

# NEWSLETTER

29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026



The Hinckley  
SCHOOL



Thank you to all the families who joined us for our Year 7 and 8 Showcase this week. It was a pleasure to celebrate the hard work, talent and ambition of our students and year teams thoroughly enjoyed speaking to families about student progress.

I would also like to thank our Year 11 and Year 13 students on the commitment and maturity they have shown during their mock examinations. These assessments are an important milestone, and I wish them the very best as they continue next week.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome prospective students to our Sixth Form Rugby Open Event next week, where we will share more information about our new partnership with Coventry Rugby Academy. To find out more about this pathway, please [click here](#).

Kate Grocock | Head of School

## National Recognition for Young Artist

We are delighted to announce that Frank (Year 8) was short-listed by the judges of this year's Annual Royal Institute of Painting in Water Colours Coronation Award, and awarded a Merit for his artwork **Woolly Mammoth in a Blizzard**. This is a significant achievement, particularly given the strong national competition.

This year's judging panel was extremely impressed by the high standard of submissions, praising the diversity, creativity and technical skill demonstrated by all participating students.

We are immensely proud of all our entrants, most of whom are just 11 or 12 years old. Their work demonstrated skill, confidence and creativity comparable with that of much older students. We look forward to seeing how their artistic practice develops in future years and to supporting their continued participation in this prestigious annual competition.

Well done to everyone who took part — you should all be very proud of your entries! Follow this link to view the 2026 winners and short-listed entrants: [The RI Coronation Award – Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours](#)





# MENCAP'S SOCIAL STARS

A safe and friendly club for SEND children aged between 9 and 16

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026  
5pm - 7pm  
Mencap Hinckley

£2 per child



Connect, create and have a blast!

★ Fun games and activities ★ Creative activities ★ Chill-out Zone

Sign up or learn more: 01455 637312 or [mencaphinckley@gmail.com](mailto:mencaphinckley@gmail.com)

# APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

# COUNTY CUP SEMI FINAL

THE HINCKLEY SCHOOL U16 VS SAINT MARTIN'S U16

11.02.2026



• Everyone welcome  
• Come along and support our players  
• Food hatch and bar open

18:00 KICK OFF @ HRFC

[www.thehinckleyschool.co.uk](http://www.thehinckleyschool.co.uk)

## Show Your Support at the County Cup Semi Final!

**Students, staff, parents, carers and community members are invited to support our U16 rugby team against Saint Martin's on 11th February.**

In this highly competitive County Cup semi final match, students will kick off at 18:00 at Hinckley Rugby Football Club and the food hatch and bar will be open for spectators to enjoy alongside a great evening of rugby.

The community atmosphere at matches is always electric so we encourage everyone to come along and cheer on our team!

**11th February 2026**

**18:00 Kick Off**

**Hinckley Rugby Football Club**

**Everyone welcome!**

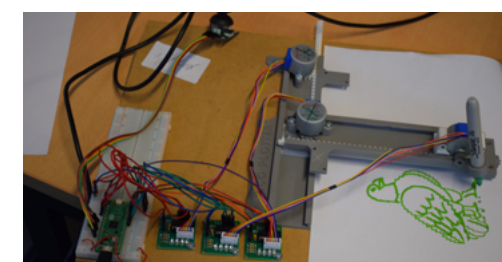


## Blood Brothers at Belgrave Theatre

Year 10 and 11 Drama students enjoyed a fantastic, memorable trip to the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry this week. The iconic 'Blood Brothers' show was breathtaking throughout, with powerful acting performances, an emotive and epic storyline and outstanding music throughout. The students were able to see first hand how lighting, sound, costume and set design are used to create mood, atmosphere and meaning on stage, which directly supports their written responses and interpretation of Section A of the theory exam for Drama. Mrs Cook was incredibly proud of how the students represented the school, engaged with the production and how they showed maturity and respect in a professional theatre setting. A member of the public approached the staff and commented, 'your students have been amazing; their behaviour during the show was impeccable. What an absolute credit they are to their school!' What a brilliant night of theatre for our GCSE Drama students!



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR NEW RUGBY PATHWAY WITH COVENTRY RUGBY [CLICK HERE.](#)**



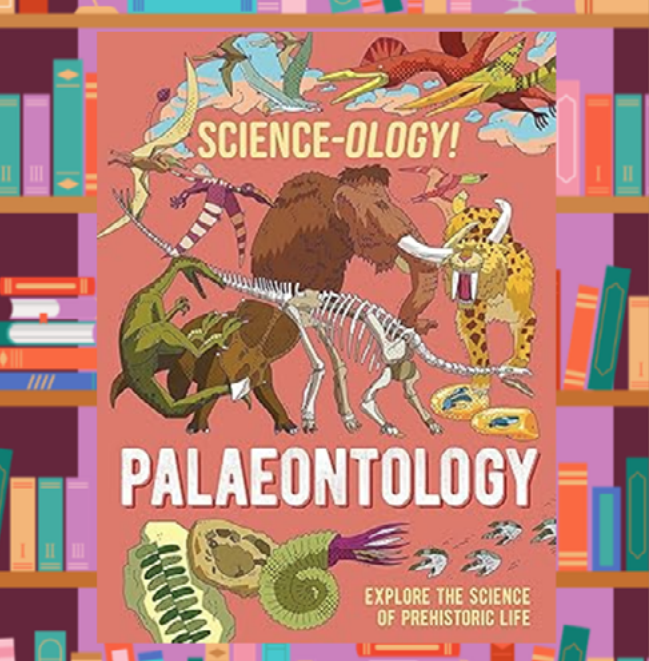
## Robotic Pen Plotters

The students in Electronics Club are building robotically controlled pen plotters that take shapes and pictures from the computer and draw them out on a sheet of paper using a Sharpie. The project involves a combination of electronic and mechanical parts, and some simple microcontroller coding. The students spent a few weeks wiring up the electronics, and putting the mechanical parts together. They are now putting their devices to the test by drawing some simple pictures. It's quite a complex project, there are lots of parts and wires and software that all need to work together, but the students have persevered and done well to get their machines working!



# 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

Palaeontology by Anna Claybourne and Daniel Limon

Genre: Non-fiction

Age group: 11 – 15

Pages: 48

Difficulty level: Accessible with lots of diagrams

What is palaeontology? What do palaeontologists do? What clues do fossils reveal? These are just a few questions that are answered in this *Science-Ology* book! Find out about the pioneering work of scientists through the ages. This book has beautiful illustrations throughout. Explore the tools and skills needed to become a palaeontologist. This book will be interesting for anyone interested in fossils, dinosaurs and finding out where we have come from.

## Discover the Dinosaurs!

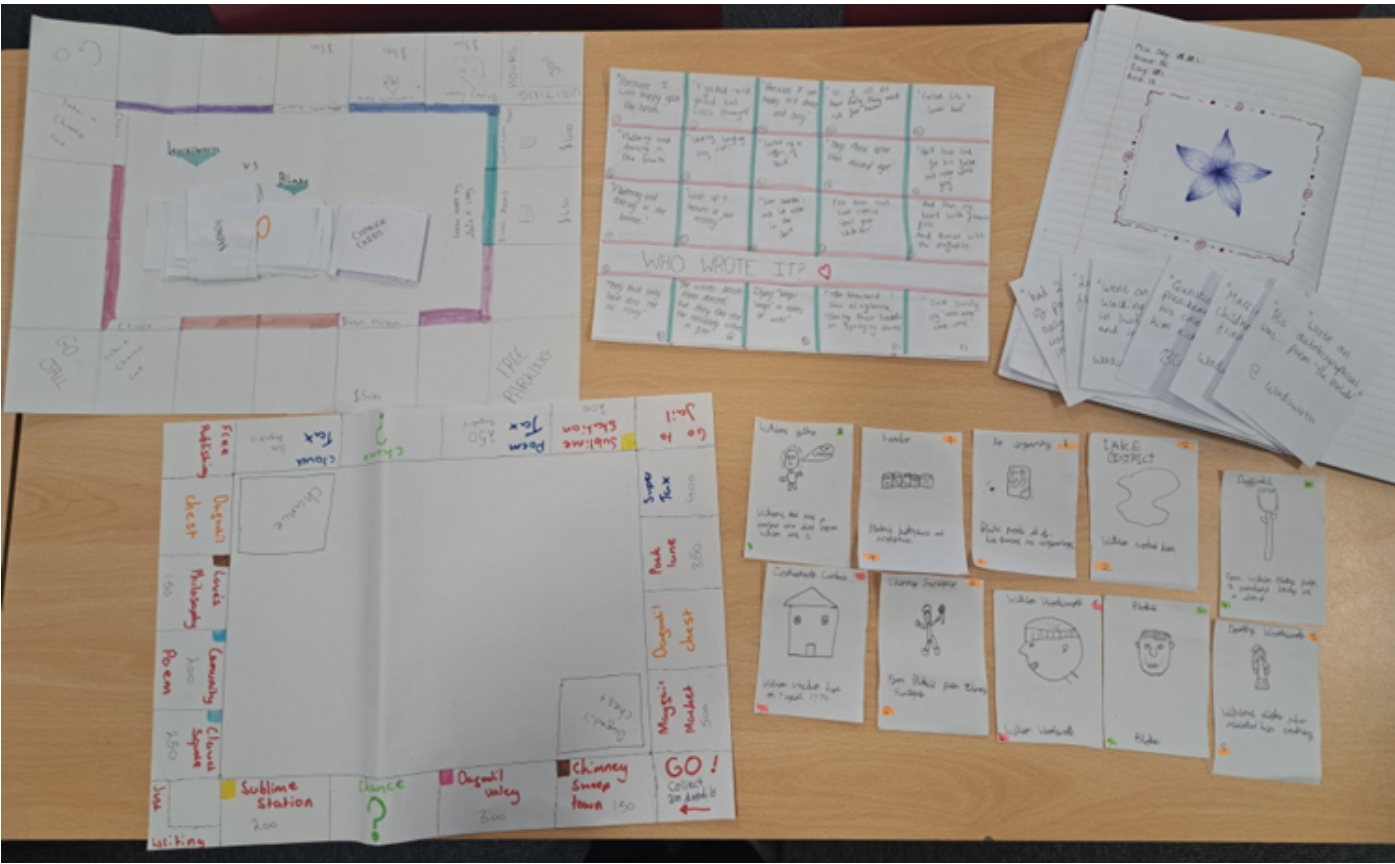
Ms Crisp has set up a unique dinosaur display in the Library for students to enjoy! Featuring museum quality artefacts on loan from Creative Learning Services, and alongside a curated selection of beautiful books linked to the prehistoric world, it has created a fantastic display and students are really enjoying getting up close to these fantastic objects!

If students would like to further their interest they are invited to attend our Geology and Palaeontology Club, every Thursday with Mr Gadsby.



# Year 9 Design Unique Poetry Games

9B/Ody have been studying Romanticism, in English, this term. “They have recently studied poetry by William Blake and William Wordsworth. After a debate on who deserves to be crowned best poet, we created some card games and board games to illustrate their comparisons between the two. We had some designs of monopoly boards with poetic properties to purchase, quiz games, video games and an uno deck. The students did an absolutely fantastic job and showed a real attention to detail! Most notably, Malise hosted a game of her group’s quiz where I faced a difficult challenge against others taking part!” said Miss Ody.



## DofE Award First Aid Course

Our DofE participants have completed a one day First Aid training course in preparation for their Duke of Edinburgh’s award expeditions.

The course covered a variety of topics including primary and secondary survey, CPR and the use of an AED, recovery position, the effects of heat and cold, choking, burns and bleeds, strains and sprains, bites and stings and much more.

The practical course was hands on, encouraging our young people to get fully involved. Well done all!

(Don’t worry - all injuries in the photos to the left are fake to allow students to practice their response techniques!)



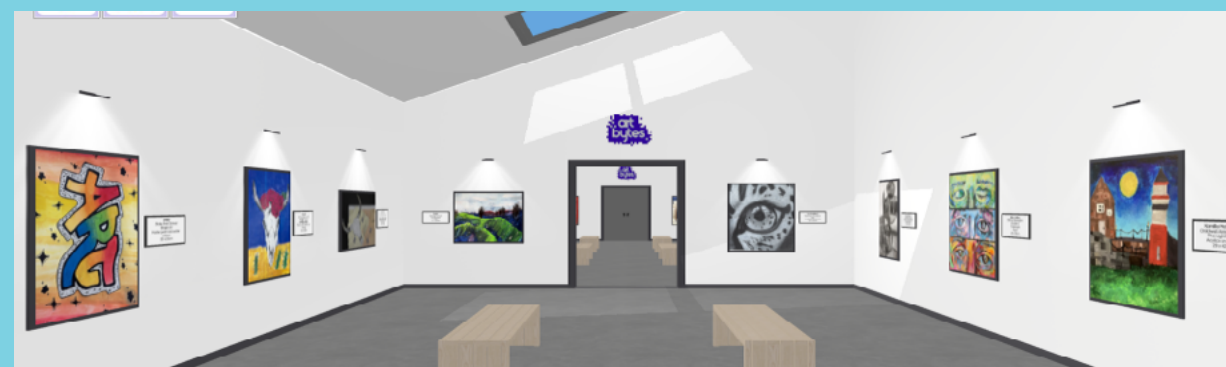
## Year 9 Art Bytes Competition

This academic year, The Hinckley School will be entering and competing in the Art Bytes competition; raising aspirations for better futures by championing the creativity of the nation's next generation, using art and virtual technology. Art Bytes is a national EdTech programme that utilises a bespoke, immersive, virtual gallery incorporating augmented reality elements, to give young participants the opportunity to see their art exhibited online and engage with new technology from the safety and convenience of their own home or school.

It builds confidence and nurtures talent, allows children and young people to see galleries as places “for them” and encourages future cultural engagement. After a short-listing panel and an online public vote, the winning artist from each school sees their work displayed in our virtual gallery. Art Bytes culminates every June with a celebration event at a high-profile cultural venue in each of the nine regions of England, which is also available to schools to stream in the classroom or assembly. Regional winners are announced, certificates and prizes are presented, and the virtual gallery goes live.

- Artwork created by Year 9 students in this academic year, whether at home or in school, is eligible.
- One entry per student.
- No set theme, allowing students to express themselves as they wish through their artwork
- Artwork in any fine art medium or technique is acceptable, rather than textiles/design. 2025 saw entries that included: photography and sculpture (such as clay)
- 2D or 3D artwork (please note all 3D work entries will be exhibited as a photograph).
- Artworks created at home should be made without parents or guardians help.

See Miss Webster for more information.  
See our 2025 gallery [here](#).



## 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.

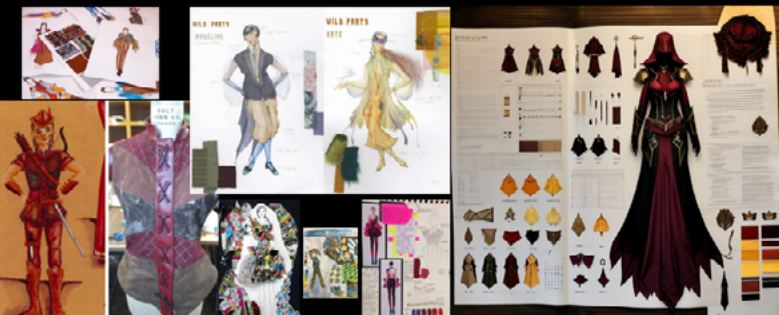
January Creative Challenge:  
**Costume Illustration**

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@thehinckleyschool.co.uk](mailto:kwebster@thehinckleyschool.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).

## Career Spotlight - Tattoo Artist

A tattoo artist creates permanent body art by embedding ink into skin, requiring strong artistic skills, client consultation, and strict hygiene to design, stencil, and apply custom or pre-made tattoos, while also educating clients on after-care and maintaining a sterile studio environment for health and safety. [Click here](#) to watch a video about this creative career.

**Tattoo Artists design tattoos and then apply them to human skin using needles and ink.**

**Research suggests the average full time Tattoo Artist will earn around £29 per hour which equates to roughly £21,000 per year.**

**You would need a firm understanding of art, a good portfolio of work and good customer service skills.**

CAREERS CORNER

## Sketch for Survival Junior

A global art initiative in aid of conservation, Sketch for Survival Junior is open to artists aged 16 years and under.

Sketch for Survival Junior helps to raise vital awareness about species extinction and biodiversity loss while also raising funds for projects around the world. The competition showcases a range of different art styles and unites the voices of young people from all around the world in support of conservation.

There are three age groups for 2026, you can find out more about these and how to enter by [clicking here](#).

Submissions open 1 January – 31 May 2026. Exhibitions will take place from September to November.



COMPETITION CORNER

COMPETITION CORNER