

The Hedingham School Newsletter

22 May 2026

Ready, Respect, Safe



Dear Parent/Guardian

As we stride towards the May half-term holiday, we now have a significant number of formal examinations completed in Year 11 and 13. It has been such a busy period for our students who are facing regular examinations and so many have conducted themselves admirably in recent days. Of course, there are some nerves and anxieties, which are only natural considering the attached importance of this period and how much it means to students and families at home. In between examinations, we are mapping and staffing as many additional help sessions as we can squeeze in between the examination timetable. These continue after half term in order for us to maximise our support towards students in the lead up to scheduled exams. **Included within this newsletter is a list of revision Year 11 revision sessions.**

Year 10 Parents' Information Evening

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Year 10 Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 19 May. As always for this year group, parental turnout and support was fantastic. We hope that the information regarding exam structure and key tips in revising the core subjects was helpful in the lead up to Year 10 mock exams.

A PDF of the presentation on the night is available on the school website:

<https://www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk/home/parent-information/news/year-10-parent-information/>

Activities Week

Thank you to everyone who has made payment for the activities week trips. Payment is now closed in order for us to ensure our planning and risk assessments are accurate.

We do have waiting lists for a number of trips in case spaces become available, so please contact us if you would like to put your child's name to one of these lists.

A link to the consent/medical forms will also be sent out after half-term. Please complete these as soon as possible.

We are delighted to announce the leaders of each trip below. More information for each trip will be sent out after half-term.

There will also be a parent information evening for the PGL residential on **Wednesday 10 June** at 6.00pm in the main hall.

- PGL residential – Mr Lockley and Miss Hodgson
- Chessington – Miss Duncan
- Legoland – Mr Pretty and Mr Townsend
- Wicked – Mrs Murton
- Go Ape – Miss Butler
- Nuclear Races – Mr Kerr and Mr Lawrence
- Sealife Centre and Cinema – Mr Clark
- Six – Mrs Murton
- Climb and Explore the O2 - Mrs Newland

Arrangements for in-school activities will also be communicated after half-term.

Thank you for supporting these events!

Belgium Space Camp

This half-term 46 Year 10's are off to Belgium to attend this year's Euro Space camp. The trip will last 4 days and gives students the opportunity to experience some of the training that astronauts need to go through to survive in space. We wish the group a wonderful time and if you want to keep up with their exciting adventure you can follow them on social media where there will be regular updates.

Prefect Applications

I met with Year 10 students this week to encourage them to consider making an application to be a prefect. Our prefects are our student leaders who reflect the characteristics that we try to promote in all of our students (hardworking, perseverant, resilient, kind, accountable and ambitious). It is an excellent opportunity for students to refine leadership skills and qualities, step out of their comfort zone and also gain a recognition that stands them apart when making applications in their next steps. With the role comes responsibility. We expect our prefects to:

- Maintain high standards in attendance, uniform, behaviour and learning
- Be part of leading the school to be the best community it can be
- Be part of leading student voice
- Be part of school events such as parents evening and transition days
- Be part of interviews for new staff
- Inspire younger students and be a positive role model

The process consists of a letter of application, an interview and a period of supported induction.

The deadline for application is **Monday 8 June** and all letters should be handed in to the Students Support Centre.

I encourage anyone who feels that they can contribute to this role to make an application and involve themselves in the process.

Uniform Checks

Senior staff and Year Leaders have been into tutor groups each morning to check uniform standards. Unfortunately, we have seen a recent rise in the number of pupils in non-regulation footwear in school. I have no doubt that many students have the right footwear at home but are choosing to wear alternative, non-regulation shoes. I will write to all parents/guardians of those students flagged as wearing incorrect shoes throughout our monitoring process so that you are aware. Your support in addressing this problem is of huge value and we will complete follow-up checks after half-term.

Changes after half-term

As a reminder, we are launching our new mobile phone policy from **Monday 1 June**, with all the infrastructure now in place to do this. Students have been talked through the process of handing in and collecting their devices (if they are required to bring them in) during assemblies this week. In addition, the introduction of after school detentions as part of our sanction system also starts with the beginning of the new half-term.

Goodbye to Year 13!

Our Year 13 had their official leaving day on Monday 18 May. With A Level examinations continuing this week and after half term, despite an official leaving event, I anticipate many will remain in the building to access lesson time with their teachers. The Year 13 leavers assembly is always an emotional one, as students end their journey with us at Heddingham School. Many of our cohort have been with us for 7 years and we have watched as they have grown into incredible young adults who are ready to spring into so many diverse and exciting directions beyond the walls of this school. To have been a small part of that journey is the single most rewarding part of the privilege that I have in this role. The assembly was presented with heartfelt integrity by Mr Hyde and there was a fabulous leavers speech given by Issi Kent-Jackson which really framed her growth with us through her years in the school.

I say a fond farewell to my Student Leadership Team (Will, Tallulah, Libby and Issi) all of which have been a pleasure to work alongside. I also say goodbye to my two Year 13 Psychology classes who I have had the pleasure of teaching this year.

A fitting send-off was organised, gathering the whole school to come out and wave them off from their last assembly. Our students were brilliant in cheering and clapping our Year 13 cohort as they left – a very proud moment!



Class of 2026

Cupcakes!



Dora Love

A group of students in Year 9 have been continuing to work on their entry for the Dora Love Prize Competition. They have chosen to focus on celebrating diversity and tackling negative stereotypes that surround migration and migrants. As part of this, they have conducted research into "Hedingham's Migration Story" - so far they have discovered that students in Hedingham school have links to over 29 different countries across 6 continents around the world.

Over the next few weeks they will visit some local primary schools to talk to them about what they have discovered, before presenting their work to the judges on the 17 June at a ceremony in Colchester.

10 June – Year 12 UCAS Fair at Essex University

Our Year 12 students get to visit the UCAS Roadshow at Essex University where they can speak to representatives from **EVERY** university in the country to find out what courses they offer, extra-curricular opportunities, speaking to post-graduates about their experiences and collect prospectuses to read through when making decisions about their post-18 education.

18 June – Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day

Year 10 will be treated to A-Level and Level 3 Vocational lessons throughout the day to experience what it's like to be a Sixth Form student. Students will get to choose from a menu of subjects which include all of our post-16 options such as Criminology, Photography, Psychology, and Childcare as well as all of the subjects they've experienced in the lower school. Mr Batch will be speaking to students in their assembly during the first week back after half-term explaining how to choose their programme for the day.

Attendance Update

From Monday 11 May to Friday 22 May we have been running the 100% challenge asking students the question, can you maintain 100% attendance across both weeks? We asked, and students answered. So far we have 644 on track to meet the challenge. Students who manage this will be able to claim a small prize when they return after May half-term. Just to add to the competitive edge, of this 644, 151 students are from Moynes, 158 from Hawkwood, 164 from Thomason and just leading out in front at the moment is Symonds with 171. I guess we will see how the final standings sit at the end of this week.

The 100% challenge is just one of a few new attendance related rewards we are starting to roll out after May half-term. After all, being present at school both physically and ready to learn, is worth celebrating!

Teaching and Learning Review Week

As part of our continued commitment to driving forward high-quality teaching and learning, we will be undertaking a range of activities across the school during the coming weeks. Members of the senior leadership team will be speaking with students both in and out of lessons to gather pupil voice and better understand their learning experiences. We will also be reviewing students' books to celebrate strengths and identify areas for further development. These activities will help us to ensure that all students continue to learn in a stimulating, engaging and supportive environment, while also informing priorities and improvements for the next academic year.

Internal Examinations—Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

As we move towards the end of formal external GCSE and A Level examinations, we begin our own internal end of year assessments.

Information has been sent out to parents regarding exams in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12.

Within tutor time, students have been learning revision techniques. It is important that self-study skills are learned at an early stage and become habitual throughout their time in school.

The outcome of internal assessments are important, dictating class groupings and potentially target grades. They also inform use of clear gaps in knowledge, both with individuals and across larger groups of students.

Supporting your child with revision through regular prompts, encouragement and time management is crucial. Thank you for all you are doing in supporting their journey towards these assessments.

Cake!

Two students created an exceptional, show-stopping cake that cleverly reflected 'My Last Duchess'. They brilliantly captured the poem's essence and historical era, right down to the hand-picked roses. It was a true triumph that greatly impressed the class, and we all enjoyed a slice.



Finally, I wish you all a lovely half-term. The weather forecast looks fabulous so I hope it offers some relaxed time outside in the sunshine. Thanks for all your support this half-term.



JUNE 2026 GCSE INTENSIVE REVISION SESSIONS

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|---|---|--|------------------------------------|---|--|
| DATE EXAM | MON 1ST | TUES 2ND PHYSICS & SCIENCE (AM) | WED 3RD MATHS (AM) | THUR 4TH HISTORY (AM) | FRI 5TH ENGLISH (AM) |
| AFTERNOON REVISION SESSION | PHYSICS & COMBINED SCIENCE | MATHS | HISTORY | ENGLISH | BIOLOGY & COMBINED SCIENCE |
| DATE EXAM | MON 8TH BIOLOGY / SCIENCE (AM) | TUES 9TH HISTORY (PM) | WED 10TH MATHS (AM) | THUR 11TH GEOGRAPHY (AM) | FRI 12TH CHEMISTRY / SCIENCE (AM) |
| AFTERNOON REVISION SESSION | HISTORY | MATHS | GEOGRAPHY | CHEMISTRY & COMBINED SCIENCE | PHYSICS (EXAM MON 15TH - AM) |

