

Have you heard about...



BREAKING NEWS

YOUR UNIQUE YEAR 7 EXPERIENCE

COMMUNITY, SUCCESS, CELEBRATION!

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT... THE BRIDGE

The Bridge at The Hinckley School provides an outstanding transition experience from primary to secondary school. Pioneered by The Futures Trust over eight years ago, The Bridge has received praise from Ofsted and leading educationalists for its ground-breaking provision. The Bridge delivers consistently accelerated academic progress along with unrivalled pastoral care and transition experience.

The Bridge, is not just a Year 7 community, but a complete mini-school which provides our youngest students with their own bespoke facilities. This allows students to focus on settling in, making friends and setting themselves up for secondary success.

In September 2023, Ofsted inspectors praised The Hinckley School's ambitious curriculum within The Bridge for the inclusion of 'Classics', which supports our youngest students to grow knowledge of ancient civilisations and Latin. This allows students in The Bridge to gain the root knowledge required to unlock learning in other subjects and ignites their imaginations in new and exciting ways. This academic focus, alongside dedicated support and impressive facilities provides a truly unforgettable Year 7 journey.



MEET MR MATHARU - DIRECTOR OF THE BRIDGE

“ I am delighted to share our first 'Bridge Bulletin' with our local community. This regular publication will be our chance to share the incredible events within our Year 7 community, the achievements of our talented students and insights into life and learning here at The Hinckley School.

Our youngest year group have made a truly remarkable start here at The Hinckley School and it is important that we take a moment to recognise that. The transition from primary to secondary school is a big milestone and I would like to thank students and their families for trusting myself and The Bridge Team to make this journey as smooth as possible.

Student progress continues to impress, with our supportive transition and intervention programmes helping our learners to continue to make accelerated progress and to realise that

if they put their mind to it then anything is possible. Students have also settled in well to their new routines and the more rigorous demands that secondary school life can bring, gaining impressive confidence and independence along the way. I am delighted to share more about the fantastic start they have made this year in our new bulletin, as well as taking a look back at our incredible events from the end of last term.

Mr Joe Matharu
Director of The Bridge
thebridge@thehinckleyschool.co.uk



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 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.

Ms Crisp, Librarian said, "Our annual poetry slam competition was held on the 3rd of October to celebrate National Poetry Day. The competition was open to all students and staff who had to write and perform their own poem to enter. I was really pleased that we had the usual high number of entries again this year with students and staff returning to compete for a second time. The calibre of poetry written and bravery of our students was quite astounding - I am so proud of all of them. Well done to Anne who won this year's trophy with her poem that bought two of the judges to tears. We are planning to create a book for the Library to include the poems and photos from this years' event for everyone to see."



SPORTING SPIRIT

Our students show true sportsmanship, teamwork and bravery as they not only represent our school with pride during matches, but also as they courageously try out new activities and sports for the very first time. An area of particular focus has been the resurgence of our school's rugby heartbeat. Thanks to our dedicated staff, talented students and a legacy we can proudly build upon, our Year 7 rugby team continues to go from strength to strength. The team allows our students to have fun and exercise while making new friends and memories along the way. Students have also shown wonderful school spirit by congratulating their friends after fixtures and supporting their efforts and successes.

Congratulations to students who took part in the rugby fixture vs Lutterworth on Saturday 1st February, you represented the school with pride and showed true grit and determination, with the final score of 25-30 to Lutterworth, reflecting a closely fought match. Well done!



READING MENTORS

Our Sixth Form Reading Mentors continue to make a real impact on our Bridge students, supporting their oracy and development during Thursday morning mentoring sessions in the heartspace. It truly is heart-warming to see our eldest students sit with our youngest in The Bridge to listen to them read aloud.

Each Bridge student has been paired with a sixth form volunteer and both age groups regularly share how enjoyable they find their work together. These pairings allow our students to not only develop their reading, but to also build relationships with older students and role models at different stages of their seven-year journey, as well as strengthening their confidence and communication skills.

FREE BOOKS FOR ALL

In October, we took part in Book Trust's Book Buzz programme, which aims to get children reading. As part of this annual event, every child in Year 7 chose their own book from seventeen Book Buzz titles to take home and keep. Book Buzz is run by Book Trust, the UK's largest children's reading charity. Reading helps to improve student wellbeing and inspires creativity and the impact of this project has been evident.



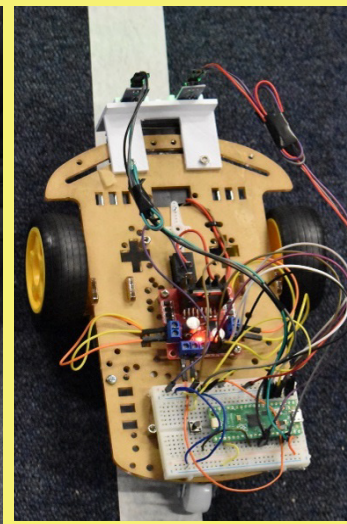
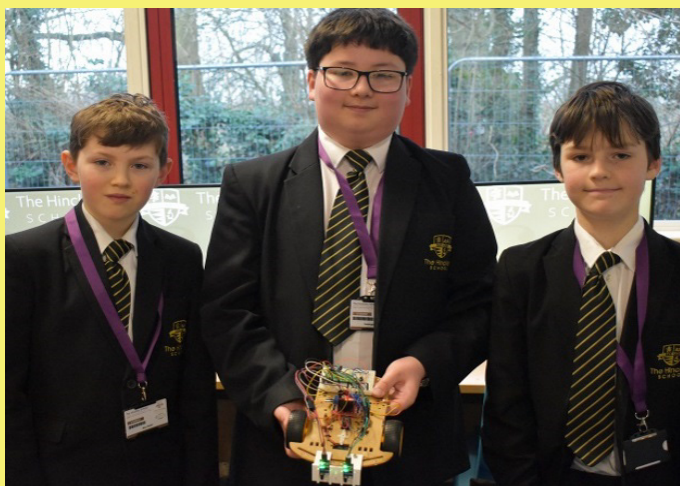
BUILDING ROBOT BUGGIES

Our KS3 Electronics Club have been putting their new robot buggies to the test during their Wednesday after school enrichment session.

Last week, Oakleigh in Year 7 explained their work so far, "We started by building robots which were programmed to move in a square, then we added a one direction sensor, then a turning sensor and now we have added a light sensor which means the robot can follow a circuit." He added, "This club is really fun, you get a deeper understanding of robotics and it has made me consider a career in robotics in the future."

Club Leader, Mr Harrison shared, "The students have been building simple circuits to learn about sensors that can measure distance and detect light. These were connected to micro-controllers and students wrote some simple code to measure the distance and light levels from the sensors. This was then further developed to build robot buggies that can drive around by themselves, avoiding collisions, and finally following a white line on a circuit around the floor. The project will conclude with a time trial to see which robot can complete the circuit the quickest!"

Well done to everyone involved in our KS3 Electronics Club, amazing work. We can't wait to see what else you achieve in 2025!





INTRODUCING...ANYA

“ Being a part of The Bridge is such a lovely experience. All of the teachers are so welcoming and you definitely get a sense of security here. All of the enrichment activities are so fun and everyone is so easy to talk to! Since I joined The Bridge, I have taken part in netball, which was super fun, scrap-booking with Ms Garcia- which really helped me express my creativity and Rock School with Mr Riley, which helped me to explore my love of music. The Bridge being separate from the main school is so useful, you don't have to worry about walking to lessons and getting lost, you're just in The Bridge! All of the teachers are so kind to you, Ms French is always there to help and so are our tutors - you can talk to them about anything! ”

- Anya (former Barwell CofE Academy pupil)

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT...CLASSICS

The Classics curriculum in The Bridge allows students to immerse themselves in the study of Classical Civilisations and Latin. Students enjoy a project-based curriculum that runs through English, Humanities and Classics lessons. Within this curriculum learners are introduced to Ancient Greek and Roman history, literature and religion and have the opportunity to study Latin to aid their understanding of the English Language and other Modern Foreign Languages. The introduction of Classics strengthens our commitment to passionately delivering a curriculum which inspires, engages and excites our students and raises the aspirations for all.

Our expert team work closely with Classics for All and Leicester University to deliver not only the highest quality lessons, but to also create impressive Classics experience days featuring guest lecturers, VR headsets, archaeologists and the latest technology to give our students an exciting insight into the ancient civilisations that shaped our world today.

“I am really pleased that we get to study Classics at The Hinckley School. I look forward to my Classics lessons and when I see it on my timetable I always know it will be an enjoyable lesson. My teacher gives me lots of support and I enjoy learning a new language. Classics lessons are really engaging and our teachers bring the subject to life with interactive activities such as group reading, challenges and actions to help us remember new Latin words. I like that I can impress my friends outside of school with my knowledge of Latin!” - Amelie



THE ONE AND ONLY BRIDGE IN LEICESTERSHIRE



INTRODUCING...SHAE

“At the start of joining The Hinckley School, I thought that it would be very different to primary school and it would be hard to make new friends, but actually it wasn't, **I made loads of new friends** and the **teachers are very welcoming** here.

One of my favourite lessons is PE as I love sports and I **learn lots of new skills at The Hinckley School**. I also enjoy English, as I love writing and engaging with others in a group.”

- Shae (former Newlands Primary School pupil)



OVER 4,065 HOURS OF EXCEPTIONAL ENRICHMENT!

As of Friday 7th February, Year 7 students had participated in a truly remarkable **4,065 hours** of enrichment activities during lunch time and after school! **100% of students who joined The Bridge in August have participated in enrichment** and this is a credit to their enthusiasm and sense of belonging. It has been a delight to see new friendships, passions and interests flourish over recent months. Our students are now enjoying their brand new Spring enrichment calendar and we love hearing how much they are enjoying activities such as Rock School, Scrap-booking Club, Geology & Palaeontology Club, Rugby, Chess Club, British Sign Language and much more!



E-SAFETY

On Monday 27th January, our tutor groups in The Bridge spent time learning about E-Safety. With technology continually evolving and with young people's levels of engagement with online platforms higher than ever before, it is important that we support our students and their families to understand how to keep safe online.

Tutor groups worked through a presentation created by The Bridge Team which built on the aspects of E-Safety students covered during their first few weeks in Year 7, as part of the computing fundamentals topic. Students engaged with the information with maturity and inquisitive questioning, which prompted fantastic group discussions, we would like to thank them all for their participation.

Ms Stone, Head of Computer Science and The Bridge Team also shared helpful information sheets with parents/carers to support conversations around online safety to continue at home. Please visit our school website if you would like to view and download these useful e-safety resources:

www.thehinckleyschool.co.uk/parent-carer-resources

CHAMPIONS CUP



Our end of term celebration assemblies allowed us to recognise the hard work, pride and progress of our wonderful students, with all year groups gathering together during the final week of the 2024 term to congratulate each other on their achievements since the start of term. The Bridge celebration event took place on the last day of term and, led by Ms French, Pastoral Leader and Mr Matharu, Director of The Bridge, saw students receive awards and prizes for a wide variety of categories including, attendance, subject achievement and of course **PRIDE - Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Discipline and Engagement.**

The highlight of the event for many was the announcement of which Tutor Group had been crowned the winners of The Bridge Champions Cup this term. This accolade is earned through the combination of weekly highest pride points, weekly best attendance and enrichment participation at the end of each half term. After a close race throughout the term, 7 Manchester were crowned the winners and students enjoyed a dramatic unveiling of the cup, which is now proudly decorated in Mrs Malin's Tutor Group colours. Congratulations to our worthy winners!

Our attention now turns to which Tutor Group will be our next winners! It's great to see our students enjoying the healthy sense of competition and community spirit within The Bridge.



The Hinckley
SCHOOL

Interested in finding out more about The Bridge?

Contact our team today to register to receive notifications about upcoming open events and tour availability. Email: thebridge@thehinckleyschool.co.uk