

# NEWSLETTER

20TH NOVEMBER 2025



The Hinckley  
SCHOOL



Firstly, I would like to thank students in years 7-10 who completed their NGRT tests this week. New Group Reading Tests are standardized reading assessments for students aged 5 to 16 that measure reading skills like phonics, decoding, and comprehension. The results help us support our students on their way to success, by understanding their

results we can put in place tailored scaffolding, intervention and stretch and challenge to ensure all students cannot only access our curriculum, but reach their full potential.

Reading was a central theme this week, as students in Year 8 also heard from Creative Learning Services in one of our regular Book Talking sessions. Reading equips students with the language, knowledge, and critical thinking skills needed to access a broader curriculum and lays the foundation for success in education and later life and it was great to hear how much students loved being introduced to new authors and genres. Please ask students about the new titles they heard extracts from, which are now available to borrow from the Library.

It was a privilege to attend the second annual John Wilkinson Memorial Cup game at Hinckley Rugby Football Club on Saturday, as our rugby team faced HRFC U15s. The event, which fundraised for Pancreatic Cancer UK, was once again a fitting celebration of rugby and community spirit in the memory of beloved former teacher Mr Wilkinson. We would like to sincerely thank all our students, parents, carers and staff for coming along to show their support and congratulations to our team for holding on to the trophy with an impressive 20-10 victory!

Kate Grocock | Head of School

## John Wilkinson Memorial Cup Game

On Saturday 15th November, The Hinckley School played HRFC in the second annual 'John Wilkinson Memorial Cup' played in honour of former teacher John Wilkinson. John was a hugely loved member of our school community, and the number of people who turned up to watch the game shows everything about the impact he had on so many.

The boys stepped onto the pitch determined to play in the spirit that John himself lived by, with heart, honesty, and a genuine love for the game. Up against a strong and well-drilled U15 Hinckley Rugby Club team, the boys showed real character and togetherness, earning a well-deserved 20-10 win. It wasn't just the scoreline that mattered, but the way they played for one another.

What made the day even more special was the atmosphere around the pitch. Former pupils, families, staff, friends, and members of the wider community all came out to show their support. There was laughter, shared stories, and quiet moments of reflection. It felt less like a match and more like a celebration of someone who meant a great deal to us all. The game was a reminder of the positive mark John left on this school and beyond. His kindness, his enthusiasm, and his ability to bring people together were felt everywhere on the day. Seeing so many people stand side-by-side in his memory was a powerful tribute to the person he was. John will always be missed, but events like this show just how strongly his spirit lives on—in our community, in our students, and in the game he loved.

- Mr Stocks | Director of Sport



# APPLY NOW FOR 2026

[WWW.THEHINCKLEYSIXTHFORM.CO.UK/APPLYONLINE](http://WWW.THEHINCKLEYSIXTHFORM.CO.UK/APPLYONLINE)



Based in a modern, university-style building, The Hinckley Sixth Form offers a range of courses taught by subject experts who know how to help students make the leap from GCSEs to greatness. We are a close-knit sixth form and our size allows us to offer personal and tailored support for every student. Whether aiming for university, higher apprenticeships, or employment, our students leave us not only having secured an impressive destination, but with the self-belief and resilience to thrive in whatever path they choose.



**TO BOOK A DAYTIME  
TOUR PLEASE CONTACT:**

CALL: 01455 632183  
EMAIL: [OFFICE@THEHINCKLEYSCHOOL.CO.UK](mailto:OFFICE@THEHINCKLEYSCHOOL.CO.UK)  
**WHERE DREAMS BECOME DESTINATIONS**



## Duolingo 1,000 Day Streak

This week, we celebrated an incredible achievement by Ollie in Year 11, who has managed to earn a 1000 day streak on Duolingo learning Spanish!

Ms Garcia said, "Ollie is currently top of our Duolingo Leaderboard for highest streak. Ollie's perseverance with Duolingo, a free languages app, is beyond impressive. Ollie's consistency and enthusiasm have proven fruitful as Ollie continues to achieve excellent results in Spanish. The MFL Department is incredibly proud and would like to encourage every student to download the app and keep a daily streak going, as this will expand your vocabulary in an engaging way and support your home learning. Congratulations Ollie, keep up the hard work!"

Ollie was presented with a certificate, Duolingo owl and chocolates by Mr Dillow to celebrate his achievement and dedication - keep up the great work!

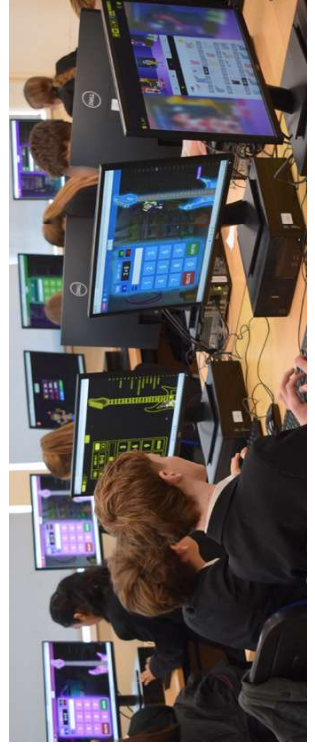


## Times Tables Rock Stars

This week, our Year 8 students took part in the 'England Rocks' Times Table Rock Stars National Competition.

Times Tables Rock Stars is a maths programme that aims to help boost children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division. This annual competition takes it one step further with students across England competing to try to answer as many winning school and class will be based on the highest average number of correct answers per pupil. With Amazon vouchers and custom certificates up for grabs for the winning schools, we can't wait to find out the results!

Well done to everyone who took part!



## INSET DAY REMINDER - FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Please note that on this date the school will be closed to all students due to staff training.

## 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 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 on the last Thursday of the month in the library from 3pm to 4pm.

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

**Silent Book Club**

Everyone Welcome

November 20th 3pm - 4pm  
in the library

Drinks and biscuits provided



## Bread Making Kits

We would like to say a big thank you to @kittycat, who has donated 30 bread-making kits to The Hinckley School. This is part of the Breaducation charity that helps students learn how to make wonderful bread.

19 year old Kitty has a popular Youtube channel, and after being chronically anxious at school learnt to make bread to help her feel better. Ms Maccallum has big plans for these kits so watch this space! A big thank you to her for leading on this project.



### Introducing The Hinckley School Science Buskers!

"We are a small group of students interested in engaging the public with Science using live demonstrations.

We have a range of simple Science tricks that will WOW and AMAZE you!

If you have an event (or assembly) that we could attend to showcase our experiments, then please get in touch with us via Reception."

- William, Tyler, Richard, Lewis, Evangelos, Anne and Bobby

Dr Smith is incredibly proud of our Science Buskers, who have been hard at work honing their art form during weekly enrichment sessions! There is a definite skill in engaging and catching the attention of an audience, explaining science simply and inspiring people to want to know more. Combining Science with the art of performance and surprise, students are excited to bring their act to others to continue building their confidence.



## Calling Our Class of 2025 Artists!

Students from last year's GCSE cohort in Art, Textiles and 3D Design are encouraged to make contact with the Art department to collect their work by **Friday 12th December**. All students should please give 48 hours' notice so work can be compiled in the department and taken to Reception for students to collect. Unfortunately, any work that is uncollected after 12th December will either be displayed or discarded, as we have limited space to store the work.

## Rugby Round Up

Earlier this month, we took on The King's School, Grantham in an exciting set of fixtures — with our U12, U14, and U15/16 teams all taking to the field. We're delighted to have been able to field three teams against such strong opposition.

Each team truly embodied the spirit of rugby and the values that underpin our rugby programme — teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline, and sportsmanship. While the results didn't all go our way, it was a fantastic step forward in our rugby journey, and the boys are already looking forward to their upcoming fixtures (dates to be announced soon!).

A huge thank you also goes to the boys who led the HESPANN Rugby Event on Friday 7th November at Hinckley RFC for Year 4/5 pupils from across the local county. They ran coaching sessions and officiated the tag tournament with real maturity and enthusiasm — excellent ambassadors for our school and the community.



**A big thank you to our wonderful Rugby community, from our players and parents and carers, to our official photographer and dedicated coaches. We have truly built a community to be proud of around our passion for Rugby - and this is only the beginning!**



## Our Official Match Photographer

My name is Harry, and I am currently in Year 10. A little bit of my background, I have ADHD, I grew up wanting to go into the RAF but unfortunately due to my hidden disabilities this will not happen. During my time at The Hinckley School, I have continued to focus on my other hobbies and spend most of my Wednesday nights playing Rugby for the school then going over to an inclusive team in Leicester to play football.

Due to my enthusiasm for all things aircraft related, I started to travel to different locations to photograph aircrafts on my phone. Since then, I have been given a camera and a lens and as they say the rest is history. I now have four cameras and seven lenses. Due to my love of photography, I have now recently taken up photographing sporting events.

While I have been at The Hinckley School, I have taken part in many different enrichments and most recently, I started playing rugby just last August during the Hinckley School's summer camp. I liked the team and community that Rugby gave me, as I always thought I wasn't good enough to play. Thanks to the support of my teammates and my teachers, including Mr Stocks, I started playing a few games. The main highlight was playing in front of my family members and scoring a try at The Warwick School a day before my birthday.

Due to my love of photography and Rugby, I asked Mr Stocks if he wanted me to try my hand at sports photography. This year, as well as playing, I have started to go to games as the official photographer of the rugby team during this season, which I love as it allows me to remain a member of the team by being on the sidelines with my camera.

After I leave The Hinckley School, I want to do a level 3 course in Photography at NWSLC to hopefully gain enough experience and qualifications to become a sports photographer or aircraft photographer. I am hoping to go along to different sporting events during the rest of my time at The Hinckley School, so you may see me on the sidelines with my camera.

- Harry



## Book Talking

**Thank you to Creative Learning Services for inspiring our young readers this week.**

Their experienced team visited us to deliver a series of Book-talking sessions designed to enthuse students to pick up a book and read. Our session leaders chose snippets of books and tempting teasers that related to modern readers, and tailored to a Year 8 audience. All titles shared in the sessions will now be available for students to borrow from the Library.



## Flu Vaccinations

**Information from the NHS Leicestershire Partnership:**

If a consent form has been completed and your child missed the recent vaccinations in school, we will text you about a 2nd opportunity, this will be via a Community Clinic.

If you missed completing the Flu consent form but would like your child to receive the vaccine, we can still arrange it. Please contact the School Aged Immunisation Service on tel. 0300 3000 007. We will then email you information about a catch-up session at our Community Clinics. (Please be aware that local pharmacies are not offering free flu vaccines to school aged children this year.)

## SAVE THE DATES



**Non-uniform Day - Friday 19th December**  
**£1 suggested donation to Save the Children via Parent Pay.**  
**Christmas jumpers encouraged!**

**Bridgemaas Sing Off - Friday 12th December, 1:30pm-3pm**  
**Parents/carers of Year 7 will be invited to register their attendance at our annual "Christmas Tutor Group Sing Off" shortly, so watch this space!**

# CREATIVE CURRICULUM



## Mastering Colour and Form

Year 8 students have been developing their understanding of colour theory by exploring how tints, tones and shades can be created and applied. Using images of berries as their subject matter, they compared the effectiveness of acrylic paint and Inkntense pencils, carefully considering how the placement of light and shadow enhances three-dimensional form and captures the direction and source of light.

Their next step will be to create a detailed painting of a pastry decorated with berries, using the material and application technique they found most successful in their experiments.

Well done Year 8, impressive work.

## Interested in a Career in Food, Catering or Nutrition?



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

Studying for a Degree in Nutrition and Food Science could help you take the first step towards your dream career in the food industry.

[Click here](#) to learn more about studying Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Reading.

## CAREERS CORNER



## COMPETITION CORNER

The President, Council and Members of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours invite Art Teachers to submit the work of students aged 11 and 18, the water colourists of the future, for this year's RI Coronation Award.

The Winner and two runners-up will be announced in February 2026. This year the prize has been generously sponsored by The Borg Scott Charity who are offering a materials bursary of £800 to the winning school, as well as awarding art materials to the value of £100 to the First Prize Winner and to the value of £50 to each of the two Runners-Up. These prizes will all take the form of materials vouchers. Certificates will also be awarded to up to a further ten entrants who the judges consider worthy of merit. The three prize winners will have reproductions of their paintings exhibited at the 214th Exhibition of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours at the Mall Galleries in London. To find out more about how to enter, [click here.](#)

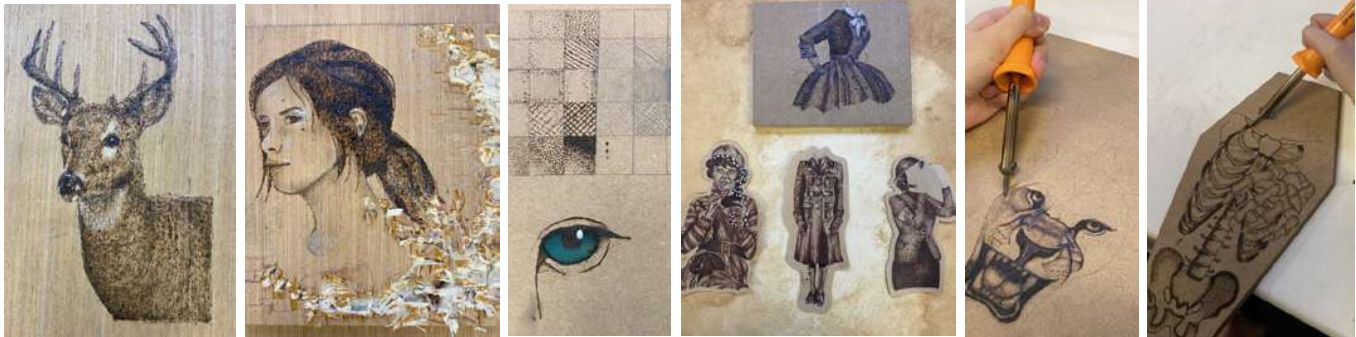


# Celebrating Excellence in Pyrography

## Year 12 Art, Craft & Design students show true talent

Our Year 12 Art, Craft and Design students are to be commended for the creativity and commitment they have shown in their recent pyrography project. After investigating a wide range of influential artistic sources, students developed their own personalised concepts before experimenting with the control and application of a soldering iron on wood. Through this process, they explored how varying techniques can produce a rich variety of aesthetic effects.





Looking ahead, students will continue to expand their practice by considering how alternative materials might be combined with their wood-burning work to enhance texture, colouration and tone, while still celebrating the natural surface qualities of the wood itself. Their growing confidence and imaginative approach have been outstanding, and we look forward to seeing their next steps in this exciting area of study.



November Creative Challenge:

### Food: Tunnocks Tea Cake Challenge

Launch: Monday 3rd November      Deadline: Monday 1st December

Challenge:

Produce and present a dish that embraces the humble 'Tunnock's Tea Cake' and takes us 'around the world in one bite'

You should think about showcasing your knowledge of ingredients and their origins as well as technical skills and processes

You should take a set of no less than 5 high quality photographs of your creation to showcase all details (like these examples)

Digital copies of your photographs should be sent to Miss Webster and Mrs Wilson  
[kwebster@thehinckleyschool.co.uk](mailto:kwebster@thehinckleyschool.co.uk) &  
[jwilson@thehinckleyschool.co.uk](mailto:jwilson@thehinckleyschool.co.uk)

Please also type a description of your dish- think about a tantalising menu style description that would entice any reader!

