

# The Hedingham School Newsletter

*April 2026*

Ready, Respect, Safe



Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you enjoyed your Easter period and that you had a chance to enjoy some rest as families.

With a return to the Summer Term, we enter a critical period for our Year 11 and 13 students who shortly start their external GCSE and A Level examinations. Our focus is very much on them at the moment so to ensure that they continue to build momentum towards examination success.

However, we also have internal assessments for all other Year groups in the format of Mock Exams (Years 10 and 12) and End of Year exams for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. These internal assessments carry strong importance. In part, they inform where students are at in relation to progress and attainment, but more so, they offer students an experience of focused revision and preparation, examination conditions, writing for extended periods, applying knowledge to examination style questions and using timing effectively. All of these, we hope become refined and routine as they progress through the school so that they are almost habitual by the time the stakes are at their highest. As such, I hope you can support us at home by encouraging your child to fully prepare for assessments, to be ambitious and aspirational in their outcomes and consistently demonstrate a desire to do well in their subjects.

## **Easter Revision**

Thank you to the students in Year 11 who attended the English and Maths revision sessions during the Easter holidays. I must also thank my staff who came in to support our students with their preparation for key subject exams.

## **Year 11/13**

We now enter the finishing straight for Year 11 and Year 13. This is both an exciting, but also a nerve wracking time for the students, parents (and the staff!). I would like to convey one simple message:

Every bit counts. Every single bit. It's never too late to start, and it's always too early to stop. Try to strike a balance between ensuring that your child is doing their best and working hard, but also being supportive – it's a fine line to tread, and not an easy one! Below is a brief revision checklist which may help in supporting your child:

- ◆ Make revision a phone free zone!
- ◆ Have a dedicated revision space (dining table/clear desk if possible)
- ◆ Get them to show you what they've done and discuss it
- ◆ Reading or highlighting doesn't count! Something needs to be produced
- ◆ Celebrate their progress, successes, and most importantly, their effort!

## **Ambition Assemblies**

I typically lead assemblies at the start of a term and this week, I have talked with each year group about the importance of Ambition (one of our 6 character traits we aim to associate with a Hedingham student). We explored the human ingenuity behind Artemis II and the ambition shared by the vast team of people who have worked to push the boundaries of space travel. However, the emphasis was that ambition is not about rockets; it is about mindset—a will to push yourself to grow, try, imagine and reach beyond what is easy to grasp. I encouraged all students to have big goals, not just academically/professionally, but in wider aspects of life. Big goals need courage. Big goals need teamwork and big goals need persistence. But it is so important for students to have them. Also shared was brief information about our approaching change in Mobile Phone Policy (from after May half-term, as detailed in previous correspondence). Also we have changed our sanction system to include after school detentions (also comes into effect after May half-term). Exact detail around the organisational change to accommodate amendments to mobile phone possession will be circulated to students and parents in due course.

## Personal Development Years 7, 8 and 9

During Personal Development time from the week beginning 27 April, we begin “Drop Everything and Revise” in Form groups. Students will explore different revision strategies and techniques, learn about what effective revision looks like and be taught about revision timetabling. All of this is designed to support and facilitate their independent revision at home for their Summer exams.

## Vocational Centre

Students who are currently learning at our Vocational Centre are increasingly engaged in Mechanics. They have been working on and repairing small engines and mechanical devices. If you have any broken or redundant machinery at home (particularly lawnmowers, strimmers etc) that you are happy to donate, our students would be most appreciative.

## Activities Week

Thank you for handing in your preferences for activities week. Some activities are very popular! Choices are currently being collated and places allocated. Year 9 places will be communicated first. Please look out for an email with allocations and trips will then appear on iPay.

## Jack Petchey Speak-Out

Hedingham School was alive with the sound of confident young voices in March! We were delighted to have 60 Year 10 students off-timetable for an intensive Public Speaking workshop. Public speaking is a foundational life skill, and the students were truly exceptional, with every single participant finding their voice and delivering a speech by the end of the day.

The standard was so high that narrowing it down to our 'Final Six' was a challenge. Following an impressive assembly showcase, two winners Maddison Zalameda and Scarlet Pickard-Young have been selected to represent the school at the regional competition at Saffron Walden School on Wednesday 22 April. Mrs. Dunne is incredibly proud of their progress and the courage they displayed.

## Jack Petchey Winners

**Katie Nyember: Sixth Form Spring Term Winner 2026**—for the incredible work she does in her local community. Katie volunteers at her local church outreach programme where she supports homeless adults and struggling families. Katie helps to distribute food and clothing to these groups as well as helping connect them to local charities that can offer wider support.

**Samuel May, Year 8 Student: March 2026 Winner**—for his incredible positivity at all times during the recent ski trip. Sam was a complete beginner on the slopes but through hard work he became a good skier and was voted as the ‘most improved skier’ by the ski instructors. Well done to these students, they are a credit to the school, their families and themselves. Each student receives £300 from the Jack Petchey Foundation to spend on a project of their choice for the school.

## Student Successes

We are thrilled to announce that our talented performing arts students have secured a prestigious spot in the Grand Final of the Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge!

After months of intensive rehearsals and battling through highly competitive regional heats, the girls have proven themselves to be among the best in the semi-finals. Their journey to the final has been marked by dedication, teamwork, and an incredible growth in their performance skills.

On Sunday, 19 April, our students will take to the iconic stage at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London’s West End. They will be showcasing their versatility and vocal prowess with two show-stopping numbers: The fierce and dramatic 'Cell Block Tango' from *Chicago* and The high-energy, soulful 'Rhythm of Life' from *Sweet Charity*.

This competition is about more than just a trophy; our students have had a fantastic time throughout the process, making new friends and learning invaluable lessons in stagecraft and professionalism.

To perform in the heart of London is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and the entire Hedingham community is behind them. We wish Esmee Mileham, Alice Condron, Millie Beard, Amy Stevens, Annie Vieira and Ruby Cook the very best of luck.

## Attendance

We are always proud of our students and are always looking for ways to celebrate their efforts. Each half-term we like to celebrate the Form Group in each Year Group with the highest % attendance.

For the half-term from 23 February to 26 March 2026, the winners are!

- ◆ Year 7 - Miss Plumb's Form (KPL) - 2 half-terms in a row!
- ◆ Year 8 - Mrs Binder's Form (RBI) - 2 half-terms in a row!
- ◆ Year 9 - Mrs Ravi's Form (ARA) - 2 half-terms in a row!
- ◆ Year 10 - Mr Nancarrow's Form - 2 half-terms in a row!
- ◆ Year 11 - Mr Townsend's Form (KTO)
- ◆ Sixth Form (Year 12 and 13) - Miss Wallis' Form - 2 half-terms in a row!

Congratulations to each of these forms on their excellent attendance. Remember, this is judged on a specific half-term, not the year to date, so every form has a chance to win each half term!

## New York

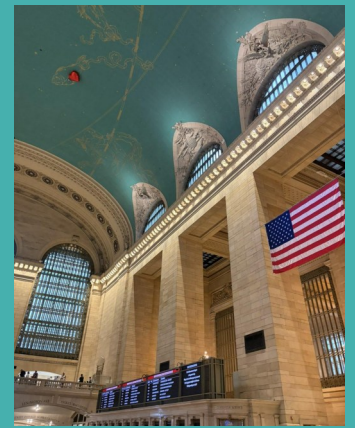
Year 13 students had a fantastic time exploring the sights of New York City during the first week of the Easter holidays. The trip kicked off with a visit to the iconic Times Square, where students took in the bright lights of the jaw-dropping location.

Day 2 started with a stroll around Central Park, complete with a ride on the carousel which first opened in 1871! The sun came out for the Circle Line tour to get up close to the Statue of Liberty, followed by a walk down the highline and a quick photo opportunity at the Ghostbusters Firehouse. We finished the day at the poignant 9/11 memorial; a peaceful haven amongst the bustle of the city.

Day 3 started with a tour of the NBC studios followed by breathtaking views from the Top of the Rock platform. A quick stop in Grand Central station then led us down to Brooklyn, where we then walked back to Manhattan over the iconic Brooklyn Bridge. The evening was topped off with a booking at the viral sensation, Ellen's Stardust Diner, where we were treated to renditions of songs by Broadway standard actors.

Our final day began with a tour of the Museum of Moving Image in Queens, which houses multiple film props and costumes, before heading to the famous Macy's department store for some retail therapy and some much needed downtime to rest our feet!

*If you are interested in your child attending the New York City trip, Miss Hodgson, Leader of Media and Photography, will soon be speaking to Year 11 students in an assembly to pass on some initial information about New York for 2028. Sign up for the New York trip is offered each year to all Year 12 students in their first term at Sixth Form.*



## Paris

45 students and 5 staff visited Paris for a Performing Arts trip, organised by Richard Cull, Leader of Music. Students visited the Louvre; went on a River Seine cruise; walked up the steps of the Sacre Couere visiting Montmatre; spent a day in Disneyland alongside a professional Performing Arts workshop; and finally performed an hour concert to the Paris public in the Jardin de Luxembourg. There were many special moments, such as standing at the top of the Sacre Couere steps looking over sunny Paris whilst the Palm Sunday Easter service was about to begin. The bustle of churchgoers with palm leaves in their hands, the wonderful singing coming from the church, and children marching around drumming in traditional French outfits was quite something! It was a well organised trip and was a great success, with great feedback from students and parents. One parent said, "a huge thank you from us and our child for all the planning, time and fun you put into the Paris trip. It was a great experience, and they came back buzzing from the opportunities they had".



## Thorpe Park

On Monday 13 April, our Year 11 students embarked on their annual rewards trip to Thorpe Park. While the weather was patchy at times, it didn't dampen the day, and everyone had a fantastic time. This school trip is always a wonderful opportunity for students to approach their upcoming exams in a positive way and build lasting memories with their peers. As ever, our students were outstanding representatives of the school, showing maturity, respect, and enthusiasm throughout the trip. It was a great success all round.



## High Energy Particle Physics Masterclass (Cambridge University)

On Tuesday 14 April, a small group of enthusiastic Year 12 Physics students were selected to attend a High Energy Particle Physics Masterclass at the world renowned, newly built Cavendish Laboratory. During the visit, students learned about the laboratory's remarkable scientific heritage, discovering that more than 30 Nobel Prize winners have carried out research there. They attended a series of inspiring seminars led by physicists working at the cutting edge of their fields. Highlights included a session on the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland delivered by Dr Sarah Williams, who has played a key role in the development and analysis of its detectors; an exploration of subatomic particles and why they cannot exist in isolation, led by



Dr Matt Kenzie; and a fascinating talk by Professor Leigh Whitehead on the detection of one of the most elusive particles in physics — the neutrino.

Students also took part in hands on laboratory activities, including modelling the physics of the RING detector at the LHC, investigating how a muon detector works, learning how statistics are used to identify new particles, and using a diffusion cloud chamber to detect background radiation. This exceptional opportunity was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved and proved to be an inspiring experience for the Year 12 Physics students.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please see the overview of clubs that are running during this term. We actively encourage all students to be a part of something offered in our enrichment programme. If there is interest in particular clubs that are not listed/(that are realistic!) please let us know.

Year 7 and 8 students will soon be issued with extra-curricular attendance cards, to be stamped at each club they attend. Once completed, they hand these to reception at which point they become eligible for a prize draw.

### Enrichment Loyalty Card

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year group: \_\_\_\_\_

Collect 12 stamps to enter a prize draw

<b>Your Enrichment Journey</b>			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12

Completed Card Reward!

Hand in completed card at reception  
to enter the prize draw

# SCHOOL CLUBS SUMMER TERM 2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
PD TIME		ALL YEARS <b>Orchestra</b> ROOM 15		ALL YEARS <b>Choir</b> Drama Studio	
LUNCH	ALL YEARS <b>Art Studio Time</b> ROOM 56 YEARS 7-8 <b>Boys Cricket</b> ALL YEARS <b>Girls Cricket</b>	ALL YEARS <b>Art Studio Time</b> ROOM 56 YEARS 9-10 <b>Boys Cricket</b> ALL YEARS <b>Girls Cricket</b> ALL YEARS <b>Small Animal Care</b> ROOM 30 YEARS 9-11 <b>Hedingham Theatre Company</b> Drama Studio YEAR 8 <b>Lego Robotics</b> ROOM 35	ALL YEARS <b>Art Studio Time</b> ROOM 56 YEAR 7 <b>Drama Club</b> Drama Studio ALL YEARS <b>Softball</b> ALL YEARS <b>Table Top Club</b> ROOM 35	ALL YEARS <b>Art Studio Time</b> ROOM 56 ALL YEARS <b>Rounders</b>	ALL YEARS <b>Small Animal Care</b> ROOM 30 YEARS 7-9 <b>Dance Club</b> Dance Studio YEARS 7-10 <b>French music club/ Manie musicale club</b> ROOM 53
AFTER SCHOOL	ALL YEARS <b>Dance Company</b> Dance Studio ALL YEARS <b>Athletics</b>	ALL YEARS <b>Rock School</b> ROOM 15	ALL YEARS <b>Rounders</b> ALL YEARS <b>Cricket</b>	ALL YEARS <b>Netball</b>	

H E D I N G H A M S C H O O L A N D S I X T H F O R M

Paul Finch, Headteacher

