

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



The Hinckley
SCHOOL



I would like to welcome you to our new monthly round-up newsletter. We already have a well-established weekly newsletter for parents and carers; however, our community's achievements and student successes are so vast, it felt only right that we create a publication where we can proudly share these with the wider local community.

Students enjoy a unique seven-year journey here at The Hinckley School, and in this monthly newsletter we will dedicate a page to each part of that experience. This will allow our wider community to gain insights into not just our bespoke Year 7 provision - The Bridge, but into all the year groups and milestones that follow, as we support our students to fulfil their full potential.

Kate Grocock | Head of School

Tel: 01455 632183 | Email: office@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

Website: www.thehinckleyschool.co.uk

John Wilkinson Memorial Cup Rugby Game

On Saturday 15th November, The Hinckley School played Hinckley Rugby Football Club in the second annual 'John Wilkinson Memorial Cup', played in honour of former teacher John Wilkinson. John was a hugely loved member of our school community, and the number of people who turned up to watch the game shows everything about the impact he had on so many.

The boys stepped onto the pitch determined to play in the spirit that John himself lived by, with heart, honesty, and a genuine love for the game. Up against a strong and well-drilled U15 HRFC team, the boys showed real character and togetherness, earning a well-deserved 20-10 win. It wasn't just the scoreline that mattered, but the way they played for one another.

What made the day even more special was the atmosphere around the pitch. Former pupils, families, staff, friends, and members of the wider community all came out to show their support. There was laughter, shared stories, and quiet moments of reflection. It felt less like a match and more like a celebration of someone who meant a great deal to us all. The game was a reminder of the positive mark John left on this school and beyond. His kindness, his enthusiasm, and his ability to bring people together were felt everywhere on the day. Seeing so many people stand side-by-side in his memory was a powerful tribute to the person he was. John will always be missed, but events like this show just how strongly his spirit lives on—in our community, in our students, and in the game he loved.

- Mr Stocks | Director of Sport



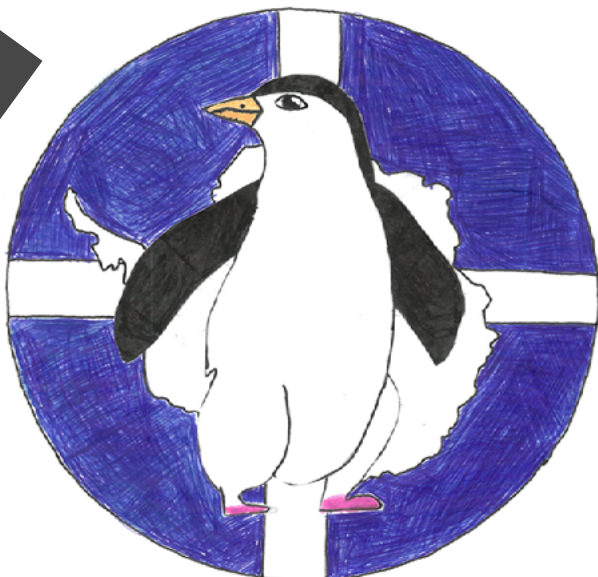
LEARN ABOUT THE BRIDGE AND BEYOND



Book Club's Virtual Author Event

On Tuesday 4th November, for the launch of our '7 for 7' Book Group, we had a live virtual talk with Alice Nuttall, author of *The Zombie Project*, an action-packed adventure which turns the idea of zombies on its head. The *Zombie Project* will be one of seven books that the Year 7 group will be reading and discussing as they meet once a week in the Library with our Librarian, Mrs Crisp.

The books have all been chosen to engage minds, inspire critical thinking, and further ignite a passion for reading. The author talk is one of a series that the group will be taking part in, along with competitions and fun activities.



Charity Fund-raiser

In addition to our recent awareness sessions, we recently held a **'Wear it Pink Day'** in support of the charity Breast Cancer Now. The generosity and community spirit from our students and staff was incredible, with a fantastic show of support at The Bridge bake sale, and lunchtime games and quizzes. A big thank you to everyone who made the event such a success, whether that was helping with the event set-up, donating cakes to be sold, buying a sweet treat or having a go at our lunchtime activities - you made a real difference.

We are delighted to announce that our family's generosity and kindness raised £382.20 for the charity.

Antarctica Flags

Over half term, Year 7 students were busy competing in the Antarctica flag competition. This competition involved the students designing a flag to celebrate Antarctica Day. Antarctica Day is the 1st December to commemorate the signing of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959. This treaty involved countries committing to Antarctica 'forever being used exclusively for peaceful purposes in the interest of mankind.'

Students designed their flags based on the purposes of the Antarctic treaty and added some creativity to make a flag fitting for the Ceremonial South Pole in Antarctica. We have had some excellent submissions showing just how creative and independent students in The Bridge are! As a Geography department, we have selected two winning flags to go on a fieldwork project and have a photo taken with the team in Antarctica. We chose these based on the message and how eye-catching they were. Once the Polar network receives a photograph of our flag back from Antarctica, they will send the photo and a certificate to display in our school!

Congratulations to our winners, Katie and Miya, and well done to everyone who took part!

- Miss Quinn | Teacher of Geography

Imaginative Shoe Models

Our Year 8 3D Design students have been exploring paper manipulation and construction techniques to design and build imaginative shoe models.

Beginning with replicas of Gucci sliders, they showcased their prototypes in a creative 'catwalk' to evaluate design effectiveness. Using feedback from the event, students refined their outcomes to include heels, reinforced paper structures for stability, and innovative fastening features.

Most recently, they have developed sample net shoes to experiment with glue tabs and fold lines—enhancing their understanding of how 2D patterns translate into 3D forms. These explorations and experiments will directly inform the development of their final shoe design.



Mastering Colour Theory

Year 8 students have been developing their understanding of colour theory by exploring how tints, tones and shades can be created and applied in their Art lessons. Using images of berries as their subject matter, they compared the effectiveness of acrylic paint and Inktense pencils, carefully considering how the placement of light and shadow enhances three-dimensional form and captures the direction and source of light.

Their next step will be to create a detailed painting of a pastry decorated with berries, using the material and application technique they found most successful in their experiments.

Well done Year 8, impressive work.

- Miss Webster | Teacher of Art

The Gateway

At The Hinckley School



Times Tables Rock Stars

During week commencing 17th November, Year 8 students took part in the 'England Rocks' Times Table Rock Stars National Competition.

Times Tables Rock Stars is a maths programme that takes all the worry out of learning times tables and helps to boost children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division. This annual competition takes it one step further with students across England competing to try to answer as many multiplication and division questions correctly as they can. The winning school and class will be based on the highest average number of correct answers per pupil. With Amazon vouchers and custom certificates up for grabs for the winning schools, we can't wait to find out how well our students did! Well done to everyone who took part!

- Mr Morris | Head of Maths



YEAR 9 Hub

At The Hinckley School



Rising Sun - Clay Sculptures

Year 9 Design and Technology students have been drawing inspiration from Japanese culture in their latest work, incorporating traditional coiling techniques and the symbolic imagery of the rising sun.

The use of animal forms and carefully textured surfaces reflects themes of nature, renewal, and light. Students started by looking at a clay relief tile, which had to incorporate a Japanese pattern, object or something they associate with Japanese culture, all whilst thinking about the 2D and 3D elements they could incorporate. Following that, the students were then tasked with the creation of a Koi fish, which had to be 3D. Their developmental pieces led towards creating individual clay lanterns, demonstrating an engagement with cultural tradition and refined ceramic practice.

Well done, Year 9! - **Miss Webster | Teacher of Art**



Investments for Students

We have been delighted to recently unveil improvements to our school site.

Our Library now has a brand new sign installed behind Ms Crisp's desk to not only welcome students and staff, but also help to ignite their imaginations. It features images from a wide variety of different literary genres and an inspirational quote. The opposite wall now also features a similar display, as well as a full slat-wall display to allow Ms Crisp to not only display books, but also to create a curated space to exhibit collections. Meanwhile, in the Sports Hall, students now benefit from brand new pull-out indoor cricket nets.

Students are already enjoying these improved spaces and we would like to thank our sports leaders and library ambassadors for their hard work.





Monochromatic Colour Painting

Year 10 students have been building confidence with using watercolour paint and colour mixing recently in their Art, Craft and Design lessons. They have all produced a utopian image whilst mixing tints, tones and shades of their chosen colour and the results are truly impressive. Well done Year 10! - **Ms Bosworth | Head of Art**

Official Rugby Photographer

My name is Harry, and I am currently in Year 10. A little bit of my background, I have ADHD, I grew up wanting to go into the RAF but unfortunately due to my hidden disabilities this will not happen. During my time at The Hinckley School, I have continued to focus on my other hobbies and spend most of my Wednesday nights playing Rugby for the school then going over to an inclusive team in Leicester to play football.

Due to my enthusiasm for all things aircraft related, I started to travel to different locations to photograph aircrafts on my phone. Since then, I have been given a camera and a lens and as they say the rest is history. I now have four cameras and seven lenses. Due to my love of photography, I have now recently taken up photographing sporting events.

While I have been at The Hinckley School, I have taken part in many different enrichments and most recently, I started playing rugby just last August during the Hinckley School's summer camp. I liked the team and community that Rugby gave me, as I always thought I wasn't good enough to play. Thanks to the support off my teammates and my teachers, including Mr Stocks, I started playing a few games. The main highlight was playing in front of my family members and scoring a try at The Warwick School a day before my birthday. Due to my love of photography and Rugby, I asked Mr Stocks if he wanted me to try my hand at sports photography. This year, as well as playing, I have started to go to games as the official photographer of the rugby team during this season, which I love as it allows me to remain a member of the team by being on the sidelines with my camera.

- **Harry - Year 10 | Official THS Rugby Photographer**

YEAR 10 Hub

At The Hinckley School



Bronze Expedition

The latest news from our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme

Our Year 10 students were out on their Bronze Practice Expedition over the weekend in Leicestershire. Starting at Beaumanor Hall, the routes took them through Swithland Woods and into Bradgate Park, as well as towards Quorn. They coped well with the changeable weather conditions and the endless amounts of mud.



Our young people were all very positive and showed lots of enthusiasm throughout the two-day experience, and soon got used to carrying their rucksacks for the first time. Once at the campsite, they cooked their evening meal and then enjoyed running around trying to hide from the rain. Many thanks to the DofE team, for giving up their time and surviving the downpours.

Well done to all! - **Ms Fennell | DofE Co-Ordinator**



YEAR 11 Hub

At The Hinckley School



Devised Performances

Year 11 Drama students were very busy showcasing their talent and dedication for their GCSE assessed devised performance this month, bringing teamwork, collaboration and hard work to its conclusion. Students designed and produced lighting and music and the costume and make-up designers enhanced the mood and message of the piece. Make-up designer Isla even used prosthetics to show a facial injury giving the actor, Noah, a realistic, industry-standard effect for the piece. The final work was imaginative and thought-provoking and reflected the stimulus with innovation and engagement. Staff have been impressed by the perseverance and pride shown, awarding pride reward points to every candidate. A special mention to Year 12 student Eva, for providing technical support throughout the exam.

- Mrs Cook | Drama Lead



Artists Find Inspiration in the Capital During Trip

Our GCSE and A-Level Art students recently enjoyed an inspiring trip to London, where they glimpsed some of the city's most iconic artistic landmarks throughout their journey. At the National Gallery, students had the unforgettable opportunity to view Vincent van Gogh's *Sunflowers* up close, studying the texture, colour, and emotion behind this world-famous masterpiece. The visit continued at the National Portrait Gallery, where students explored a rich collection of portraits—from historical figures to contemporary icons—gathering valuable research and creative ideas for their coursework projects. The day concluded with a fun and interactive visit to Madame Tussauds, where students experienced the artistry and craftsmanship behind the museum's lifelike wax figures. It was a fantastic end to a day filled with art, laughter, and inspiration.

Duolingo Spanish - 1,000 Day Streak

Recently, Ollie was presented with a certificate, Duolingo owl and chocolates by Mr Dillow, Teacher of MFL, to celebrate his achievement and dedication, as he has now earned a 1,000 day streak on Duolingo learning Spanish! Ms Garcia said, "Ollie is currently top of our Duolingo Leader-board for highest streak. Ollie's perseverance with Duolingo, a free languages app, is beyond impressive. Ollie's consistency and enthusiasm have proven fruitful as Ollie continues to achieve excellent results in Spanish. Congratulations Ollie, keep up the hard work!"



Basketball Champions

Our Year 11 Basketball Team took part in the County Cup Basketball Tournament at Bosworth Academy on Thursday 20th November. HBSSPAN, who are responsible for school sport and physical activity across schools in Hinckley and Bosworth took to social media to congratulate our team, saying, "What a fantastic evening of basketball! Every match was fiercely contested." The Hinckley School faced Redmoor Academy in a close-fought final, with our students putting on a true display of teamwork and talent to come out victorious. Well done to all players who made the event such a success!

Our Artists Master Pyrography

Year 12 Art, Craft & Design students impress.

Our Year 12 Art, Craft and Design students are to be commended for the creativity and commitment they have shown in their recent pyrography project. After investigating a wide range of influential artistic sources, students developed their own personalised concepts before experimenting with the control and application of a soldering iron on wood. Through this process, they explored how varying techniques can produce a rich variety of aesthetic effects.

Looking ahead, students will continue to expand their practice by considering how alternative materials might be combined with their wood-burning work to enhance texture, colouration and tone, while still celebrating the natural surface qualities of the wood itself. Their growing confidence and imaginative approach have been outstanding, and we look forward to seeing their next steps in this exciting area of study.

Bake Sale for Community Hospital Project

A Halloween-themed bake sale held by Sixth Form student Ben has raised £127.73 for Hinckley and Bosworth Community Hospital. The hospital, where Ben volunteers, will now benefit from a new green space project with planters and plants to create a relaxing space for patients and families. We would like to thank students and staff for supporting this cause, and Ben and his fellow fund-raisers for leading such a wonderful project. - Miss Bull | Director of Sixth Form



The Hinckley
SIXTH FORM



Workshop Led by Professional Ballet Dancer

Our Year 13 Drama students were recently joined by special guest Mr Ravet, a parent of a Year 13 student and a professional ballet dancer and teacher. Mr Ravet helped the group prepare for their final practical exam performance and work on an original devised piece inspired by Frantic Assembly, which is rooted in physical theatre and dance.

The session saw him work with the students in developing the relationship between characters through the forum of dance and building confidence in lifts, turns and how emotion can be translated through dance. The students were able to hone their ideas and consider thoughtfully how relationships can be shown through physical theatre.

Mrs Cook, Teacher of Drama and Theatre, was pleased with the progress made, 'it's always such a delight to have special guests in to share their expertise and give the students other perspectives on their work, made particularly special that the visitor was part of our parent community. The students embraced the workshop with confidence and flair. Such a productive morning!'

