

NEWSLETTER

26th October - 5th November 2026

The Hinckley SCHOOL



Over the past two weeks, students have enjoyed a wide range of inspiring learning experiences, from creating their own board games in Languages, tackling problem-solving in Maths to synthesising esters in A Level Chemistry. It has been wonderful to see so much curiosity and enthusiasm inside the classroom. Beyond lessons, school life has been equally busy, with students taking part in our October Silent Book Club, weekly enrichment activities, sports fixtures and the impactful Year 12 Safer Driving event, and much more. The pace of school life continues to make the weeks fly by as we progress through the final term of the year.

It was also a pleasure to host this week's Parent Forum, as listening to ideas and feedback from our community is invaluable as we continue working together for our young people. I would like to thank everyone who attended.

This week, members of the team involved in our STEAM new build enjoyed an exciting visit to the Reds10 factory in Driffield, where we were able to see first-hand the progress being made on the modular construction of our new building. The scale and pace of progress are truly astounding, and walking through the corridors and classrooms gave us a real sense of the incredible learning environment our students will enjoy. We look forward to sharing photographs from the visit soon, along with details of a planned student visit to the factory.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of our community a safe and enjoyable Bonfire Night and weekend.

Kate Groocock | Head of School

A Level Chemistry: Creating Esters

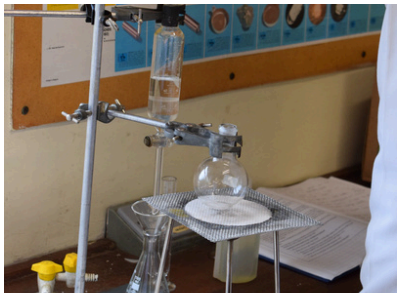
Our A Level Chemistry students recently put their practical skills to the test by preparing an organic liquid called butyl ethanoate, an ester well known for its pleasant fruity aroma.

During the lesson, students carried out a series of laboratory techniques, including heating under reflux, separating reaction mixtures, washing and drying products, and distillation. These processes allowed them to produce and purify the ester before calculating their percentage yield.

The practical helped students develop a deeper understanding of organic chemistry while building confidence in the advanced investigative skills required at A Level and beyond. It was a fantastic opportunity to see chemical theory brought to life in the laboratory.

Want to know more about studying Chemistry at A Level?
Speak to our Chemistry teachers at our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 11th November, 5 pm-8 pm.







Introducing Forest School

We are delighted to announce the development of our new on-site Forest School at The Hinckley School. This exciting addition will provide specialist intervention for carefully selected students. Our Forest School will provide the opportunity for students to learn, explore and develop confidence through regular experiences in a natural outdoor environment.

Forest School is a learner-centred approach that enables young people to develop through self-directed play, exploration and practical outdoor experiences. Through regular sessions, groups will have opportunities to build resilience, independence, creativity, communication skills and an appreciation of the natural world.

The programme supports the school's curriculum while placing a strong emphasis on raising self-esteem, encouraging curiosity and helping students develop confidence through supported risk-taking and problem-solving activities.

Our sessions will take place throughout the year and in all seasons, allowing pupils to experience the outdoors in a variety of conditions and learn valuable life skills in a safe and managed environment. Qualified practitioners will lead Forest School activities, with risk assessments and policies in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants.

How You Can Help

As we continue to develop our Forest School area, we are seeking support from our school community.
We would be extremely grateful for donations of:

- Children's waterproof jackets
- Waterproof trousers
- Wellington boots (all sizes)
- Outdoor clothing suitable for muddy and wet conditions
- Gardening tools and equipment in good condition
- Outdoor seating, logs or natural materials suitable for Forest School activities

We are also looking for volunteers who may be able to offer practical expertise. Such as anyone who is:

- A landscape gardener
- A tree surgeon
- A conservation worker
- Experienced in woodland management
- Skilled in outdoor construction or land maintenance

If you are willing to donate some time or advice to help develop the site, we would love to hear from you.



Community support can make a huge difference in creating an inspiring outdoor learning environment for our young people. Every donation, no matter how small, will help us provide enriching experiences that foster confidence, independence, and a lifelong appreciation of nature.

If you would like to donate equipment, volunteer your skills, or find out more about the Forest School project, please contact the school.

The Hinckley School would like to sincerely thank Ms Crisp for all her hard work to make this project a reality.

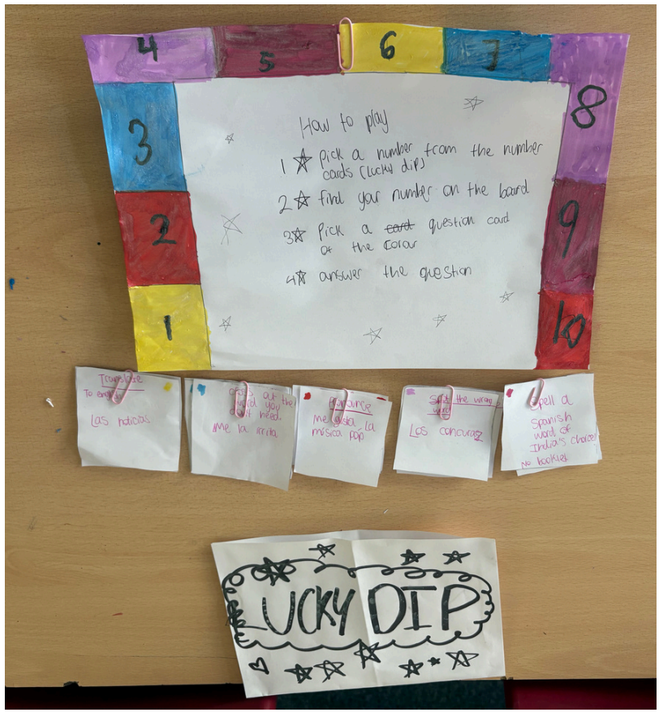
Opening on Monday!

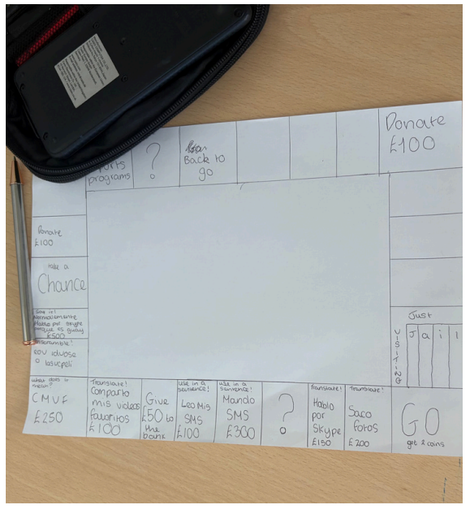




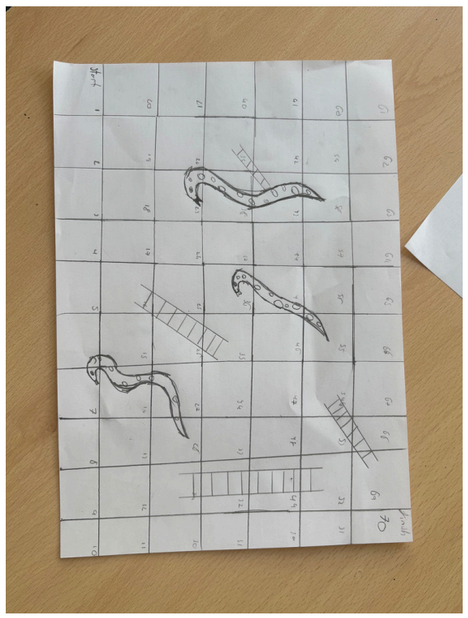












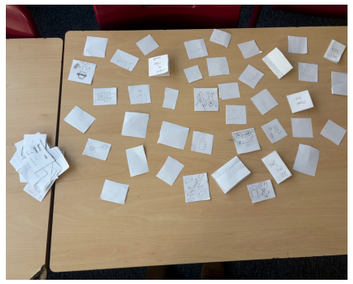


Languages Board Games

Mr Dillow would like to congratulate 8CAMBRIDGE on all their hard work before half term. The class put their knowledge to the test by making board games that used the vocabulary they have learned this term so far.

Well done, everyone!







Driver Safety Event

Last week, our students took part in our annual Safer Driving event, a powerful and important experience as they approach key milestones such as learning to drive.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the day such a success, including the Fire Service, who delivered an emotional and thought-provoking assembly before demonstrating how emergency crews would cut someone from a vehicle following a serious collision.

The event provided a powerful reminder of the responsibilities that come with being behind the wheel and the importance of keeping ourselves and others safe.

Thank you to all who gave their time and expertise to support our students with these vital life lessons, and thank you to our students for their focus and maturity.



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Practice Expedition

Our Year 10 students took part in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's practice expedition over the weekend in Leicestershire. Starting at Beaumanor Hall, their routes took them through Swithland Woods, Bradgate Park and towards Quorn.

The weather was kind to us throughout the weekend, although temperatures dropped during the evening. Our students coped extremely well and showed great resilience.

The young people were positive, enthusiastic and embraced the challenge from the outset, quickly adapting to carrying their rucksacks for the first time. After arriving at camp, they cooked their own evening meals before enjoying some well-earned free time playing hide-and-seek together.

A huge thank you to the DofE team for giving up their time to support the expedition and for helping to make the weekend such a success.

Well done to everyone involved!

- Amy Fennell, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator





The John Wilkinson Memorial Cup

The John Wilkinson Memorial Cup - Saturday 14th November - The Hinckley School Year 7s vs Hinckley Rugby Football Club U12

On Saturday 14th November, we will come together for a special occasion, as The Hinckley School Year 7 team takes to the field alongside Hinckley Rugby Football Club U12s to compete for the third annual John Wilkinson Memorial Cup.

This fixture is about more than rugby. It is an opportunity to remember John, honour his memory, and celebrate the friendship, respect, and togetherness at the heart of our rugby community.

- Meet: 10:45am
- Warm-up: 11:00am
- Kick-off: 11:30am

(This match will take place at Hinckley Rugby Football Club)
After the final whistle, John's wife will present the John Wilkinson Memorial Cup on the pitch, having kindly attended every match played in honour of beloved teacher John.

We warmly invite players, parents, families, friends and supporters to join us for what promises to be a meaningful occasion. Your support would be greatly appreciated as we come together to remember John and enjoy a day of rugby played in the spirit of respect, friendship and sportsmanship.

We look forward to welcoming everyone for this special occasion and continuing to honour John's memory through the game we all love.





Silent Book Club Success!

Our October Silent Book Club saw students bring their favourite books to the library, settle into our giant beanbags wrapped in cosy blankets, and enjoy a relaxing hour of reading. To make it even better, everyone enjoyed a hot chocolate and biscuit break while sharing their love of books and reading!

A perfect way to unwind, relax, and get lost in a great story!

Our next Silent Book Club sessions will take place on:

- 11th November | 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 25th November | 3:00pm – 4:00pm (yes, we know that is actually two in a month - but we can't wait until December!)

We look forward to welcoming both returning and new members for another cosy afternoon of reading!





Class of 2026 Reunion Evening

Our Year 11 Class of 2026 is invited to join us on Thursday 26th November at 6:00 pm at The Hinckley School for a special evening of celebration and sharing memories. This promises to be a memorable evening as we recognise all that the Class of 2026 has achieved and celebrate together one more time. (If you know a GCSE student who graduated from The Hinckley School earlier this year, please share this with them!) Register online to reserve your seats - click here before 17th November!



Ollie's Podium Performance!

We have loved hearing about the amazing things our students get up to over half term. From wonderful family events and days out with friends and family to spending time enjoying their passions and hobbies.

A great example of this is Ollie in Year 7, who flew to Valencia over half term to compete in his fourth HYROX competition. Ollie not only competed with confidence in the international 'Young Stars' competition, but managed to secure second place! A fantastic testament not only to fitness, but to mindset and determination too.

Congratulations Ollie! We are incredibly proud of you and look forward to hearing what you achieve next.

Keep sharing your student achievements with your year team, so we can come together as a community to celebrate our incredible young people!





Fin's Fundraising!

Year 12 student Fin is currently raising money for Movember by completing a 100km run for men's mental health.

We are incredibly proud of Fin for his fundraising mission and wanted to show our support by sharing his fundrasiing page and donation link with our community.

Please show him some support and donate if you can!

Fin Bates's Mo Space
uk.movember.com