# The Hedingham School Newsletter 13 November 2026

**Ready, Respect, Safe**



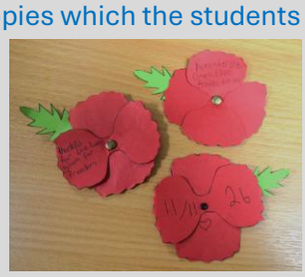
Dear Parent/Guardian

Apologies for the delay in the circulation of this newsletter which was intended for this Friday. Us, along with vast parts of the globe were impacted by the Microsoft outage, so we were restricted by our lack of access to our emails.

I have found last week to be a particularly enjoyable week with the obvious focus on Armistice Day and the important messages that are communicated to students through various channels to reinforce the historical importance of the 11 November 1918. As time distances us from the end of the First World War, it is so important to ensure that our future generations remain thankful to those who sacrificed their lives for our freedoms. Educating our students about Armistice Day not only helps preserve the memory of those who served and gave their lives but also encourages reflection on the human cost of conflict, the value of peace, and the responsibilities that come with living in a free and democratic society. By developing an understanding of these historical events, students are better equipped to appreciate the sacrifices of previous generations and to carry forward the principles of remembrance, respect, and gratitude for years to come.

Last week I spoke with students in assemblies about the four pillars of British values and how these permeate into the values that we promote as a school through "Ready, Respect, Safe". Students learning about the sacrifices made by previous generations, has hopefully helped them develop a deeper appreciation of democracy, understanding the freedoms and rights that have been protected through service and sacrifice. The remembrance activities encourage mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, as communities from all backgrounds come together to honour those who served. Reflection on the impact of war also highlights the importance of the rule of law and individual liberty, helping students recognise the value of living in a peaceful, democratic society. In this way, Armistice Day serves not only as a moment of remembrance but also as a powerful reminder of the shared values that underpin modern Britain and our collective responsibility to uphold them.

We have had several activities this week to mark this important day, including students making poppies which have created murals in Reception and along the English corridor. It has been nice to read some of the messages students have written on their poppies capturing things that they are thankful for. Mr Holman has led on assemblies this week, brilliantly framing the history behind Armistice Day which was both fascinating but moving at the same time. I enjoyed visiting classes to distribute poppies which the students have been wearing as part of their uniform.



The school collectively observed a minute's silence after each class was read the following statement:

*"Armistice Day. On the 11 November 1918, over a 100 years ago, the First World War ended at 11.00 am. It had been an appalling experience for all of those involved. 10 million soldiers and many civilians were killed. Many people experienced losses of relatives or friends. The soldiers who survived often felt a sense of guilt that they had lived. It was called 'the war to end all wars'. There was a commitment to avoid such an appalling event again.*

*Unfortunately, there have been a number of subsequent wars in which all of our families have been touched by tragedy. People today wake up in war torn areas and see death and devastation on a daily basis. We must be thankful for the freedom and peace which we have in Britain.*

*Armistice Day is commemorated as an occasion, not to glorify war, but to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for freedom in all wars since 1914, and to encourage people to make the world a better place so that war will no longer be necessary."*

Students showed huge maturity and conducted themselves admirably. Thank you also to the parents who donated towards the collection through iPay.






## Jack Petchey Leader Award Winner

A huge congratulations to Mrs Batch who was successfully nominated for and awarded the Jack Petchey Leaders Award. This award is for those that go above and beyond in inspiring, helping and seeking opportunities for young people. Having students and colleagues recognise your efforts in promoting sport and activity, particularly for female students, is a huge "pat on the back" for Mrs Batch. She offers so much time, energy and commitment; never one to miss a training session or pass an opportunity to be involved in a fixture or competition. She is incredibly humble and a huge asset to our team and I am thrilled that she has received some of the recognition that she so thoroughly deserves. Well done Mrs Batch, one to celebrate at club on Wednesday next week!

## Year 7 Careers Event

On Friday 11 December, Year 7 students will take part in a careers event whereby various professionals will visit our school to participate in "what is My Profession" event. Students will take part in a question and answer session followed by the professionals revealing their jobs at the end of the session. We hope Year 7 students will enjoy the event which is hugely beneficial to them to have an understanding of the world of work from an early age.

## Music Lessons

Individual lessons with Essex Music Service will run during the school day next term, taught by specialist tutors. **Please register here**:
**https://ukessex.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=1548#/courselist/25**

**Instruments offered**
Guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, piano, vocals, saxophone, clarinet, flute and drum kit. You may also register interest in other instruments, subject to tutor availability.
**Costs**
**10 × 20-minute lessons: £138 per term**
**10 × 30-minute lessons: £207 per term**
**10 paired lessons (10 minutes per student): £69 per term**
There are normally **30 lessons per academic year**.

**Financial help**
Households earning below **£24,000** may receive a discount of up to **50%**
Looked-after or adopted children, and children who have had contact with social care, may receive **10 free 15-minute lessons per term**
**What to do next**
**Register by Friday 4 December** using the link below
Apply for financial assistance if eligible
Arrange an instrument, except for piano or drum lessons; low-cost hire is available
Pay the Essex Music Service invoice before lessons begin

**Links**
**Register for music lessons**
**Apply for financial assistance**
**Apply for instrument hire**

We look forward to developing your child's love of music!

## Attendance

We have set a challenge to all our students to consistently be in school for the 21 school days of November. This has been framed as "Non-Stop November", with the aim of maintaining a streak of attendance days as deep as possible into November. We have tried to make it competitive between year groups, forms and houses and students are receiving updates from their tutors on a regular basis about how many students have maintained their streak.
We have seen an improvement in attendance this year, particularly with Year groups 7 and 8 who currently have the best attendance that we have seen in over a decade. Thank you to families for reinforcing the importance of regular attendance in school with your children and giving them that nudge out the door that they all need on occasion!

## Teaching and Learning Review Week

We have spent this week visiting lessons and reviewing the quality of lessons and the impact of the learning in classrooms. This has involved conversations with students and time spent reviewing the work completed in books. This comes as part of an ongoing cycle of monitoring to ensure that we all continually reflect on our practice and how to refine and shape things in the classroom to maximise student learning. There will be further observations next week.

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## Teams4u Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to all parents and students who kindly donated to the shoebox appeal either by giving physical donations or giving money via iPay. As well as gifts such as toiletries, toys and knitwear, as a school we have sent £232.50 to Teams4U which will help purchase more items and cover costs of transporting the shoeboxes. Your donations will be taken to a central sorting hub this weekend, where volunteers will check the parcels before organising shipments. Last year we helped to send over 1000 shoeboxes and so we look forward to finding out this year's total. Thank you again for your generosity, as these parcels will make a huge difference to vulnerable children in Europe.

## Year 10 Parents' Evening

This event will take place on Thursday 19 November from 4.00pm until 7.00 pm. Parents and Guardians will be able to book their appointments from 4.00 pm on Friday. We encourage parents to bring their son/daughter along to this event as these appointments can be extremely impactful when students see teachers and parents working together to help them achieve their academic goals. We hope you enjoy the evening.

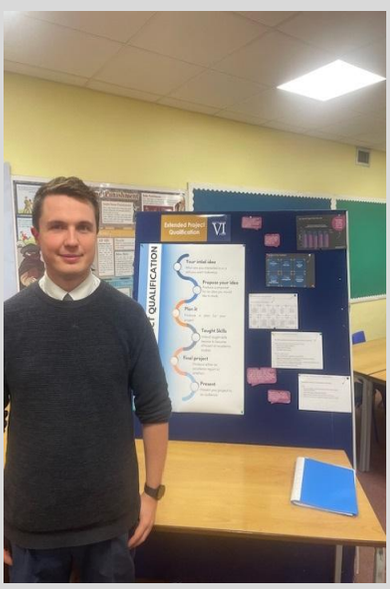
## Sixth Form Open Evening

Sixth Form hosted our Open Evening last night, Thursday 12 November. There was a real buzz about the building, and the event was well attended by both current Year 11s as well as a large number of external students from a number of different schools. Current Sixth Form students supported teachers on the night and were a credit to the school. Applications are now open and Year 11 forms will be coming to Sixth Form next week to complete them. **Deadline for applications is Monday 7 December.** Interviews will take place before Christmas. Should you have any questions about Sixth Form subjects, please contact the class teachers, or you have any specific Sixth Form questions, please feel free to speak to Mr Hyde, Head of Sixth Form.









## Year 12 University Trip

On Wednesday 11 November, Year 12 students attended the University of Essex to take part in an Insight Day. As part of this students got to attend undergraduate lectures in a variety of subject areas as well as getting a tour of the university campus and meeting current university students. This was Year 12s first opportunity to learn more about Post-18 destinations and there will be similar events throughout the year.

## Year 11 Mocks

It was great to the see the enthusiasm and buy in from Year 11 students over half-term in the amount of time dedicated to revision. A large number of students completed their revision booklets, and this has been celebrated in the awarding of House Points, edging students ever closer to achieving the balance required to qualify for an invite to Dress Up Day in December.

Next week, in preparation for their mock exams, Year 11 will be having drop down sessions in their core subjects throughout the week where they will have an exam masterclass to help best prepare them for the mock exams, which begin on Monday 23 November.

## Personal Development and Assembly Programme

Through our Personal Development & Assembly programme, the school continues to educate students on many aspects of ESafety. Below is a link to an Esafety parent site which you may want to explore to support in having age-appropriate discussions with your child.

https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/

## Children in Need – Sixth Form Pyjama Day

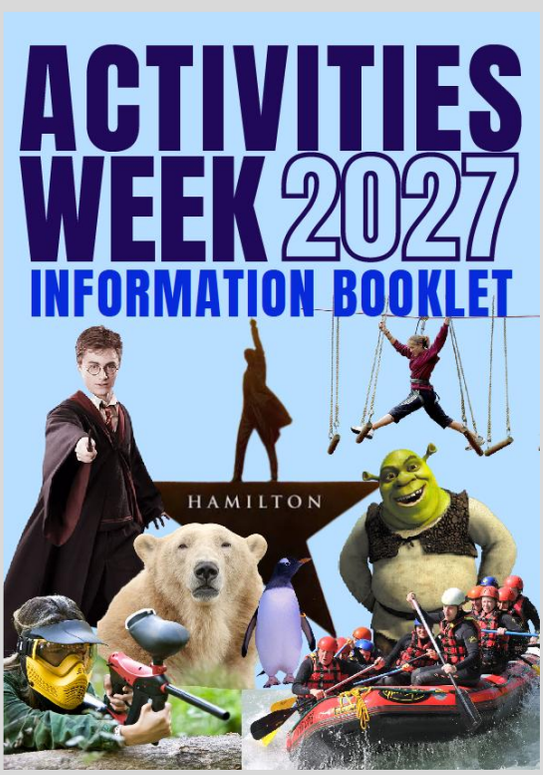
On Friday 13 November, Sixth Form students dressed up in their Pjs complete with slippers, dressing gowns and teddy bears for Children in Need. All students took part and helped raise a lot of money for this worthwhile cause.



## Year 8 Trip to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs




Year 8 students will have the opportunity to watch Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend on the 16 December. Information to be sent out this week.




## Activities Week 2027

Years 7-9 Parents and students have now received the Activities Week booklet for 2027. The booklet offers a wide range of activities for students. Choices need to be made by 22 November via the link




## Christmas Market

Please contact Rosanne Archer at Hedingham School if you are interested in taking part in the Christmas Market

## Vice world Champion – Henry Domain

Henry Domain, Year 11 Student, has become the Vice World Champion following his win in Italy this week. He competed against thousands of racers and just missed first place by 3/10$^{ths}$ of a second. Henry has been kart racing since he was 5 years old. Well done Henry!




## Winners against Honywood, Coggeshall

The Year 7's played a home match against Honywood on 12 November, a team we had been told were very good, they have beaten every school so far, including a 12-0! After a closely matched opening to the game, we unfortunately conceded just before the half time whistle. The Year 7's were confident they could get something from the game during the half time team talk, and quickly turned things around with goals from Freddie Marshall and Dexter Jelley to put Hedingham 2-1 ahead within 5 minutes. They worked together superbly to defend waves of Honywood attack in the closing moments to win the game.
A massive well done to the boys involved for their spirit, and for toughing it out in freezing weather conditions.

**Player of the match**: Ethan Tomlin
**Goalscorers:** Freddie Marshall and Dexter Jelley

We are playing away at Alec Hunter on Wednesday 18 November for our last group match fixture of the district competition, hoping that a good result will see us through to the next round of the competition.

