

NEWSLETTER

6TH DECEMBER 2025



The Hinckley
SCHOOL



Last Thursday, we had the pleasure of welcoming back our Class of 2025 to their Year 11 Reunion and Celebration Evening. It was a fantastic example of our strong sense of community and staff thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the successes of this year group together for one final time. We wish the Class of 2025 the very best in their future endeavours.

The event also featured alumni performances, including impressive pianists and powerful Sixth Form poetry readings. Sixth Former Anne-Mary's thought provoking spoken word piece from the event can be found later in this newsletter, along with her thoughts.

Our preparations for the festive season have now begun, with heart-spaces decorated and our first Christmas event under our belts. This week, our choir impressed audiences as they performed in the St Mary's Church Annual Christmas Concert. It is an event staff and students always look forward to, and we would like to thank the organisers for once again giving our students the platform to share their talents with local residents.

Next week, our Pantomime Tour starts. This series of shows will see our Year 10 students visit local primary schools to perform their devised piece and spread festive cheer. I wish them the very best of luck and know they will do us proud. Our own year groups will also get to enjoy this festive entertainment, alongside their Christmas Dinners, during the final week of term. Full details of our Christmas celebrations and end of term arrangements have been communicated to families earlier this week and a copy can be found both on our website, and in this newsletter.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming families of Year 7 students to school next Friday, as The Bridge Sing Off helps to put us all in the festive spirit!

Kate Grocock | Head of School

St Mary's Church Concert

Students and community members gathered at St Mary's Church in Hinckley this Wednesday for their annual daytime Christmas Music Concert, a cherished tradition that ushers in the holiday season with warmth and celebration.

The concert featured a beautiful performance by the school choir, who performed classic carols and contemporary holiday pieces. In addition to the choral selections, students showcased their individual musical talents through a series of impressive instrumental performances which included brass, a cello solo, and piano pieces.

Special thanks go to Mr Wright and Mrs Cook for supporting and organising student involvement in this memorable community event. As always, our students shone brightly—reminding us that the joy that Christmas, and a shared love of music, can bring.



Class of 2025 Reunion

Our Year 11 Class of 2025 gathered together for their Reunion and Celebration Evening last week, as we celebrated their achievements, limitless potential and five years of fantastic memories.

The event included arrival drinks, grazing boards for families to enjoy, the presentations of exam certificates, student awards, staff speeches and an alumni guest speaker - Hannah McReynolds. The entertainment for the evening came in the form of piano performances, and poetry readings thanks to our talented alumni, with guests ending the evening with a walk down memory lane through a slide show of photographs from the past five years.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make the evening so special.



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.



The Power of Poetry

Anne-Mary, Class of 2025 graduate and Year 12 student at The Hinckley Sixth Form, performed one of her original poems during the Class of 2025 Reunion and Celebration Evening last week, and we are delighted to share this thought provoking spoken word piece with you. It directly addresses the topic of racism in society and we would like to congratulate Anne-Mary on creating such a truly powerful and emotive piece. We know it will have a lasting impact on many.

Bruises the Colour of Belonging

I walk through this city of rain,
its pavements slick with silence.
Every step reminds me
that my skin is a map
others keep trying to redraw.

They call me spice,
as if my body were a kitchen to sample.
They taste me in jokes,
lick their lips with questions —
“What’s it like with Indian girls?”
As if I were curry simmering for their hunger,
never a woman with my own fire.

On buses, in queues, in offices,
I feel their stare:
sometimes a blade,
sometimes a net.
I am both danger and desire,
never simply human.

But behind their gaze,
there is the weight of our labour:
hands raw from scrubbing plates
in kitchens that never close,
backs bent over hospital beds,
shifts stitched together without sleep.

We lay bricks for houses
we cannot afford to enter,
drive buses through streets
where we are told we don’t belong,
stack shelves and sweep aisles
so others may fill their baskets
and forget we exist.

My father’s palms cracked like old soil,
my mother’s spine a question mark
from bending too long over other people’s needs.
They built this country quietly,
stone by stone, hour by hour,
and still it spits in our faces,
still it calls us outsiders.

I remember a man’s split lip,
police reports folded into drawers.

I remember myself walking home
with keys threaded between her fingers
like a rosary of survival.

I remember a child —
brown like me —
told to go home,
though home was nothing but this street,
this damp brick, this cold air.

We learn how to shrink:
our voices pressed flat,
our smiles rehearsed for safety.
We learn the language of endurance,
how to carry dignity
like a fragile bowl of water
through a storm of fists and whispers.

And yet—
I stand.
My spine is not theirs to bend.
My voice is not theirs to silence.
I am the daughter of women
who crossed oceans with only their hunger for hope,
the child of men who built lives
from concrete and refusal.

I am not your spice,
not your shame,
not your conquest.

I am here.
I am labour,
I am love,
I am lineage.

And still—
I walk these streets.

Reflecting on her poem, Anne-Mary shared, “Our thoughts and words hold great power. We are lucky to be a part of a community that endorses and encourages free speech and diversity, and we should utilise this to bring positive change. We need to be mindful of our impact on others. We cannot let discrimination litter our thoughts, words, and actions. Micro racism can be harmful; It isolates minorities. Condoning slurs, mindlessly laughing at racist jokes, physical aggression and harassment is everywhere. Reducing someone to their ethnicity/ race is growing (especially in this turbulent political climate).”

She added, “Why don’t we do more about it? “‘It’s’ uncomfortable to talk to about”” It’ was a one-off thing” “‘It’ doesn’t mean anything”. ‘It’ (racism) has become taboo. Without addressing the issue, we cannot tackle it! My poem aims to de-stigmatise and raise awareness of racism: To make you think about the impact of racism and yes, just like Rome wasn’t built in a day... its won’t be an instant feat but we can start by acknowledging it and talking about it so we can serve as role models and create safe spaces. Especially for impressionable and vulnerable younger years. Let’s set the bar higher.”

Christmas Celebrations

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we enter December, we wanted to write to parents and carers to share the details of our festive celebrations, and plans for the end of term.

Final Week of Term

Christmas Dinners

This year, alongside a busy calendar of year group activities, pantomime performances, celebration assemblies and trips, there will once again be an opportunity for all students in Year 7-11 to enjoy a two-course Christmas dinner, alongside festive entertainment, during their final week before the Christmas break.

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy a sit-down two-course Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, alongside staff, to celebrate the festive period. The dates of the Christmas dinners for each year group are:

Year 7 – Monday 15th December
Year 8 – Tuesday 16th December
Year 9 – Thursday 18th December
Year 10 and Year 11 - Wednesday 17th December

In order for your child to have a two-course Christmas dinner, we kindly ask that you pre-pay the meal deal price of £2.88 on ParentPay **by 10am on Monday 8th December**. Please select to pay the 'Christmas Dinner - £2.88' option on Parent Pay. Alternatively, if your child requires a vegetarian or vegan option, please select 'Vegan Christmas Dinner - £2.88'. For all other dietary requirements, please contact your Year Team directly.

All free school meal students in Year 7-11 will automatically be allocated a free Christmas dinner as their total funding allocation on this date; there is no need to sign up for this. Students may bring in their own packed lunch should they wish to.

Students in KS3, including those who bring in a packed lunch, will all sit together as a year group to enjoy the festivities so that everyone can enjoy the event entertainment and atmosphere as a community.

We extended the Christmas Dinner option to KS4 students based on requests from our community last year and were delighted to receive great feedback from students about how much they enjoyed this event. Only students in KS4 who purchase a Christmas Dinner will eat their lunch in the hall on their date. Normal 'grab and go' kitchen services will continue alongside the Christmas Dinners for those who do not opt in.

Please note that to allow a grab and go service to

continue for other year groups alongside Christmas Dinners, Year 8 students will need to purchase food from The Cube on Monday 15th December only.

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

The Monthly Book Club

One Thursday each Month
Look out for dates



All students and staff are invited to come to the library to read in companionable silence in the library from 3pm to 4pm.



You bring the book, and the library will provide cushions, blankets, beanbags biscuits and drinks .



The Library Jolabokaflod

Pronounced: Yo-la-bok-a-flot
jol(Christmas)
Bok (book)
Flod (flood)

In the library, we will host our own Jolabokaflod. During the 'silent book club' event on the 18th December. Students and staff are invited to donate a book (in good condition) and wrap it in ribbon with a chocolate, to exchange with another donated book.

(Any leftover books will be donated to charity)

Happy Jólábókafloð!



IN ICELAND, books are exchanged on Christmas Eve, and you spend the rest of the night READING. People generally take their books to bed along with some chocolate. How cozy and wonderful does that sound?

Iceland publishes MORE BOOKS per capita than any other country, and new books are typically published only during the Christmas season--the frenzy is called Jolabokaflod, which means Christmas Book Flood.

AZpennydreadfuls.com

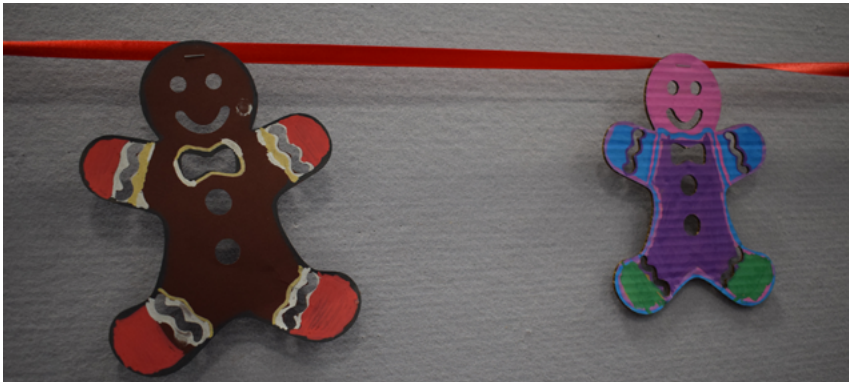
Reminder to Book Tickets!

A reminder [book tickets](#) to see The Bridge Sing Off on Friday 12th December, 1:30pm-3pm, as soon as possible!

If there is still event capacity at the start of week commencing 8th December, families who have already booked will be advised so that they can book additional tickets should they wish to. Please note additional tickets will be on a first come first served basis.



CREATIVE CURRICULUM



Christmas Crafts

Year 7 students have been getting creative in our new lunch time enrichment club with Miss Webster.

Students have been trying their hand at Christmas crafts, producing gingerbread men garlands, paper wreaths and more to help decorate The Bridge heartspace for the festive season. Well done to everyone who has taken part so far - your creations look wonderful!

Interested in a Career as a Visual Merchandiser?



Interested in finding out more about this career path? [Click here to watch a video.](#)

Interested in studying for a degree in Fashion Design and Promotion?



[Click here](#) to learn more about the BA (Hons) Fashion and Promotion course at the University of Sunderland.

National Geographic KIDS



Simply upload your train drawing for a chance to win! Judges are looking for creativity and imagination. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Want a chance to win a copy of The Millicent Quibb series, a science experiment kit, a mad-scientist badge and a bookmark?



Simply head to the National Geographic KIDS website by [clicking here](#) and answer the questions on screen to get involved!

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:

1914 Christmas 2014

Challenge: If advertisement is focussed 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?

December Creative Challenge:

Media & Advertisement: Christmas Advert Campaign

Launch: Monday 1st December

Deadline: Friday 19th December

Sundblom's Coca-Cola Illustrations: From 1931 to 1964

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

Commercialised Elements of Christmas in the UK Today vs. Historically	
Modern Commercialised Christmas (Today)	Historical Christmas (Pre-20th Century)
1. Christmas Shopping & Sales: Major focus on buying gifts, with events like Black Friday and Boxing Day sales.	Gift-giving was simpler, often handmade or symbolic items. Not a central part of the celebration until the Victorian era.
2. Advertising & Media: TV ads (e.g. John Lewis), social media campaigns, branded Christmas content.	No mass media – communication was local, and traditions passed down through generations, not advertisements.
3. Santa Claus as a Brand: Heavily commercialised image of Santa (red suit, Coca-Cola style), used in marketing everywhere.	Early versions were based on St. Nicholas, Father Christmas or Sinterklaas – more focused on giving and kindness.
4. Christmas Decorations from Shops: Mass-produced ornaments, LED lights, inflatable Santas bought from stores.	Decorations were homemade (e.g. paper chains, natural materials like holly and ivy). Christmas trees popularized in the Victorian era.
5. Mass Consumption of Food & Drink: Supermarket feasts, party foods, festive menus at restaurants.	Meals were special but more modest. Christmas puddings and mince pies were traditional but not overindulgent.
6. Christmas Music & Merchandise: Pop songs, albums, themed products, novelty jumpers sold in stores.	Carols were sung in churches or at home. No commercial Christmas music industry.
7. Christmas Cards Industry: Millions of printed cards sent or sold.	Introduced in the 1840s , but handmade or limited in early use.
8. Branded Advent Calendars: Chocolate or toy-filled, often from big brands like LEGO or Cadbury.	Advent was a religious preparation for Christmas, with simple calendars (if any), sometimes with scripture or prayers.
9. Focus on Spending & Gifting: Pressure to buy expensive or many gifts, often driven by retail culture.	Giving was less commercial , focused more on charity, community, or small tokens .
10. Christmas Films & Theme Parks: Blockbuster holiday films, Christmas markets, Santa's grotto as commercial experiences.	Entertainment was home-based (games, stories), and religious services were central to the celebration.
Tips for Students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider why Christmas became more commercialised (e.g. rise of capitalism, advertising, globalisation).• Reflect on what's gained and lost with these changes – is there a balance between fun and meaning?• Think about how traditions evolve but can still hold cultural and personal value.	

	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
pe or Purpose	Message is clear, strong, and consistent throughout the storyboard.	Message is clear but could be more impactful.	Message is present but lacks clarity or consistency.	Message is unclear or missing.
Audience	Fully tailored to a specific audience with appropriate language and visuals.	Mostly appropriate for the intended audience.	Some attempt to address a target audience.	No clear audience is identified.
ig Scene	Captivates attention immediately and sets up the ad effectively.	Good attention-grabber with clear intent.	Opening is basic but introduces the product.	Weak or confusing opening scene.
ive Techniques	Uses multiple, effective techniques (e.g. slogans, emotion, humor).	Uses at least one effective persuasive technique.	Some attempt at persuasion, but not strong.	No use of persuasive techniques.
Elements	Visuals are clear, creative, and enhance the message.	Visuals support the message well.	Visuals are basic or need more detail.	Visuals are confusing, messy, or missing.
ue / Voiceover	Dialogue is powerful, relevant, and adds to the ad.	Dialogue is relevant and mostly effective.	Dialogue is minimal or inconsistent.	Dialogue is missing or ineffective.
ee / Flow	Scenes flow smoothly and logically from beginning to end.	Mostly smooth sequence with minor gaps.	Sequence is choppy or unclear in places.	Scenes are out of order or confusing.
it Placement	Product is shown clearly and effectively throughout.	Product is shown but could be more prominent.	Product appears, but inconsistently.	Product is barely shown or unclear.
Action	Strong and clear – motivates audience to act.	Call to action is present and somewhat appropriate.	Weak or unclear call to action.	No call to action included.
Awareness	Storyboard fits well within typical ad lengths/pacing is excellent.	Pacing is mostly appropriate.	Some scenes feel too short or too long.	Poor timing or pacing; ad would not fit within time limits.
ivity & Originality	Highly creative and original concept. Memorable and engaging.	Good creativity; some original ideas.	Some creativity, but uses common ideas.	Lacks originality; feels copied or dull.
Annotations	All frames are clearly labeled with action, dialogue, and sounds.	Most frames are labeled with needed information.	Some frames are labeled; others are unclear.	Very few or no labels and annotations.



December Creative Challenge: Media & Advertisement: Christmas Advert Campaign

The Prize:
27 Piece Artists Sketching Set

.... To help you continue to record your creative ideas