

NEWSLETTER

18th June 2026



The Hinckley
SCHOOL



This week has been both a celebration and a moment of reflection as we marked significant milestones. We have reached the end of an era for our Year 13 Class of 2026, who have now completed their final examinations and are looking

forward to celebrating together at their Prom on Friday. It has truly been a privilege to be part of their journey, many for seven years, and we wish them every success as they move on to the next chapter of their lives. Alongside this, our Year 11 students marked their own milestone with shirt signing - a special tradition that captures memories, and friendships.

It has also been a week full of energy and opportunity across the school. Students have enjoyed the excitement of the Robot Wars heats, the Sixth Form Futures Conference, and a fantastic Culture Week. The range of activities on offer has reflected the strength of our community and the vibrant diversity within it, something we are incredibly proud to celebrate.

Looking ahead, we are excited for Inspire Week, which promises a wide variety of activities and trips designed to motivate, enthuse and broaden our students' experiences even further.

Kate Grocock | Head of School

Robot Wars Heats Begin!

This week, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been putting their skills to the test as the Robot Wars heats got underway. A total of 20 student-built robots competed in a series of exciting battles, with only 10 progressing to the final in July.

All of the robots have been designed and built by the students themselves during their enrichment sessions, supported by Mr Williams and Mr Harrison. The competition is the result of months of creativity, teamwork and problem-solving, with students developing everything from sturdy defensive machines to inventive, battle-ready designs.

The heats promise plenty of action as competitors go head-to-head in the arena, aiming to secure their place in the final. We look forward to seeing which robots make it through to the final which will be held in Coventry in July and wish all participants the best of luck.





Our Class of 2026

An Emotional Farewell to the Class of 2026

This week, we said a fond and emotional goodbye to our fantastic Year 11 students as they marked the end of their journey with us. It was a truly special occasion, filled with laughter, reflection and a few tears, as we waved off a group of young people who have been part of our school community for the past five years.

As always, the day was marked with our much-loved traditions. Students spent time signing each other's shirts, sharing memories and messages that will be treasured for years to come. There was a real sense of togetherness as friendships were celebrated and final moments captured. Of course, no send-off would be complete without celebratory ice creams!

It has been an absolute pleasure to watch this year group grow and develop over the years. They have shown resilience, determination and a real sense of community, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved during their time here. From their early days in Year 7 to their final exams in Year 11, they have embraced opportunities and left a positive mark on the school.

While it is always difficult to say goodbye, we are delighted that many of our students will be returning in August to continue their studies in our Sixth Form. We look forward to welcoming them back and supporting them in the next stage of their education.

We now eagerly await the opportunity to celebrate once more with the Class of 2026 at their prom in a few weeks' time, which promises to be a wonderful evening and a fitting way to mark the end of this important chapter.

End of an Era: Congratulations to our Year 13s

This week, our Year 13 students sat their final examinations, marking the end of an important and memorable chapter in their school journey. We would like to congratulate each and every one of them for the maturity, hard work and determination they have shown throughout their studies. Their commitment and resilience, particularly during such a demanding period, has been truly impressive.

As they now look ahead to the next stage of their lives, we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and the positive example they have set within our school community. We have no doubt that they will go on to do incredible things, whatever path they choose to follow.

We are very much looking forward to celebrating their achievements in style at their prom on Friday, which promises to be a fantastic evening and a well-deserved opportunity to mark their success together. We wish them all the very best for the future.





The Hinckley
SCHOOL

PROUDLY WELCOMES

HELEN SHARMAN

»»»» THE FIRST BRITISH
ASTRONAUT ««««

30th June 2026

**INSPIRATIONAL
TALK AND
GROUP
Q&A SESSION**



We Prepare to Welcome the First British Astronaut to THS!

At The Hinckley School we pride ourselves on offering exceptional experiences to our students. On Tuesday 30th June we are excited to be welcoming Helen Sharman OBE – the first Briton in space – to talk to our students about her journey from a comprehensive school in Sheffield to life in space with Soviet cosmonauts.

Helen will be delivering a keynote talk to selected students, followed by an interactive Q&A session. In addition to discussing the wonders of Science, Helen will explore the opportunities in STEM that are available for all young people as well as the ethical issues involved in space travel. Students will also hear about what it is like to live and work in space and how weightlessness feels, from someone who has really been there!



Sixth Form Futures Conference

Our Year 12 students enjoyed a fantastic start to their Futures Conference on Wednesday with a visit to De Montfort University, Leicester (DMU). The day provided an exciting opportunity to experience university life and begin thinking seriously about future pathways. Students learnt more about university life and experienced subject tasters.

With a packed programme continuing throughout Thursday and Friday, students are taking part in a range of activities including inspiring guest speakers, sessions with visiting alumni, a mock assessment centre, and a variety of university taster sessions. These experiences are designed to broaden horizons, build confidence, and help students explore the many options available after sixth form.

Thursday's university tasters offered something for everyone, with sessions in Global Affairs, Sound and Light, and Sociology. Students engaged enthusiastically, gaining a real insight into different subject areas and what studying them at university might involve. Students reflected positively on the experience, with feedback such as:

“The day has been very engaging. The professors were very knowledgeable and willing to help when questions. They showed they’re passion which has made me think more carefully about university and consider Derby.” - Katie

“The day has given me the push to do my own research into university courses.” - Logan

“It was useful to give us an idea of what lectures are really like at university and to hear from people who are so passionate about their subject.” - Henry

We look forward to seeing how the rest of the conference inspires our students as they continue to plan their future journeys.



Celebrating Culture Week

As part of our vibrant Culture Week celebrations, our students enjoyed engaging activities designed to celebrate diversity and broaden cultural understanding.

On Tuesday, Year 8 students took part in a special “Book Talking” session delivered by a representative from Creative Learning Services. Students from Drama, Science and Computer Science lessons attended, with a carefully selected range of books linked to their subjects to spark curiosity and cross-curricular thinking. The session showcased a wide variety of non-fiction texts, from fascinating reads such as *Is My Phone Reading My Mind?* to books exploring nature and themes like re-wilding. Students enjoyed browsing the collection and were encouraged to borrow any titles that inspired them to continue their reading journey.

Throughout the week, the library became a hub of cultural activity. Students participated in food and language quizzes, sampled new languages including French, Italian, Romanian and Swahili, and got creative at a craft table designing posters to explore cultural identity. These contributions will form part of an exciting new cultural display in the library, celebrating the diverse backgrounds within our school community.

We were also delighted to welcome Madeeha Qureshi, author of *The Red Sea Cookbook* and *MasterChef* finalist, who helped to launch the week. She spoke to students about her book, the way food can bring people together, and the importance of celebrating diversity. Her inspiring talk left a lasting impression, and we are sincerely grateful for her time.

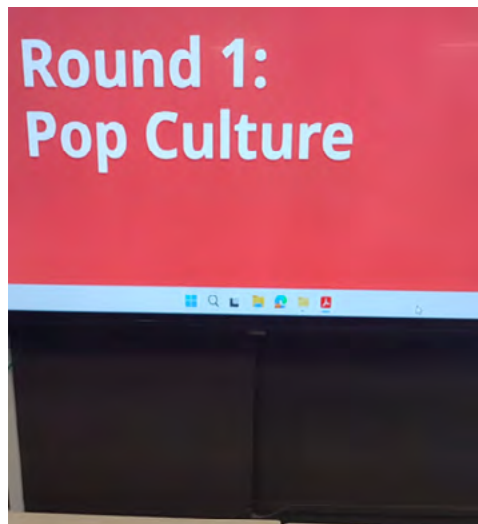
The week will conclude with our much-anticipated Cultural Food Fair on Friday, where students and staff will have the opportunity to share and enjoy dishes from a variety of cultures—bringing the whole school community together in celebration.

Culture Week has been a fantastic success, providing students with valuable opportunities to learn, reflect and celebrate the richness of cultures around them. Thank you to everyone involved.



LGBTQ+ Quiz

On Wednesday, the library held a LGBTQ+ quiz for students to take part in at lunchtime with lots of prizes. Students got into teams of four and tested their knowledge on LGBTQ+ themed questions on pop culture, history, sport, general knowledge with some anagrams thrown in. There was lots of competitive fun and we would like to thank Ms Crisp for arranging this event.



Hospitality & Catering: Glastonbury Brief

Year 10 Hospitality & Catering students took on an exciting real-world challenge in Monday's lesson. Students were tasked with stepping into the role of sous chefs for an elite event catering company at the iconic Glastonbury Festival. Their brief: to design and create a high-end, contemporary street-food style main dish worthy of serving to headlining artists and VIP guests with exclusive backstage access. The challenge required students to demonstrate creativity and technical skill by producing a dish with a complex starch accompaniment. As well as tasting exceptional, their dishes needed to look visually striking and be practical to eat on the go—perfect for guests enjoying the festival atmosphere in the VIP area. This engaging task encouraged students to think like industry professionals, combining presentation, flavour and functionality in a fast-paced, high-pressure catering scenario.



SPORTS DAY

We are pleased to announce that our annual Sports Day will take place on **Thursday 25th June 2026.**

On this day, students in Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 should arrive at school wearing their full PE kit, ready to participate in the day's activities. They will wear their PE kit for the full day.

As events will be held outdoors, please ensure your child wears suitable footwear, and brings a water bottle, sun cream, and a hat.

INSET DAY

A reminder that there will be an INSET Day on **Monday 29th June 2026.** The school will be closed to all students (Year 7-13) on this day for staff training. Thank you.

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 delivers 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/



SUMMER ENRICHMENT

MONDAY

LUNCHTIME

- **Craft Club** - Y7-13, R Crisp, Library
- **Open Studio** - Y7-13, A Bennett, Dance
- **Y7,8,11 Astro** - I.Ratheram
- **Board Games** - Y7, Heartspace
- **Cornhole Club** - Y7, 8 and 9, boys and girls, M.Pallet, Gym
- **The Bridge Drama Society** - Y7, K Cook / N Smith, Drama Studio

AFTER SCHOOL

- **Astronomy** - Y8/9, Dr Raj/Dr Newbold, S2, Summer Half Term 1 only
- **Robot Wars** - Y7 & 10, P.Harrison / P.Williams, D1

THURSDAY

LUNCHTIME

- **Dance Team** - Y7/8, A.Bennett, Dance
- **Geology & Palaeontology** - Y7-13, A.Gadsby, L1
- **Y7-11 Girls & Y10&11 Astro** - I.Ratheram
- **Girls Basketball** - Y9-11, C.Gillett
- **Scrabble Club** - Y7-13, R.Crisp, Library
- **Cornhole Club** - Y7, 8 and 9, boys and girls, M.Pallet, Gym
- **Board Games** - Y7, Heartspace

AFTER SCHOOL

- **Eco Club** - Y7-13, L.Sturgess, D14
- **Girls Badminton** - Y7-13, C.Gillett, Sportshall
- **Music Club** - Y7-13, P.Wright, MU1
- **Science Buskers** - Y9&10, Dr Smith, S11
- **Cinema Club** - Y11-13, Once a month, Z.Owen, (Days confirmed by teacher)
- **Cricket** - Y7-11, M Stocks, 3:15-4:30pm

TUESDAY

LUNCHTIME

- **Jewellery Making** - Y7, Wk 1 Only, Mrs Wilson, D15
- **Girls Basketball** - Y7/8, C.Gillett
- **Y8,9,10 Astro** - I.Ratheram
- **Choir** - P.Wright, MU1
- **LGBTQIA** - Y7-13, R.Byrne, MPR
- **Board Games** - Y7, Heartspace
- **Cornhole Club** - Y7, 8 and 9, boys and girls, M.Pallet, Gym

AFTER SCHOOL

- **Robot Wars** - Y8 & 9, P.Harrison / P.Williams, D1
- **Carnegie Book Awards Shadowing Group** - Y7-13, R Crisp, Library

FRIDAY

LUNCHTIME

- **Open Studio** - Y7-13 Dance Studio, A.Bennett
- **Disco Club** - Year 8 H.Bailey, Y8 | G2
- **Y8,9,10 Astro** - Mr Ratheram
- **Choir** - P.Wright, MU1
- **Xbox Club** - Year 11 R.Byrne, Y11, H9
- **Board Games** - Year 7 Bridge Heartspace
- **Cross Country** - M.Stocks Outside, (Wk 2) Starts after May half term
- **Cornhole Club** - Y7, 8 and 9, boys and girls, M.Pallet, Gym

WEDNESDAY

Lunchtime

- **Dance Team** - Y9-13, A.Bennett, Dance
- **Y7,9,11 Astro** - I.Ratheram
- **Chess Club** - Y7-13, R.Crisp, Library
- **Board Games** - Y7, Heartspace
- **Cornhole Club** - Y7, 8 and 9 boys and girls, M.Pallet, Gym
- **The Gateway Drama Club** - Y8, N Smith, Drama Studio

AFTER SCHOOL

- **Warhammer Club** - Y9-13, D11 C.Hoffman & B.J.Britchford, 3-4:30pm
- **Debate Club** - Y7-13, H8, R Byrne
- **Electronics Club** - Y7-13, P.Harrison / P.Williams, D1
- **Rugby (boys)** - Y7-13, M Stocks, J Elvidge, M Swann, S Randle, M Tallis, Outside
- **Girls Football** - Y7-11, I Pawley / E Jones
- **Silent Book Club** - Last Wednesday of the month, Y7-13, R Crisp, Library



The Hinckley
SCHOOL

Don't be afraid to try new things!

Students receive enrichment points for participating in activities. Ruby, Sapphire and Diamond Enrichment Awards are then awarded in Celebration Assemblies.