The Hedingham School Newsletter 26 November 2026

Ready, Respect, Safe



Dear Parent/Guardian

This week has been an important week for our Year 11 and 13 students as they have been immersed with their Mock Examinations. The demands of the week are considerable, with series of formal examinations in close succession. However, it has really brought out the best in them. Their attendance has been the best that we have seen since the start of term and their attitude towards the assessments has been mature and focused. When they have needed to step up to the plate, they absolutely have.

I hope that this sets the tone for them moving forward and that we can build on the momentum that they have generated towards their mocks. Teachers will be busy marking scripts over the next couple of weeks to gauge progress of students and current levels of attainment. As important as the experience of sitting full papers in a formal setting is, arguably more important is the follow up from these exams in highlighting strengths and key areas to focus on (in terms of knowledge and skills). It is crucial that students fully digest the feedback offered by teaching staff and use this to direct their efforts towards pushing their achievement outcomes forward.

Year 13 students will be given their feedback once teachers have marked papers (will likely be a quick turnaround) whilst Year 11 students are having their results collated so we can run a "mock results day" in the Main Hall. Importantly, all will be wrapped before Christmas allowing a bit of a breath during this time.

I have also had the pleasure this week of starting our Sixth Form interviews, having one to one conversations with our Year 11 students about their choices in our Sixth Form has been an absolute pleasure. It is rare that I get the opportunity to have extended one to one conversations with students about their education, next steps, ambition beyond Hedingham School. They have spoken with maturity and have displayed so many of the impressive characteristics of which we are so proud.

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 10 Parents' Evening was very well attended last week, thank you to all parents who came. It was fantastic to see so many positive conversations about student progress and areas of development. Year 10 have started their GCSE journey in such a positive way, and I am looking forward to seeing the momentum continue into the New Year and towards their summer mock exams. Thank you to the Year 11 prefects and Sixth Form Headship team for their help on the night welcoming parents and providing refreshments for staff. *Mr D Batch, Head of Year 10*

Year 11 Mocks

It has been fantastic to see how engaged Year 11 have been in the first week of their mock exams. Their conduct has been exemplary, and they have led the school this week in overall attendance. Staff are busy marking all the papers as they are completed, and results will be under embargo until Wednesday 16 December, when students will have a special assembly Period 5 and will receive their results in sealed envelopes as part of their mock results day, replicating their experience from the summer. This afternoon has been really well received previously and had a great impact. *Mr Abrey, Deputy Headteacher*

School Council

The School Councils recently met in their respective year groups with the Sixth Form Headship Team for their first meetings of the academic year. The focus was on Teaching and Learning, providing students with the opportunity to share their views and reflect on their experiences in the classroom. Feedback from these discussions has been shared with Mr Finch to inform discussions around how we can further enhance the learning experience for all students. Student voice plays an important role in our ongoing commitment to school improvement, ensuring students have the opportunity to actively contribute to shaping their educational experience. *Mrs Cook, Assistant Headteacher*

Christmas Dinner 2026

Reminder to book a Christmas Dinner for your son/daughter. Lunch will include turkey with vegetables and all the trimmings together with a choice of either a shortbread festive tree or a white chocolate Krispie Bauble. There will be a vegetarian alternative, Butternut Squash and Cranberry parcel. **Closing date to book your child's Christmas Dinner is 30 November 2026.**

Northampton Saints



Congratulations to Stan Jennings and Max Pantling who are making huge strides with their Rugby development at Northampton Saints. After impressive performances in which both boys have stood out in the U-16's, they have now been invited to train with the U-17's on a Monday night.

This is an enormous achievement and will be great for their development and future chances within their pathway. We now have 7 boys from Hedingham School in various stages of the Saints' development journey which is an incredible achievement. We are very proud of them all.

Lockdown Drill

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all members of our school community, we will be conducting a lockdown drill before the end of term. In preparation, staff will complete their training, and students will attend assemblies to help them understand the purpose of the drill and what is expected of them. I appreciate that the term "lockdown" can understandably cause concern; however, please be assured that this exercise is a routine precaution designed to help us practise our emergency procedures. It is not intended to cause alarm and is not linked to any specific incident or identified risk. By carrying out the drill in a structured and supportive manner, we can ensure that everyone is well prepared and confident in how to respond should the need ever arise

Sixth Form Interviews

Year 11 Sixth Form interviews have started this week. Year 11s who have completed an application form to join our Sixth Form in September 2027, will be interviewed by a senior member of staff over the coming weeks. *Mr R Hyde, Head of Sixth Form*

Year 11 Dress-Up Day

Reminder that Year 11 Dress-Up day will be held on Thursday 17 December.

Christmas Jumper Day



Paul Finch, Headteacher