



*effort achieves*



# Hazelwick School Newsletter

**September 2025**

*Special  
Edition*

## Dates for your diary:

Thu 18th Sept 2025:  
Open Evening

Fri 31st Oct 2025:  
Deadline for school place  
preference procedure

Mon 2nd March 2026:  
Offer date

Mon 6th July 2026:  
Hazelwick New Intake  
Parents'/Carers' Meeting

## School Tour Dates:

Monday 22nd September  
Thursday 25th September  
Tuesday 30th September  
Friday 3rd October  
Monday 6th October  
Friday 10th October  
Tuesday 14th October  
Wednesday 15th October

The tours will be at  
9.00am and 11.30am each  
day.

Please visit the  
"Open Evening"  
section of our  
website for all the  
details that you  
need.

## Headlines

*Mr D Leadbitter, Headteacher*

Welcome to this special edition of our Hazelwick School Newsletter. I am delighted that you are interested in sending your child to our wonderful school.



Our newsletter is produced and sent out to all parents and carers every month. In it, we recognise and celebrate achievements right across the school, both in terms of different areas and activities as well as different age groups. Past issues can be found on the school website ([www.hazelwick.org](http://www.hazelwick.org)).

In this special edition, we have put together a selection of articles to highlight the breadth and variety of opportunities open to our students here at Hazelwick.

You will also find details about various other aspects of our school life, such as the curriculum, trips, sports, music and drama which we hope is of interest. There is a great deal more information available on the school website. You will also be able to see and discuss these things at our Open Evening on Thursday 18th September.



After the Open Evening, we will be running Open Morning Tours, where you will be able to see the school in action and meet with a senior member of staff.

To arrange a visit, please make a booking through the booking system on the school website. This will be available from Friday 19th September.

I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter with your child, and you take the opportunity to explore and discover more about Hazelwick life.



## Year 7 students on their first day at Hazelwick:



## Year 8 look back at the highlights of their first year at Hazelwick:



“Rehearsing and winning the Xmas Factor!”

“Going on the French trip to Boulogne-sur-Mer and spending a day abroad.”

“Making new friends at break and lunch time.”

“Taking part in Sports Day.”

“Winning house competitions.”

“Going on the school trip to Hever Castle.”

“Being rewarded for my effort and being recognised for my achievements.”

“Going to Lodge Hill, pushing my limits and getting to spend time with my form group.”

### What has been your biggest achievement to date?

“Representing Hazelwick in sports activities like being part of the cricket team.”

“Achieving 100% on my Spanish test.”

“Getting lots of purple slips.”

“Improving in all my subjects.”

“Getting elected for the Crawley Young Persons’ Council.”

“Getting nearly 700 achievement points.”

“Winning the basketball league.”

## Key Stage 3 Curriculum (Years 7, 8 and 9)

All students at Hazelwick follow a broad and balanced curriculum at KS3, studying a wide range of subjects, all taught by specialist teachers.

The aim of the curriculum at KS3 is to excite and engage children, to broaden their experience, open up new areas of knowledge, develop their independent study skills and lay down strong foundations for success in examination work at KS4.

Students are grouped in a variety of ways that we feel are most appropriate to their age and ability.

Full details of the KS3 curriculum can be found on the school website.



### Trip to Hever Castle

Year 7 students enjoyed a really informative trip to Hever Castle where they took part in a workshop session about life in Tudor England and had a chance to explore the grounds.

### Design Technology

Year 8 students explored different ideas for a phone holder design. They learnt how to use the coping saw with precision to cut their design as well as other workshop equipment safely and with skill.



### Food & Nutrition

Year 7 Food and Nutrition groups learnt about the Eat Well Guide, healthy eating and the function of nutrients in the human body.



### Annual Reading Ambassador Breakfast

Reading Ambassadors are students who actively contribute to promoting books and reading culture at Hazelwick. They represent us in the National Literacy Trust Reading Championship Quiz, they choose the Hazelwick *book of the month* and present assemblies. They are important student leaders in our community.

# Drama Production - July 2024

## Annie

Ms Grubb and Mr Bayliss joined forces once again to bring together the Drama and Music departments to produce Annie The Musical. The show was an incredible success, with performances to over 700 audience members, including two of our local primary schools. Reviews were rave, with comments such as “the quality of the performances was extremely high: great acting, fabulous singing, wonderful dancing, and the band was superb”, “I was blown away by the production last night and my 8-year-old was mesmerised and inspired to take to the stage in the future.”



## Creative Arts

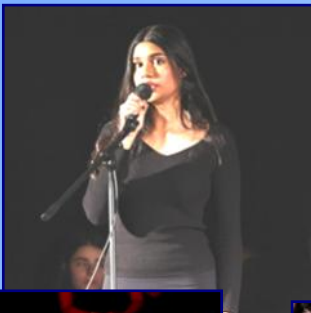


Our annual summer Art Show exhibited the high-quality work of our students across the specialist areas of Fine Art and Photography.



## Music and Drama Showcase

The Music and Drama departments collaborated for the autumn concert, showcasing the work of our talented students. With over 80 performers and an eager technical crew, the fairy-lit stage was set to light up the cold November evening.



## Junior Choir “Sings Live” at Christ’s Hospital School

On 27<sup>th</sup> February this year our junior choir took part in a concert at Christ’s Hospital School’s hugely impressive Chapel. The event was arranged by West Sussex Music and featured choirs from various schools around the Crawley/Horsham area.

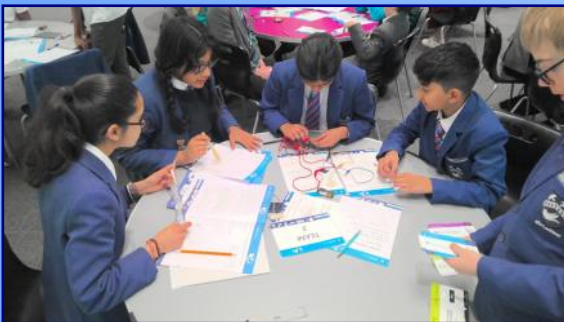


## The Wonder of Science

### STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths



Students enjoying scientific discovery.



### STEM@Hazelwick IET Faraday® Challenge Day

At the end of March two teams of Year 8 students participated at an IET Faraday Challenge Day held at the Gatwick STEM Centre. The IET Faraday® Challenge is an annual competition of STEM activity days, which are designed to be cross curricular and cover hands-on activities spanning science, technology, engineering and maths.

### Annual Maths Challenge

Hazelwick competes against teams from across the region. The last team to enter performed tremendously well, working together to solve some very demanding mathematical challenges.



## Charities and Community

### Donations collected for Crawley Open House in December



### Sixth Form Festive Friday



### St Catherine's Hospice Youth Enterprise Challenge

Led by six of our Year 12 students, the team organised a wide range of fund-raising activities, including cake sales, a fun run, a car wash, non-uniform days and sports events to raise money for St Catherine's Hospice. For the thirteenth year running, the Hazelwick team won the award for the most money raised with the absolutely incredible total of **£8072.56**. This was a truly amazing result; their target was £1500, so to exceed that by over £6,500 was phenomenal.

### House System

The Hazelwick House System runs in addition to the well-established and highly effective Year Team pastoral system, to increase students' leadership opportunities and encourage further participation between different year groups. All students belong to one of 6 Houses, which are named after great British achievers - Inayat Khan, Moody, Faraday, Parr, Sancho and Lovelace. All students earn points for their House across all aspects of school life. There are regular events that take place throughout the school year, giving students the opportunity to compete together, often with other year groups, to earn points for their House. Events in the last year have included: Camouflage Challenge, Caption competition, Jellybean Race, Design a Planet competition, House Bake Off, Sixth Form Bench Ball competition, The Chase, Blackout Poetry competition, Penalty Shoot Out, Balance Test competition, Form Photo competition, University Challenge, and a Winter Photography competition. Each House also has a nominated House Charity for which they raise money throughout the year.



As well as taking part in events, students are key to the leadership of the House system with Charity, Sport and Student Voice representatives in every form, led by House Leaders and House Captains from the 6th form. It is excellent to see students from across the age range of the school working together to organise, deliver and enjoy events for other students.

## Results

### A-level

At A-level this summer, Hazelwick students once again achieved truly outstanding results. 64 students (38%) achieved at least one A\*/A grade with a fantastic 47% of all grades being A\*-B, which is testament to students' hard work and determination.

Amongst these wonderful results were our highest attainers including 4 students achieving 2 or more A\* grades. In addition, 3 students gained placements on highly-prized degree apprenticeships.

We have four students reading Medicine and one reading Dentistry. 39 students have gained a place at a Russell Group university, with a further 17 at other Top 40 universities. This means 56 of the 136 who applied are at a top 40 university; 41%.

Students from Hazelwick are going on to study a wide and varied range of courses at universities across the UK, including: Aerospace Electronic Engineering, Cyber Security and Digital Forensics, Environmental Science, Illustration, Law, Nursing, Philosophy, Politics, Zoology, Biomedical Science, Pharmacy and Journalism.

### GCSE

#### Impressive Results

Once again, we were thrilled that our students achieved another set of fantastic GCSE results across the broad curriculum. Three quarters of all GCSE grades were 9-4 (or equivalent) and a quarter of these were "top" grades of 9-7 (or equivalent). 8 students achieved a clean sweep of grades 9-7 in every subject, with 2 achieving an incredible 9 or more grade 9s. Crucially, the results of our students set them up with the skills and knowledge to confidently move to the next stage of their education.

#### Outstanding Progress

Here at Hazelwick, we are committed to enabling each and every student to make excellent progress, regardless of their prior attainment. Whilst there will be no published national whole-school Progress 8 scores this year, students achieved excellent results and made very strong progress, which is testament to their effort and the hard work of the staff that taught and supported them.

# First Class Facilities for your Child Hazelwick School as an Academy

- Increased funding and greater autonomy
- Improved services for our students
- Site and facilities upgrades and developments
- Enhanced curriculum flexibility
- No change to our admissions criteria
- No change to our ethos



**GROUNDS**  
Extensive, high quality  
sports pitches and  
playground



**Fantastic sports equipment in  
North Gym**



## More Able, Gifted and Talented

Hazelwick is fully committed to ensuring that all students make the best possible progress, tailored to their individual needs. Within this are the wealth of opportunities that we offer to our able, gifted and talented students through our Aspire programme.

### St John's College, Oxford University Inspire Scholars Programme

During the winter term, 24 Year 9 students enrolled on the Oxford University Inspire Scholars programme. The programme is designed to help students explore their interests, expand their academic horizons, and enable them to take part in a range of exciting opportunities, including access to summer schools at St John's College, University of Oxford.



### Talented Athlete Programme

Students on our Talented Athlete Programme attend a variety of fitness workshops throughout the year.



### Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award

A group of 86 students from Year 9 completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June in Dorking. The students completed two days of walking with all of their equipment, putting their navigation skills to the test and developing their confidence, resilience and the ability to solve problems as a team.

## Sport — some examples of what's on offer

### District Badminton Tournament



Our U14s badminton teams showcased fantastic talent and sporting spirit at the district tournament. The Hazelwick Girls' A team emerged as champions, winning all their matches in a dominant display of skill and teamwork. The Girls' B team also performed admirably, securing 4th place overall.

The Boys' team demonstrated impressive determination and competed strongly, delivering some standout performances.

### Town Sports 2025

Town Sports is the final competitive school athletics fixture of the season. On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July the school athletics team were successful in winning the town sports Inter boys cup. Hazelwick has a strong tradition in athletics and has won the competition 11 times in the last 13 years. The Inter girls and Junior girls also demonstrated lots of promise over the day long event and we will be working towards winning more trophies in 2026!



### Success at the Sussex Schools Golf Championship

Kade Fullarton and Freddie Hopkins proudly represented the school at the Sussex Schools Golf Championship held at Chartham Park. Freddie delivered an impressive performance, shooting a round of 87 to secure the silver medal in the net competition. Kade also performed strongly, finishing just outside the medals with a solid round of 80. Both students are competing at a high level and currently represent Sussex

### U14 Netball Team

The Year 7 Netball team had a phenomenal season. They won the Crawley Schools' league, gaining victory in every single game. Their overall result reflects exceptional talent across the whole team, scoring 89 goals in total.



## Sport

### Hazelwick Sports Leaders



Our fully trained Sports Leaders helped to lead various events throughout the year including the Quicksticks Hockey events and the Northgate Primary School Sports Day. The tasks they completed were varied, including organising equipment, setting up events, explaining events, scoring and measuring.

### 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.



### Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships

On a cold January afternoon, Hazelwick students competed at the Sussex Schools' Championships in Waterhall, Brighton. All the seniors qualified for the next round.

### U16 Rugby 7s Success

The U16 Rugby 7s team 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.



## Educational Visits



### Team-building

Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed their day trip to Lodge Hill in their first term at Hazelwick. They developed a range of skills, formed new friendships and had lots of fun.



### Boulogne

In the summer, Year 7 French students visit Boulogne where they practise their language skills around the town, including visiting a boulangerie and making their own croissants.



### Paris

Year 8 French students use their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills on the annual summer term trip to Paris.



### Malaga and Granada

Year 9 and 10 students explored the vibrant cities of Málaga and Granada, and the charming towns of Frigiliana and Nerja. One of the highlights included the awe-inspiring Alhambra in Granada, with its intricate Moorish architecture and sweeping views.



## Transition at Hazelwick

### Helping everyone to find their way at secondary school

Transition to secondary school is an exciting process with a great deal to look forward to. It can also feel daunting to Year 6 pupils with lots to learn about moving to “big school”. At Hazelwick, a huge amount of care, consideration, preparation and communication with primary schools goes into supporting our Year 7s make the move up to secondary school each year. This excellent practice was identified by the national educational magazine ‘Teach Secondary’, whose editor contacted Hazelwick in order to showcase our work on transition. They commented on the experience and expertise that Hazelwick staff have in supporting students into Year 7, along with the care, compassion and commitment they show to them. All staff at Hazelwick are focussed on ensuring the move is successful, beneficial and positive.

Hazelwick can look like a big school on paper and it can seem like a very big site when you visit. The school does everything it can to benefit from its size - the large spacious leafy site ensures there is always a calm feel and there is plenty of space for all year groups to have their own distinct areas for socialising, eating and playing. However, in spite of its size, every student is known and the school does not feel very large to our students. New Year 7s are supported by Sixth Form students as they settle in. The Sixth Formers escort groups to and from their lessons and support them at social time as well. Our large and diverse student body enables the school to offer a broad and engaging range of subjects. The transitions between lessons are very smooth and visitors always comment on how they cannot believe that there are close to 1900 students on the site.



In September 2025, the Year 7 students arrived from 31 different primary schools. To coordinate their successful arrival, and ensure that all students are well understood, Hazelwick creates a partnership with primary schools. ‘Teach Secondary’ commented on this, stating that Hazelwick staff “work very closely with local primary schools, meeting both teachers and pupils. Through these conversations, they understand the friendship groups that already exist and are able to understand the needs of each child to create well balanced form groups that are paired with the right form tutors.” Armed with knowledge of every child, socially and academically, students are placed into 11

tutor groups. The information from their primary school ensures the best combinations of classes to enable students to feel settled and comfortable in their new learning environment.

In July each year, all students that will be joining the following September are invited to attend an Induction Day at Hazelwick. They are welcomed on this day by the Headteacher before going through an engaging and carefully tailored programme of lessons, tours and team building induction activities with their new tutor group. This day gives the soon-to-be new Year 7s a range of experiences and they leave with new friends, an understanding of the school and an exciting and high quality shared experience with their new form teacher that stands them in excellent stead for their arrival in September.

Hazelwick staff seek feedback from students and primary schools every year to continually tailor the transition processes to the needs of the cohort. The involvement of our Sixth Form students epitomises the diligence and care shown in the transition process at Hazelwick. We believe that the whole school community has a role in welcoming Year 7 students into the school. This approach, alongside the very careful grouping and understanding of the children that are joining us, enables all students to quickly and happily find their way at Hazelwick and enjoy the start of their secondary school experience.

# 'Your child – your choice'

## Secondary School Admissions in Crawley

### **Does my child's primary school affect his/her eligibility for any secondary school?**

No – for any of the non-church maintained secondary schools in Crawley (Hazelwick, Ifield, Oriel, Thomas Bennett, The Gatwick School), your primary school does NOT make any difference to your chances of gaining admission.

### **I hear parents talking about 'Feeder Schools' having priority admissions. Is this true?**

No – in Crawley there is no such thing as a 'Feeder School'. Your child has the same opportunity to come to Hazelwick as any other primary school child.

### **As an Academy, does Hazelwick have completely different admissions rules?**

No – they are broadly the same as for the other (Local Authority) secondary schools in Crawley and they have not changed drastically since Hazelwick became an Academy. Hazelwick's admissions are still administered for us by the Local Authority's Pupil Admissions Office.

### **Is there any selection at Hazelwick, either by academic ability or by 'aptitude'?**

No – Hazelwick remains a fully comprehensive, non-selective, inclusive school.

### **What are the main factors that determine admission to Hazelwick?**

- Living within the defined 'catchment' area.
- Having an older sibling already attending the school.
- How close you live to the school.
- Having an 'EHCP' or other specific exceptional need.
- Being a Looked After Child or living in care.
- Full details are in the Admissions Policy under Key Documents on the school website.

### **The letter that came with my application form named a secondary school as the 'catchment school' for my address. Does this mean that my child has to go there?**

No – this simply reflects where your home is located. It is **your** decision as to which preferences you want to put for your child's secondary school. It is only when a school is oversubscribed that living inside the school's catchment area gives you an advantage over those living outside it.

### **What is the size of Hazelwick's annual intake into Year 7?**

Hazelwick's PAN ('Published Admission Number') is 300 – the largest in Crawley.

### **How many different primary schools did Hazelwick's current Year 7 students come from?**

In total, our current Year 7 is made up of children from 31 different primary schools.

### **If I want my child to come to Hazelwick, do I need to put Hazelwick as my first choice?**

If you believe Hazelwick is the best choice for your child, name Hazelwick as your first choice as this gives you the best chance of getting a place. West Sussex also strongly recommends that parents/carers put their child's catchment school as one of their three preferences. The choice of where to put it in the preferences is up to you.

**If you have any further questions about admissions to Hazelwick, contact Mrs Howland  
[thowland@hazelwick.org.uk](mailto:thowland@hazelwick.org.uk), 01293 403344**