

The Hedingham School Newsletter

26 June 2026

Ready, Respect, Safe



Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been a challenging week for us all in unprecedented temperatures. It has needed a collective approach to try and overcome the situation and I thank my senior team, all school staff, students and parents for remaining positive, resilient and supportive throughout. Whilst such challenging conditions have made this week difficult, it has also shone a spotlight on the strength of community within the school. When the chips are down, all have stepped up and that is something that we all should be proud of.

There is lots to celebrate in this Newsletter. I watched with enormous pride as our superb Year 9's were crowned Essex Winners of the Dora Love Prize, overcoming Colchester County High School for Girls, who placed runners up. I found it quite emotional (seems to happen as I get older!) to see them present their project with such professionalism but also admired the message they attempted to carry through their project.

We were also crowned District Athletics Champions last week (more in the Newsletter) for the first time in our history; an incredible effort by the many students involved and our fantastic PE team.

Some of our Musicians in Year 10 performed as part of an event at St Peter's Primary School and I received a lovely message from Mr Eynon, Headteacher, commending their efforts.

It was also a pleasure to attend the Year 11 Prom on Wednesday. Despite students arriving in full prom attire in 34° heat, they pulled it off with style and grace. They looked incredible and enjoyed an evening of dancing and celebration.

I thank my Senior staff for their support with our Year 6 Parents' Induction event on Saturday 20 June. It was a pleasure to meet the parents of our new cohort and I hope that they left Saturday's Induction with a clarity over what September looks like for their children.

I wish you all a happy weekend, with slightly cooler temperatures, and look forward to a more 'normal' school week next week.

Ice Lollies

As one adaptation to try and keep our students cool, we distributed hundreds of ice pops during lunchtime on Wednesday and Thursday this week. This provided some light relief for students but also a significant amount of excitement! However, students were appreciative and it was nice that all of them were polite in queuing and expressing their thanks.

Activities Week

We are all excited that Activities Week is approaching quickly, and that final preparations are being made.

If you haven't paid for your child's chosen activity, please do so as soon as possible to secure the place.

Trip payments will close for the final time at 4.00 pm on Monday 29 June.

Please also fill in the consent and medical form (if you haven't already done so) and additional consent for the O2, Go Ape and Nuclear races.

We do have a small number of spaces available on the following trips. If you would like one of these places, please contact the school by email.

What we cannot unfortunately do at this stage is move students from one trip to another.

- Chessington (Years 8 and 9 only)
- Legoland
- Go Ape (Years 8 and 9 only)
- Nuclear Races
- Sealife Centre & Cinema



Timings for the trips and other details will be sent out early next week and will also be posted on the school's website. A letter has been circulated today to highlight the "in-school" provision for those not on external trips on Wednesday and Thursday 8 and 9 July.

Thank you for supporting activities week!



Year 10 6th Form Taster Day

Last Thursday 18 June, Year 10 experienced a day in the life of a Hedingham Sixth Form student. Throughout the day students took part in Sixth Form subject taster lessons that were designed to enhance their knowledge of what post-16 options they have available. The Year 10 students heard from current Sixth Form students on what it's like to study at Hedingham as well as make use of the Sixth Form only spaces such as the T Block and newly refurbished Cafe. As well as a range of A Level and Level 3 Vocational taster sessions there was a University and Apprenticeship workshop where students could find out about alternative routes post 16 and post 18.



Year 9 School Council

Our Year 9 School Council recently took part in an incredibly moving and inspiring visit to a local care home right here in Sible Hedingham. The purpose of the trip was to connect our young leaders with the older generation, interviewing the residents about their fascinating life stories and gathering words of wisdom for the youth of today. The students spent the morning deeply engaged in conversation, uncovering a treasure trove of living history. Among the many remarkable people they met, the students interviewed a resident who had emigrated all the way from Australia, sharing stories of a life spent across the globe. Sports fans in the group were particularly starstruck to chat with a gentleman who had played football for Tottenham Hotspur many years ago, sharing memories of the beautiful game from a bygone era.

Beyond the extraordinary stories, the most valuable lesson of the day was one of empathy and connection. Our Year 9 students quickly realised just how precious a gift it is to simply give older people your time, your attention, and a listening ear.



The entire cohort represented Hedingham School with immense maturity, respect, and kindness. They were absolute credits to our community, proving that the gap between generations is easily bridged by a little conversation. A huge well done to the Year 9 School Council for making such a positive impact locally!

District Sports

Our students delivered an outstanding performance at this year's District Athletics, with success across all year groups. The Year 7 boys and girls led the way with a fantastic overall first place, setting the standard for the day. Year 8 and 9 continued the strong showing, with both boys' and girls' teams achieving an impressive second place overall. In the senior age groups, the Year 10/11 girls were exceptional, securing first place, while the boys competed strongly to finish fourth.

Overall, our school was crowned the combined boys' and girls' champions across all year groups, a testament to the effort, determination, and teamwork shown by every athlete. This collective achievement highlights the strength and depth of talent across the school. Individual performances have been recognised separately, but every participant contributed to a truly fantastic team result.

The Hedingham Way

Classroom Framework

At Hedingham School, we are committed to ensuring that every student experiences high-quality teaching in every classroom. As part of this commitment, staff have been consistently implementing The Hedingham Way – our shared classroom framework for teaching and learning across the school.

This framework provides a consistent structure to lessons and is designed to maximise student engagement, active learning and inclusivity. While lessons will always reflect the specific needs of different subjects and age groups, students will experience a common set of approaches that help them feel confident, supported and ready to learn.

The Hedingham Way framework is inclusive of:

1. **Meet and Greet** - Students are welcomed into class and lessons begin purposefully. Teachers plan an activity to settle students quickly, activate prior knowledge and establish strong routines for learning.
2. **Adaptive Teaching** - Our teachers know their classes well and use information about students' strengths and learning barriers to adapt their teaching. This helps ensure that all students are supported and challenged appropriately.
3. **Checking understanding of all students** - Teachers regularly check every student's understanding throughout lessons. This helps staff identify misconceptions quickly and make sure all students remain active in the classroom.
4. **Dynamic Feedback** - Students receive timely verbal feedback during lessons so that they can improve their work straight away. Teachers actively circulate the classroom, guiding progress, addressing misunderstandings and helping students stay fully engaged.
5. **Foundational Skills** - Reading, writing, oracy and numeracy are planned for explicitly across the curriculum. By embedding these foundational skills in lessons, we help students access learning more confidently and communicate their ideas effectively.



Attendance

This week we were pleased to have two forms who both fought it out for the title of "Attendance Form of the Week" with both Mrs Binder's (Year 8) and Mrs Newland's (Year 7) forms both coming joint first. They both enjoyed their small sweet surprise on Tuesday. Last week it was the turn of Mrs Spooners form (Year 7) who came in first! Well done to all the students for having such excellent attendance.

Remember, as we get closer and closer to the summer holidays regular attendance remains hugely important to student success. Students who miss lessons create gaps in their learning and whilst schools often talk about students 'catching up', that phrase can be misleading. Missed school is not like a paused video that can simply be resumed later. The work can be revisited, but the lost learning time, teacher input, discussion and routine are much harder to replace.

Year 11 Prom

A few pictures of our Year 11 students arrival and attendance to Prom on Wednesday 24 June 2026.

