



*effort achieves*

### Dates for your Diary:

**Wed 5th Mar:**  
Year 8, Parents'/Carers'  
Evening

**Mon 10th Mar:**  
Year 9, Vaccinations

**Wed 12th Mar:**  
Year 8, Option Forms due in

**Fri 14th Mar:**  
Fun Run to raise money for  
St Catherine's Hospice

**Mon 17th - Fri 28th Mar:**  
Year 9, Exams

**Wed 19th Mar:**  
INSET Day - school closed  
to students

**Wed 19th Mar:**  
Year 9 DofE Training Day

**Thu 27th Mar:**  
Music Spring Showcase

**Fri 4th Apr:**  
End of Term (1.25pm)

**Tue 22nd Apr:**  
Summer Term Starts  
Week 2



# Hazelwick School Newsletter

February 2025

## Headlines

*Ms A Fearon, Headteacher*

### Exam Preparation

Students in Years 11 and 13 are now on a countdown to their external exams. With not many school weeks left, it is crucial that all students apply themselves fully to their lessons, take advantage of the many booster and revision sessions offered by departments and have a clear schedule of work that they are following at home. We endeavour to keep parents and carers informed about all that is happening regarding exam preparation, but please do not hesitate to contact the year teams if you would like any further information, guidance or advice on how you can best help your child.

### St Catherine's Youth Enterprise Challenge

The St Catherine's Youth Enterprise Challenge team's aim is to raise over £1,500 between the launch date in January and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Our team of six Year 12 students are working hard to raise as much as possible.

Many fund-raising activities have already taken place which have included a bake sale, hot chocolate sale, a non-uniform day and a Valentine's Day event.



Kiki Chen



Danial Azam



Sofia Amin



Shreya Yelamarthi



Joshua Bontemps



Matthew Fong

If you feel able to donate, we have a justgiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/unityfororange>

Thank you in anticipation of your support for our fund raising challenge.

### The School Site in Spring

As I write this, the sun is streaming through my office window and first signs of spring are obvious across the school campus. Thank you to our hard-working premises and grounds team for keeping our site in such beautiful condition. We are so fortunate at Hazelwick to have such a wonderful, spacious site enjoyed by all who work and study here.

All good wishes



# News, Events & Activities from the Design & Technology Department..

## YEAR 8

Year 8 students have been working on a mobile phone holder project. Students researched, designed and sketched their phone holders based on using famous African Adinkra symbols. The project provides the opportunity to further their knowledge and skill in working safely with various tools, materials, and technology. Using the customer design brief and selected customer profile, they successfully developed and implemented their design ideas. Here are some examples of their work.

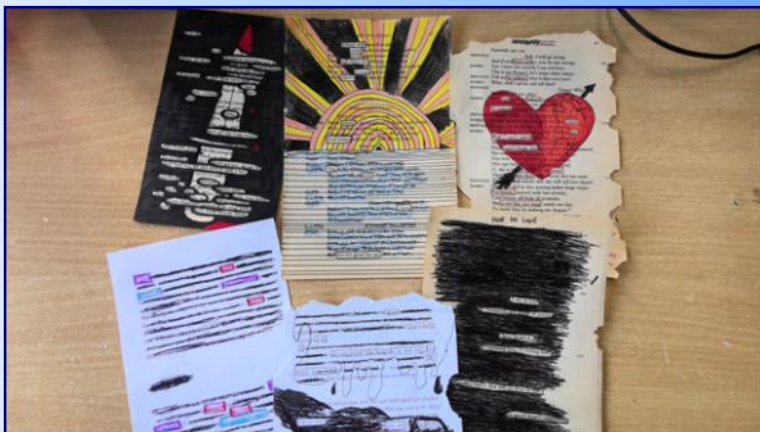




# News, Events & Activities from the English Department...

## Free-writing lessons

Year 9 have been using their fortnightly free-writing lessons to develop their creative skills and re-work the text of famous writers such as Shakespeare to explore a theme of their choice. Blackout poetry is a process of narrowing down the words you don't want, then selecting and arranging the words that are left.

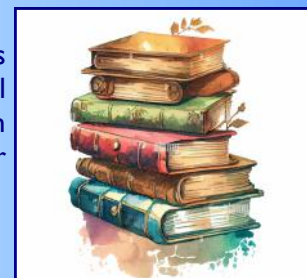


A recent House competition sparked students' interest in this imaginative form of expression and encouraged students to build upon these writing and editing skills.

Ms Bansal

## Reading for Pleasure at Home

A huge amount of research tells us that independent reading is transformational to young people's academic progress and is very beneficial for their well-being. Even just 20 minutes a day of reading for pleasure (fiction or non-fiction) outside of school can result in students using a much wider range of vocabulary.



How can we encourage more reading?

- Ensure there is a quiet place away from screens and technology; this could be in our school library before or after school.
- Read in front of them.
- Talk to them about your reading and ask about their reading.
- Listen to them read - we often stop this in early primary school, but it is still very powerful at secondary school.
- *Hazelwick Book of the Month* - each month our Reading Ambassadors choose and publicise a book. Ask your young person what their book is to start a 'bookchat'.

Ms Hampton  
Literacy Coordinator



# News, Events & Activities from the History Department...

## Matchbox Projects

During this half term some history students in Years 7 and 8 were given empty matchbox sized boxes and told to get creative with designs based on anything Medieval (Year 7) or the First World War (Year 8).

Some of the most imaginative ideas are shown here.

Mrs Barton



Lily Adams 7SM



Harry James 7SSM



Lily Sandy 7SSM



Adam Timms 7SSM



Harmani Sandhu 7SSM



Harry Chance 7SSM



Marwa Ali 7SSM



Naomi Brown 7SSM



[Blank]



Mia Roper 7SSM



Izzy Howman 7SSM



Heshretaa Gopavaram 7SSM



Zaraar Khan



Phoebe Layzell 7SSM



Yahya Mohammed 7SM



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# News, Events & Activities from the History Department Continued..



Benjamin Hunt 7SSM



Seren Hawkins 7SSM



Emily Smith 7SM



Emily Singh 7TEL



Ella Thomas 7TEL



Nehal Mohammed 7TEL



William Tubb 7TEL



David Bell 7SM



Ema Jurginauskaitė 7TEL



Darvie Bajwa 7TEL



Jayden Hanna 7TEL



Cory Harris 7TEL



Yash Manoharan 7TEL



Pippa Fisher 7TEL



Elsie Bridgman 7TEL



Maryam Aulecar 7TEL



Logan Somasundram 7TEL



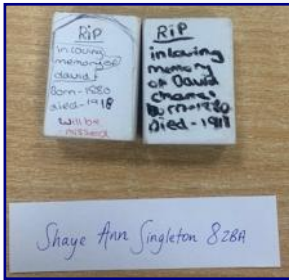
Renex Karanja 7TEL



Aahil Arafat 7TEL



# News, Events & Activities from the History Department Continued..



Shaye Ann Singleton 82BA



Gabriela Cantir 82BA



Yashvasin Veeramootoo 82BA



Maciej Wisniewski 82BA



Nyle Byson 82BA



Lily Tullet 82BA



Aaron Brown 82BA



Ken Steven 82BA



Kimberly Ferreira Iodice 82BA



Aarvi Swarup 82BA



Sheza Mohamed Sherif 82BA



Marcus Wallace 82BA



Jade Frankham 82BA



Phoebe Pouis-Hunt 82BA



Shanayah Rose 82BA



Lillian Nguyen 82BA



James Hill 82BA



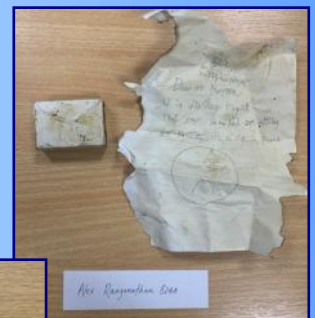
Fatima Sarge 82BA



Anjali Limbachia 82BA



Leo Williams 82BA



Alii Ranganathan 82BA



Riley Fraser 82BA



Katie Vince 82BA



Rhys Gulcher 82BA



# News, Events & Activities from the History Department Continued..



Jelena Pavic 8ZBA



Anita Kam 8ESP



Bella Wainhouse 8ESP



Anita Kam 8ESP



William King 8ESP



Lucy Bowles 8ESP



Tharveen Thiruvadhan 8ESP



Belle Stanford 8ESP



Dheeptha Moghe 8ESP



Advita Pandey 8ESP



Polina Goeva 8ESP



Abdul Raheem Syed 8ESP



Lifesh Prabhu 8ESP



Charlie Wallace 8ESP



Harry O'Halloran 8ESP



Aryan Ahmed 8ESP



Ryan Matthews 8ESP



Jacob Scott 8ESP



Elijah Babatunde-Adewusi 8ESP



Carus Fong 8ESP



Aseel Arafath 8ESP



Tyler Bradford 8ESP



Arush Gangwar 8ESP



Margo Gassanova 8ESP



Ishana Patel 8ESP



Amira Joseph 8ESP



# News, Events & Activities from the Law Department...

## Bar National Mock Trial Competition Heats. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Inner London Crown Court

The school's Bar Mock Trial team competed against 11 other schools in local heats of this national law competition. Students playing the roles of barristers, witnesses and court staff compete against each other in a proper courtroom and are judged by real judges. This year, we had prepared the cases of R v Hinton (a security guard accused of assault) and R v Speed (a track cyclist found in possession of a banned performance enhancing substance).

Megan Howe as Usher got the court on its feet for the judge as Freya Dodimead and Nathaniel Carter got us started in the first round, defending Leigh Hinton. Impressive witness performances from Rami Esadki and Kalash Parekh helped create uncertainty in the prosecution's case, with a closing speech from Freya that made self-defence appear a reasonable explanation for why the injuries were sustained by the alleged victim. The jury were certainly convinced, returning a not-guilty verdict.

Round 2 saw Josh Robins and Celine Chang prosecuting Vim Speed. They made a compelling case through 'chiefing' of a hard-of-hearing security guard (Oliver Diallo) and Vim's great cycling rival (Godfrey Nkansah) as to why Speed had no lawful excuse to be in possession of the drugs. Their cross-examination of the other school's witnesses was similarly impressive, with a great closing speech by Josh. Sadly, the jury were not persuaded of Speed's guilt.

We headed into round 3 quietly confident we were in with a shout of winning! This time we were prosecuting Hinton and it was quickly apparent our opponents were the best we'd faced. We matched them well, with great questioning from our barristers and convincing performances from Marco Ricciardi, the victim of the security guard's actions, Aaliyah Chanakira, a friend of the victim and Julian Loskot, the Court Clerk. Celine's closing speech was powerful and we thought had done enough to secure a conviction. The jury thought otherwise!

While we didn't win, the performances of all students were excellent and they have learned many of the skills required for good advocacy and public speaking. We were very grateful of the support we received again from Faisal Osman of 33 Chancery Lane Chambers.

Mr Thomas



# News, Events & Activities from the Politics Department...

## Visit by Peter Lamb

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February the newly elected MP for Crawley, Peter Lamb, came into school to meet with Sixth Form students. Peter was elected as an MP last summer and is the first new MP for Crawley since 2010.

Peter delivered an assembly to the whole of Year 13 in which he discussed his background and gave some insight into life as an MP before taking some questions from students. Following this, he delivered a workshop to Year 12 and 13 Politics and Law students in which he went into detail about how you can get involved in Politics, how election campaigns work and what the role of an MP is.

The workshop gave students a first-hand account of the realities of some of the key topics that they are studying and, as such, was highly beneficial to their understanding of these topics. Students were engaged in the talk and were able to ask some insightful questions of Peter.

We thank Peter for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit Hazelwick, we know that it was much appreciated by the students.

Mrs Potter





# News, Events & Activities from the Spanish Department...

## Year 7 Spanish – Spelling Bee Competition 2025

The 40 students who qualified to stage 2 of the Year 7 Spelling Bee Competition have been attending the Spanish Lunch-club weekly to learn the prescribed 150 words and spellings for this stage. A school competition then took place before half-term to determine the 3 students from Hazelwick who will be competing in the Southeast Regional Final on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March (4.30pm time tbc) at Southampton University.

The three winners were: **Nayonika Sujitkumar, Amelie Johnson** and **Mikail Khan**.

Special mention to **Ishaan Ahmad** who qualified in fourth position after a very close tiebreaker for a place in the regional final.

The following students also achieved excellent scores within the first 10 places: **Iaroslav Sinkevich, Logan Somasundram, Gurpuran-Singh Ghundale, Sathvik Dhulipala, Nandhini Reddy Thummala, Varshika Dodda, Selena Pavel, and Leo Fulbrook**.

*'I wish everyone the best of luck in tomorrow's round. Being part of this made me feel a sense of gratitude to the teachers as this would be an extremely complicated event to host. Especially with there being over a hundred children. The teachers have made our dreams a reality so thank you all the teachers for helping us take part in this extraordinary event!' - Ishaan Ahmad (message on Satchel One).*

We look forward to seeing you at the Spanish Spelling Bee Lunch Club after half-term.

¡Muchas gracias por vuestro entusiasmo!

Miss García & Miss Fernández



# News, Events & Activities from the Sixth Form Team...

## Year 12 - Neil Ayres, Guest Speaker

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Year 12 had Neil Ayres from Sight savers come in to speak to them about his career and his life experience. This was organised by Speakers for Schools. The insights and advice were really well received by Year 12 students, and will make a significant difference to their futures.



The talk was informative and gave them a better understanding of charity work on the international stage. Neil's personal aspect in his motivation for working in this sector was impressive, and has opened student eyes to a career path that they had not previously considered.





# Maths Positive Competition...

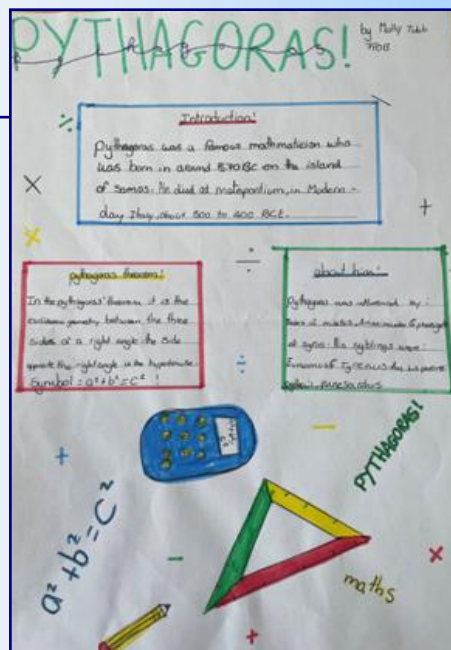
In a recent Year 7 assembly, on the theme of Hazelwick being a 'maths positive' school, students were invited to produce a poster displaying information about their favourite number, or about a famous mathematician. I received a large number of entries, and had the difficult, but enjoyable, task of choosing which entries were most deserving of a certificate for their efforts.

Eight posters were chosen - which can be seen below and on the following page - and certificates were awarded in a recent Assembly.

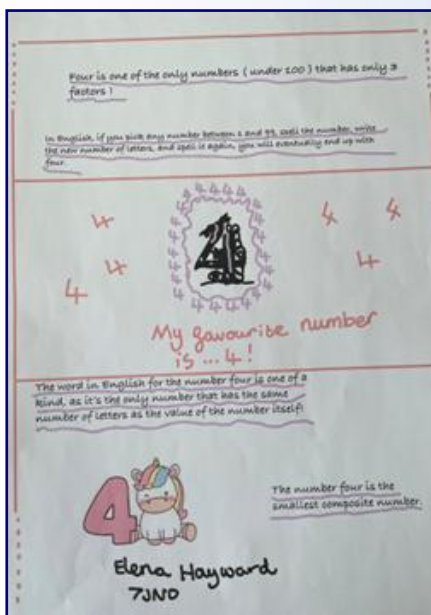
What fantastic posters!

Well done all.

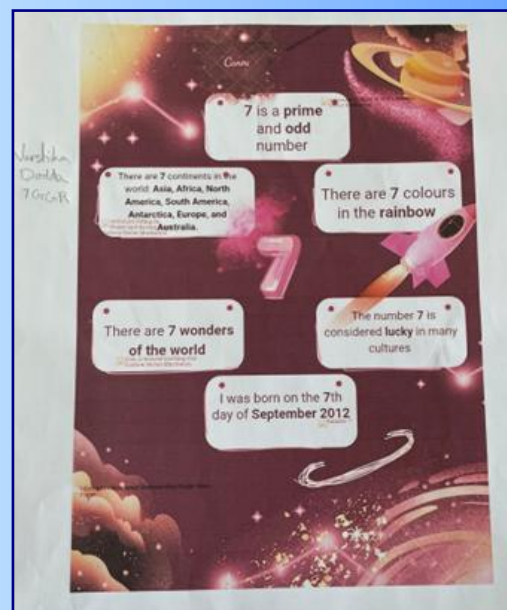
Ms Fearon



Molly Tubb - 7POB



Elena Hayward - 7JNO



Varshika Dodda - 7GGR





# KPMG Dragon's Den Competition 2025...

The KPMG Dragon's Den Competition was launched in a Year 12 'opportunities' assembly in September 2024 and we had a huge amount of interest. The chance to win one a one week work experience placement at KPMG was obviously a contributing factor to this. The selection process had four main stages. Firstly, students had to get into groups of four and complete an application form. The eight groups that were shortlisted were asked to prepare and deliver a pitch on why they should be selected to represent the school for this competition to myself, Mr Hillier, Mr Chase and Miss Hammans. The four groups that successfully progressed to the next stage were assigned a Business Teacher Mentor whom they met with on a weekly basis. They were provided with the KPMG information pack and prepared and presented their three-minute pitches. The brief included detailed information on three hotels that required significant investment. Teams were required to prepare a pitch to potential investors for one of the hotels explaining why they should invest, the benefits of their choice and what evidence they had to back up their ideas. This would be followed by a Q&A session. The final two teams were selected to represent the school on 24<sup>th</sup> January at Global House in Crawley.

We were greeted by several members of the KPMG team who introduced themselves and discussed their roles within the company, which included KPMG partners, an Audit Apprentice and an Audit Graduate.

Team 1 (Afrasyab Ahmad, Auff Amir, Jayom Shukla and Ibrahim Souissi) pitched first.

Feedback from the KPMG panel:

- Seamless collaboration and highly coordinated presentation.
- The team showcased great presentation skills with good body language, and eye contact. Furthermore, they kept to the 3-minute pitch brief.
- Dealt with the introduction of new information extremely well, maintained composure.
- Handled Q&A effectively. All the team members contributed to answering the follow-up questions and each had their own area of expertise.
- Demonstrated a strong and thorough knowledge of the local area and financials, clearly showcasing extensive research. They made full use of the opportunities presented in the briefing pack and went above and beyond by further expanding on key insights.
- Thought outside the box with unique solutions and engaging storytelling.
- Used clear verbal communication, appropriate speed and flow, and convincing vocabulary.
- It really was one team, singing from the same hymn sheet on every topic.



# KPMG Dragon's Den Competition 2025 Continued...



Team 2 (Ellen Charman Lodge, Liza Gnatowska, Sofia Gnatowska and Shreya Yelamarthi) were next to pitch.

Feedback from the KPMG panel:

- Strong presentation skills with impactful introductions, good use of visuals and music, and adherence to the time limit. Their PowerPoint was particularly impressive as was the use of GLAMOUR.
- Worked well as a team, allocated roles effectively, and supported each other during Q&A on the presentation.
- Showed resilience despite technical issues.
- Demonstrated good ability to design and implement strategic plans, with good use of financial information.
- Presented strong ESG ideas, with good research and adherence to the brief.
- Engaging and creative pitch with unique solutions and willingness to take risks.
- Clear and precise communication (once relaxed), with good presentation content and style.





# KPMG Dragon's Den Competition 2025 Continued...



One week after the pitches, KPMG reached their decision...

*“The Dragons have now seen all teams and finalised our scoring. We have been incredibly impressed by the quality of the students, showing fantastic engagement, creativity, and resilience. [The scoring was based on teams’ demonstration of the following competencies:](#)*

- *Collaboration and inclusion*
- *Presenting and making an impact*
- *Resilience*
- *Awareness of business opportunities*
- *Delivering quality*
- *Innovation and creativity*
- *Communication*

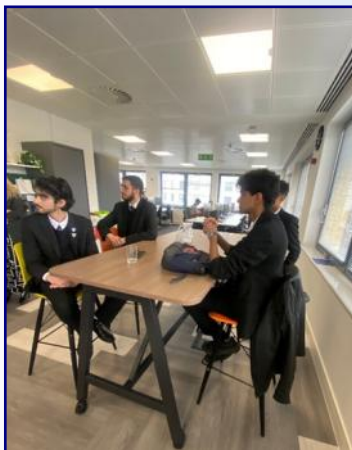
***The KPMG Dragons Den 2025 winners is Team 1 from Hazelwick!*** *Both teams from Hazelwick were really impressive and so should feel very proud of themselves. Team 1 edged into the winning spot with the impact during the presentation and Q&A, a focus on ESG running throughout, and by being the only team to include financial analysis to update their projections when given the additional funding to consider.”*

The winning team are looking forward to their work experience in the summer.

Congratulations to all!

Miss Doherty

# KPMG Dragon's Den Competition 2025 Continued...



## KPMG Hotel Pitch Challenge Champions!

After a tumultuous journey of 4 stages, countless rehearsals, and endless adjustments, my team and I are so incredibly proud to call ourselves the winners.

Firstly, we are all so grateful to everyone who made this happen. From those who helped us form our pitch to the fabulous people at KPMG who gave us this opportunity. There were times when it really did feel like the odds of winning were against us, but together as a team we overcame this and are looking forwards to our prize; work experience with KPMG! We never could have predicted what we were in for when we filled in the application form. From a paragraph about ourselves to late nights to performing in front of the school staff and KPMG, this was a journey, as friends, we will never forget.

### Our Journey

When we initially heard about this opportunity to win work experience with one of the Big 4 accountancy companies, all of us immediately grouped together. We wrote our initial application presenting us as a team, speaking about our experience both as friends since reception along with our teamwork and individual skills. And thankfully, this was enough to see our application succeed and help us progress through the next stage.



# KPMG Dragon's Den Competition 2025 Continued...

8 Teams had been chosen; and our teacher dropped the bombshell that only 2 would be presenting in front of KPMG. Therefore, we collectively knew the path to succeed would need dedication, so we analysed the brief and constructed a 3-minute pitch on our chosen hotel (The Zenith Hotel). Our unique financial insights were enough to see us make the first cut, from 8 teams to 4.

We knew we had potential as a team, yet plenty of work was to be done. To stand out not only amongst the other competitors within our school, but also from St Wilfrid's and Oriel, our speech would need to be something truly special. Mixing complex financial analysis, calculating net profit and delivering strong ROI (Return on Investment) gave us a competitive edge, showing what we were capable of. After lots of rehearsals, our speech was successful and we had the incredible opportunity to pitch in front of KPMG.

We were told by KPMG on Monday (Our speech was Friday!) that there would be 30 minutes of questions, and at that moment we knew the odds were certainly against us. So, we threaded our core principle of monetary analysis with our ESG principles to craft a pitch which effectively covered all our key points. We made sure to link the answers of their questions to them. They really did grill us on our calculations, but we had prepared evidence and kept a calculator on us for backup. Which proved incredibly useful, as when they gave us an unexpected question, we were able to respond by using it to answer their question. We calculated more financial analysis on the spot - this quick thinking, even with our technical mishaps, was the extra leg to see us over the line in being victorious.

## **Jayom Shukla - I2ITH**

Through our unwavering resilience, determination, and hours spent on planning this task, our team was able to come out on top in the KPMG challenge of 2025. This task really allowed me to develop many soft skills that I never really paid attention to. Communication, coordination and speaking towards a panel of KPMG staff helped me really enjoy the experience. Overall, my teammates and I were ecstatic that we were able to take a win for Hazelwick school!

## **Auff Amir - I2RMG**

It was Michael Jordan who once said, "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships." This was a quote I had used at the beginning of this competition, when proving we were fit to represent the school. During my tenure representing Hazelwick, at the KPMG Gatwick Dragon's Den Competition, alongside my friends as "Team 1" I have learnt numerous valuable lessons.

We had countless setbacks, yet our adaptability and resilience held us all together. Having known each other for years, our trust with each other was cemented. We were proud of the feedback we received, especially, "one team, singing from the same hymn sheet on every topic." We delegated tasks and ensured we met deadlines. We conquered each stage of the challenge, setting standards and paving the way for what was to come. Our mentor and panel who supervised and relayed feedback regarding our presentations were also priceless, getting real world knowledge from experienced people is something that isn't easy to come by. Yet was made possible by the amazing staff at Hazelwick, each with such a colourful range of knowledge on various topics. Although we had many issues along the way, such as occasionally forgetting the script, technical issues and sometimes even having to start again, these setbacks taught us so much that we may have never learnt had we not submitted our application to take part.



# **KPMG Dragon's Den Competition 2025 Continued...**

It has been a truly amazing experience, not only winning, but taking part in this competition has founded a core memory for me and my team members. We won for the school, and we gave it our best shot. I'd also like to finally conclude with a note to Miss Doherty and all the staff that worked upon giving us this opportunity. We have been equipped with a new experience in life and are infinitely grateful and forever indebted for being able to even sign up. Thank you for considering us and thank you for your support, it has meant a lot and is a factor into our win for the school.

## **Afrasyab Ahmad - I2CDO**

Myself as well as my team have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to partake in the KPMG challenge and are thrilled to have not only represented our school, but also to have won the competition. I believe that the whole experience has been very insightful into a different career path to what I am aiming for and has broadened all our minds to different opportunities. I would like to thank my team and everyone who has helped in supporting us to present our finalised presentation to KPMG.

## **Ibrahim Souissi - I2SAN**

The KPMG Hotel Pitch Challenge turned out to be a great and unique experience - we are very grateful to have had the opportunity to apply our academic studies to a practical challenge, as well as develop our presentation and critical thinking skills! It was an interesting way to expand our knowledge of the subject and learn a greater variety of skills and jobs which will be applicable and useful in the future. Over the past couple of months, we have unlocked and developed new abilities in areas that we had no prior experience in. For example, creativity was a key part of the pitch and trying to make our presentation as engaging and cohesive as possible for our investors was a fun challenge. We enjoyed representing the school and working as a team in order to create the strongest pitch we could despite the challenging nature of the project, and we would recommend taking part to anyone interested in business!

**Shreya Yelamarthi - I2CDO, Ellen Charman Lodge - I2SEV, Sofia Gnatowska - I2CDO and Liza Gnatowska - I2SHA**



# House News...

What a fantastic and creative month it has been for the house system with tonnes of students getting crafty with photography and designing. It has been a pleasure to watch so many of you getting involved with various house events during this darker winter month and bring some brightness to our brilliant school!



## Winter Photography Competition

Run by Ms Millard, the winter photography competition saw a range of excellent entries inspired by Christmas, the cold and all things wintry. Well done to all the winners for their houses and to the overall winner Anabelle Stewart in 10SBA whose beautifully haunting wintry photo for Equiano is pictured on the right. The other winning entries for each house are pictured below:



## Form Photo Competition

Another incredible event run this half term by Miss Palmer was the Form Photo Competition. It was amazing to see so many forms coming together to take such artistic and creative photos with a vast range of creative ideas for getting the best shot possible. My personal favourite has to be 8NWI's entry (pictured below) because I love the idea of using neon lights in the dark to create a nighttime party atmosphere! Congratulations to all forms who worked together to come up with these incredible photography submissions.

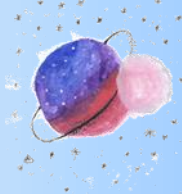
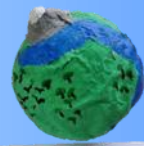




# House News Continued...







## Design a Planet

I had the incredible honour of running the Design a Planet competition for Years 7, 8 and 9 this term, which saw over 40 submissions of incredible planet designs. These ranged from beautiful sketches and intricately detailed profiles to models of all shapes, sizes and mediums! It felt like Christmas with the sheer number of students who brought along their entries to my room, and I was super excited (and a little nervous!) to judge so many designs. A massive thank you and well done to all students who took part, particularly those in Seacole who managed to earn a whopping 5500 points for their house. Please enjoy a selection of the incredible entries!



## Total House Points for February

Congratulations to Turing for securing their spot at the top of the leaderboard for February. With so many incredible events on the horizon and only a handful of house points between 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> places, it seems as though it is still a competition that any house could claim. I look forward to seeing how our Spring term 2 events shake things up!

House Points Table February 2025	
<b>The winning house is ...</b>	
	<b>Turing</b> <b>27,875 points!</b>
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place – Winton</b> <b>26,928 points</b>
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> place – Seacole</b> <b>25,893 points</b>
	<b>4<sup>th</sup> place – Fry</b> <b>23,802 points</b>
	<b>5<sup>th</sup> place – Duleep-Singh</b> <b>23,675 points</b>
	<b>6<sup>th</sup> place – Equiano</b> <b>23,079 points</b>

## Upcoming Events

We have lots of amazing house events on the horizon including the Caption Competition in form times for all year groups in which you can create your own fun captions for pictures. For Year 8, we have a Blindfolded Painting challenge and for Year 7 the gutterball activity! Keep an eye out also for the upcoming Women's History Quiz for all year groups in honour of International Women's Day. Get stuck in to anything and everything you can and boost the points for your house!



**Mx Nolan – Head of Fry**

# Aspire News...

## Year 10 GCSE Science Live Trip

This month Science and Aspire collaborated to take a group of nearly 50 Year 10 students to the Brighton Dome for the Science Live event. During the day, students heard from five of Britain's top scientists including Professor Robert Winston, Prof Jim Al-Khalili and Dame Maggie Alderin Pocock. The passion that these scientist had for their subject was inspiring.



Particular highlights included the discussions around "Are we made of Star dust?" "Is Time travel possible?" and "How we can understand the process of fertilisation and embryo development better?" There will also have a session to help them improve their GCSE Science exam skills with top tips from an experienced science examiner.

Here are some comments from our students about the day:

"I really enjoyed the variety of sciences covered and the talk about astronomy by Dr Dame Maggie" (Elisa Tocmelea).

"It really showed how vast the field of science was and how there is something for everyone to enjoy" (Sahl Ameen).

"I enjoyed the change of environment we had and being able to socialise with other schools. I learnt how to answer exam questions in a more simple and professional manner." (Kareem Hamrazadeh).

"I enjoyed seeing all the presentations from the different scientists, and how their work relates to our world. I learned how to answer exam questions more efficiently, and how to do better in the GCSEs overall. My favourite part of the day was watching the demonstrations by the scientists." (Swasti Singhal).

"The scientists spoke about really interesting topics. It was really well organised and none of it felt boring. My favourite part was the last scientist, Professor Dave Cliff, who spoke about computer science. He spoke about why advances in technology seemed to be slowing down and about quantum computers. Which sounds like it would be boring, but somehow he made it really engaging and funny. 11/10 Would go again if we could go again next year. I had a great time" (Adrian Kuich).



It really was a fascinating day, showing students that science really does offer solutions for real world problems and answers some fascinating questions.

**Dr Owen – Aspire Coordinator**



# Careers Café...

In this section of the newsletter, we bring students, parents and carers information on careers and the world of work.

## #NAW25

National Apprenticeship Week ran from 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Hazelwick supported this event and embraced the opportunity to raise awareness and give students opportunities to explore careers information.

Representatives from Crawley College delivered assemblies to Year 11 and Year 9 as part of our #NAW25 programme.






WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

**> Get paid**

**> Get trained**

**> Get qualified**



It's a real job



Earn a competitive salary



They can last between 1 – 4 years



There is no cost to become an apprentice



Gain a formal qualification



Choose from a wide range of apprenticeships and levels






We offer a range of Apprenticeships at Chichester College Group...



















Over 86 courses!



# Careers Café Continued...

**CCG** | Chichester College Group

## How do I become an Apprentice?

**1**

Research!

- What Apprenticeships are out there?
- What interests you?
- Why do you want to do it?

**2**

Talk!

- Talk to friends and family
- Ask your school careers advisor
- What advice do they have?

**3**

Look!

- Look at college websites
- See what job vacancies they have
- Start to write a CV!

Each year group had a different theme for form time activities as follows:

Year 7 - Where can my subjects take me? What transferable skills am I gaining?

Year 8 - Exploring the apprenticeship pathway.

Year 9 - The working world – meeting some apprentices working at large tourist attractions.

Year 10 - Inspirational apprenticeship journeys. Celebrities who have been apprentices.

Year 11 - Myth busting and meeting some local providers of apprenticeships. Virtual assembly from Sam, an apprentice at Gatwick Airport.

Year 12 - Understanding apprenticeships. What are my options: Apprenticeship, university, or work? - BBC Bitesize

Year 13 - How to find an apprenticeship

For more information on apprenticeships:

[Hazelwick School - Careers](#)

[Apprenticeships - West Sussex County Council](#)

[Current Vacancies · CCG | Training \(ccgapprenticeships.ac.uk\)](#)

[Parent Zone - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

[Young People | Skills for Careers \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

## College Open Events

The Crawley College Open Event will take place on Tuesday 11 March. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit the college, meet lecturers, and explore the range of courses available through hands-on experiences.

More information and bookings:

[Crawley College Open Event - Tuesday 11 March 2025 Tickets, Tue 11 Mar 2025 at 16:30 | Eventbrite](#)



# Careers Café Continued...

Haywards Heath College also have an upcoming event on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. More information and bookings:

[Haywards Heath College Open Event - Tuesday 18 March 2025 Tickets, Tue 18 Mar 2025 at 16:30 | Eventbrite](#)

## **Rolls Royce Apprenticeships and Application Support Resources**

Taking that next step after school or college can be daunting for anyone. Rolls Royce, have announced the release of two comprehensive preparation guides, to help students know what to expect when it comes to applications, interviews, and assessment centres for their early career programmes. So, whether they are applying to a Rolls-Royce apprenticeship or elsewhere, students can know what to expect, prepare with confidence, and go into each recruitment stage ready to shine.

[Click here to download the preparation guides,](#)

or head to [careers.rolls-royce.com](https://careers.rolls-royce.com) to discover more about the huge range of apprenticeships available.

Mrs Andrews



# Read On!

For this month, I thought I would feature the romantasy subgenre as I know from the book requests from students that the genre had a 'BookTok glow-up.' I have highlighted some of the 'big players' in the genre with a review of some of the first books in the series. Thank you to Mrs Bridgman for being our guest reviewer this month, with a romantasy title, to tie-in with this month's theme. I have also given some information regarding World Book Day which is celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> March.

## Romantasy Fiction

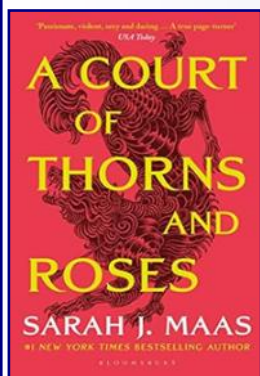
Romantasy is a sub-genre of Fantasy Fiction and is defined by the Collins English Dictionary as 'a literary genre that combines romantic fiction with fantasy.' The word is a portmanteau of the words romance and fantasy and whilst definitions may differ slightly, in romantasy titles, the romance is key to the plot of the novel and often provides the conflict within the story. In fantasy with romance novels, the romance is not the driving force of the plot. The novels tend to follow a four-step formula, how the characters meet, the cause of the romantic tension (they are often enemies/rivals to begin with), a separation of the two main characters and finally, the characters will be reunited for their 'happily ever after.' Romantasy is a big seller, for example, Rebecca Yarros' 'Onyx Storm' has become the 'fastest-selling novel in twenty years,' according to the New York Times. I have featured some of the romantasy authors that are popular with students.



### Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros

The author's Adult Fiction 'Empyrean' series has proven a big hit with readers and has sold like hot cakes! 'Fourth Wing' is the first book in the series and introduced the reader to the Basgiath War College. Life at the college can be very short as every day could be your last! Central character Violet has been commanded (by her mother, who happens to be a general) to join the candidates training to be dragon riders. Dragons are not Violet's only threat; the other cadets are also her enemies! Violet soon discovers that she has two choices; graduate or die! If you would like to check the series order or read about the author's other books, please click the link the below:

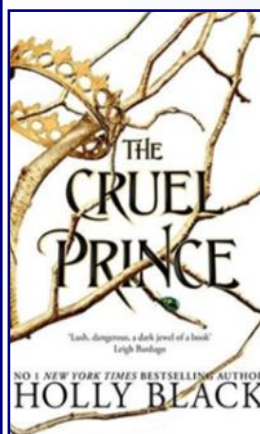
<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/y/rebecca-yarros/>



### A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas

With two series written for Young Adults, Maas is also an international bestseller, and both series have a fanbase in school. Feisty central character Feyre has been taken to a magical kingdom, charged with the murder of a faerie. Feyre will need to fight to break an ancient curse if she is to gain her freedom and the hand of the mysterious Tamlin. There are currently five titles in this series, and I have shared the author's page on Fantastic Fiction. Please note that the novels contain some sex and violent scenes, with some strong language.

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/m/sarah-maas/>



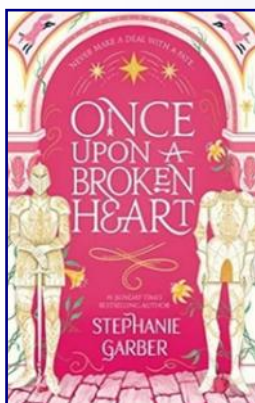
### The Cruel Prince by Holly Black

Black's 'The Folk of the Air' trilogy is an award-winning saga, but the novels are aimed at an older readership than 'The Spiderwick Chronicles'. Three assassins murder Jude's parents and kidnap her and her two sisters. The girls are taken to the Faerie world, with Jude placed in the royal court. Jude is bullied by the Faerie royal family as she is mortal. Jude's life is under constant threat as she tries to understand the power struggles that exists in the court. Jude feels that Prince Cardan is both arrogant and charismatic in equal measure. The series may be unsuitable for sensitive readers due to the amount of violence and character deaths. The series order can be found by clicking the link below:

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/b/holly-black/>



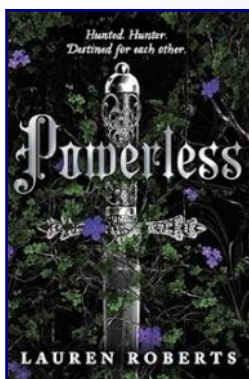
## Read On Continued....



### Once Upon a Broken Heart by Stephanie Garber

This is Garber's second Adult Fiction series and there currently four books to date. Evangeline's dreams of wedded bliss are shattered when she discovers that the love of her life is to be married to someone else. She makes a pact with the Prince of Hearts to prevent the wedding. The cost of giving three kisses to the prince seems a small price to pay, until Evangeline realises that making pacts with an immortal can be dangerous. Will Evangeline get her 'happy ever after'? The series combines romance and magic with mystery, and I have given the link to the series order as they do need to be read in order:

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/g/stephanie-garber/>



### Powerless by Lauren Roberts

The first novel in the 'Powerless' trilogy was the author's debut novel for Young Adults and was nominated for the British Book Award Children's Fiction Book of the Year for 2024. Set in the kingdom of Ilya, the heroine Paedyn Gray is an Ordinary pretending to be an Elite. As an Ordinary, Paedyn should be banished from the kingdom. When Paedyn saves Prince Kai Azer, she is selected to compete in brutal and violent Purging Trials. How can she demonstrate the powers of an Elite when she has none? In addition to fighting in the Trials, Paedyn is also fighting her feelings for the prince! I have included the link to the authors page on Fantastic Fiction.



### World Book Day Tokens

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March and the library has ordered the tokens that students can swap for the free books. The tokens are valid between 13<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 in participating shops. In addition to the free books, the token can be used to have £1.00 off the full price of books/audiobooks, provided the cost is at least £2.99. Please note that the tokens cannot be used for online purchases. Terms and conditions can be found here:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/terms-conditions/>

### Free World Book Day Books

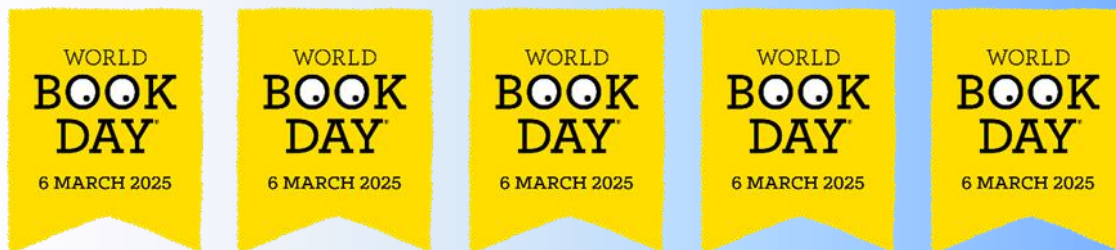
We will also be offering a selection of the World Book Day books to our students in Years 7 and 8. The books will be handed out during Reading lessons and are subject to availability.

There are dedicated pages for families, including a range of resources, games, quizzes, and activities to help you celebrate World Book Day at home.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>



# Read On Continued...



The English Department and Library staff have special lessons and activities planned to help celebrate books and reading.

## World Book Day Books



## For Older Teens



This title is aimed at older teen readers due to the content.

Book reviews for these titles and the full list of books can be found by clicking the link below:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/>

Happy World Book Day!

Mrs Thornton BA (Hons) MCLIP  
School Librarian



# Read On Continued....

## Guest Reviewer

**Our guest reviewer this month is:** Mrs Bridgman

**Book Title:** Faebound

**Author:** Saara El-Arifi



A little while ago, I jumped on the Romantasy band wagon, which was quite a step away from my usual True Crime choices. But I have to say that I haven't looked back. I have been thoroughly enjoying the formula of a Romantasy, and the escapism that the genre brings. Normally I look to social media, such as BookTok and Instagram, to get an idea of what to read next, as there are usually plenty of recommendations. However, Faebound caught my eye in a bookstore, thanks to its attractive cover.

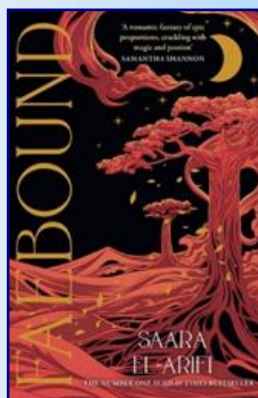
Faebound is the first book in a trilogy by Saara El-Arifi and follows the story of two sisters. Yeeran is a much-respected warrior in the Elven Army. Her sister, Lettle, is a diviner who looks for prophecies in the hope of a better future. There is a war in the Elven Lands, and one day, Yeeran makes a fatal mistake on the battlefield. This leads to her ultimately being exiled from her home. Lettle follows her sister into the unknown world outside of the Elven Lands where they are forced to survive. It is also here that they encounter the fae court. Now, the fae haven't been seen for a millennium, believed to have died out according to folk lore. Yeeran and Lettle are then thrown into the fae's seductive world, where their loyalty to their home and each other is tested.

### What do I think about the book?

I really enjoyed this book. It follows the usual Romantasy formula (enemies to lovers), and where the romantic story is the most important part of the plot. El-Arifi sets the scene beautifully and creates a magical world in which the story takes place. Some of El-Arifi's characters are from minority groups, where she subtly tackles the subject of integration and acceptance. I did find that parts of the plot felt a little like that of "Fourth Wing", however there were plenty of twists and turns to keep me turning the pages. I found myself really rooting for Yeeran, a character who is fiercely loyal and searching for answers to make sense of the world she has found herself in. The book is full of passion, heartache, joy and adventure. I am looking forward to reading the next instalment to see where El-Arifi takes the characters next. The next book "Cursebound" is due to be released later this month.

### Who would enjoy this book?

Anyone who is a Romantasy fan would enjoy this book, especially those who have read and enjoyed "Fourth Wing" or "A Court of Thorns and Roses" series or similar. I also think that anyone who is looking to take their first step into the world of Romantic Fantasy, would enjoy this story too.





# Sport...

## U16 Rugby 7s Success

The U16 Rugby 7s team recently showcased their skill and determination at the County 7s Tournament, delivering an outstanding performance. Competing in five intense matches, the team secured four impressive victories, only narrowly missing out in one game against a strong Brighton College side.

The team triumphed over Oathall Community College, Sackville Community College, Shoreham Academy, and Seaford Head School demonstrating excellent teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Every player contributed to the team's success, with many scoring crucial tries to secure wins.

This fantastic achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the players. They should all be extremely proud of their efforts. Well done to the entire squad!

Mr Bagnall



Mikey Luxford, Jack Dealhoy, Hayden Healy, Ruben Grainger-Poore, Brodie Ryrie-Smith, Nathan Hughes, George Frost, Joel Johnson-Cole, Alfie Bagshaw, Kareem Hamrazadeh, Patrick Orozco, Alfie Larkin

## Other Results

Girls Basketball U16s beat Ifield Community College  
 Boys U16s Basketball lost to Ifield Community College  
 Boys U16s Rugby lost to Patcham & Varndean School

Mr Bagnall



# Sport Continued...

## Football Results

### U16 Vs Ifield Community College

The under 16 Girls football team headed to Ifield Community College for a league match. With the freezing temperatures and quick turn around the girls needed to get warmed up quickly in time to play. The girls came out determined to secure a win and they did exactly that! We kicked off the goal scoring with the first goal coming from Emily Kadan. This didn't last long though as Ifield Community College countered our attack getting a goal back. Quick off the concede, we came firing back once again with another couple of goals before half-time. Inayah Hassan kept the pressure off with some incredible saves however a penalty was awarded to Ifield Community College meaning they were two up. This didn't stop the girls though and we continued to get goal after goal. A big well done to our goal scorers of the day; Jasmin Byrne x2, Emily Kadan, Zoe Case, Anna McLaren and Zenab Bah. Final score came to 6-2 with some wonderful work across the pitch from all those in the team. Well done! We are due to face Oriel High School next, so we wish you the best of luck in the upcoming fixtures.



Miss Calthorpe

### U14 Girls



The U14 girls continued their impressive start to the season by winning 11-0 in the County Cup shield v St Catherine's College. They have beaten Thomas Bennett Community College 4-1 and narrowly lost 2-1 to Oriel High School. The girls have lots of home games after half-term so please come and support them if you get the chance. The team that won 11-0 is pictured opposite so please say a big well done to them.

Mr Agnihotri



# Sport Continued...

## Football Results Continued

### U14 County Cup (Shield) Result

Longhill High School 0 Hazelwick School 7

The Under 14 boys continued their impressive season with a second round cup win away at Longhill High School (Rottingdean).

Having won the District league already this season, they could be on course for a double but have to now negotiate a third round tie away to Buckswood School (Hastings). On a terrible pitch, the boys battled hard and were rewarded with some excellent goals and most notably a spectacular goal from the half way line from Harley Martin.

Well done boys.

Mr Agnihotri



# Sport Continued...

## Year 7 & 8 Indoor Athletics Competition

A variety of Year 7 and 8 students were taken to K2, to compete in an indoor athletics competition against the other Crawley Schools. Events that ran included; shotput, sprints, 8 lap runs, relay races, jumping activities and obstacle races. All of the students worked exceptionally well in their categories, despite a power cut and a lost shoe! A big mention to the Year 7's for completing their first Athletics event as Hazelwick students and doing so with great respect and tenacity for everyone participating.

The support for each team was lovely to see and all students were cheering each other on in all events taking place. Huge congratulations to everyone who participated, with both the Year 7 Girl and Boy groups coming second and the Year 8 Girls also coming second. Overall, an incredibly successful day for our Hazelwick students.

Miss Calthorpe



## Basketball Results

### U16 Boys Basketball Team Secures Dominant Win

Our U16 boys' basketball team put on a strong performance this week, securing a decisive 72-27 victory over The Gatwick School. The team showcased excellent teamwork and determination, with every player making valuable contributions on the court.

A special mention goes to Harry Burn, who led the scoring with an impressive 20 points. His efforts, along with the collective strength of the squad, ensured a well-earned win.

Well done to all the players for their hard work and commitment - an excellent result to build on for the rest of the season!

Mr Bagnall





# Spotlight on Safeguarding...

**For your information this month, via the Newsletter, we are raising awareness of the topic of body image amongst young people.**

A survey by the Mental Health Foundation in 2019, revealed that 31% of the 13-19 year olds surveyed felt ashamed in relation to their body image and that 37% worried often or everyday about their body image. The mental health charity Young Minds defines body image as how we see and feel about our body, and how we think others see us. Unsurprisingly, social media has been identified as a factor in the concern amongst teenagers about their body image, with 40% of those surveyed stating that images posted on social media caused them to worry about their body image. Social media is awash with images of people that have been photoshopped, which adds pressure for young people to achieve what they consider to be the “perfect” look. To combat this, a number of influencers online post body positivity content to challenge the stereotypical images of “perfection” that teenagers see. US rugby player Iona Maher, is the most followed rugby union player in the world with over eight million followers across social



media and has been praised for promoting body positivity. Maher has faced negative responses online due to her athletic physique with comments questioning her femininity. However, Maher has responded on social media saying that “all body types matter,” “all body types are worthy” and that “all body types can be Olympians.” Maher is seen as an inspiration to young girls by challenging the stereotypical images of a young woman. Last month, she signed for the Bristol Bears rugby team which has raised her profile further in this country and her message of body positivity.

Boys are also impacted by body image issues with 25% of those surveyed for the Mental Health Foundation stating that they worried about their body image either often or always. One of the pressures for boys is to look big and muscular, a stereotypical image of masculinity. Experts have seen a rise in a condition amongst boys called “bigorexia” when young boys and men have a distorted self-image and think that they are not big enough, which leads to an obsession with muscle definition and body shape.

There are a number of organisations where young people can access support. Childline gives useful advice to young people by discussing the problems they face and how they can get support. [How you look | Childline](#). Young people can use Childline’s support services up until the age of 19 and services include the 0800 1111 contact number and a 1-2-1 online chat service with a counsellor. Young Minds also offers a lot of support and advice on the topic of body image. [Body image | Mental health support | YoungMinds](#). At Hazelwick School, we have two dedicated school counsellors to support our students and a mental health champion who runs whole school initiatives to help students maintain positive emotional wellbeing. In PSHE lessons, Year 7 students study the topic of body image in the summer term and the topic is also explored during Year 9 in the spring term as part of a unit of work on mental health.

## Where to get further information and support:

- **NHS**

[Body image resources for parents and young people :: Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust](#)

- **Mental Health Foundation**

[Body Image Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#)



## Hazelwick Twitter Account



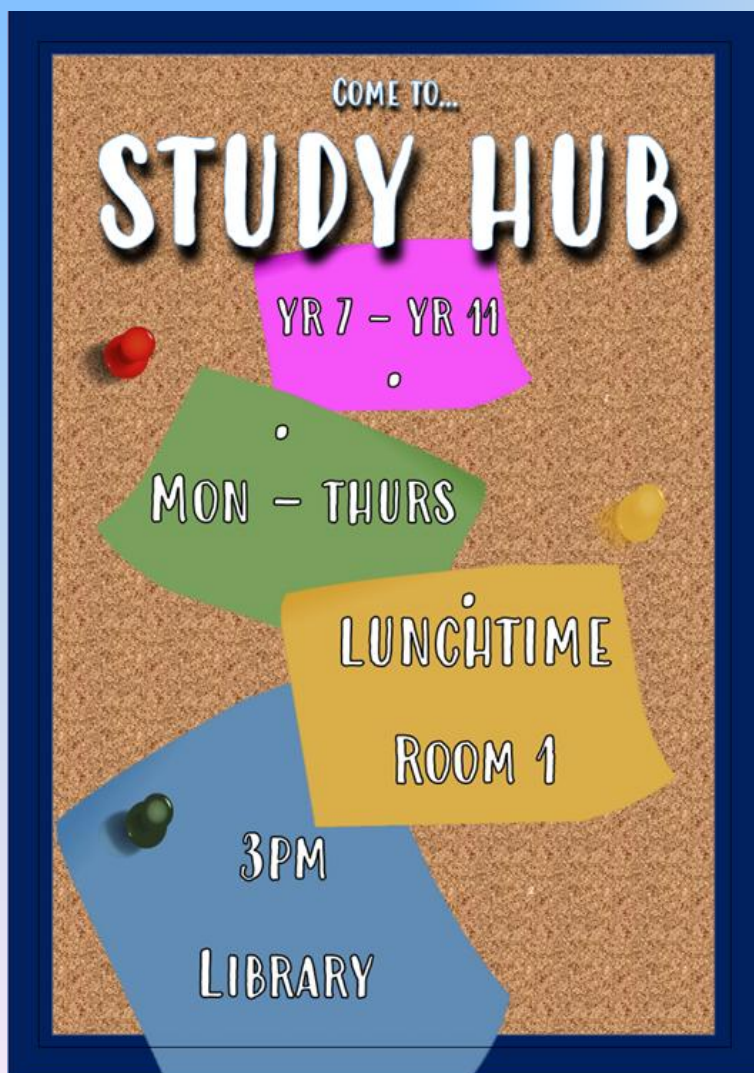
Follow us on our Twitter account @HazelwickSchool for reminders of key dates and details of important events.

## Insight - Parent Portal

Insight is a secure online system which allows parents/carers to access a range of data and information about their son/daughter. Once logged in, parents/carers can view information such as their child's timetable, session attendance, behaviour points and school reports.

If you have not accessed this yet and would like more information, please email [insight@hazelwick.org.uk](mailto:insight@hazelwick.org.uk)

## Homework & Revision Clubs



### Study Hub

Years 7-11

supervised study at  
lunchtime and 3-4 pm  
after school.

No need to book, simply  
turn up when you need  
help.

Sixth Form: Monday to Friday until 4.30pm – Supervised study in the Octagon.