



effort achieves



Hazelwick School

Newsletter

September 2025

Dates for your Diary:

Wed 1st Oct:

Year 7 Photographs

Thu 2nd Oct:

Year 11 Photographs

Wed 8th Oct:

Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

Flu Vaccinations

Thu 16th Oct:

Year 11, Sixth Form Open Evening

Fri 17th Oct:

Inset Day

Mon 20th Oct - Thu 23rd Oct:

Year 7, Activities Week

Thu 23rd Oct:

Sixth Form Photos

Mon 27th - Fri 31st Oct:

Half Term

Return Mon 3rd Nov:

Week 2

Thu 27th Nov:

Year 13 Parents'/Carers' Evening

Mon 1st Dec:

Inset Day

Tue 2nd Dec - Fri 19th Dec:

Year 11 Mock Exams

Fri 5th Dec:

Year 7, Student Review Day

Fri 19th Dec:

End of Term

1.25pm

Welcome to this first newsletter of the school year.

It has been a great return to school for our students. They have returned with ambition and energy and the focus has been very impressive. We will be focussing on punctuality to lessons over the coming weeks and months, as this is a very important part of learning how to be successful as a young adult, as well as making the most of their time in school each day. A letter with full details will come out in due course. Working in partnership with parents/carers is always key to successful outcomes, and this is the case across all our work with your children. Your support with reinforcing our punctuality work at home will be greatly appreciated.

Our Year 7s have settled really well with help from our superb Sixth Formers and other students and staff across the site. They have now had nearly two full cycles of their timetable and are getting to know the school, their lessons and how Hazelwick life works. There are some photos on page two of how they have settled.



Our Year 11s and Year 13s celebrated excellent results over the Summer in their exams. There will be no externally published data for Year 11s across the country from last year as that year group didn't sit SATS in Year 6. However, we were delighted with the fantastic results that these students achieved and our internal monitoring processes confirm that they made excellent progress and achieved excellent results, with a quarter of all GCSEs being top grades (9-7).

Our A level students delivered some truly outstanding results. 47% of students achieved A*-B in all their subjects, and crucially our students gained the qualifications and skills to progress onto the next stage of their employment or education at the venues they wanted. This included (but is in no way limited to) the following university courses at a range of top universities across the UK: Aerospace Electronic Engineering, Nursing, Law, Zoology, Journalism, Medicine, Dentistry, Illustration and Cyber Security and Digital Forensics.

We were really proud of the efforts and achievements of all these students and recognise that their significant successes came from their hard work, and the commitment and expertise of the Hazelwick staff that supported them.

With best wishes,

Mr D Leadbitter, Headteacher



Year 7 on their First Day...

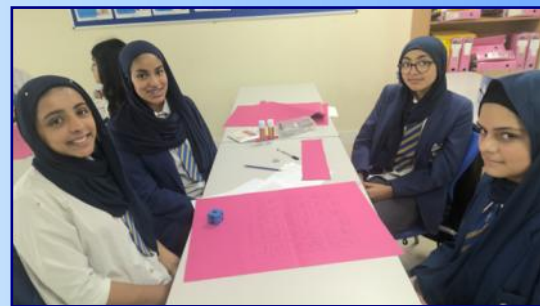




News, Events & Activities from the Sociology Department...

Before the summer holidays Year 9 Sociology students created some Sociology board games to test their knowledge of the topics covered in their first year. I was very impressed with their teamwork and the quality of their creations.

Mrs Banbury



News, Events & Activities from the Maths Department...

Carousel Race

Pictured here are my Year 9 Maths set doing a carousel race on Index Rules. The winning team received a cute pen. They enjoyed working in pairs and/or threes to race through the questions as quickly as possible. The last station (8) was very challenging indeed but they did well.

Mrs Jedamzik

• Station 8 – Tricky Higher Challenge

- $\frac{(x^{1/2}y^{-1})^4}{x^{-1}y^{1/2}}$
- $3^{x+1} = 27^{2x-1}$
- $(8x^3)^{2/3}$
- $2^{2x} = 32$
- $\left(\frac{a^{-2}b^3}{ab^{-1}}\right)^{-2}$





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

YEAR 12

Our Year 12 Product Design students have hit the ground running this term, diving straight into hands-on material exploration and workshop processes. From timber joining techniques, metal work and Graphic Design, they've been experimenting with a range of skills.

One of their first mini practical tasks has been designing personal logos, which they've proudly transferred onto hoodies and t-shirts using vinyl – a great way to combine identity, creativity, and practical skills. Alongside this, students are exploring the world of digital aesthetics and design communication, comparing flat design with skeuomorphic design and analysing how these styles influence modern graphic interfaces.

It's been a fantastic start to the course, with students showing real enthusiasm, curiosity, and a willingness to push their creative boundaries. We're excited to see how their skills and ideas develop over the year!





September Aspire News...

We are delighted to share the success of our recent collaboration with St John's College, Oxford University, through their prestigious Inspire Programme. This initiative, designed to stretch and challenge academically curious students, ran throughout the past academic year. The culmination of this saw four of our Year 9 students — Thomas Bullen, Lucas Connell, Faizaan Khan and Anjana Thangavelu attend a three-day residential summer school at Oxford in July.

The summer school offered a unique opportunity for students to explore university life, engage with thought-provoking academic sessions, and build confidence in their aspirations. Our students joined peers from across the country to take part in lectures, workshops, and social activities, all within the historic and inspiring setting of St John's College.

Here's what Faizaan Khan had to say about the experience:

“Part of the Inspire Scholars programme allowed 4 students to attend St John's College for three days and two nights. Once we arrived, we were greeted by the St. John's College summer school team which was made up of students from the college, volunteering to help get those picked from the programme acclimatised. Over the course of those three days, we met a handful of like-minded students from other schools. As for the college, we were allowed to pick 3 workshops to attend, granting us a creative/new perspective on subjects. For example, we were able to expand on our biological knowledge by learning about medicine within plants. Overall, the experience was amazing and I'm very thankful to St John's college for granting us with the opportunity along with those students who volunteered as they made the trip that much more enjoyable.”

We are incredibly proud of Thomas, Lucas, Faizaan and Anjana for representing our school with such enthusiasm and maturity. Their participation marks the beginning of a long-term partnership with the Inspire Programme, and we are thrilled to announce that our current Year 10 students will continue with the next phase of the initiative this academic year.

In addition, we are excited to be welcoming a new cohort of Year 9 students into the programme. They will begin their journey with a series of super-curricular challenges and enrichment activities, culminating in the opportunity to attend future residential events.

The Inspire Programme is more than just a club — it's a gateway to ambition, curiosity, and academic growth. We look forward to seeing how our students continue to flourish through this remarkable opportunity.

Mrs Comer
Aspire Co-Ordinator


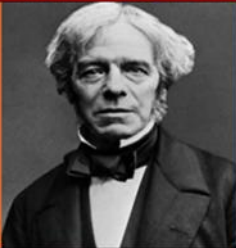








House News...

Welcome back to another year of the House system. Who will be triumphant in our upcoming competitions? What new activity will our students try this year? Which house will be crowned champions 25/26 and earn the free House BBQ in July?

We have new House namesakes to get to know this year that were voted for and selected by students and staff. Each new House name represents a person who has contributed and enriched British society with their actions and efforts. To help you get to know all the names and faces please find a brief description of each below:

House Name:	Picture:	Brief Description:
Ada Lovelace (House led by Mrs Stapleton)		Ada Lovelace (1815-1852) was a pioneer of computing, a mathematician and a writer.
Michel Faraday (House led by Mrs Millard)		Michael Faraday (1791-1867) was a ground-breaking chemist, physicist and inventor.
Ignatius Sancho (House led by Mr Suckling)		Ignatius Sancho (1729-1780) was a leading abolitionist, a playwright, a poet and a composer.
Harold Moody (House led by Mx Nolan)		Dr Harold Moody (1882-1947) was a doctor, a political activist and a civil rights campaigner.
Lily Parr (House led by Ms Pearson)		Lily Parr (1905-1978) was a professional women's football player and LGBTQ+ icon.
Noor Inayat Khan (House led by Miss Palmer)		Noor Inayat Khan (1914-1944) was a talented linguist and a British spy in WWII.



House News...

Upcoming Events this half term:

New House Crest Competition	All Year groups
Form Representative Elections	All Year groups
Find Ms Pearson	Year 7 & 8
The Chase	Year 9 & 10
Camouflage Challenge	All Year groups
Sixth Form Bench Ball	Year 12 & 13

The House team is looking forward to seeing as many of you take part in House events this year as possible.

Good luck!

Mrs Podsiadly
Senior Head of House

News from Medical...

Medication in School

If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day (which cannot be timed around school hours), this needs to be stored in our medical office along with a consent form signed by a parent/carer.

Medication should be in its original packaging with the patient information leaflet included. Students are not permitted to carry any medication on them, apart from inhalers and auto-injectors.

Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination

The Immunisation Service is coming into school on Wednesday 8th October to offer your child the flu vaccination. If you haven't already, please complete the parent/carer consent form using the instructions in the letter you have received from us.

The online consent form will close at 11am two working days before our school session.

Miss Mason
School First Aider



Careers Café...

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

Careers Fair 2025: Bigger, Better, and Brimming with Opportunity

Our annual Careers Fair returned in July, with more energy and ambition than ever before. With a vibrant mix of employers, universities, colleges, and training providers in attendance, students from Years 8 to 12 were given a unique opportunity to explore a wide range of career pathways and future study options.

From engineering firms to creative industries, healthcare to hospitality, the event showcased the diversity of opportunities available to our students. Representatives were on hand to offer insights, answer questions, and inspire the next generation with real-world advice and guidance.

A dedicated quiet session ensured that all students could engage meaningfully in a calm and focused environment as part of our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

One exhibitor shared the following: *"Welcoming team, very well organised and loved that the students were prepped with questions!"* Feedback like this reflects the enthusiasm and professionalism that made the day such a success.

We are always keen to hear from local businesses, organisations, and alumni who would like to get involved with our careers programme, whether through future fairs, talks, workshops, or mentoring. If you are interested in inspiring the next generation, please get in touch at careers@hazelwick.org.uk.



Planning for the Future: What Each Year Group Should Be Doing Now

As the academic year progresses, it is the perfect time for students to start thinking ahead and taking proactive steps toward their future goals. Whether you are just beginning to explore your options or preparing to take the next big leap, here is what each year group should be focusing on:

Year 11 – Exploring Post-16 Options

This is a crucial year for making informed decisions about what comes next. Students should attend post-16 options events, research sixth form, college, and apprenticeship pathways and speak with subject teachers and careers staff to understand which choices align with their interests and strengths.

Year 12 – Discovering Careers & Gaining Experience

Now is the time to dive deeper into career exploration. Students should begin researching industries, attending careers talks and identifying areas of interest. Planning and securing work experience is key as real-world exposure helps build confidence, skills and clarity about future aspirations.

Year 13 – Applications & Next Steps

Whether applying to university through UCAS, pursuing apprenticeships, or entering the workforce, Year 13 students must stay on top of deadlines and requirements. This is the time to polish personal statements, prepare for interviews and submit applications. Being proactive and organised will make all the difference.

How Parents and Carers Can Support

Parents and carers play a vital role in helping young people navigate their choices. Having open, ongoing conversations about education and career options can make a big difference. If you're looking for guidance on how to support these discussions, [Talking Futures](#) offers practical advice, resources, and conversation tips to help you feel confident and informed.

Top Tip for All Years: We post careers opportunities on Satchel One so keep an eye on key dates, ask questions, and take ownership of your journey.



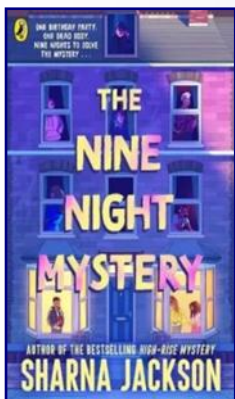
Read On!

We have had a busy few weeks in the library; getting to know our Year 7 students and new members of staff. As we have been taking the Bookbuzz free orders from our Year 7s, I thought it would be useful to share the details about Bookbuzz. I have also included information about the school library and the latest report from the National Literacy Trust regarding reading for pleasure. Thank you to Miss Singh from the English Department for being our first guest book reviewer of the new academic year.

Bookbuzz Books



As a welcome gift from Hazelwick School, each Year 7 student has ordered a book from the Bookbuzz programme. This programme from the reading charity BookTrust creates a lovely 'buzz' of excitement about books and reading. The books should arrive before the October half-term, and all sixteen titles will be added to the library shelves for students to borrow. I thought I would feature a selection of the favourites.



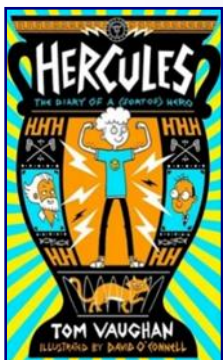
The Nine Night Mystery by Sharna Jackson

This murder mystery features the same characters from the author's novel 'The Good Turn'. Friends Wesley, Josephine, and Margot throw a surprise birthday party for their neighbour Rachel. The next day, Rachel is dead, and the group of friends decide that they will discover if it was an accident or murder. Please note that the trio break into Rachel's home in the search of clues. They also interrogate the adult characters about their personal lives. I did find this a little unrealistic, but I am sure students will enjoy the twists and turns of the mystery.

AR Level: 3.6



Read On Continued...



Hercules: The Diary of a (Sort of) Hero by Tom Vaughan

I think the fans of the 'Wimpy Kid' series will enjoy this one! Central character Hercules Braver needs to survive his new secondary school and being popular will increase his chances of survival. His bid for popularity finds him undertaking impossible missions, including taking on the school bully. When his absent father turns up, our hero begins to wonder if his father is the real Zeus? There are two other books in the series for readers to enjoy.

AR Level: 4.1



Stitch Head by Guy Bass

This is the graphic novel version of the first book from the 'Stitch Head' series. If you are unfamiliar with the original series of novels, 'Stitch Head' is the creation of Professor Erasmus, just one of his many weird experiments. Something exciting is about to happen to 'Stitch Head' when he ventures out of Castle Grotteskew for the first time. The story also has a cast of ghosts, monsters and dragons to make readers laugh. If you would like to check out the original series, I have included the link to the author's 'Fantastic Fiction' page.

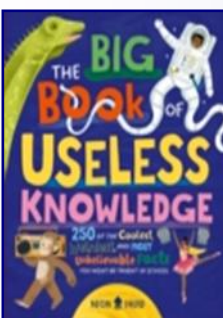
<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/b/guy-bass/>



Lunar by Chris Bradford

A dyslexia-friendly title from Barrington Stoke that combines space facts with an adventure story. Central character Luna is part of the mission to the Moon in the search for precious metals. When disaster strikes, Luna must draw upon all her training if she is going to survive.

AR Level: 4.8



The Big Book of Useless Knowledge

What an excellent choice of non-fiction title for this year's selection! With bright and colourful illustrations, this collection of fascinating facts makes it perfect for dipping in and out of. The book is divided into chapters about different subjects including space, history, and geography. You will read all about the court jester called Roland the Farter, the tortoises that went to the Moon and a lizard that shoots blood from its eyes!

Check out this link for details about all sixteen books.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/resources/find-resources/the-2025-bookbuzz-books/>



Read On Continued...

Hazelwick School Library

I thought that our Year 7 parent/carers may find the following quick guide to the library useful.

Students can borrow up to six books for a three-week loan period. Books can be renewed providing the title has not been reserved by another library user. Book renewals and reservations can be made in person with library staff, by emailing library@hazelwick.org.uk or self-renewal via the library web app. We will always try to order in any books that students request if we do not stock them in the library.

Overdue book reminders are automatically sent from the library info management system to students, their parent/carers, and Form teachers. Whilst we do not charge fines for overdue books, I would be grateful if you could encourage students to renew/return their books upon receipt of their first reminder. Students who have lost a library book or the book has been damaged whilst in their care are asked to inform the library staff. A replacement charge may be requested, and parent/carers will be notified.

The library stocks a range of Fiction and Non-Fiction titles for all reading abilities and interests. Books that support the Accelerated Reader programme are labelled with the book level. Students can also access a collection of eBooks and audio books by accessing the library ePlatform. Please check out the library pages from the school website for links to the ePlatform and library web app. We also have a selection of themed recommended reads for students.

<https://www.hazelwick.org/teaching-and-learning/library>

The importance of reading for pleasure

The National Literacy Trust undertakes research into the reading habits of children and young people, and their latest work has revealed the motivators for pleasure reading. Examples include more boys reading to 'connect with causes or the wider world,' whilst girls read for 'wellbeing and emotional support.' Equally strong across genders was 'reading to build knowledge and skills.' A key finding from the report was 'a need to align reading with children and young people's personal interests and media habits.' Form the survey, the key motivators were:

- Books tied to films or TV series
- Books with visually appealing covers
- Freedom to choose what they could read
- Hearing recommendations from friends, family, or teachers
- Encouraging reading in a variety of formats
- Considering using digital formats

I have included the following link to the summary of the key findings which also includes a link to the full report.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/reading-for-pleasure/>

Keep reading!

Mrs Thornton BA (Hons) MCLIP
School Librarian



Read On Continued...

Guest Reviewer

Our guest reviewer this month is: Miss Singh

Book Title: Thirteen

Author: Tom Hoyle



As a lifelong lover of thrillers, I've always been captivated by the clever twists and masterful suspense of authors like Agatha Christie. There's something irresistibly addictive about unravelling dark secrets and chasing down hidden truths. That same pulse-racing energy drew me to *Thirteen* by Tom Hoyle — a gripping, fast-paced novel that immediately seized my attention. It became my companion on several train journeys to London over the weekends and made them super exciting. I am also intrigued by the fact that Tom Hoyle is the pseudonym of a London based Headteacher (another mystery!).

What do I think about the book?

Thirteen is a thrilling, edge-of-your-seat adventure that grabs you like a vice and doesn't let go. The story follows the life of Adam.

On the surface, Adam leads a normal life: school, friends, family. But as he celebrates his thirteenth birthday, an invisible storm begins to brew. What he doesn't realise is that he's the final target of a fanatical cult led by the chillingly calculated Coron, a villain whose presence seeps through the pages like a poison mist. Coron believes in a twisted prophecy, and he'll stop at nothing to see it fulfilled. He is described as having a voice "so calm it was frightening," a terrifying reminder that true evil doesn't always scream — sometimes, it whispers. The setting, described with vivid intensity, becomes a character in its own right — whispering warnings, holding secrets, and swallowing light.

Adam is a brave, relatable protagonist, caught in a deadly game he never signed up for. His confusion and courage shine through as he pieces together the terrifying truth. When he says, "Why would anyone want to hurt me?" the reader feels his fear, his disbelief — and the urgency of the mystery.

Complex yet believable, the plot keeps you guessing until the very end. The book explores themes of courage, destiny, and friendship, all wrapped in a cloak of danger. Hoyle's vivid descriptions paint each scene like a dark, cinematic dream.

Who would enjoy this book?

In my opinion, *Thirteen* is perfect for all fans of high-stakes thrillers and dark secrets, it is more than a story — it's a breathless sprint through shadows, a race against fate, and a warning: sometimes, thirteen isn't just a number. The language is simple and the plot, as I mentioned earlier, is quite believable, making it accessible to readers who would like to explore the genre of thriller novels.





Sport...



Football Results Update

U16 Boys Football

The U16 boys football team had their first district league fixture against The Holy Trinity School on Tuesday 16th September. After conceding a goal within a minute the team gained composure and control of the fixture.

Leading 4-3 at half time, the team found their rhythm scoring a further 6 goals to secure 3 points and top of the table.

Final score 3-10.

Goal scorers were: Patrick Orozco (2), Kian McDonnell (4), Oliver Davis (3), Abdelmalek Aliane (1).

Mr O'Brien

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 football season has kicked off in style! We've been delighted with the fantastic turnout at training, with so many students keen to get involved and represent the school. The enthusiasm on the pitch has been infectious, with players showing great teamwork, determination, and plenty of smiles.

It's been brilliant to see new friendships forming as well as some impressive early displays of talent. With this level of energy and commitment, the squad promises an exciting season ahead. Well done to all involved – we can't wait to see what this group achieves!

Mr Bagnall





Student News...

National Youth Camp

Ishaan Ahmad (8TLA) participated in the annual three day National Youth Camp during September where he won prizes in the 10-12 year-old category, competing against hundreds of participants from across the UK.

1st Prize – Extempore Speech

2nd Prize – Presentation Competition

1st Place (Team) – Quiz Competition

This camp, organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association (Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya UK), is the culmination of a year of educational, community and charitable activities undertaken by children aged 7–15 across the UK.

These activities have included tree planting, litter picking, visiting the elderly, and fundraising for charitable causes. Many of these initiatives mirror those of the Scout Association and Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. The Association's work has also been recognised nationally as a positive contribution to British society by successive Prime Ministers, including David Cameron, who praised its "commitment to community work, tolerance and peace."

We are very pleased and proud that Ishaan has been able to take part in this unique, character-building programme, which represents a valuable step in his personal development.

Well done, Ishaan!

Lucas' Go Karting Triumphs

Before we broke up for the summer holidays, Lucas Williams (8GBE) achieved podiums in his race league. For two of them, he took the top spot. He was also the fastest on track for 2 sessions which is a huge achievement for somebody with the experience Lucas has, and great for his qualifying times for the indoor championships.

There are a few students from Hazelwick that race at the indoor karting track in Crawley (at various ages and levels) so it is actually a really nice, friendly, and familiar community for the newer drivers like Lucas and they are all so supportive and encouraging.

Well done, Lucas!





Spotlight on Safeguarding...

For your information this month, via the Newsletter, we are raising awareness of the use of Snus amongst young people and the dangers to their health.

Nicotine pouches or 'Snus,' as they are commonly referred to contain nicotine extracted from tobacco, sweeteners, flavourings and sodium carbonate. According to the University of Gothenburg, the sodium carbonate allows the nicotine in the pouches to penetrate the lining of the gum quickly and enter the bloodstream, giving a stronger nicotine kick. Amongst the 16 to 24 year olds in the UK, the use has quadrupled in two years from 2022 to 2024, although at 3.6%, usage is still relatively small. The pouches are widely available online and in shops with major UK supermarkets selling tubs of pouches from £3.50 to over £5. BBC News has reported a rise in the use of these pouches in schools which it states is "shredding young people's gums." Some of the young people they interviewed reported using these pouches until they 'vomit.' They also stated that the strength of the pouches is enough to 'immobilise' them, particularly when they use two to three pouches in a row. As they are so easy to hide under their lips they use them at school. According to ASH (Action on Smoking and Health), there is currently no restriction on the amount of nicotine in these pouches and with no age restrictions on the sale of these products anyone can purchase them. The Tobacco and Vapes bill will enable the government to regulate these nicotine products; however, the bill has not yet reached the final stage in the House of Parliament before it officially becomes law.



The BBC Science Focus website states that the impact of using nicotine pouches for young people is exposure to toxic nicotine and they may be encouraged to vape or smoke cigarettes. Nicotine is also known to have a negative impact on brain development for young people and in high doses can cause dizziness, headaches, nausea and stomach cramps. The prolonged use of these pouches also has an effect on your dental health. One Dentist states that pouches may cause gum recession, inflammation and irritation, exposing tooth roots and increasing sensitivity. The nicotine restricts blood flow, slowing gum healing and raising the risk of gum disease.

At Hazelwick School, the use of nicotine pouches is being introduced into the PSHE curriculum at Key Stage 3 to enable students to learn about the risks of these pouches. It is important for parents and carers to also speak to their children about the risks of these nicotine pouches as they are advertised on social media and it is known they have been given away for free in multiple places including railway stations.

Where to get further information and support:

- **ITV News - Health warning issued as investigation uncovers rise and risks of nicotine pouches** - <https://youtu.be/62BpecemIQ8?si=rZlKrZk0kAz2TYXJ>
- **DSM Foundation**
[Nicotine-pouches-information-sheet-parents-and-educators-Nov-23.pdf](#)
- **BBC News**
[Nicotine pouch warning from Oxfordshire Trading Standards - BBC News](#)

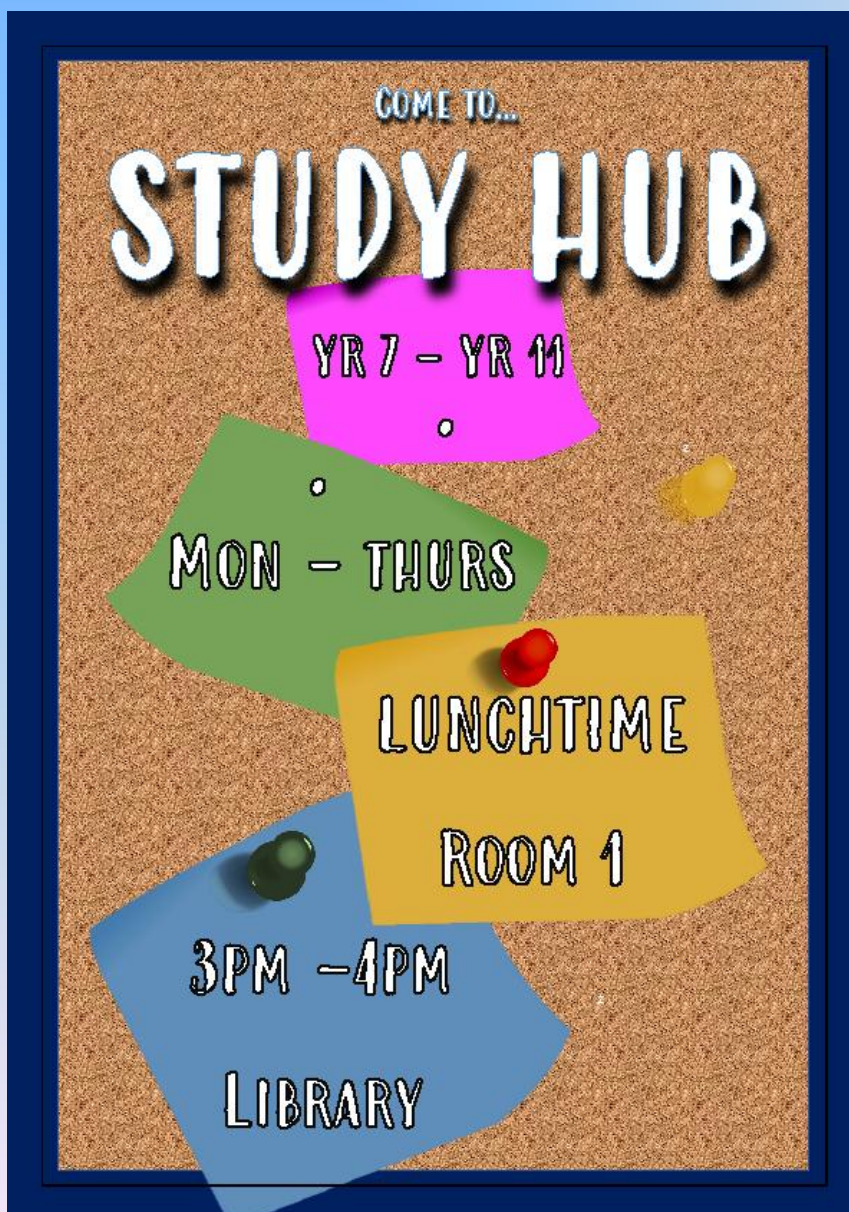


Insight - Parent Portal

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

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.