



The **BIG** Bridge CHRISTMAS CARD

DECEMBER 2025

Warmest Wishes

As we come to the end of a first busy term, I would like to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas. Thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement, and partnership—it truly makes a difference in the life of our school community. The first term with Year 7 has been wonderful supporting them to settle in and flourish.

Warmest wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Mandy French | Pastoral Leader



Celebrating a Fantastic Start

Wishing you and your family a very happy Christmas and a restful festive break. As we reach the end of the first term, I'd like to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic start our students have made to their journey at The Hinckley School. It has been a pleasure to get to know them, and support them as they settle into new routines, make new friendships and grow in confidence. Across the term, we have seen so many examples of our school values in action. Students have shown perseverance as they've taken on new challenges, respect in the way they treat one another, and increasing independence as they navigate their learning and day-to-day responsibilities. Their discipline and engagement have been clear in lessons, around the school, and within the wider community. I am very proud of the start they have made.

I look forward to building on their brilliant start in the new year and to seeing all the brilliant things our students will go on to achieve during the rest of their time in The Bridge.

Ellie Jones | Teaching and Learning and Intervention Co-Ordinator



Merry Christmas Everyone

As we come to the end of the first term of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic start for our Year 7 students at The Hinckley School. Since joining us in September, students have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into school life. They have settled into their new routines with maturity and enthusiasm, and they should be extremely proud of what they have achieved. We have seen countless academic successes across all subjects, with students rising to new challenges and demonstrating a positive attitude to learning. It has also been a pleasure to see new friendships being forged and confidence growing day by day. Many students have embraced the wide range of extracurricular clubs and activities on offer, trying new experiences and developing new interests. Their willingness to get involved has been exceptional and is a real credit to them. Staff regularly share compliments about the enthusiasm, behaviour and commitment shown by our Year 7 cohort. The energy they bring into classrooms and around the school is a joy to see, and it is clear that they are already becoming valued members of our school community.

On behalf of the Year 7 team, I would like to thank you for your continued support. Together, we are laying strong foundations for a successful and happy journey ahead. I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the students back in the New Year.

Laura Clarke | Director of The Bridge





The Bridge

At The Hinckley School



POETRY SLAM

Year 7 students represented The Bridge with pride in October at our annual school Poetry Slam Competition in the Library. Standing shoulder to shoulder with sixth formers and seasoned performers, our students well and truly held their heads up high, as their talent, confidence and community spirit shone through for all to see. Poems ranged from those including emotive themes around family, to playful humour, and it was a delight to see students' unique writing styles and performance techniques come to life, with judges marking their efforts highly on all fronts. Whether performing in pairs or on their own, students' confidence and performance skills were truly impressive as they showcased everything they had learned in our recent 'Spoken Word Poetry' lessons.

Ms Crisp, Librarian, said, "Our annual Poetry Slam Competition was open to all students and staff who had to write and perform their own poem to enter. All year groups from Year 7 to Sixth Form were represented, with the calibre of poetry written and bravery of our students quite astounding - I am so proud of all of them. Well done to Laura in Year 8 who won this year's trophy. We are planning to create a book for the library to include the poems and photos of this year's event for everyone to see." Well done!



7 OXFORD

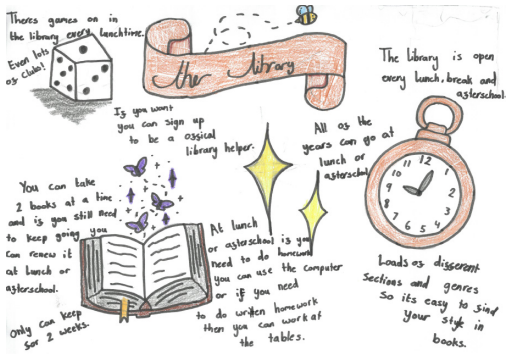
As we come to the end of the first term, I'd like to say how proud I am of Oxford and their collective efforts this year so far. As a first-time tutor this year, it has been a lovely experience to have this tutor group, and whilst secondary school naturally comes with its challenges, the students are settling into The Hinckley School with true resilience and character. It has been a highlight of my year so far to watch them come together for the Bridgemas rehearsals and to see the genuine fun they are having collectively as one team. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can achieve as we head into the new year. Merry Christmas, from 7OXFORD! - Mr Smith



BOOK BUZZ FREEBIES

On Thursday 16th October, our students all received a free reading book thanks to our participation in Book Trust's Book Buzz programme, which aims to get children reading. Every child in Year 7 chose their own book from a long list of Book Buzz titles to take home and keep. Book Buzz is run by Book Trust, the UK's largest children's reading charity that transforms lives by getting children and families reading.





WE LOVE OUR LIBRARY

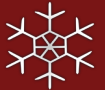
Our Year 7 students have been busy combining creativity with literacy to help promote a strong reading culture across our school community. As part of their English and Library lessons, students explored the importance of reading for pleasure and how books can inspire, educate, and entertain. Using this as inspiration, they created posters that encourage their peers to visit the library. Students described the library as somewhere to: 'imagine, create, learn, discover, think, adventure, share stories, make friends, relax and study' we couldn't have put it better ourselves! Great work, Year 7!

7 CAMBRIDGE

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding term, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and to celebrate the fantastic attitude and enthusiasm shown by 7 Cambridge. Our students have shown excellent engagement in extracurricular activities this term, including the recent Christmas crafts event, which was a real highlight. Their creativity and willingness to get involved made it a great success, and we look forward to offering even more opportunities like this next year. I am also incredibly proud of how wholeheartedly they have thrown themselves into the wider school community. Their energy, kindness, and willingness to take part in so many aspects of school life have made a genuine difference. A special apology to anyone at home who has had to endure repeated practice sessions of our Christmas performance—and to those who may now have Ed Sheeran stuck permanently in their heads! Your patience is greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a joyful, restful Christmas break and a very happy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for an exciting term ahead.

Warmest wishes,
- Miss K Webster (HS)



HANDS ON HISTORY

7 Manchester started their History journey by getting their hands on a range of Victorian and 20th century artefacts. They tried to guess what they were, with some success. What was very impressive about the group was their enthusiasm and creativity. Some of their guesses were wide of the mark, but they showed great imagination and inference skills. - Ms Beale | Head of Classics



SPOKEN WORD WORKSHOPS

All of our Year 7 students took part in spoken word poetry lessons in The Bridge in September, led by Marissa and Alyssia from Creative Learning Services.

The students practiced writing kenning poems, a riddle-like form of poetry where the subject is not named directly but is described using a series of two-word, hyphenated phrases called kennings, which are often metaphorical. Our budding Bridge poets also learned the art of poetry performance in preparation for our annual Poetry Slam. They have showed wonderful focus, teamwork and creativity in the sessions, and made our guests feel very welcome in The Bridge.

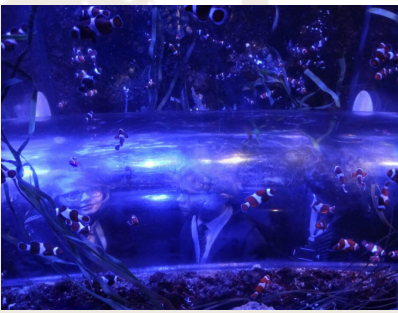




SEALIFE CENTRE INSPIRES 'JELLYCAT' DESIGN PROJECT

The Bridge was quiet on Monday 13th October, as Year 7 visited the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham to get creative inspiration for their next art and design project.

Students spent the day exploring the underwater world and learning about the impact of plastic pollution on our oceans, as they took observational recordings to use in their upcoming art and design project. Through drawings and photographs, students impressed with their creativity and enthusiasm. Students will now be asked to consider how to reuse/recycle plastic-based synthetic materials in their future designs and look to take further inspiration from the incredibly popular 'Jellycat' soft toys.



SPORTS STARS

Our Year 7 students put on a great show of determination and teamwork against Higham Lane on 8th October in their first Bridge football match. The team stuck together throughout a tough game and are now looking forward to putting all they have learned into practice in future games.

Our students not only benefit from the thrill of a competitive environment thanks to sporting fixtures here at The Hinckley School, but also build strength of character as they learn the importance of self-belief, resilience and teamwork - no matter the end result. We would like to congratulate all students who have taken part in training sessions, or sports fixtures this term.



BOOK CLUB'S VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT

On Tuesday 4th November, for the launch of our '7 for 7' Book Group, we had a live virtual talk with Alice Nuttall, author of *The Zombie Project*, an action-packed adventure which turns the idea of zombies on its head. The *Zombie Project* will be one of seven books that the Year 7 group will be reading and discussing as they meet once a week in the Library with our Librarian, Mrs Crisp.

The books have all been chosen to engage minds, inspire critical thinking, and further ignite a passion for reading. The author talk is one of a series that the group will be taking part in, along with competitions and fun activities.





THE BRIDGE CHAMPION CUP WINNERS : SEPT - OCT

In October, Mr Pallett's Tutor Group 7 Loughborough were crowned Bridge Champions and had the honour of lifting the Bridge Champions Cup, adorned in their Tutor Group colour, purple.

A fiercely contested competition, The Bridge Cup sees each TUTOR Group compete based on their total number of PRIDE points, teacher praise, and attendance. The results are tracked weekly in assemblies to build the healthy competitive spirit, with a presentation ceremony at the end of each term.

Loughborough were our last winners for their amazing Tutor Group performance between September and October. However, the question is, can they keep the trophy for the second term running? Our will another Tutor Group steal it from them?

Our October - December winners will be announced in The Bridge Celebration Assembly on Friday 19th December, the last day of term.

We can't wait to share the results!

7 LOUGHBOROUGH

To the parents/carers of students in 7 Loughborough,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful new year.

Looking forward to seeing 7 Loughborough return in the new year and keeping up those high standards we have already set ourselves in 2025.

2026 will be even better!
From Mr P.



BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

ATTENDANCE AMBASSADORS

We are delighted to introduce our new attendance ambassadors, Edith and Harveer who will be leading our deputies, Daisy, Sinan and Lilly as they aim to help students reach their attendance goals. From creating a new noticeboard, to launching new attendance competitions and rewards initiatives, our ambassadors will ensure attendance is high profile within our Bridge community- helping everyone to reach their full potential.



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

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

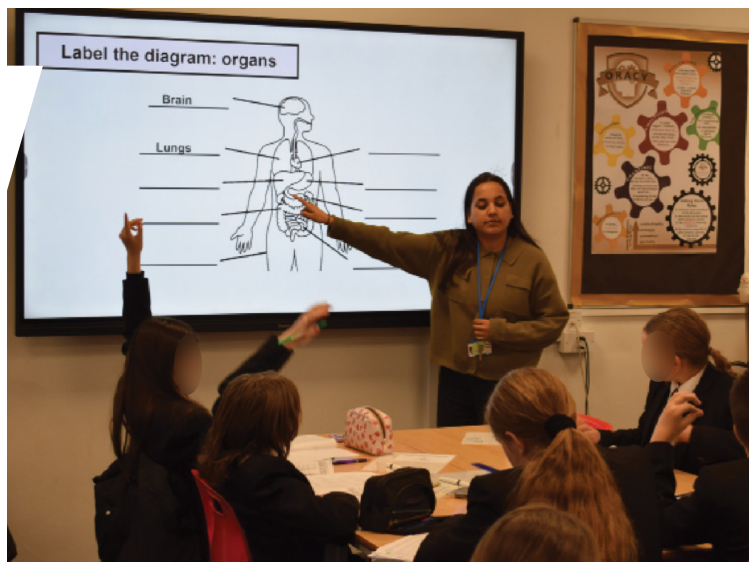
Students have been trying their hand at Christmas crafts, producing gingerbread men garlands, paper wreaths and more to help decorate The Bridge heartspace for the festive season. Well done to everyone who has taken part so far - your creations look wonderful!



CELLS AND ORGANISMS

Students in The Bridge have truly shone in Science this year, gaining a strong foundation of scientific knowledge to help them succeed throughout their seven-year journey.

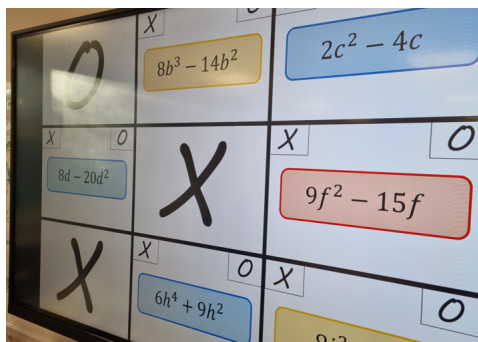
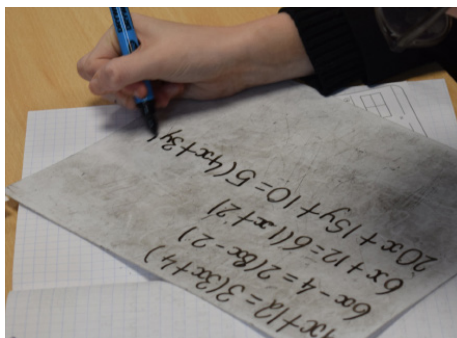
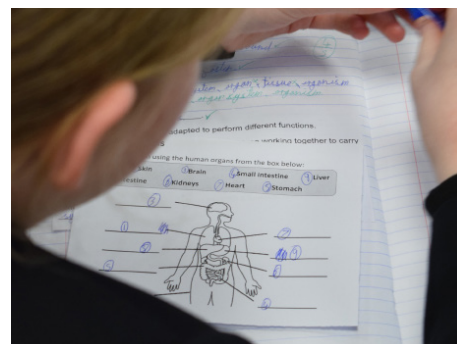
As we approach the end of term, Year 7 are coming to the end of the cells and organisation topic. During this topic, they've learnt about plant and animal cells, specialised cells and last week studied tissues and organs. In a recent lesson, 7Oxford worked out the differences between cells, tissues, organs, organ systems and organisms and ordered them from smallest to largest. The group then moved on to label where organs can be found in the body and even demonstrating their knowledge by pointing to them on their own bodies. Great work, Year 7!



7MANCHESTER

'Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas from 7 Manchester. Manchester have been working hard in the lead up to Christmas practicing their Bridgemas song, choreographing dances and making props. Outside of Bridgemas Manchester have represented everything we would ask for as students of The Hinckley School. They have shown PRIDE, resilience and courage since they joined in August. It is a pleasure to see them grow as individuals and develop personalities that make them who they are. Here's to the New Year and a very exciting year to come!'

- Miss Quinn



EXPRESSIONS IN MATHEMATICS

Year 7 have been factorising expressions into single brackets in their recent Maths lessons. Mr Wincote, Teacher of Maths shared, "Students have even begun to take this one step further by including terms with indices involved. This is part of their expressions topic where they have been introduced to a lot of new algebra concepts."



Students have enjoyed trying these concepts out in new activities, including a game of noughts and crosses where each team had to factorise the expression correctly to put there nought or cross in the place they had chosen.

Students have shown great enthusiasm and resilience in their learning, well done, Year 7!



UNVEILING OUR NEW AND IMPROVED LIBRARY

We were delighted to unveil our new library improvements after half-term! Our investments included impressive and inspiring welcome signage designed to capture the imagination and modern slat wall displays which will allow Ms Crisp to curate themed displays.

Year 7 students can enjoy using this newly improved space during break and lunch times and in their Library lessons. We would like to thank Ms Crisp, our Librarian, for her tireless dedication to making this space so magical for everyone here at The Hinckley School.



LINE DRAWINGS

After completing tonal animal drawings, Year 7 Fine Art students reflected on the strengths and limitations of shading with pencil before moving on to controlled studies using ballpoint pen. This is a demanding technique, but 7 Oxford have shown real resilience in their sampling—experimenting confidently with colour palettes and combinations.

Their emerging highland cow studies demonstrate fantastic attention to the direction and length of each line, as well as careful preservation of white highlights to capture the glossy texture of the fur. We can't wait to see their final outcomes!





Miss Webster's Message

As we reach the end of the term, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful creativity and hard work shown by our Year 7 Art students. It has been a genuine pleasure to teach such an enthusiastic, imaginative, and dedicated group of young artists in 7 Birmingham and 7 Oxford. I look forward to meeting more artists in other tutor groups as we rotate throughout the remainder of the school year.

The quality of the work produced this term has been exceptional. Students have shown great curiosity and a willingness to experiment, often going above and beyond in their projects. Many have also sought out extra-curricular opportunities, demonstrating a real passion for developing their artistic skills beyond the classroom. I am especially proud of their engagement in both internal and external creative competitions. Their confidence in sharing their ideas and showcasing their talents is inspiring, and I look forward to seeing how they continue to grow as artists.

Please keep your eyes peeled for information that will be released monthly regarding new opportunities, events, and competitions. There will be plenty for students to get involved in as we move into the new year. Wishing you all a peaceful, joyful Christmas break and a very happy New Year.

Warm regards,

Miss K Webster (HS) | Teacher of Art and Creative Curriculum Co-Ordinator

CHARITY FUND-RAISER

In addition to our recent awareness sessions, we recently held a **'Wear it Pink Day'** in support of the charity Breast Cancer Now. The generosity and community spirit from our students and staff was incredible, with a fantastic show of support at The Bridge bake sale, and lunchtime games and quizzes. A big thank you to everyone who made the event such a success, whether that was helping with the event set-up, donating cakes to be sold, buying a sweet treat or having a go at our lunchtime activities - you made a real difference.

We are delighted to announce that your generosity and kindness have raised £382.20 for the charity.



ART COMPETITION WINNERS

Our Year 7 students have impressed through their participation in our monthly Art Competitions ran by Miss Webster. Congratulations to everyone who has taken part!

October's Prospective Photography

'We are delighted to announce that Summer (7 Cambridge) was judged the winner of October's Creative Challenge. When sharing Summer's work, Miss Webster said, "Your outstanding photographs showcase exceptional creativity and technical skill—skilfully using distance, angle, and body positioning to create a striking illusion that makes the subject appear to interact effortlessly with the surroundings. Your thoughtful consideration of location and dedication to capturing the perfect shot, especially during the half-term break, demonstrate true commitment and artistic vision."

Miss Webster | Creative Curriculum Co-Ordinator

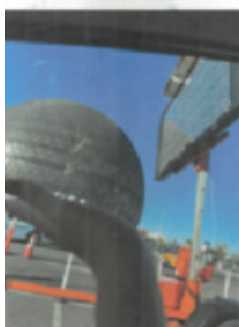


November's Tunnocks Tea Cake Challenge

'We are delighted to announce that Isla is this month's winner of the Creatives Competition! Her Banoffee S'mores-inspired recipe was not only beautifully presented and absolutely delicious-looking, but she also provided a clear and detailed method outlining each step of her creation. This is such a fantastic way to incorporate the star ingredient of a Tunnocks Tea Cake, and we've never seen one look so appetising!

Isla will receive her themed prize (Christmas cookery equipment) in assembly, and we hope she can put her prize to great use as she continues to develop her fantastic baking skills. Congratulations, Isla!'

Miss Webster | Creative Curriculum Co-Ordinator



7 BIRMINGHAM

As our first term together draws to a close I would like to share how much I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each of you this term, and I'm incredibly proud of the way you have all embraced your first months of secondary school. Your positive attitude and the way you have settled in so confidently has been wonderful to see.

They have shown great engagement, kindness and perseverance, and I'm very excited to see all they will achieve as we continue our journey through the year. Have a wonderful break 7Birmingham, and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year! - Miss Jones



RUGBY VICTORY OVER HARTSHILL

Year 7 Rugby Match Report
The Hinckley School vs Hartshill Academy
Final Score: 20-10 (4 tries to 2)

In just their second competitive match, the Year 7 boys from The Hinckley School delivered a fantastic performance to secure a 20-10 victory over a strong and physical Hartshill Academy side. From the opening whistle, the team played with passion and PRIDE, demonstrating just how far they have developed in such a short time.

Our defensive effort was outstanding, with the boys putting in a series of determined tackles to keep Hartshill skilful runners at bay. In attack, the team combined brilliantly, moving the ball with confidence and accuracy to create four well-worked tries.

Despite sustained pressure from Hartshill, the boys showed resilience and composure, standing firm against a very competitive opposition. Their teamwork, communication, and willingness to support one another were clear throughout the match.

To cap off an excellent afternoon, the boys were also delighted to be awarded their rugby ties—an honour that reflects their commitment, effort, and rapid development this season.

This impressive performance provides excellent momentum as the team looks ahead to the new year, with more fixtures and festivals on the horizon. The boys should be incredibly proud of their efforts—well done, Year 7!

- Mr Stocks - Director of Sport



FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT FESTIVAL CHAMPIONS

Match Report - The Hinckley School - U12 Squad

Our Year 7 football squad produced a dominant and mature set of performances to be crowned champions at the Developmental Football Festival on Monday 8th December. Across three high-energy fixtures, the boys scored seven goals and remarkably conceded none, showcasing both attacking flair and defensive discipline.

The campaign began with a confident 3-0 victory over Groby, where quick movement, sharp passing, and relentless pressing set the tone for the day. In their second match, The Hinckley School continued to impress, securing a composed 2-0 win against Bosworth Academy, controlling possession and showing real tactical awareness for a developing side.

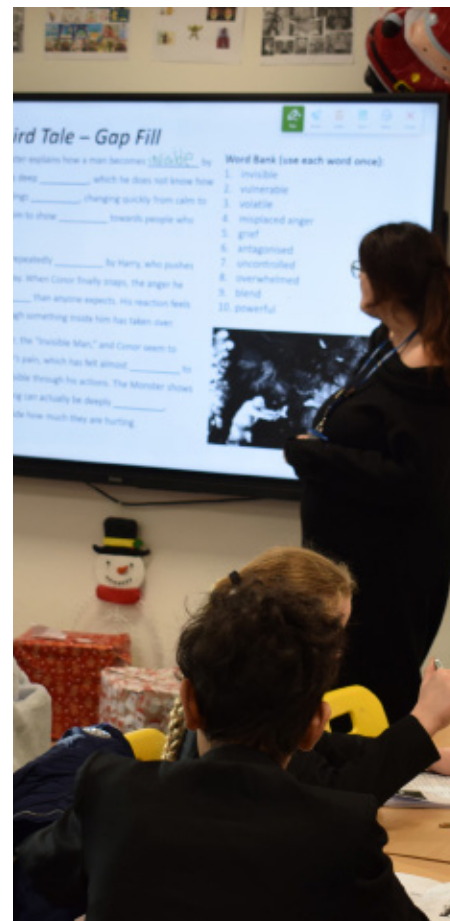
The final fixture brought added intensity as the team faced local rivals Redmoor. Rising to the occasion, the boys delivered another assured performance, sealing a 2-0 win and completing the festival unbeaten, unbroken, and untroubled at the back.

Throughout the tournament, the squad demonstrated tremendous teamwork, constant communication, and unwavering support for one another. Every player contributed to a collective identity built on hard work, togetherness, and pride in the school badge.

Manager Mr Barrett expressed his excitement at the team's progress and the potential within this young group. With such momentum and confidence behind them, 2026 promises to be an exciting year for the squad as they continue to develop and push their standards even higher. A superb achievement - well done, boys!

EXAMINING A MONSTER CALLS

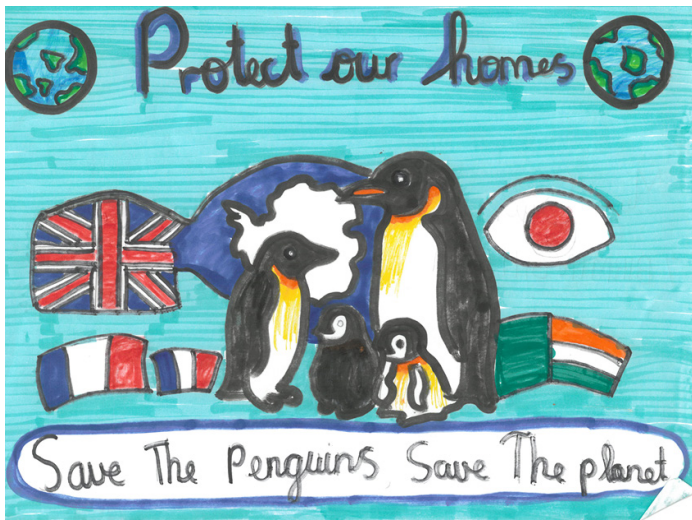
Following her Year 7 class on Wednesday 10th December, Miss Mathieson, Teacher of English, shared an insight into their fantastic work recently, "In English, we're currently exploring the bildungsroman as a genre through analysis of Conor's emotional growth throughout 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness. Students are charting the emotional shifts after a mystical Yew Tree arrives to tell Conor three stories that change his perspective on a difficult situation." Students showed real engagement in class discussions during the lesson and used oracy talking points to share their ideas and build on the contributions of their peers. Amazing work this term, Year 7!



An End of Term Message from Our Classics Team

salvē, io Saturnalia! as the Romans might say as they come to the holiday season. Christmas is a little different of course, but Saturnalia was also a time of feasting, getting together and games, albeit based on a man who ate his own children! This term in Classics we have immersed ourselves in all things Ancient. This has included the language, with students starting to learn many of the roots of our modern words, the culture, the food and lifestyle. We have created Roman dinner parties, started to become familiar with Roman Leicester and Pompeii, and met Caecilius and his family. We've studied mythic monsters and the 'heroes' who fought them and dipped into the magical world of the gods. We've been so impressed with the creativity, imagination and enthusiasm our students have shown. We are really looking forward to next term, where we will track the ongoing exploits of Caecilius and follow Hercules through his 12 labours. valē, **Miss Beale, Miss Mathieson and Mr Dutchman.**

THE START OF AN UNFORGETTABLE
SEVEN-YEAR JOURNEY



ANTARCTICA FLAGS

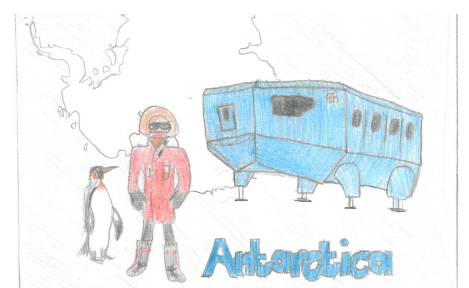
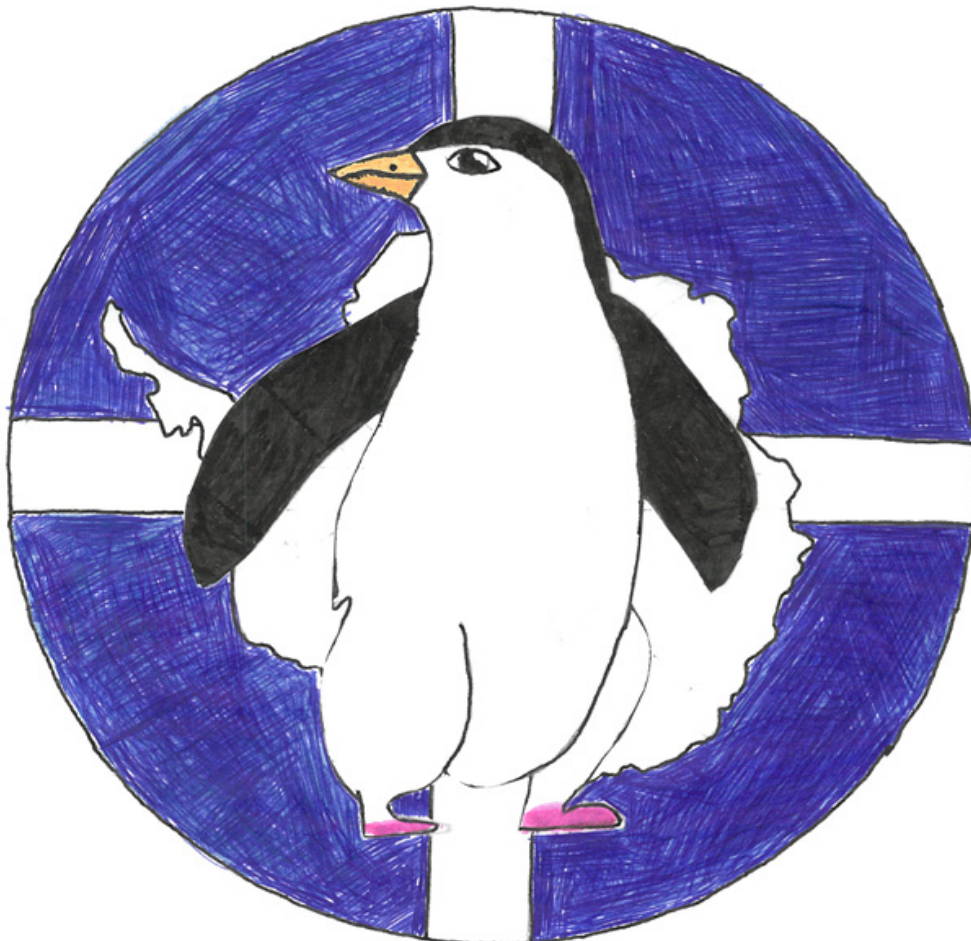
Over half term, Year 7 students were busy competing in the Antarctica flag competition. This competition involves the students designing a flag to celebrate Antarctica Day. Antarctica Day is the 1st December to commemorate the signing of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959. This treaty involved countries committing to Antarctica 'forever being used exclusively for peaceful purposes in the interest of mankind.'

Students designed their flags based on the purposes of the Antarctic treaty and added some creativity to make a flag fitting for the Ceremonial South Pole in Antarctica. We have had some excellent submissions showing just how creative and independent students in The Bridge are! As a Geography department, we have selected two winning flags to go on a fieldwork project and have a photo taken with the team in Antarctica. We chose these based on the message and how eye-catching they were. Once the Polar network receives a photograph of our flag back from Antarctica, they will send the photo and a certificate to display in our school!



Congratulations to our winners, Katie and Miya, and well done to everyone who took part!

**- Miss Quinn |
Teacher of Geography**





THE BRIDGEMAS CHRISTMAS SING OFF

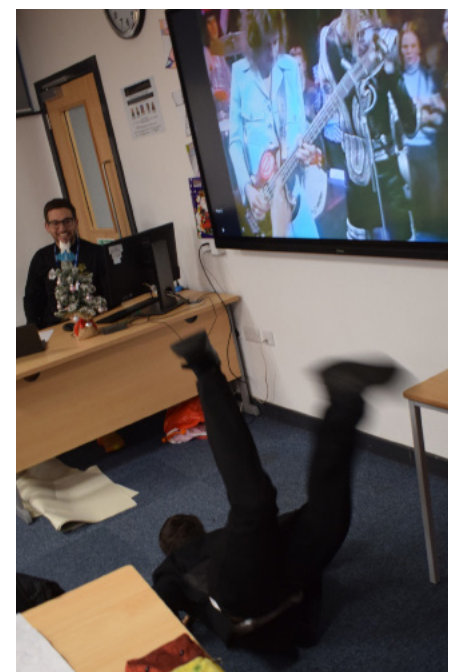
It is fair to say that our students (and staff) took preparations for The Bridgemas Christmas Sing Off seriously! Tutor groups were each given a festive song to use as the base of their performances, with each group using their own imaginations to create dance routines, add props, and actions, to add that extra sparkle. Students even showed off their unique hidden talents by including their party tricks - including 'the worm' dance moves!

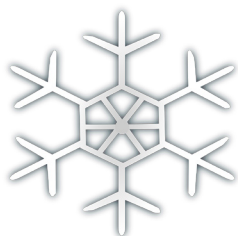
It has been fantastic to see all our students getting into the Christmas spirit and participating with confidence, and enthusiasm as they rehearsed and supported their peers during tutor time.

No matter what the final vote says and who is crowned this year's Bridgemas Champion, our tutor groups are all winners. Their team work and PRIDE has been astounding

to watch and we would like to thank them for grasping this opportunity to perform for parents and carers with both hands. This is what our community it truly about, working together and supporting others with a real sense of belonging and we hope our audience enjoys the show!

We hope you enjoy seeing some behind the scenes photographs from our students busy rehearsal schedule!






The Bridge
At The Hinckley School



**We look forward to welcoming students
back to school on Monday 5th
January 2026!**





The Hinckley
SCHOOL

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From everyone here at The Hinckley School



BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES