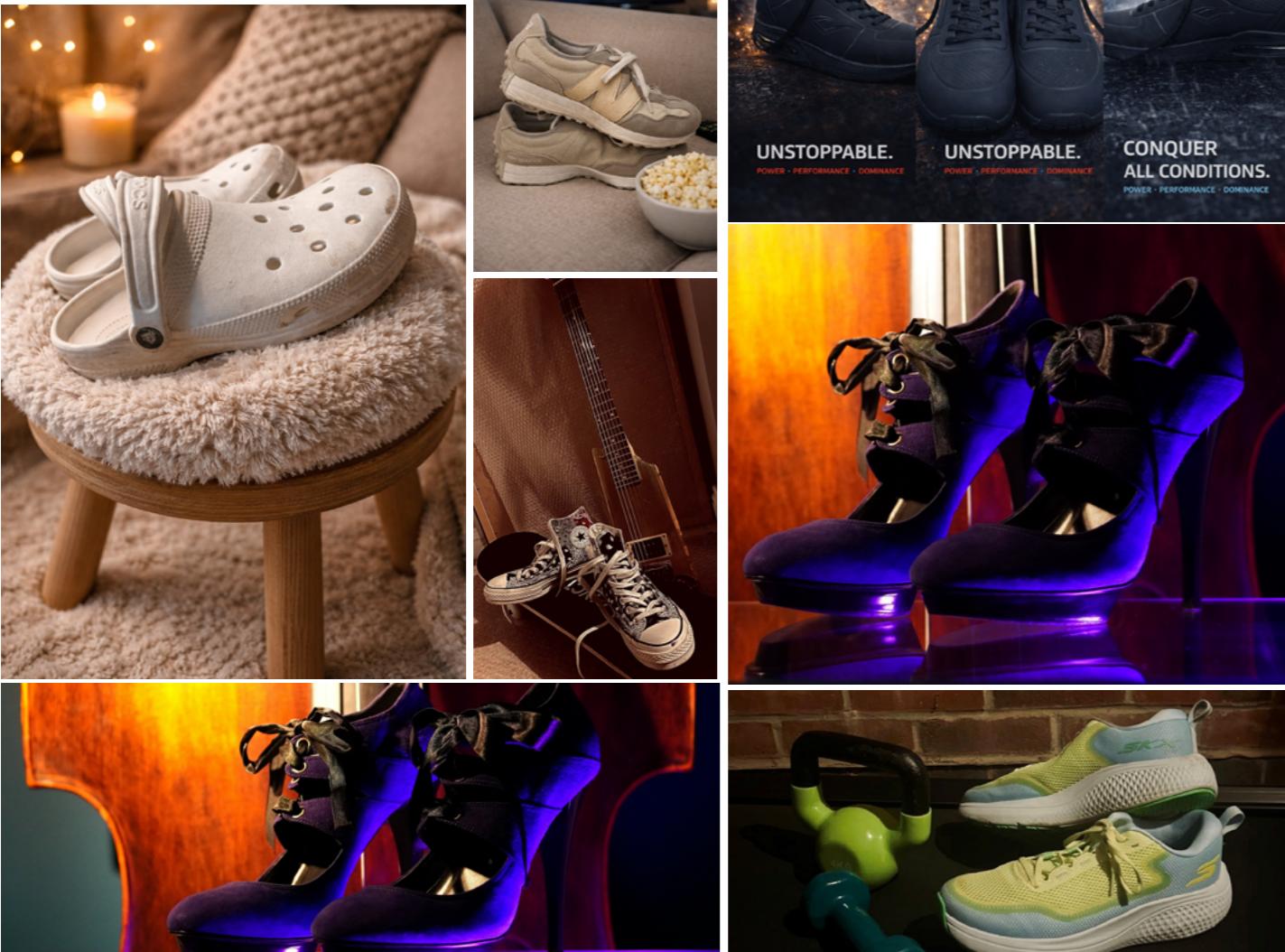
Started your DofE a while ago and not sure what's next? Contact [Amy afennell@thehinckleyschool.co.uk](mailto:amy.afennell@thehinckleyschool.co.uk) for advice and support to help you get it finished.

# CREATIVE CURRICULUM

## Year 8 3D Design - Shoe Design Challenge

Year 8 3D Design students rose to the challenge by carefully recording shoes from multiple angles and viewpoints to identify the core components of footwear design. Many students extended their thinking further by considering how location, staging, props and lighting could suggest where and how the shoe might be worn by a consumer. The results include some fantastic pieces, and it has been wonderful to see students beginning to use creative editing tools to further enhance mood and atmosphere within their work.

- Miss Webster | Teacher of Art



## Creative Competition - Costume Design!

Miss Webster is encouraging students to get involved in our latest monthly creative competition - our first for 2026! This month, the competition is based around costume illustration, with a sewing kit and creative arts badge up for grabs. See below for how to get involved, please see Miss Webster for more details.

## Interested in Architecture and Urban Design?



## Career Spotlight - Urban Designer

An Urban Designer creates functional, beautiful, and sustainable public spaces and developments by merging architecture, landscape, and planning, working with diverse teams (planners, engineers, communities) to design everything from streetscapes to entire districts, balancing social, economic, and environmental factors using design software (CAD, GIS) and strong communication to bring vibrant places to life.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this career.

## CAREERS CORNER

## Course Spotlight - MSc Architecture and Urban Design

Want an insight into studying MSc Architecture and Urban Design? Watch a video from Edinburgh College of Art to find out more - [click here to watch](#).

**January Creative Challenge: Costume Illustration**  
Launch: Monday 5th January      Deadline: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

**Challenge:** Design and present a costume for your favourite character from a West End musical. You may choose any character you like – from *The Phantom of the Opera* to *Wicked*, *Hamilton*, *Matilda*, *Les Misérables*, or beyond!

Your design can take one of two forms:

- **Fashion Illustration** – a detailed drawing or digital design of the costume.
- **Fabric Maquette** – a small-scale fabric model of the costume, photographed for presentation.

Entries can be printed and handed to Miss Webster in D7, or emailed to [kwebster@thelinkleyschool.co.uk](mailto:kwebster@thelinkleyschool.co.uk)

**January Creative Challenge: Costume Illustration**

**The Prizes:**

- Sewing Kit
- Creative Arts Badge

## Embrace Your Weird: A Celebration of Creativity

The University of the Creative Arts want to see your imagination run wild, your creativity unleashed, and your unique take on what “weird” means to you. Whether it’s something surreal, silly, unexpected, or deeply thought-provoking or perhaps a celebration of individuality and what makes us all different, they want to see your vision come to life.

Whatever your interpretation, this is your chance to express yourself and share your creativity with the world.

From fashion and film to music, painting, photography, or writing, this is your opportunity to showcase your creative voice and have your work recognised by the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) and the Kent & Medway Collaborative Outreach Programme (KaM-COP). [Click here to find out more](#).

## COMPETITION CORNER