

# NEWSLETTER

26th FEBRUARY 2026



The Hinckley  
SCHOOL



I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It has been wonderful to welcome students back, and I'm pleased to say they have settled in quickly and are already back into the rhythm of school life.

We have a busy and exciting half-term ahead as we move towards Easter. Upcoming highlights include our World Book Day celebrations, the eagerly anticipated Year 7 trip to Harry Potter World, and our Year 11 and Year 13 Parents' Evenings. We will also be supporting Year 10 and Year 12 students as they work hard in preparation for their upcoming mock exams. There is certainly much to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

Kate Grocock | Head of School

## Celebrating Story Telling

This year, our school was delighted to take part in National Storytelling Week, a celebration that highlights the power of stories to inspire, connect, and educate. Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of communication, and it continues to play a vital role in helping young people make sense of the world around them.

We chose to get involved because storytelling supports so many key areas of children's development. Through stories, pupils learn to explore new ideas, think creatively, build empathy, and understand perspectives different from their own.

Our activities throughout the week gave students in all year groups the chance to express themselves, celebrate their creativity, and enjoy the magic of language. Teachers incorporated storytelling into lessons across the curriculum, and pupils took part in reading events, writing challenges, and group storytelling sessions. The enthusiasm and imagination on display were wonderful to see.

National Storytelling Week reinforces our commitment to fostering a lifelong love of reading for pleasure and we hope students thoroughly enjoyed our events.

Want to read more insights into how we marked National Storytelling Week? Go to the next page to learn more.



## Dr Smith Brings a Little Theatre to Lessons

To mark National Storytelling Week, all subjects joined in to promote literacy, empathy, and creativity across our curriculum.

Dr Smith shared The Disappearing Apron with her Year 10 class, the true story of how Christian Schönbein discovered guncotton. During the story, Dr Smith used flash paper to add some theatre and really bring the tale to life!



## Insights into Lessons During Storytelling Week

"In Year 7 History students have read a story about Robin Hood. They have been studying the Middle Ages and have just finished looking at King John and the Magna Carta which is the same time period as Robin Hood and the king is mentioned in the story." - A Pointer

"In Year 9 we read a story set during the Irish Civil War (1922) about a Sniper making some tough decisions on a rooftop. They are currently studying the Interwar period and have looked at events around the world which lead up to World War 2." - A Pointer

"In Year 7 EP we read the Emperor's New Clothes which has a lovely moral and ethical message about being brave and warns about the dangers of pride. Last term we looked at some punishments in stories of the Old Testament, and from this students were able to link up that pride was a similar sin." - A Pointer

"Reading to my Year 10 Media class gave us the opportunity to explore why books are chosen to get adapted into films. This week, I read an extract from The Maze Runner with my Year 10 students and it enabled us to discuss why dystopian fiction was so popular in the 2010's and why that book series was adapted into a film - many of the students were excited to read the book themselves after hearing the extract!" - Miss Owen



## Celebrating Storytelling

Ms Crisp held a storytelling celebration event in the Library at the end of the week for students that had entered our 500-word story writing competition.

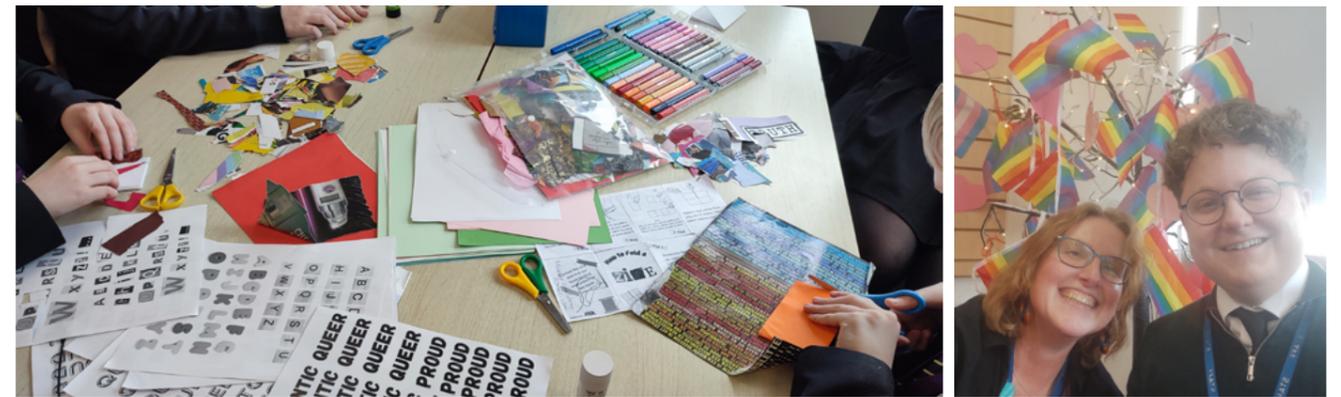
Students had a chance to read out their stories, or have them read by the members of staff who came to the lunchtime event, as they enjoyed grapes, cakes and snacks. Ms Crisp said, "We had entries from Year 7 right through to Year 12 and there were lots of prizes, including pride points and chocolate and Zuzanna in Year 12 performed her story to the audience. Well done to everyone who took part."

## LGBTQ+ Library Drop In

On Wednesday lunchtime, we were really pleased to welcome Georgie and Jamie from Leicestershire LGBTQ+ Centre to hold a drop in event for all students from Year 7 to 13 in the Library. Students were invited to do quizzes, make flags and zines (mini magazines) and create badges. There was also information about the LGBTQ+ youth group in Hinckley and Georgie and Jamie were on hand to answer any questions.

Mr Crisp, who organised the event shared, "The event was really well attended by all year groups and our students had lots of fun with the activities. We would like to thank Georgie and Jamie for joining us."

For more information about the Hinckley youth group at the Hinckley Children and Family Centre on Friday's from 5pm - 7pm for ages 13-17 email: [georgie@leicestershirelgbtqcentre.org](mailto:georgie@leicestershirelgbtqcentre.org)



## Avery Represents England!

We are incredibly proud to share some exciting news from within our school community. This month, our very own Avery, in Year 8, had the honour of representing England in the international U13 Ice Hockey competition in Canada - an achievement that is remarkable in every sense. This year's tournament was historic for the England U13s, who had never before competed at AA level. Avery not only rose to the challenge but helped make history by scoring England's first goal of the tournament and the first-ever England goal at AA level. His outstanding performance on the ice earned him the title of Player of the Game, a well-deserved recognition of his talent, determination, and composure under pressure. We couldn't be prouder of everything he has achieved so far and we have enjoyed congratulating him in person since his return!

**Well done, Avery—what an amazing accomplishment!**

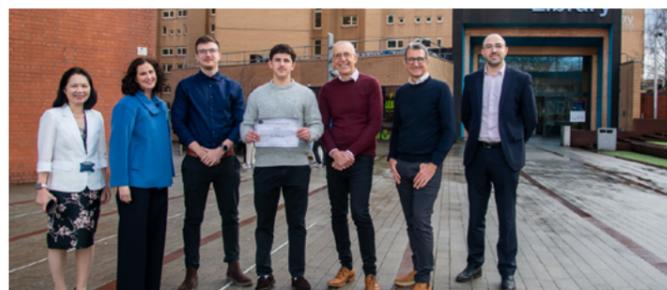


## Sixth Former Presented with Scholarship Award

Our sixth form students have once again caused a stir in Coventry University's annual Global Financial Planning competition.

Last year, former student Nikita scooped the top prize and secured a prestigious £30,000 scholarship to study at Coventry University, thanks to her winning entry.

This year, students from The Hinckley Sixth Form continued to impress business leaders and university staff, with Year 13 student Sam being awarded an impressive accolade. Sam, who is currently studying Criminology, Geography and Business, was presented with a £6,000 scholarship award from Expert Wealth, due to how impressed the team had been with his entry into the financial planning competition and for showing 'outstanding promise.' We would like to sincerely congratulate Sam on this incredible achievement.



THE HINCKLEY SCHOOL  
**ECO CLUB NEEDS YOU**

- Nature mapping
- Planting
- Caring for houseplants
- Implementing sustainability projects
- Improving the school site
- Growing vegetables
- Encouraging pollinators
- Building insect homes

Library – Thursdays 3–4pm With Ms Crisp and Mrs Sturgess

## NATUREWISE: Exploring Wellbeing and Nature Connection in the National Education Nature Park Programme

This term, some of our Year 8 and 9 students will be participating in a research project with the Royal Horticultural Society and a RHS Research Fellow at the University of Sheffield. This work forms part of a project funded by the Royal Horticultural Society, which investigates the impact of the National Education Nature Park programme on student wellbeing, connection with and concern for nature, and time spent in nature outside of school.

As part of the project, we will be participating in 6 short lessons provided by National Education Nature Park. Combining both exploring our site at The Hinckley School, together with digital literacy and computing skills using digital mapping technology and specialist apps together with Information Technology to produce a variety of professional documents.

The activities we will cover are:

- Hidden Nature Challenge: Habitat Heroes
- Records wildlife on your site: Habitat mapping
- Points of view: Write a vision statement
- Ideas for improvement: Design a plant
- Change grey to green: Making zines for nature
- Record wildlife on your site: Pollinator count

By being part of this project, the RHS will be giving the school some vouchers which will go towards the purchase of equipment and habitats to encourage biodiversity on our site and improve the environment for both students and the surrounding wildlife.

Mrs Sturgess, Subject Leader Computer Science | Leader of STEM and Careers

The Hinckley SIXTH FORM

## VICKY MACQUEEN RUGBY ACADEMY FOR GIRLS

PROUDLY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HINCKLEY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

### ELITE-LEVEL PROVISION

The Hinckley Sixth Form is delighted to announce a new partnership with Hinckley Rugby Football Club, creating an elite girls' rugby pathway for students who wish to combine high-quality post-16 study with a top-level rugby development programme. The Rugby Academy will be led by England's most capped women's player, Vicky MacQueen.

This collaboration strengthens our commitment to supporting the growth of girls' rugby in our community, offering students access to an exceptional academic environment alongside outstanding coaching and player development opportunities.

### APPLY ONLINE

WWW.THEHINCKLEYSIXTHFORM.CO.UK/APPLYONLINE

### IGNITE YOUR POTENTIAL

- A strong academic environment with a wide range of A Level and BTEC courses.
- A minimum of 10 hours per week of Academy-led coaching, athletic development, and performance support.
- A timetable designed to integrate rugby commitments alongside academic study.
- Commitments structured to ensure students remain fully available for their club rugby, as well as County Rugby.
- Work closely with a professional coaching team and learn from former England rugby players.
- A clear progression route into women's rugby for players who meet required standards.

## HINCKLEY HELL KITTENS

### NEW PLAYERS WELCOME!

We're excited to be expanding our girls' section at Hinckley RFC – The Hinckley Hell Kittens 🐾 and we are currently welcoming new players into our:

- ♥ U12s (year 6 & 7 @ school)
- ♥ U14s (year 8 & 9 school)
- ♥ U16s (year 10 & 11 @ school)

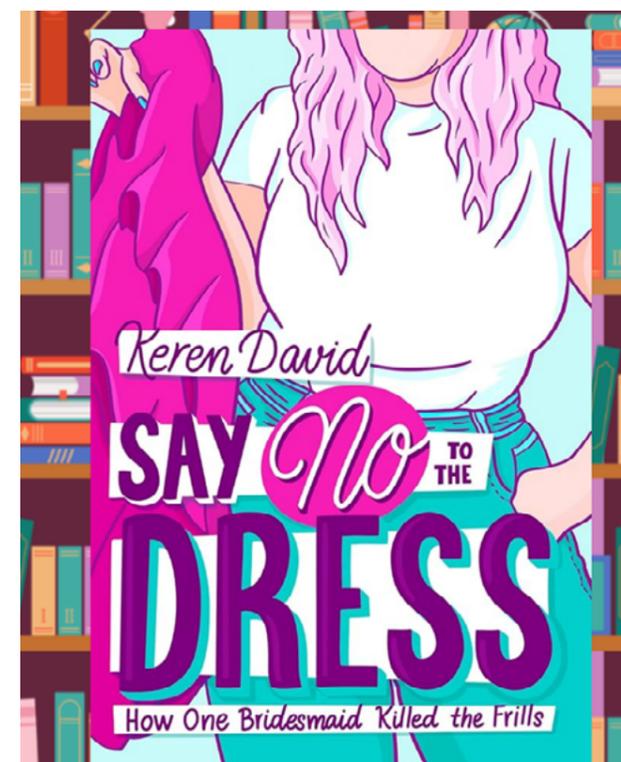
Girls do not need any rugby experience to join. Rugby at Hinckley

- ♥ Wednesdays – 6pm to 7pm (great mid-week energy burner!)
- ♥ Sundays – Training & Matches

✉ Womenandgirls@hinckleyrugby.co.uk

## Ms Crisp's Book of the Week

To help celebrate the National Year of Reading, our Librarian, Ms Crisp, is sharing 'Book of the Week' to inspire our community to read for pleasure and to expand their imaginations by exploring new worlds thanks to incredible authors. Have you read her new recommendation below?



## Book of the week

### Say no to the dress by Keren David

Genre: contemporary fiction  
Age group: 13 – 16  
Pages: 138  
Difficulty level: dyslexic friendly text

Miri is fourteen and growing up. She has just been asked to be a bridesmaid to two of her older siblings.

She now must try to navigate the pressures of bridesmaid dresses and family expectations.

'refreshingly honest and witty account of how one girl goes into battle with the changes in her body but works out that a peace treaty is often the best way to resolve conflict. Presented in a super-readable format, Miri's experiences will resonate with many young women and show the funny side of the transition to adulthood. Exploring themes of friendship, confidence and body positivity, this accessible story also deals sensitively with complex family relationships.' [BookTrust](#)





## A Memorable Visit to Rugby School and the Webb Ellis Museum

We recently enjoyed a truly inspiring and memorable trip to the historic town of Rugby, where the boys had the opportunity to visit the Webb Ellis Museum and tour the world-famous Rugby School.

Our visit began at the Webb Ellis Museum, where we learned about the origins of rugby football and the famous story of William Webb Ellis, whose actions on the school grounds are said to have given birth to the sport. The boys were fascinated to discover how a simple moment on a school field led to a game now played and celebrated around the world.

We then toured Rugby School itself, walking around the original rugby pitch where the sport first began. Standing on such historic ground was a real highlight and gave everyone a sense of connection to the past. During the tour, we also learned about some of the school's most notable former pupils, including C. S. Lewis, Lewis Carroll, and Thomas Hughes, the author of Tom Brown's Schooldays. It was wonderful to see how the school has shaped not only sporting history but literary history as well.

A particularly moving part of the visit was our time in the school chapel. Inside, we were shown the books containing the names of former students who lost their lives in the World Wars. This gave the boys an important moment of reflection and a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by past generations.

Overall, it was a hugely successful trip—educational, inspiring, and thought-provoking. The boys represented the school brilliantly and returned with a greater appreciation of history, sport, and heritage.

Mr. Sean Randle | Year 9 Pastoral Leader



## Expressive Arts Residential Trip to London - An Unforgettable West End Experience

Before half term, Performing and Expressive Arts students enjoyed a fantastic and enriching experience in London's glittering west-end, combining world-class theatre with valuable professional insight.

Students enjoyed an evening performance of Hadestown, a powerful retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice myth. The production explores themes of love and sacrifice, hope versus despair, power and control, and social inequality. Its unique folk-inspired score and striking staging made a lasting impression, prompting thoughtful discussions about resilience and standing up against injustice. A fantastic option for the live theatre review for GCSE Drama students!

Cabaret at the 'Kit Kat' club was the matinee performance, set in 1930s Berlin during the rise of Nazi Germany. Winner of the Olivier Awards 'Best Revival Musical', Cabaret tackles challenging themes including political extremism, identity, freedom of expression, and the dangers of moral complacency. The immersive and intense performance left students reflecting on the importance of social awareness and responsibility, combined with powerful musical and acting performances.

A real highlight was our workshop at Pineapple Dance Studios, led by a cast member from Hadestown. Students gained first-hand insight into professional rehearsal processes, character development, and the discipline required to perform in the West End, which included an exciting Q and A when the students were able to hear first-hand how the industry works.

To make the experience even more memorable, students also met members of the cast at the stage door of Hadestown, giving them the opportunity to speak with professional performers and celebrate the show up close. The actors were so humble and friendly and students had fun taking selfies and collecting autographs on their programme. Mr Tallis was first in the queue to get an autograph!

Trip leader and Head of Drama, Mrs Cook, was delighted with the trip's success, the conduct and enthusiasm of the students in London and the quality of the performances, 'it is always a brilliant trip and a great experience and this was no exception; it was fantastic to see first hand how the industry students feel so passionate about works and the shows were spectacular - a great time had by all!'



# National Apprenticeship Week

In many areas of the school, students have been learning more about Apprenticeships as part of National Apprenticeship Week. This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the wide range of pathways available to young people beyond traditional classroom routes. Apprenticeships have grown rapidly in recent years and now offer high quality progression options from age 16 right through to degree and even master's level.

[Click here](#) for a useful guide for parents.

## What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a paid job that combines real work with structured training. Apprentices spend most of their time with an employer, gaining hands on experience, while also completing accredited study with a training provider or college. This allows young people to earn while they learn and develop valuable skills that employers actively seek. Apprentices are employees, meaning they receive a salary, holiday pay, and work alongside experienced staff while gaining nationally recognised qualifications.

## Interested in what apprenticeships are available?

[Click here.](#)

## What levels of apprenticeships are available?

Apprenticeships exist at different levels, each equivalent to more familiar school or university qualifications:

Level	Search for	Equivalent to	Suitable for
2	Intermediate	GCSEs (Grades 9-4).	Typically suited to students completing Year 11.
3	Advanced	A Levels.	A common route for those leaving 6th Form or wanting to progress from a Level 2 apprenticeship.
4/5	Higher	The first year of university or a foundation degree.	Allows students to gain more advanced technical knowledge.
6	Degree	A full bachelor's degree.	Students work and study at degree level without university tuition fees.
7	Masters	A postgraduate/master's degree, fully funded.	Ideal for those looking for highly specialised professional development.



## Top tips for students applying for apprenticeships

If you want to apply now:

1. Start searching early: Opportunities appear throughout the year on the government's apprenticeship website and employer career pages. Many competitive schemes open 6 to 12 months before the start date.
2. Tailor your application: Highlight skills, part time work, volunteering, and any practical experience.
3. Prepare for assessments: Many employers use online tests, interviews, or assessment centres.
4. Stay organised: Application windows vary, so keep a list of deadlines and closing dates.

If you want to apply in the future

1. Build experience: Join clubs, take part in volunteering, attend careers events, or complete virtual work experience.
2. Research sectors early: Understanding what you enjoy (and what you don't) makes it easier to choose the right pathway.
3. Develop employability skills: Communication, teamwork, problem solving, digital literacy, and resilience stand out to employers.
4. Keep options open: Consider both apprenticeships and academic routes. Many students apply to several pathways before deciding.

## Need more help and guidance?

If students would like support exploring apprenticeship routes, preparing applications, or understanding the best next steps, they can speak to:

Mrs Thompson - Careers Advisor  
Mrs Sturgess - Subject Leader for Computing, and Leader of STEM and Careers

- The Careers Team

# CREATIVE CURRICULUM

## JANUARY WINNER!

Miss Webster  
Creative Curriculum  
Co-Ordinator

**Creatives at The Hinckley School**  
**January Creative Challenge: Costume Design**  
**Prize Winner: Laura - Year 8**

## FEBRUARY COMPETITION!

**February Creative Challenge: Marble Run**

Launch: Monday 2nd February      Deadline: Monday 2nd March

**Challenge:**  
Design and construct a functional marble run that demonstrates principles of physics, such as gravity, momentum, and energy transfer. The run should be at least 2 meters in length and include at least three different types of obstacles or features.

**Requirements:**

- Must use at least two different materials.
- Should incorporate at least one elevation change (e.g., a ramp or slope).
- Must include at least one obstacle (e.g., loop, funnel, or jump).
- Should be sturdy and able to function without additional support once built.

**Suggested Materials:**

- **Cardboard tubes** (e.g., toilet paper or kitchen roll tubes) – great for creating chutes and tunnels.
- **Foam pipe insulation** – ideal for curved tracks.
- **Plastic cups or bowls** – can be used as funnels or catch basins.
- **Straws or plastic tubing** – useful for narrow pathways or ramps.
- **Wooden craft sticks** – good for building supports or creating barriers.
- **Paper plates or trays** – can serve as bases or platforms.
- **Tape, glue, and scissors** – essential for assembly.

Entries can be submitted as video files (of the marble run in action) to [kwebster@thehinckleyschool.co.uk](mailto:kwebster@thehinckleyschool.co.uk)

February Creative Challenge:  
The Prize...

8-piece professional technical  
drawing set