

NEWSLETTER

18TH DECEMBER 2025



The Hinckley
SCHOOL



As we come to the end of another successful term, I would like to congratulate our students, staff, and families on a truly wonderful few months. It has been a great term, full of hard work, enthusiasm, and achievements that we can all be proud of.

The final week has been a fitting and memorable finale for us all, with our Christmas celebrations bringing so much joy and laughter across the school. From festive Year Group activities and Christmas dinners, to trips, community celebrations and performances - we have thoroughly enjoyed making special memories that will last long beyond the festive season. Tomorrow, our final school day of 2025 will see our annual Christmas Bazaar take place, alongside a non-uniform day. Our Sixth Formers have planned an exciting array of activities and stalls for this charity event, which I know everyone will enjoy together before we wave goodbye to students at an earlier finish time of 12:30pm.

Thank you to our dedicated staff for their commitment and care, and to our families for your continued support. Most of all, well done to our students for their energy, and determination throughout the term.

However you will be celebrating, may I wish everyone a restful and happy Christmas break, and I look forward to welcoming students back in the new year, on Monday 5th January, refreshed and well-rested, and ready to focus on our spring term programmes of learning.

Kate Grocock | Head of School

Bridgemas Sing-Off

Our Year 7 students recently took part in a lively Christmas Sing-Off competition between our tutor groups, filling the hall with festive spirit and joyful energy. All groups performed with enthusiasm and confidence, making it a fun and memorable event for everyone.

We were delighted to welcome so many families to the event to enjoy the celebrations. Guests were treated to a Bridge Christmas Card Newsletter - offering a look back at 2025 and staff messages, along with delicious mince pies and a selection of hot drinks, adding to the warm and festive atmosphere. The event was a wonderful way to bring our school community together and celebrate the season, creating happy memories for all.

Congratulations to all our Year 7 students, especially 7 Loughborough who were crowned our 2025 winners!



Winter Performing Arts Showcase

We would like to congratulate all students who performed at our recent Winter Performing Arts Showcase. The show was a huge success and gave our students a fantastic platform to showcase their incredible talents, whether that be in dance, singing, acting or playing instruments. The generosity of our audience means we have raised just under £200 for the local Hinckley area Food bank, just in time to hopefully help spread a little festive cheer.

Mrs Cook, Drama Lead said, 'From our youngest performers in The Bridge Drama Society, to our most experienced Drama year group in Year 13 exploring more complex material, and the Year 10 panto in between, the showcase encapsulated the myriad of style, mood, genre and technique that Drama holds for an audience. The performances reflected not just talent but commitment, collaboration and a genuine love of storytelling. It was a pleasure to share this with our families, friends and community and it's always a pleasure as their drama teacher to watch the students grow in confidence and expression on stage.'

Miss Bennett also shared how incredibly proud she was of her students, 'Our dance students demonstrated incredible commitment, rehearsing tirelessly during lunchtimes for their styled Jazz and Lyrical pieces. The results were impressive and clearly evident in their performances.'



STUDENTS SHONE DURING OUR SEASONAL SHOWCASE!



Last Day of Term

Last Day of Term – Friday 19th December

Christmas Jumper Day

The last day of term, Friday 19th December, will be a non-uniform day for all students in all year groups, with Christmas Jumpers encouraged. There is a £1 suggested donation for this event which can be paid via Parent Pay, or in cash on the day. Families also have the alternative option to donate a book (suitable for secondary school age readers) to our school to support our reading culture; these donations should be given to your child's Year Team on the day.

Christmas Bazaar



On Friday 19th December, students in Years 7-11 will also be able to enjoy stalls at our annual Christmas Bazaar where they can exchange £1 for five tokens to 'spend' on games and food at our student-run Christmas Market over the course of the morning. If you donate on Parent Pay for the non-uniform day, or choose to donate cash on the day, your child will automatically receive tokens for the Bazaar during registration that morning. If students would like to donate more money, they are very welcome to bring in cash to buy extra tokens. Please note, £1 will be paid for all pupil premium and free school meal students to enable them to participate. All proceeds raised from the Christmas Bazaar and the Christmas Jumper Day will be shared between Save the Children and Cancer Research UK.

Please note that we will be finishing school earlier on Friday 19th December; students will gather as tutor groups at 12.20pm for a brief Christmas farewell with their tutors and peers before **leaving site at 12.30pm**. Beaver Bus services will be informed of this early finish time. Thank you all for your support this term. From everyone at The Hinckley School and The Hinckley Sixth Form, we wish you a very happy and restful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to **welcoming all year groups back to school at 8:20am on Monday 5th January 2026**.

Kind regards, Kate Grocock, Head of School

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Achievements

Congratulations to the following young people who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh's awards recently. This is a real show of commitment, perseverance and determination, well done to you all!

Bronze		BRONZE Volunteering 3 months Physical 3 months Skills 3 months Expedition 2 days 1 night 
Isobel		<small>PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.</small>

Astronomy Club

At Astronomy Club this week, we used the theme of 'Exoplanets' to make Christmas baubles. This was a great session where students shared their ideas - fostering their skills and teamwork to learn more about exoplanets in different galaxies. Using NASA's exoplanet catalogue and apps such as Stellarium, these students did their research to find some beautiful exoplanets in the Milky Way and other galaxies. These pictures were used as a reference to make these Christmas ornaments.

- Dr Newbold and Dr Raj



Community Celebrations

We are lucky enough to enjoy such a strong sense of community all year round, however this is no more evident than at Christmas, as students, and staff come together to celebrate the festive season and make treasured memories.

Each year group had the opportunity to enjoy a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings this week, alongside Christmas music, crackers and a traditional festive pantomime - Oh no they didn't! Oh yes they did! These events often led into the Year Group Celebration Assemblies, where students were recognised by subject experts, for their PRIDE, overall achievements and progress, and adding to the special atmosphere of the final week of term.

Thank you to our staff for their hard work, without which these events would not be possible.



Lost Property

We have recently had an influx of lost property handed in to our Main Reception.

Parents, carers, and students are reminded that the lost property box is kept in the Main Reception, and families are welcome to come into school during our normal opening hours to look for any items students may have misplaced recently. Please note that all items currently in the lost property box will be donated to charity over the Christmas break if left unclaimed.



Gingerbread Masterpieces

Nils in Year 9 has surprised Ms Crisp with an amazing gingerbread house and an overflowing biscuit tin to share with his fellow library helpers! Such a thoughtful thing to do for his fellow students and staff - we would like to congratulate Nils on his impressive baking and creative design. Thank you for spreading Christmas joy within our community.



KS4 Hospitality and Catering students have produced some impressive gingerbread houses this week! Students made the gingerbread and cut it to size using their homemade templates, before using homemade royal icing to construct the individual pieces. Well done everyone!





The Hinckley SCHOOL



The Hinckley SIXTH FORM



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Stalls include:

- Basketball Shootout
- How Many Balloons are in the Digger?
- Hand Painting
- Human Tombola
- Face Painting
- Hot Chocolate
- Tombola
- Skittles
- Rugby
- Nerf
- Just Dance

Students are invited to attend our Sixth Form Christmas Bazaar on Friday 19th December for some end of term festive fun!
Year 7 & 8 - P2 | Year 11 - Break | Year 9 & 10 - P3

Students will receive five tickets in exchange for their non-uniform donation (£1 or a book donation) and can buy additional tickets with cash.

Royal Society Christmas Lectures

On Monday afternoon, students in Year 11 and Year 12 who are considering continuing to study Chemistry at either A-Level or for a degree visited the University of Leicester for an explosive demonstration lecture sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Aimed to inspire students to consider a career in Chemistry, the lecture contained lots of flashes and bangs, which, along with eliciting the requisite oohhs and aahhs, reminded students how visually incredible Chemistry is.

Prior to the lecture, students had the opportunity to chat with members of the Royal Society of Chemistry who are employed in the chemical industry within the region. By chatting with the chemists, students could see where hard work and dedication to their studies can lead.

Dr Smith, who accompanied the students to the event, commented, 'The lecture contained many of the classic chemistry demonstrations that I can remember being amazed by as a teenager. It was an absolute privilege to see them live again and re-ignite my passion for my subject.....no pun intended!'



Memorial Garden - Bulb Planting

This week, Ms Crisp led bulb planting in the school memorial garden with volunteers Denise and Jayne from HRBS, who donated the bulbs, along with Emily and Dilakshana from the Eco Club. The group planted crocus, hyacinths, tulips and snowdrops that will start to bring colour in the spring.

The 'Janet Tulips' were planted with special significance, as a floral tribute to beloved former teacher, Janet Paterson, who made a lasting and powerful impact on so many within our community. The garden will give students and staff a quiet place of reflection and acts as a beautiful memorial to all students and staff who are sadly no longer with us, but will never be forgotten.



Historian of the Month

We are delighted to share the names of our Historian of the Month winners for November and December!

Historian of the Month for November was Juvanna, for excellent contributions to the subject and hard work in her first term at The Hinckley School.

Historian of the Month for December is Ollie, for outstanding performance in exams and exam-based skills lessons.

Congratulations to both of them!

- Ms Burton | Head of History



Recycle Your Chocolate Tubs

The Eco Club and library will be helping people recycle their Christmas chocolate tubs this year. If you bring in your clean empty plastic tub to the library by January 9th 2026, we will take your tubs to a participating Green king pub to be recycled and raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Please [click here](#) for more information.



Further Maths Conference

It was our pleasure to host 'From Oxbridge to the Ivy League: A Further Mathematics Conference' on Tuesday, where our own Year 11 students joined Redmoor mathematicians in our Sixth Form building. This bespoke event offered students a unique opportunity to explore the exciting possibilities that A- Level Further Mathematics can offer - academically, intellectually, and in terms of future pathways.

Over the course of the conference, students took part in a taster A-Level lesson led by our Mathematics specialists, giving them a first-hand experience of the depth, challenge and beauty that Further Mathematics offers. They also heard an inspirational talk from our guest speaker Zak Adams, a former Futures Trust student, who is currently studying in his final year at Harvard University.



CREATIVE CURRICULUM

The Bridge Year 7 Artwork Showcase

After studying the work of artist Gwenn Seemel, Year 7 students were challenged to respond to the talking point "Dogs are the most superior pet." This provoked thoughtful discussion and encouraged students to consider the nature and traits of different pets, and how these ideas could be communicated through the use of line, colour and pattern.

Students made careful, well-justified creative choices, resulting in a diverse range of expressive and imaginative artworks. We are delighted to share these fantastic outcomes.

- Miss Webster | Teacher of Art



Course Spotlight - BSc Sport and Exercise Nutrition

Have you considered studying Sport and Exercise Nutrition at university?

Sport and exercise nutrition is the science of using food and fluids to optimize athletic performance, enhance recovery, improve body composition, and support overall health, focusing on macro-nutrients, hydration, timing, and supplements to meet the specific demands of different sports and individuals.

[Click here](#) to watch an overview of the course from the University of Hull.

CAREERS CORNER

Career Spotlight - Nutritionist



Nutritionists teach patients and clients about the effects of food on their health, motivating them to make positive changes to their diet.

Your exact day to day tasks would vary depending on where you worked.

Generally, as a nutritionist you might:

- complete research to learn more about a certain area of nutrition
- recruit volunteers to take part in your research
- process and analyse biological samples
- provide scientific advice on healthy eating
- work with hospital patients, supported by doctors, dieticians and nurses

[Click here](#) to watch a video featuring more information about this career.

Media & Advertising: Christmas Advert Competition

Miss Webster is encouraging students to get involved in our latest monthly creative competition, this time with a festive spin, as students explore the world of Media and Advertising. See below for further details:

December Creative Challenge: Media & Advertising: Christmas Advert Campaign

Launch: Monday 1st December | Deadline: Friday 19th December

1914 Christmas 2014

Challenge: If advertisement is focused on promoting and selling products (commercialisation), is it possible to encourage the audience to appreciate true meaning of Christmas?

Can you think of a Christmas advert that does this particularly well?

Challenge:

Develop a storyboard concept for an advert that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas and its traditions

1. Select your chosen brand/ product
2. Develop a storyboard that uses visual and written methods to document your idea (you can hand draw or complete digitally)
3. Ensure that you focus on the true meaning of Christmas – less about commercialisation. FAMILY TRADITIONS, CHRISTMAS THROUGHOUT HISTORY, CELEBRATING CULTURES

Entries can be printed and handed to Miss Webster in D7, or emailed to kwebster@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow



Samsung Solve for Tomorrow

Don't just imagine a better world... *invent it*

Put your students' design thinking skills to the test and create a tech-for-good solution to a real-world problem and be in with the chance of winning tech, mentoring, work experience and their idea on the big Samsung screen in Piccadilly Circus.

How does it work?

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is a free, curriculum-linked programme and national competition for 11-18-year-olds at secondary schools and colleges across the UK and Ireland.

Students can submit an idea from one of three categories:



Smarter Sport

Tech that makes sport more fun, inclusive and helps everyone perform at their best.



Greener Future

Tech that protects our planet and helps us live more sustainable lives.



Safer Online

Tech that keeps us connected, confident and in control.

Timeline

Imagine It

November 2025 - January 2026
Students develop a tech-for-good idea!
Deadline: 1 February 2026

Make It

February - March 2026
24 semi-finalists receive support to develop their idea!
Deadline: 20 March 2026

Pitch It

April 2026
9 finalists present their idea to a panel of experts!
Final event: 30 April 2026

[Click here to find out more.](#)



The Hinckley
SCHOOL

Merry Christmas

from everyone at The Hinckley School

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 5th January 2026.

COMPETITION CORNER