

# NEWSLETTER

8TH JANUARY 2026



The Hinckley  
SCHOOL



As we return to school after the Christmas break, I would like to begin by wishing everyone a warm welcome back. I hope that you all enjoyed a happy holiday, however you were celebrating, and that you have been able to enter 2026 feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting potential that the new year brings to us all.

In assemblies this week, I have been talking to students about using the new calendar year as a fresh start to establish some new positive habits. The main message has been that big, noticeable changes start with small steps and making just a 1% improvement each day soon adds up to being 100% better, whatever their personal goal, as long as they don't give up. Why not ask your son or daughter if they have any new year ambitions and the plans they have for ensuring their good habits stick?

Next week, we look forward to welcoming families of Year 11 students to our Revision Evening on Tuesday 13th January, where we will share important information about examinations and run a carousel of information sessions about flash cards, The Leitner Method, mind mapping and foldables, to ensure not only our students, but whole families, feel that they have the skills and knowledge to support strong revision practices.

Kate Grocock | Head of School

## A Wintery Welcome Back

We were welcomed back to school this week by freezing temperatures and our first sprinkling of snow. While it created a beautiful winter scene, the snow and ice also brought some challenges. We would like to thank our site team for ensuring the school was safe to open, and our parents, carers, students and staff for travelling to school with care.

A reminder that, in the event of an emergency school closure, alerts will be shared via a pop-up on our website, and by a direct communication to parents and carers. Please ensure your contact details are up to date by contacting reception via email: [office@thehinckleyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@thehinckleyschool.co.uk) or telephone: 01455 632183.



## Christmas Bazaar

Before the Christmas break, our Sixth Form students organised a Christmas Bazaar for the rest of the school, creating a lively festive event to mark the end of term!

The fair featured a wide range of fun and creative stalls, including Nerf challenges, face painting, hot chocolates and many other activities that proved popular with students from Year 7 to 11. It was a wonderful example of student leadership, creativity, and generosity during the festive season. Coinciding with our non uniform day it was lovely to see so many students getting into the Christmas spirit at the event by wearing their Christmas jumpers!

Thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of the Sixth Form, the event was a great success and raised valuable funds for Save the Children and Cancer Research UK. We are delighted to announce that in total we raised an incredible £891.66 which will be split between our two chosen charities. Thank you to everyone for their kind donations and participation.



## Another Show Stopper!

We couldn't miss the opportunity to share Year 12 student Marlow's latest masterpiece, as he once again baked a show stopper to thank staff at the end of term. His annual cake creations have a reputation for their amazing creativity, use of skill and imagination - and of course are absolutely delicious! Thank you Marlow, from everyone here at The Hinckley School.



## Sixth Form Mixer Spreads Festive Cheer

Before the end of term, our Sixth Form students came together for their annual Christmas Mixer for Year 12 and 13.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to come together to celebrate the festive season and reflect on a fantastic term as a Sixth Form community. Students enjoyed time to relax, laugh, and make memories together while taking part in festive party games, listening to Christmas music and enjoying delicious Christmas baguettes filled with turkey and stuffing, followed by a selection of cakes.

The celebration concluded with end-of-term awards, presented by the Director of Sixth Form, Miss Bull, recognising students' achievements and contributions throughout the term in both their subjects and as role models within our school community.



## 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](#).

### INSET Day - 6th February 2026

### Vaccine Community Catch Up Information

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 this date.

If you would like a second opportunity for your child to receive a vaccination, such as the recent flu vaccine, please visit the NHS website linked here: [www.leicspart.nhs.uk/service/schooledimms](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/service/schooledimms) where they can access the holiday catch-up clinic information, or call the service team directly on: 0300 3000 007 or email: [Ipt.sais@nhs.net](mailto:Ipt.sais@nhs.net).

## Medals Galore at the British Judo National Championships

In December, sisters Katrina and Kayleigh, competed in the British Judo National Championships. We are delighted to share that they both were extremely successful in the competition and their incredible talent and determination led to three medals between them!

- Katrina won Gold in the Cadet -44kg, which keeps her ranked Number 1 in Great Britain for her age group and weight category. She also competed in the Under 21 Juniors -44kg, where she achieved an outstanding Silver, placing her Number 2 in Great Britain at Junior level.
- Kayleigh competed in the Pre-Cadets and won Silver, losing only in the final, which places her Number 2 in Great Britain in her category.

Both girls have worked incredibly hard for these results, and everyone here at The Hinckley School is incredibly proud of them. Their participation, let alone securing medals, is a significant national achievement and reflects the dedication and commitment they show both in sport and in representing the local community. Well done!



**Big Garden Birdwatch**

**23-25 January 2026**

## Notices from our Safeguarding & Wellbeing Team

### A Guide for Parents and Carers on Managing Children's Digital Lives

The Children's Commissioner has developed a really helpful guide for parents entitled, 'what I wish my parents knew... a guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives' and we would urge all our parents to take a look at this, you can access it here: [What I wish my parents knew....](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-i-wish-my-parents-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives)



This publication covers everything from the changing digital landscape children face, to the Online Safety Act and what it means for families, as well as artificial intelligence, screen time, signs to look out for when things go wrong online and conversation starters for parents. There are lots of links to helpful resources and websites and a useful minimum age requirements for all the preferred children's social media platforms.

All our year groups will be getting an assembly on E-Safety in February this year where the Safeguarding Team will be talking to students about how to stay safe online.

### School Immunisations this term

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.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust  
Bridge Park Plaza | Bridge Park Road | Thurmaston | Leicester | LE4 8PQ  
Tel: 0300 3000 007  
E-mail: [lpt.sais@nhs.net](mailto:lpt.sais@nhs.net)  
Website: [www.leicspart.nhs.uk/schoolagedimms](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/schoolagedimms)

### If you travel by bike....

Supporting our students to cycle to school safely is of the greatest importance, to ensure the safety of not only our students travelling by bike, but of all pedestrians and fellow road users. It is important that students understand the importance to:

1. Always wear a helmet and protective clothing.
2. Wear a high vis item or reflective clothing so you can be seen clearly by others.
3. Travel at a safe speed, the roads are often wet or icy.
4. Make sure you have lights fitted, and that they are working.
5. Please ride sensibly into school, stick to the road side, not the centre, give clear signals to your intention and look out for other road users.
6. Remember the use of Electric scooters are illegal on public roads and land so they must not be brought into school.

We appreciate the support of parents and carers in discussing these important points with their children at home.

### Wellbeing boxes and family support

We offer wellbeing boxes all year round, please get in touch if you would like one, the donations vary but usually these boxes consist of cleaning items for the home and hygiene products. There is no threshold for these, just let us know if you feel you and your family would benefit from receiving one and we will arrange for one to be left at reception for you.

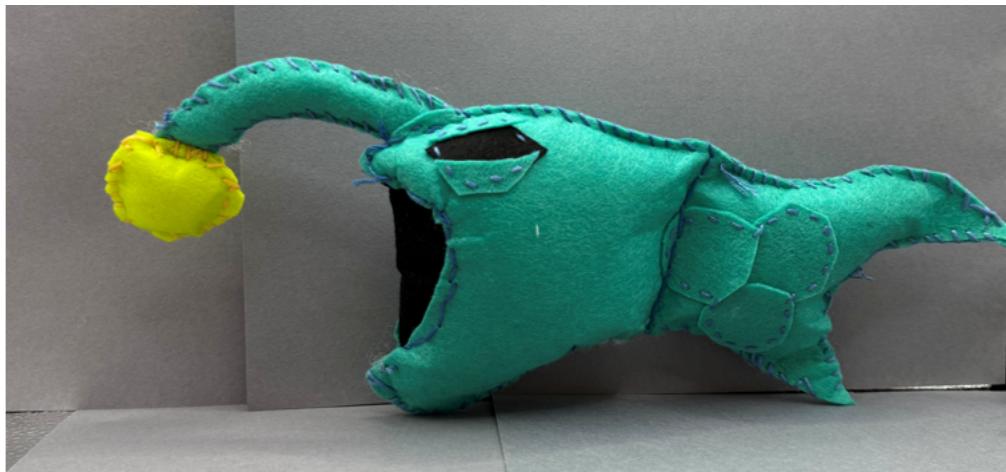
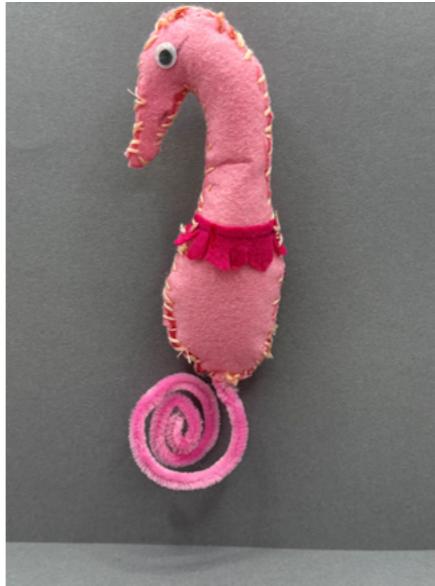
Thank you,  
Mrs Priestnall and Miss Pawley - Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team

## CREATIVE CURRICULUM

### Jellycat Inspired Project

Following on from their inspiring trip to the Sealife Centre in Birmingham last term, Year 7 have been hard at work designing and making Jellycat inspired soft toys in their latest textiles module.

Miss Johnson has praised their creativity and efforts in translating their research images and sketches into real life outcomes, "This Year 7 project focused on creativity and design through the Jellycat brand, with students designing and making their own under the sea themed soft toy, including some characteristics to make the soft toy stand out. Students researched the Jellycat style, developed original creature ideas, and explored how character, texture, and colour appeal to a target audience. The project built practical making skills alongside imaginative thinking, as students turned their designs into finished prototypes suitable for a Jellycat range."



**TheBridge**  
At The Hinckley School

Inspired by:  
  
**jELLYCAT**  
LONDON

### 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.

## Career Spotlight - Kitchen Fitter



Kitchen fitters are paid to install kitchens, they use tools to cut the kitchen units and worktops to size and fix them in place. This job doesn't usually require a degree and experienced fitters can earn an average of £35,000 a year.

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

## Course Spotlight - Interior Design



Studying interior design at university combines creativity with practical problem-solving, teaching you how to design functional, beautiful spaces that meet real human needs. It also helps you build technical skills, confidence, and a strong portfolio through hands-on projects and critiques.

**Interested in studying Interior Design?**

[Click here](#) to watch a video about for a BA (Hons) degree in Interior Design at Falmouth University.

**Need careers advice?**

**Speak to our Careers Team!**

## 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.

**January Creative Challenge: Costume Illustration**

Launch: Monday 5th January      Deadline: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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@thehinkleyschool.co.uk](mailto:kwebster@thehinkleyschool.co.uk)

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

1. **Title:** The name of the musical and character (e.g., *Elphaba – Wicked*).
2. **Visual Presentation:** Either your fashion illustration or a clear photograph of your fabric maquette.
3. **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?
4. **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”).
5. **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.
6. **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

## Royal Academy Competition

**Are you a budding artist? Want a chance to show off your best work and areas of interest without having to work to a specific competition theme?**

The **Young Artists' Summer Show** is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4-18 years studying in the UK. Each student can submit one artwork and there is no theme. When you enter, we'll ask for an image of the artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and some text written by the artist which can include why they created the work and what it means to them. Artwork is judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

**To take part, please send your entries to Miss Webster.**

Registration and submission open: 5 January - 4 March 2026 | Judging: May 2026 |

**COMPETITION CORNER**

## Pop Art Pencil Cases

Year 8's latest project explores Pop Art as a source of inspiration, focusing on the bold, graphic styles of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Students have analysed key features such as repetition, strong outlines, and vibrant colour, before designing and creating their own stencil. These stencils were then used to produce a personalised Pop Art-inspired pencil case that reflects their individual character, idol or public figure and understanding of the Pop Art movement.

**- Miss Johnson | Teacher of Art**



## Art, Craft & Design Final Outcomes

After commending our Year 12 Art, Craft and Design students on their creativity and commitment in their pyrography sample development back in November, we are delighted to now share their final outcomes. Their pieces show great attention to detail, understanding of pyrography and pure creativity. Our students have done themselves proud and their talent is clear for all to see.

