

NEWSLETTER

2nd July 2026



The Hinckley
SCHOOL



As we approach the final week of the term, it has been wonderful to reflect on an incredibly busy and memorable week at The Hinckley School. We were honoured to welcome Helen Sharman OBE, Britain's first astronaut, who inspired students and staff with the

extraordinary story of her journey into space. Helen's message of determination, resilience and ambition encouraged our students to believe that anything is possible. She really brought to life the impact of space exploration on the developments in science that enhance our lives here on Earth. This week also marked an important milestone for our incoming Year 7 students, as we welcomed them to The Bridge for their Transition Day. It was fantastic to see students make new friends, meet staff and experience life at The Hinckley School. The enthusiasm, confidence and excitement they brought with them has left us all looking forward to welcoming them officially in August.

As we welcome new students, we also say a fond farewell to others, as our Year 11 prom provides an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the hard work, achievements and memories of our Year 11 students as they prepare for the next stage of their journey. We wish them a wonderful evening and every success for the future.

Next week, we will celebrate the end of a very busy school year with rewards assemblies in each year group. There will be a non-uniform day on Friday 10th July, in support of the breast cancer charity CoppaFeel! On this day, students will also finish for the summer at 12.30pm. We would like to wish all the families in our school community a lovely summer break.

Kate Groockock | Head of School

First British Astronaut Inspires Students to Aim High

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome Helen Sharman OBE, the first British astronaut, to The Hinckley School for a truly unforgettable day of inspiration, discovery and learning. Helen delivered a fascinating keynote speech, sharing the remarkable story of how her journey into space began with a simple radio advertisement seeking applicants for an astronaut programme. Encouraged to apply, she entered a highly competitive selection process and was chosen from more than 13,000 applicants, demonstrating the power of ambition, perseverance and self-belief.

Throughout her presentation, Helen captivated students and staff with vivid accounts of her experiences, bringing her extraordinary journey to life. She spoke about the rigorous training required to prepare for spaceflight and gave fascinating insights into what daily life is really like aboard a spacecraft, including how astronauts eat, exercise, sleep, work and what it is like to feel weightless.

Students were particularly engaged as Helen described the scientific experiments she conducted during her mission, highlighting the importance of research and innovation in advancing our understanding of science and space exploration. Her experiences showcased the diverse opportunities available within STEM careers and the real-world impact of scientific discovery.

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In addition to her keynote address, Helen took part in an insightful Q&A session to Year 9 and Triple Scientists in Year 10, where students had the opportunity to ask questions about her career, life in space and the future of space exploration. She also spent time with a small group of students, including our Science Buskers, making the experience even more personal and meaningful.

We are confident that Helen's visit will have left a lasting impression on everyone who attended. Her message was clear: no ambition is too great, and with determination, curiosity and hard work, young people can achieve more than they ever imagined.

We are incredibly grateful to Helen for giving her time to visit The Hinckley School and for inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, explorers and innovators. Her visit will undoubtedly be remembered by our school community for many years to come.

We would like to sincerely thank Helen for her time and for the care and attention she showed to our community.



First Annual Maths Masters Cup

The Hinckley Sixth Form hosted the first annual Maths Masters Cup this week, a new competition we have launched to test the team work and problem solving of the best mathematicians across Leicestershire and Coventry. This year, nine teams from six schools competed, filling our sixth form cafe with some of the brightest minds around! The competition included a Crossnumber, Relay task and Group challenge, with teams working in pairs or as a whole team. Groups were all assigned a sixth form 'supporter' to ensure the challenge ran smoothly and to keep score. It was a very close competition with The Hinckley School and Redmoor having to compete in a tie break question to decide the winner. Congratulations to Redmoor who were eventually crowned our 2026 winners.

Thank you to everyone who competed!

Bronze Award Success

Congratulations to the Lois, Year 11 for Completing your Bronze award this week!

- Amy Fennell, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-Ordinator





Geography Students Enjoy an Italian Adventure

During the June Inspire Week, The Hinckley School took 80 students on a once in a lifetime trip to Italy. When we arrived, the students were in awe of the infrastructure of Rome, the stunning scenery depicting the traditional buildings and Italian culture. We had a meal in a local restaurant before walking around the sites, e.g. the Trevi Fountain, on our first day. The next day saw the students take a tour around the Colosseum and Roman Forum, providing a fascinating insight into the culture and historical features of the country. We then took the long bus journey to Naples, checking into our second hotel in Sorrento. The students, and staff, couldn't believe the beauty of these majestic sights and were amazed more was to come. The third day saw us conquer the slopes of Mount Vesuvius, taking in the spectacular views and looking deep into the crater. Luckily, we didn't have any unexpected eruptions to ruin the trip! After making our way down the volcano, we visited the ancient city of Pompeii, taking in the ancient infrastructure and paying our respects to the people who lost their lives. We couldn't believe the temperatures it rose to whilst walking around; a staggering 38 degrees! The following day saw us take the ferry to Capri, providing a well-deserved rest bite on the beach before making our way to the town's centre to take in the shops and enjoy some of the local cuisine. After departing Capri, we wandered around the streets of Sorrento, popping into some of the local shops and enjoying a cheeky ice-cream! The final day saw us get stuck in a little bit of traffic, but we still managed to visit Herculaneum; a similar site to Pompeii with traditional infrastructure, before making our way home. All the students had an incredible time and I just want to say a massive thank you to the students for their incredible conduct and thank you to the staff for all their hard work. We will be going again very soon and maybe we will see you there!

- Mr Hillier, Head of Geography



Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst Competition

Over the half term three year 12 chemists have been working hard after school on their entry for the Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst competition. During the competition they worked as analytical chemists assisting the police, who were investigating the cause of a mysterious illness that had befallen a person working in a local pharmacy. Through a combination of forensic, cosmetic, and analytical science, they helped to work out if foul play had been involved!

As a surprise, the students were presented with their certificates by one of our former students, Dr Zoë Ayres, who is now President of the Royal Society of Chemistry Analytical Science Community Council and Chair of the Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund who fund the competition. It was a pleasure to invite Zoë back and hear about everything she has gone on to achieve since her days studying Chemistry in S11. Many thanks to Zoë for taking the time out of her busy schedule to visit us and a huge congratulations to the students for their dedication to their studies and for solving the mystery!

A Fantastic First Day!

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students to The Bridge for their first transition days.

They have all made a great start and enjoyed a welcome assembly led by Mrs Clarke and Mrs Grocock, and took part in fun ice breaker activities in their new tutor groups to help them make new friends and feel at home.

Students also spent time learning about PRIDE in our character education programme, before enjoying their first subject tasters in subjects such as Science and Classics!

We look forward to officially welcoming students in August.



Early Intervention Service

Emotional wellbeing and therapeutic support for children and young people, and their parents/carers, living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



Flourish

Our Flourish groupwork programme is for children and young people aged 8-17. It aims to equip young people with a better understanding of mental and emotional health, coping strategies and emotional resilience through a range of creative and engaging interventions.

The programme runs for 6-8 weeks, groups are separated by age range and tailored to better fit the needs of each age group.

Prosper

Our Prosper programme is a 3-hour Zoom session for parents/ carers of children experiencing anxiety. Our Prosper deliverers support parents to understand anxiety and how they can best support their children and young people to cope better.

Children and Young People's Counselling

A safe space for children and young people aged 8-18 to talk about challenges they're facing one to one with a trained counsellor, and learn better ways of coping.

ADHD support

We offer support to young people and their families where there is diagnosed or suspected ADHD. Our practitioners work with young people to support them in understanding ADHD and how this can impact them in their daily lives, and explore better ways of regulating their emotions. We also offer workshops for parents/ carers, supporting them to understand ADHD and how they can best support their children and young people to cope better.

Heads Up

The service is made up of two organisations: The Relationships Centre and Heads Up, and offers a range of support interventions for children, young people and parents/carers. You can find information on the services offered at Heads Up here:

www.headsupleicester.org.uk

To access this, you will need to be assessed and referred by your GP or you can complete a self-referral to see whether The Relationships Centre is the best fit for you: www.myselfreferral-llr.nhs.uk/

 **The Relationships Centre**
Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Summer Holiday Wellbeing Pack

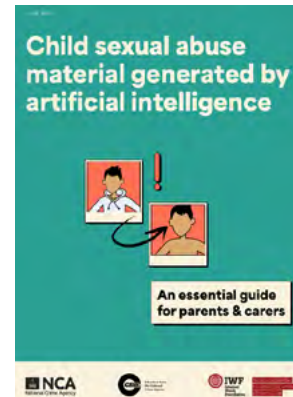
Mental Health Support Teams in Schools
Summer Holiday Wellbeing Pack



Looking after yourself this summer

Please [click here](#) to view and download the 'NHS Mental Health Support Team in Schools' new Summer Holiday Wellbeing Pack.

This workbook has been designed for children and young people with fun activities and advice on how to look after their health during the summer, as well as helpful links and resources.



AI Guidance for Parents

Please [click here](#) to read an essential guide for parents and carers on AI altered material and how this content could be used for child

sexual abuse. The guide has been produced by the National Crime Agency, CEOP and the IWF.

- Mrs Priestnall, our Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing

MENCAP'S SOCIAL STARS

A safe and friendly club for SEN children aged between 9 and 16

Runs every other Friday 5pm - 7pm

At Mencap Hinckley

Follow our facebook page for more details
Mencap Hinckley Social Stars



Mencap Social Stars is open over the summer holidays!

The dates we are open:

Friday 3rd July
Friday 17th July
Friday 31st July
Friday 14th August

Sign up or learn more: 01455 637312 or mencaphinckley@gmail.com



The Hinckley
SCHOOL

Last Day of Term Information

Our last day of term is Friday 10th July 2026. On this day, the school day will finish at 12.30pm. The Beaver Bus service has been informed.

Friday 10th July also be a non-uniform day for all students, and we kindly ask for a suggested £1 donation, with all proceeds going to the CoppaFeel! breast cancer awareness charity. Payments can be made via ParentPay or cash on the day.



The Hinckley
SIXTH FORM

CLASS OF 2026 A LEVEL RESULTS DAY

Thursday 13th August 2026, 8:30am-10:00am

We look forward to celebrating with you on **A Level Exam Results Day** on **Thursday 13th August 2026**, when The Hinckley Sixth Form will be open for students to collect their results between **8:30am-10:00am**.

Please arrive via our Main Reception and make your way over to the Sixth Form Centre, where you will be presented with your results. Family and friends are more than welcome to join you on this special occasion.

Our expert team will also be holding an 'A Level Results Clinic' until 12pm, to offer support and advice after you have received your results.

Good luck and see you soon!



The Hinckley
SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2026 GCSE RESULTS DAY

Thursday 20th August 2026, 9:00am-10:30am

We look forward to celebrating with you on **GCSE Exam Results Day** on **Thursday 20th August 2026**, when The Hinckley School will be open for students to collect their results between **9:00am-10:30am**.

Please arrive via our Main Reception and make your way over to the Sixth Form Centre, where you will be presented with your results. Family and friends are more than welcome to join you on this special occasion.

Enrolment for The Hinckley Sixth Form will take place at the same time and our KS5 specialists will be on hand to offer support and advice.

Good luck and see you soon!