

NEWSLETTER

15TH JANUARY 2026



The Hinckley
SCHOOL



This week has seen a strong focus on supporting our Year 11 students. Our Revision Evening for families on Tuesday provided valuable techniques and strategies for effective exam preparation, ensuring students feel well supported and confident in maximising the impact of their revision.

However, helping our students to succeed is about more than revision alone; it is about inspiring and motivating them to take control of their own futures, whatever path they choose. We put this into practice today by offering Year 11 students the unique opportunity to hear from one of the UK's most highly regarded motivational speakers. Action Jackson spoke powerfully about resilience and determination, encouraging our young people to seize every opportunity with confidence and purpose. Feedback from students suggests the message has already had an impact, and we hope they carry this renewed energy and determination with them as they approach their summer examinations.

Congratulations also go to our Under 14 Boys' Rugby Team who, despite the final result, competed with pride and determination in the County Cup Quarter Final yesterday. We could not be prouder of their commitment and resilience.

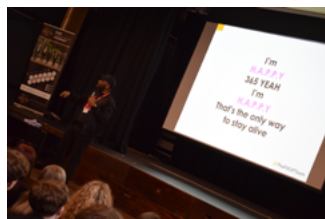
Kate Grocock | Head of School

Action Jackson Inspires

We were delighted to welcome motivational speaker, Action Jackson, to The Hinckley School today to meet our Year 11 students.

His talk to the year group had dynamic energy, humour, and has definitely left an impression! From inspiring students to dream big, work hard and never give up, to performing his song about happiness from Britain's Got Talent, his unique blend of energy, entertainment, empowerment, and education meant students were engaged throughout. During the afternoon, he also worked with smaller groups during workshop sessions. A fantastic and inspiring day!

Head to our [Facebook page](#) to see him perform his Britain's Got Talent song!



Year 7/8 Showcase - Save the Date!

Our Year 7 and 8 Showcase Evening will take place on 27th January 2026, with student work on display for parents and carers to enjoy exploring in The Bridge and The Gateway. More information about the event and how to make appointments will be shared in due course.

Ivy League Inspiration

Futures Trust Alumni, Zak Adams, spent Wednesday working with our Year 10, 11 and 12 students. He spoke to them about his journey from Coventry to Harvard University and helped to dispel myths about studying there. He discussed funding, applications and life in the US, helping students to realise that there is no ceiling to their future plans.



Congratulating Our Sixth Form Offer Holders

A perk of applying to study level 3 courses at our Sixth Form is that Year 11 applicants from The Hinckley School do not have to take part in the formal interview process like our external applicants. We already know you, we know how you work best, your strengths and your potential. This week, we held our first Offer Breakfast of 2026 where we welcomed all Year 11 applicants who we have been able to give a Conditional Offer after reviewing their application. The event saw a presentation by Miss Bull, applicants received an Offer Pack containing FAQ's, a next steps time line and QR codes for useful information such as wider reading and equipment lists. Students also had the opportunity to speak to Eva, a former THS student now studying in Year 12 to get her insights into sixth form life.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and we hope you are excited about the start of your post 16 journey, we will be in touch again soon to share details of our Offer Holder Day and Enrolment. (Interview dates for external applicants will be shared by email soon.)



The Big Garden Birdwatch is Back!

The Big Garden Birdwatch is an annual event organised by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, where participants spend an hour observing and recording the birds in their gardens, providing vital data on the health of garden bird populations in the UK. It not only helps monitor bird populations but also contributes to conservation efforts, ensuring the protection of these species for future generations. To get involved at home [click here](#).



23-25 January 2026

INSET Day - 6th February 2026

A reminder that our next INSET Day will take place on Friday 6th February 2026. Please be aware that the school will be closed to all students, including sixth formers, on

Vaccine Information

The Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for young people (starting from school year 8) will be offered at The Hinckley School by the Immunisation Service on Thursday 22nd January 2026.

The year, listing is given to the immunisation team and they will contact parents directly, so please ensure we have the correct contact information for you. Have you changed your email or your phone number? Please let us know. Please note we are only the hosts for the immunisation team we don't hold any records on the immunisations your child may or may not have had, so for any information relating to this please contact them directly or your GP.



HAVEN'T APPLIED YET?
THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN US IN 2026!
[CLICK HERE](#) OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO APPLY!



LEICESTERSHIRE
FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

Winter WATER SAFETY

EVERY YEAR CHILDREN ARE AT RISK WHEN THEY ARE TEMPTED TO PLAY ON THE ICE FORMED ON OPEN WATERS AND ADULTS FIND THEMSELVES AT RISK AS THEY ATTEMPT TO SAVE THEM. OVER 50% OF ICE RELATED DROWNING INVOLVED AN ATTEMPTED RESCUE OF ANOTHER PERSON OR A DOG

TOP TIPS

Keep away from the edge of the water

Only walk in well lit areas

Keep dogs on their leads

Walk with an adult or group of friends

Never go on the ice under any circumstances

WHAT TO DO IN DANGER

Shout help and call 999. Use your what3words location

Never go onto the ice to try and rescue a person or animal

Keep an eye on the person in danger

If possible lie flat to spread your weight

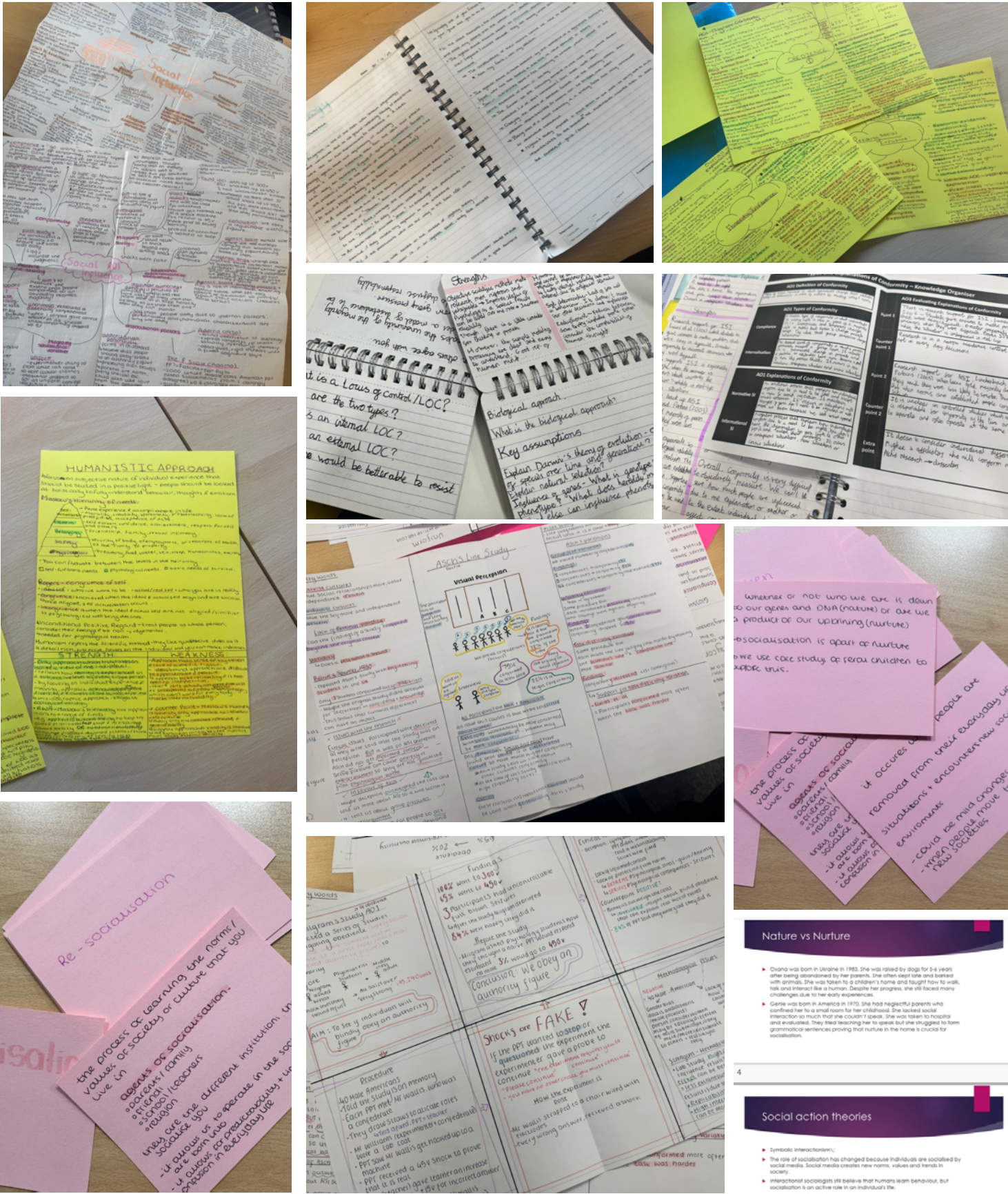
Wait for the emergency services

Year 9 Options Evening - Save the Date!

Our Year 9 Options Evening for 2026 is now planned to take place on Tuesday 24th March 2026. During the evening, students and their families will be able to explore stalls for all courses, speak to staff and listen to an informative talk about the options process. More information will be shared in due course.

Amazing A Level Revision

Miss Blackshaw would like to say well done to our Year 12 Psychology and Sociology students for their incredible efforts with revision. They have stayed pro-actively engaged in their learning and Miss Blackshaw is very proud of their hard work!



SAFEGUARDING NEURODIVERSE YOUNG PEOPLE



RECOGNISING RADICALISATION RISKS AND BUILDING RESILIENCE



This workshop will help families keep young people safe from risks such as online extremism, grooming, radicalisation, and wider harms.

THESE SESSIONS WILL:

- Explore how to recognise when a young person might be at risk of radicalisation
- Support you to manage challenging conversations around online safety and wellbeing
- Help distinguish between red flags and everyday neurodiverse behaviours
- Support you to connect with local safeguarding provision

For more information please email:
kanika@groundswell.world

**GROUNDSWELL
PROJECT**

GROUNDSWELLPROJECT.ORG

SCAN THE QR CODE OR CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW

- Wed 28th Jan, 10am-12pm
- Thu 29th Jan, 7pm-9pm
- Sat 7th Feb, 10am-12pm
- Thu 26th Feb, 1pm-3pm
- Mon 9th Mar, 10am-12pm



Delivered online via Microsoft Teams

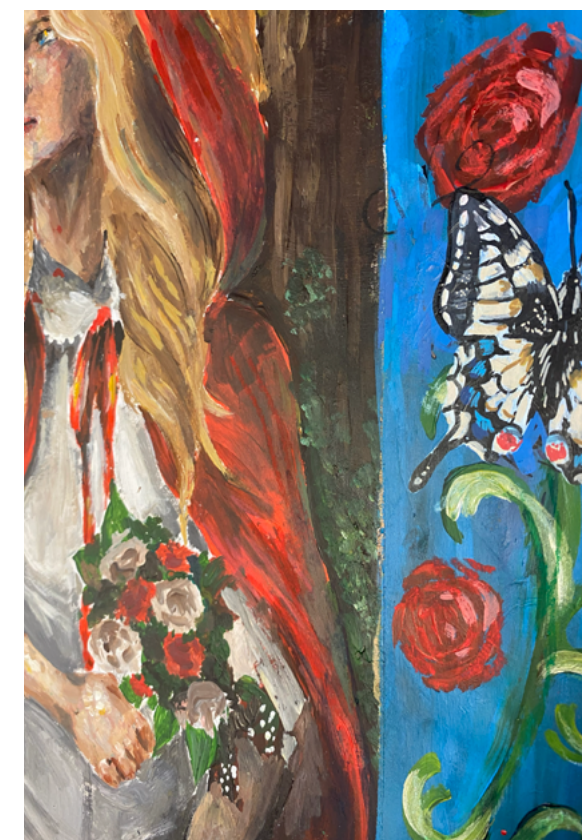
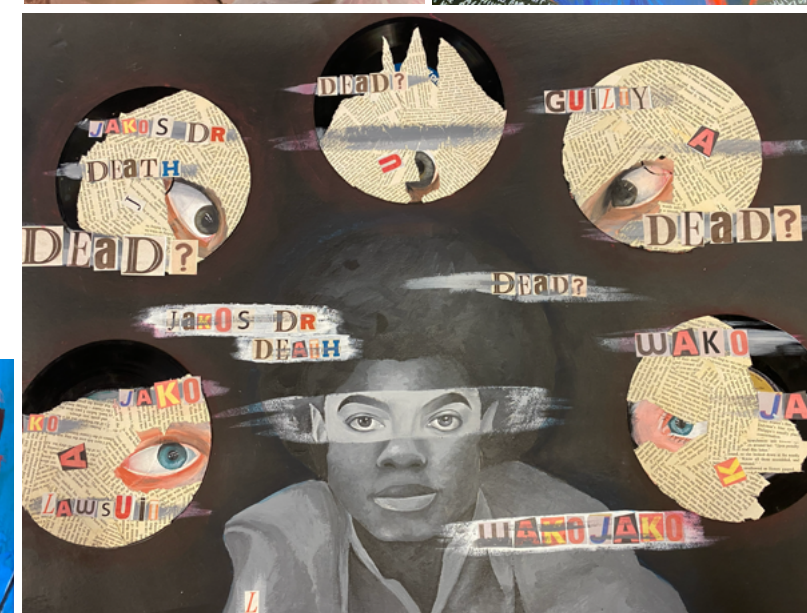


CREATIVE CURRICULUM

Art, Craft and Design Portfolios

Last week, students in Art, Craft and Design submitted their extensive, high-quality portfolios, the result of sustained hard work since Year 10. Each portfolio reflects careful thought, creative risk-taking and a personal response inspired by literature, resulting in impressive and individual outcomes. Their dedication is evident, and it is inspiring to see that this has continued as they embark on their ESA (Externally Set Assignment) Project provided by the exam board. Students are taking pride in their idea generation and development, working with staff to question whether their selections meet the requirements of the criteria and starting point. Keep up the hard work Year 11.

- 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.

Career Spotlight - Jewellery Designer

A career as a jewellery designer involves transforming creative visions into wearable art, using various materials like precious metals and gemstones. The role requires a blend of artistic flair, technical skill (including hand-drawing and computer-aided design or CAD), and an understanding of fashion trends and material properties.

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

Course Spotlight - Jewellery Making

Want an insight into studying this course at university? Watch a video from UAL to find out more - [click here to watch](#).

Course Spotlight - Silversmithing

Want an insight into studying Silversmithing as a Short Course at university? Watch a video from UAL to find out more - [click here to watch](#).

January Creative Challenge:
Costume Illustration

Launch: Monday 5th January Deadline: Monday 2nd 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@thehincley.school.co.uk

Your final submission should be presented neatly on **one A3 sheet**, and must include the following elements:

- Title:** The name of the musical and character (e.g., *Elphaba - Wicked*).
- Visual Presentation:** Either your **fashion illustration** or a **clear photograph** of your **fabric maquette**.
- Character Profile:** A short paragraph introducing the character:
 - Who are they?
 - What is their role in the story?
 - What personality traits or symbolism might influence their costume?
- Fabric Swatches & Colour Palette:** Attach small samples of fabrics, materials, or printed textures you would use. Label and explain why you chose them (e.g., "green velvet to reflect Elphaba's magical presence").
- Production Notes:**
 - Brief notes about how the costume would be made:
 - Techniques (e.g., embroidery, layering, distressing, dyeing).
 - Materials and construction ideas.
 - Consider comfort, movement, and stage lighting.
- Comparative Study:**
 - Include a few **images or notes** comparing your design to the **original costume** from the West End production.
 - Write a short **compare and contrast paragraph** explaining:
 - What elements you kept from the original design.
 - What changes you made and why (e.g., to modernise it, highlight a theme, or reflect a different interpretation).

January Creative Challenge:
Costume Illustration

The Prizes:

- Sewing Kit
- Creative Arts Badge

INTO FILM AWARDS

The Into Film Awards is a celebration of young film-making talent, offering a platform for 5-19 year-olds from across the UK to express their creativity and tell the stories that matter to them. Winning an Award can be just the first step on an incredible journey into the world of film and beyond.

Entries for this year's Into Film Awards are now open, with a range of categories celebrating live action, animation and documentary film making, as well as our returning Ones to Watch and Film making Champions awards - plus a few brand new categories! The closing date for entries is 12:00pm on Monday 23 February 2026. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Parental consent will be required at point of submission. If any members of the 'cast' are under 18, consent for these individuals will also be required

