



effort achieves



# Hazelwick School Newsletter

December 2025

## Dates for your Diary:

Mon 5th Jan:  
INSET Day

Tue 6th Jan:  
Start of Term (Week 1)

Mon 5th Jan - Fri 16th Jan:  
Year 13, Mock Exams

Wed 14th Jan:  
Year 8, Options Evening

Thu 15th Jan:  
Year 11, Sixth Form Taster  
Day

Thu 22nd Jan:  
Year 11, Mock Results Day

Mon 26th Jan - Fri 30th Jan:  
Year 8, Exams

Wed 28th Jan:  
Year 11, Parents'/Carers'  
Evening

Fri 30th Jan:  
Sixth Form Application  
Deadline

Tue 10th & Wed 11th Feb:  
Year 11, Progression  
Interviews

Welcome to this final edition of the Newsletter. My message this month will once again be delivered by video and the link is both here and in the body of the email that you have received:

[Headteacher Newsletter Video Link December 2025](#)



After 15 busy, varied, vibrant, academically challenging and ambitious weeks, we have arrived at the end of the first term. The efforts, purpose, kindness and commitment of students at Hazelwick continues to impress and delight. The efforts in their studies have been commendable, but it is also their efforts outside of their classroom that have caught the eye. Music performances, drama performances, charity work, trips and more are highlighted in this Newsletter.

Thank you to the parents and carers that responded to the survey about the Newsletter. There are no changes to this edition, but we will be reviewing this as we move through the year.

For now, enjoy these photos of the highlights of this term, and I wish you all a happy, restful and enjoyable break and a very happy New Year.



With best wishes,

Mr D Leadbitter, Headteacher



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

## Year 12 Product Design

Students have been learning Adobe Illustrator in more depth, in preparation for the Graphic Design elements of their course. They have been creating a range of mandala style coasters and looking at patterns from different cultures to inspire their work. They've been using the laser cutter independently to test various materials, using a combination of plywood and marbled/glitter Perspex (acrylic) for their final pieces. Students researched various packaging nets and used Adobe Illustrator to draw up their own packaging nets, to hold their laser cut coasters. Now to test them out!





# News, Events & Activities from the Drama & Music Department...

## High School Musical First Rehearsal

After an incredibly competitive audition process the musical has now been cast and rehearsals are underway. There was such talent that the 6 lead roles have been double cast to show as much talent as possible across the 4 performances.

Performances will take place July 1st - 3rd 2026 and we are really excited to see you all there supporting our lovely students.



Miss Murray



# News, Events & Activities from the Health and Social Care Department...

In December, Year 12 Health and Social Care students attended a talk given by a health improvement specialist (tobacco lead) and ex student Casey Ingold. He spoke to students about his work and the methods used by the smoking cessation services to support people giving up smoking.

This was very valuable to our students who will be creating health promotion campaigns focused on quitting smoking in the new year for their coursework assignment. The students were also able to ask Casey questions and find out more about his job role.

Mrs Banbury





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

Year 9 have enjoyed learning to make soda bread here are some examples of their work.



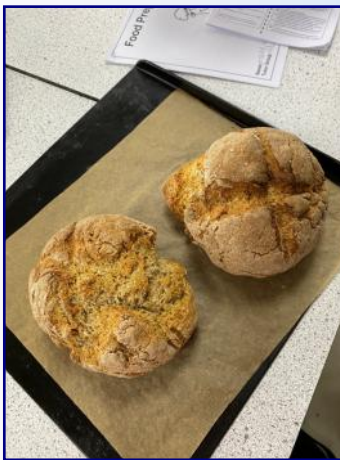
Ryan Matthews



Aathira Vinopan



Eliana Ogbeifun



# News, Events & Activities from the Food Technology Department Continued...



## Technical Cake Baking

Mrs Roth was very impressed with this technical cake and would like to congratulate I0D/Fp4 for their can-do-attitude, their enthusiasm, and the brilliant results. The finished cakes speak for themselves. This was great experience when considering what to put on a plate and how to present it and one to bear in mind when it comes to the practical mocks next year. They all exceeded



at this task (even if it meant the second one turned out better than the first). That's resilience and perseverance which will serve them well!

Well done!

Mrs Roth

## Fraisier Cakes

Year 10 have been busy this term, learning about all of the macro and micronutrients that our body needs as well as foods that help to supply us with these nutrients. We have made a variety of foods including; soup, guacamole, soft cheese, vegetarian chilli con carne and halloumi fries.

In our most recent lessons however we have had the most challenging food item to make so far...fraisier cakes. It is important when making these cakes that you get the sponge as light and as airy as possible as well as whipping your Chantilly cream to perfection without over or under whipping it.

The whole of I0C absolutely smashed it and all created some perfect fraisier cakes.

Well done to everyone who made these beautiful cakes!

Miss Calthorpe





# News, Events & Activities from the Food Technology Department Continued...

## Fraisier Cake Ingredients

### For the sponge

- 2 eggs
- 62g caster sugar + 1 tsp
- 62g plain flour
- 12g butter/margarine
- 6 strawberries

### Chantilly cream:

- 100 mls double cream OR Elmlea double cream
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tbs icing sugar

1. Put your cream and a bowl in the fridge at the start of the lesson
2. Melt your butter first in a small bowl so it has time to cool down
3. Gently fold in your flour – take your time with this part of the process!
4. Don't spread your sponge batter too thinly on the baking tray – just enough to cut out 4 circles
5. When your sponge is lightly brown and springy, put it on a cooling rack
6. Do not over whisk your whipping cream – stop just before you think it is done
7. Put your whipped cream in the fridge until you need it

### Fraisier Cake Preheat Pre-heat Ovens Gas Mark 4/ Electric 180°C/ Fan 160°C



- A génoise (French) genoise (Italian) is a light, airy and springy cake
- it is important that you keep the air in your mixture to prevent a heavy dense and chewy sponge being produced
- divide the sugar into 3 lots, gently fold in the flour and melted butter to stop the air from being knocked out



whisk 2 eggs = pale & thick gradually whisk in 62g caster sugar = ribbon trail



fold in 62g plain flour use figure of 8 or the cut & lift



fold in 12g cold melted butter pour batter into lined tin & bake until springy

### Assembling the Fraisier Cake

- **Quality Control**
- genoise sponge is cold
- rounds of sponge are the same size and thickness
- sliced strawberries should be the same thickness, trim them to size if they are too tall for the ring
- don't over whisk your cream otherwise you will make butter
- layer the macerated strawberries in the middle of the cream to cut through the richness



hull 3 strawberries & slice, dice 2 strawberries macerate in 1tsp caster sugar



whip 100mls double cream, 1/4tsp vanilla 1/2tbs icing sugar cut 2 rounds of sponge line with sliced strawberries



layer with chantilly cream, macerated strawberries, sponge dust with icing sugar





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

## Music Showcase Concert

On 20<sup>th</sup> November the Music Department presented its Winter Showcase Concert in the South Hall.

Competition to be selected for a solo/duo spot had been fierce, with nearly thirty auditionees for eleven places in the final show.

The evening featured an eclectic mix of solos, duos, small and large ensembles including choirs, bands and a drum group.

All year groups were involved from Bee Walker in Year 7 singing Sienna Spiro's 'You stole the Show' to Poppy Hills in Year 10 who played the drum track to Fleetwood Mac's 'You Make Loving Fun' and Faith Harris, in the Sixth Form, who sang Whitney Houston's 'I have Nothing.'



Pianists Aarush Mukherjee in Year 7 and duo Veronika Sokolova/Varada Shamal in Year 9 stepped up to perform more classical pieces – Beethoven's 'Für Elise' and the traditional 'Carol of the Bells', while Ishaan Ahmad in Year 8 showcased his own variations on 'Interstellar.'

The Junior and Senior Choirs, directed by Miss Murray, tackled some challenging material, the Senior Choir in particular with an arrangement of the theme from Beethoven's Symphony No.5.



Contrast was provided by the Drum Group performing 'Escalator', a guitar solo, 'Valentine' by Maneskin played by Mustafa Ahmed in the Sixth Form and Year 8 boys, Jacob Ward and Oliver Williamson on guitar/voice with 'Hotel California'.

Raw emotion was displayed by Eli Silina in Year 11 in her encapsulation of Lady Gaga's 'Blade of Grass' as well as the moving duet about friendship, 'Space Between' (from 'Descendants') with Ivy Brown and Cloe Saunders in Year 9.

The evening also featured the ensembles trained by Miss Murray and Mr Richard – the orchestra, with some addition of staff, played 'Pink Pony Club' (Chappel Roan) and the Junior Band performed 'Song 2' by Blur.

The event was rounded off by all performers enjoying a lively interpretation of Abba's 'Waterloo'.

Ms Newport





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

## Well Done Year 9!

Year 9 pupils have been exploring the social issue of sexism in society this term. We learnt about feminism, the media and gender stereotypes in society.

Students designed posters based on what they have learnt.

Mrs Stapleton

### GENDER STEREOTYPING IN COMICS

**WONDER WOMAN**

- Still femininely portrayed even though she's a warrior princess
- Always has to have a love interest
- Wearing a skirt for some reason?
- Has to act tougher to be taken seriously by men

**NIGHTWING**

- Ladies' man
- Cocky
- "Dumb" man
- Eye candy
- Womaniser
- Cheater

**Examples in media:**

- \* **TWINKLE** couldn't be with **FLINT-STONE** because men were outraged at the budding romance plotline
- \* **STAR WARS** went from a powerful, independent space princess (80's comics) to a bimbo only there to be **ROBIN**'s love interest (2010's shows onwards)
- \* **SUPERMAN** is invincible, apart from Kryptonite, and leavily mischaracterised as a womaniser and cheats on his love with **Wonder Woman** a lot
- \* Many female superheroes were introduced to be love interests for the male superheroes
- \* The term **FRIDGE** is used when a woman is killed off, maimed or hurt to benefit a man's plotline (coming from when **KYLE REYNOLDS**'s love interest was killed, chopped up and put into a fridge)

by Aarvi

### Gender Stereotyping in the media

Women are often portrayed wearing dress and feminine clothes

Men are stereotyped as good at diy and emotionless

In the media for example films women are emotional and expressive and men are more happy and do not show their emotions

Canonisation is where boys and girls are channelled into gender specific behaviour by parents and carers

Feminists would argue the media makes women look weaker more frail and less powerful. In western cultures especially women are made to be seen cooking cleaning in the media. Men are the breadwinners, drinking beer fixing things. Feminists want things to be equal between men & women

Florence Estcourt 9C



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

## Languages in Action at Hazelwick

This term's language celebrations at Hazelwick have truly highlighted the power of communication, cultural diversity and ambition. From our whole-school celebration of the **European Day of Languages**, to the academic challenge and competitive spirit of the **Year 7 Spanish Spelling Bee** and **Year 8 Spanish Translation Bee**, students across the school have shown outstanding enthusiasm for languages. Together, these events showcase Hazelwick's strong commitment to multilingualism and global citizenship, and the exciting pathways languages continue to open for our learners.

### European Day of Languages – Friday, 26th September 2025



To celebrate the European Day of Languages on Friday 26th September, Hazelwick School proudly showcased the rich linguistic and cultural diversity within our community through a special video project. The video featured both current and former Hazelwick students, alongside members of staff, who speak languages other than English. Its aim was to promote the importance of language learning, celebrate multiculturalism, and highlight the truly global community we are fortunate to be part of at Hazelwick.

The final compilation was a real gem. Students from different year groups, as well as alumni now working in a wide range of professional fields—such as law, finance, and education—shared their passion for the languages they speak at home and those they studied during their time at Hazelwick. Several members of staff also took part, proudly demonstrating their language skills and emphasising the powerful role languages play in connecting people, cultures and opportunities across the world.

The event was run as an exciting tutor group competition, with students challenged to identify all 15 languages featured in the video (not all of which were European!). The winner(s) in each tutor group were the students who successfully listed every language.

A month later, our Year 12 students had the privilege of meeting one of the former students featured in the video, Lewis Clark. Lewis generously gave his time to return to Hazelwick to deliver an inspiring assembly, outlining his journey from being a Hazelwick student to now working in Belgium for an international pharmaceutical company. During his visit to the Spanish Department, he also spoke passionately to several Spanish classes about the vital role Spanish continues to play in his professional life on a daily basis. His message was both motivating and empowering, offering students a powerful real-life example of how language learning can open doors to international careers.

European Day of Languages was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community to celebrate diversity, ambition and global citizenship. It was a proud moment for the Languages Department and a powerful reminder that learning a language truly opens doors to the world.

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

## Year 7 Spanish Spelling Bee Competition

For the second year running, our Year 7 students have taken part in the Spanish Spelling Bee Competition, a prestigious national initiative led by *Routes into Languages*. The competition promotes a love of languages while developing students' confidence, accuracy and resilience as they translate, spell and pronounce Spanish vocabulary against the clock.

We are extremely proud of the commitment and enthusiasm shown by all participants, who practised and prepared through our weekly lunchtime Spelling Bee club. Stage I has now officially concluded, and the standard throughout was exceptionally high, with students demonstrating impressive perseverance across every round.



### Stage I Qualifiers for Stage 2:

1. **Subi Baskar**
2. **Robin Fecko**
3. **Darshana Rajashekar**
4. **Shanmukh Dhulipala**
5. **Ayan Billah**
6. **Rhea Dsouza**
7. **Pratham Singh & Nehel Zahra**
8. **Nidhi Vaidya**



Following **Stage Two**, the **top three students will qualify for the South East Regional Final**, which will take place at the **University of Southampton** (date to be announced). There, they will compete against winners from other schools across the region — a fantastic opportunity to represent Hazelwick on a prestigious academic stage.

## Year 8 Spanish Translation Bee Competition

Building on the success of the Year 7 Spelling Bee, our Year 8 students have taken the next step in their language-learning journey by participating in the Spanish Translation Bee, also organised by *Routes into Languages*. This competition challenges students to translate increasingly complex Spanish sentences under time pressure, developing essential grammatical and linguistic skills for GCSE and beyond.

Stage I was delivered through our weekly Spanish Lunch Club, where students prepared with great dedication outside of normal lesson time. Their enthusiasm and commitment were a real credit to them.

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

Following the completion of Stage 1, the six highest-scoring students qualified for **Stage 2**. From these, **two students will be selected to represent Hazelwick at the South East Regional Final at the University of Southampton** (date to be announced).

## Stage 1 Qualifiers for Stage 2:

- 1st – **Nayonika Sujitkumar**
- 2nd – **Melissa Tattolo**
- 3rd – **Mikail Khan**
- 4th – **Heshretaa Gopavaram**
- 5th – **Amelie Johnson**
- 6th – **Iaroslav Sinkevich**



A **special mention** goes to **Leo Fulbrook** and **Varshika Dodda**, who finished in **7<sup>th</sup>** and **8<sup>th</sup>** place, for their excellent effort and commitment throughout the competition.

We are incredibly proud of all students who took part in both competitions. Their ambition, resilience and passion for languages truly reflect the outstanding linguistic culture at Hazelwick. We now look forward with great anticipation to the next rounds and to seeing our students represent the school at regional level.

**¡Muchísima suerte a todos!**

Ms Garcia

# Annual Reading Ambassador Breakfast...

The annual breakfast is an amazing way to welcome new reading ambassadors to the team! We all gather in the library during form time for food and discussion about books of course! We formally welcome the new Year 8 ambassadors; older students give speeches explaining the important role this team plays in the school. Mr. Leadbitter and Mr. Chalmers join us for photos and conversation. It is an amazing atmosphere with lots of smiles, snacks, and laughter!

## Lucas Connell -10LSC

The reading ambassador team performs an increasing number of duties and roles in our school. They have participated in countless assemblies and have recently created and presented podcasts which are played to students. When we have DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), they help with reminders, so everyone is ready to read! The Hazelwick book of the month is chosen by the team. They are invaluable in ensuring we are a school that is all about reading and books! We know that reading for pleasure positively impacts not just academic achievement, but also student wellbeing and their understanding of the world around them.

## Ms Hampton





# House News...

<p>Used to be: Seacole</p> <p>Now: <b>Lovelace House</b></p> <p>Led by Mrs Stapleton</p>	<p>Used to be: Fry</p> <p>Now: <b>Moody House</b></p> <p>Led by Mx Nolan</p>	<p>Used to be: Duleep Singh</p> <p>Now: <b>Faraday House</b></p> <p>Led by Mrs Millard</p>	<p>Used to be: Equiano</p> <p>Now: <b>Parr House</b></p> <p>Led by Ms Pearson</p>	<p>Used to be: Turing</p> <p>Now: <b>Sancho House</b></p> <p>Led by Mr Suckling</p>	<p>Used to be: Winton</p> <p>Now: <b>Inayat Khan House</b></p> <p>Led by Miss Palmer</p>
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World Quiz Challenge – A world quiz challenge took place for Years 9, 10, 12 and 13. The questions tested our student’s knowledge of Human and Physical geography. Sancho House ran out winners with a total of 680 points! Good quizzing!



Chopstick Challenge – Year 11 have had a busy month with the mock exams but were able to participate in the Chopstick Challenge. This creative challenge tested our students’ problem-solving abilities and Parr House were the victorious house with 2900 points! Congratulations!

Events that have taken place in December include the Black Out poetry competition for Years 7, 8 and 9 and the Blindfold Penalty Shootout for Years 9 and 10. Results for these events will be released soon! Keep an eye out.

## Upcoming Events:

January heralds some exciting events including Design a Planet for Years 8 and 9, the Photo Competition for Years 10 and 11 before rounding off the month with the new Chess Tournament! This will be available for Years 7 and 8.

## House Points Update:

As the year draws to a close, we have the following points table update:

Lovelace have snuck into the lead closely followed by Sancho House. Less than 3000 points separates the houses meaning all is to play for after we return from the Winter Break! Have a lovely and relaxing holiday period!

## House Points Table December 2025

<p>The winning house is ...</p> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Lovelace</b> <b>27,920 points!</b></p> </div>	<p> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> place – Sancho</b> <b>27,837 points</b></p> <p> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> place – Parr</b> <b>26,462 points</b></p> <p> <b>4<sup>th</sup> place – Faraday</b> <b>25,824 points</b></p> <p> <b>5<sup>th</sup> place – Moody</b> <b>25,507 points</b></p> <p> <b>6<sup>th</sup> place - Inayat Khan</b> <b>25,421 points</b></p>
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# Careers Café...

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

## Hazelwick Triumphs at TeenTech Sussex 2025!

On Thursday 27th November 2025, a group of our Year 9 students represented Hazelwick at the TeenTech Festival at the Amex Stadium in Brighton. This event brought together schools from across the region for an exciting programme showcasing careers in digital, science, and technology. Ahead of the festival, computer science students took part in a Virtual Innovation session where they explored future technologies, interacted with industry experts, and worked on an innovation challenge to design solutions for real-world problems. This preparation set the stage for an incredible in-person experience.

At the festival, students got hands-on with cutting-edge activities. One highlight was building a Lego robot and programming it to move using coding, which was a brilliant way to combine creativity and technical skills. Later, they faced a timed computer investigation challenge, testing their research and problem-solving under pressure.

We are thrilled to announce that the Hazelwick team **WON** the challenge by an impressive 4 minutes across the day! This fantastic achievement reflects their teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm for STEM.

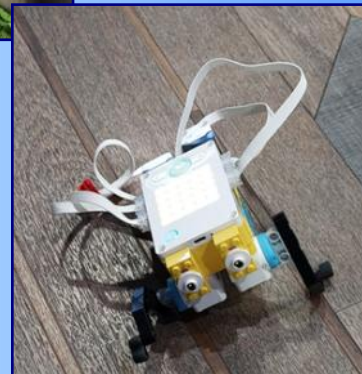
The TeenTech experience gave our students a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world innovation, inspiring them to think about future careers in science and technology.

### Student Voice:

*“It was a very fun and informative trip with lots of exciting events. The people there were very creative, and many business stands gave me a real perspective on what business is truly like. It was one of the best trips I have been on because I went with one perspective and came back with another completely changed one.”*

- Ryan Dutta (Year 9)

For more information about TeenTech and its mission, visit: [TeenTech | Inspiring Tomorrow's Innovators](#)





# Careers Café Continued...

## Why Careers Education Matters More Than Ever

A recent government announcement has highlighted a growing concern: 1 in 8 young people aged 16–24 are now not in education, employment, or training (NEET). An independent investigation led by former Health Secretary Alan Milburn, will explore why so many young people are becoming disengaged, with mental health and long-term illness cited as major factors. This is being described as a “crisis of opportunity” for the next generation. [Independent investigation to be launched to tackle rising youth inactivity - GOV.UK](#)

At Hazelwick, we believe the best way to tackle this challenge is through a strong Careers Education, Information, and Advice and Guidance (CEAIG) programme. Our careers curriculum is designed to give every student the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed decisions about their future. From employer talks and workplace visits to interactive events like TeenTech, we ensure students experience real-world opportunities that inspire ambition and build resilience.

How parents and carers can help:

- Talk to your child about their interests and aspirations.
- Explore career pathways together using our resources.
- Encourage participation in careers events and challenges.

You can find full details of our careers programme and useful resources on our website:

[www.hazelwick.org/careers](http://www.hazelwick.org/careers)

Together, we can make sure Hazelwick students are ready to learn, earn, and thrive.

## Year 10 and Sixth Form Careers Interviews – Helping Students Shape Their Future

We’re excited to announce that careers advice meetings for Year 10 students will begin soon, and we’ve expanded the programme to include Sixth Form students as well. Every student will have a one-to-one appointment with Michelle, our qualified Careers Adviser from the Education Development Trust. These sessions are a fantastic opportunity for students to explore their interests, discuss future plans, and receive tailored guidance.

During the meeting, students will:

- Talk about their subjects, hobbies, and career ideas.
- Consider academic expectations and next steps.
- Leave with a Personal Action Plan to guide their decisions.
- Appointments will take place in the Careers Office (behind Reception), and students will be notified via their Form Tutor.

Top Tips for Parents and Carers:

- Before the meeting: Ask your child what they enjoy most in school and what careers they’ve thought about.
- After the meeting: Review their Personal Action Plan together and discuss how you can support their next steps.

Mrs Andrews



# Read On!

For my final article of the year, I thought I would focus upon ghost stories and reviewed one of my favourite collections. I have also featured some of the titles that may top the book charts over the Christmas holidays.

## Ghost Stories

Over the Christmas holidays, I always look forward to reading ghost stories and discovering new authors of the genre. The tradition of sharing ghost stories harks back to ancient times when spooky tales were told during the long winter months. Art Historian Susan Owens cites 'The Ode to Beowulf' as being one of the oldest ghost stories, thought to have been written in the eighth century. However, it was the invention of the steam powered printing press that saw the famous Victorian authors write their tales of terror to be published for the Christmas period. Famous authors include Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Elizabeth Gaskell and the now lesser-known Margaret Oliphant. The Victorian author most associated with ghostly stories is Charles Dickens. Most famous and still popular today is 'The Christmas Carol.' However, the author wrote many other Christmas stories with a supernatural theme and Dickens Fellowship member Bryan Kozlowski discusses the author's fascination with the genre in his article 'A Dickens of a Good Ghost Story.' I have shared the link to the article that featured on the Historic UK website below:

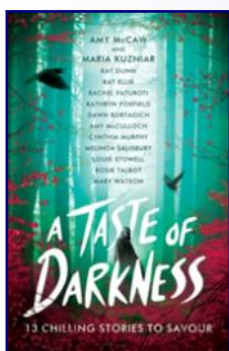
<https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/A-Dickens-of-Good-Ghost-Story/>

Here are some of my favourite collections that we take in the library, with a short synopsis for each one:



### Collected Ghost Stories by M. R. James

M.R. James is recognised as one of the greatest writers of ghost stories by critics and authors alike. Modern horror writers often cite James as a major influence on their writing. The author was born in 1862 and was a medievalist scholar by profession. His writing is characterised by a balance of understatement with truly chilling terror. This collection contains the following stories, 'Casting the Runes,' 'The Tractate Middoth,' 'The Ash Tree' and 'Canon Alberic's Scrapbook.' Be prepared to be scared!



### Taste of Darkness by various authors

Aimed at older teens, this is a collection of thirteen spooky tales by bestselling authors that include Kathryn Foxfield, Louie Stowell and Melinda Salisbury. Compiled by Amy McCaw and Mia Kuzniar, the selected stories will appeal to fans of 'Stranger Things' and 'Wednesday.' The anthology has a mix of contemporary horror stories, supernatural thrillers, and spooky legends. Please note that some of the stories contain strong language and references to alcohol and sex.



### Seven Ghosts by Chris Priestley

Aimed at young readers, this dyslexia-friendly book relates the stories of the seven ghosts that haunt a stately manor. Central character Jake is one of the winners of writing competition. Jake and the other winners are given a tour of the manor, and their tour guide's behaviour becomes suspicious, and Jake begins to wonder if they will ever escape the spooky house.



# Read On Continued...

## Christmas Mysteries

Christmas time also makes the perfect setting for a mystery! If you're not a fan of supernatural stories, then why not try a Christmas-themed mystery? Caroline Crampton suggests and discusses several Golden Age mystery books with a season theme from her 2023 podcast episode.

<https://www.shedunnitshow.com/themurderlesschristmasmystery/>

## Topping the Charts!

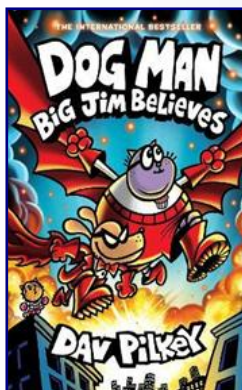
With books and book tokens given as gifts, the run-up to the Christmas holidays is a busy time for booksellers and book publishers will be hoping that their titles will top the holiday charts. I will have to check which title takes the top spot when we return to school in the New Year but I featured some of the Fiction and Non-Fiction titles that I think will be competing to take the Number One position for books written for children and young people.



### Always Remember by Charlie Mackesy

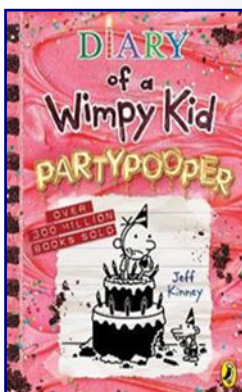
Charlie Mackesy returns to world of 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse.' Our friends are travelling together once more, and they are unsure as to what they are searching for. Life can be difficult, but the group learns the importance of friendship and cake! Mackesy's artwork is beautiful and complements his heart-warming message about hope and the importance of friendship. I have included the link to the author/illustrator's office website if you would like further information about Mackesy and his work.

<https://www.charliemackesy.com/>



### Dog Man: Big Jim Believes by Dav Pilkey

As far as I can remember, this is the first time that the popular author Dav Pilkey has topped the official UK top fifty bestseller charts (as of the 15<sup>th</sup> November). The die-hard fans of the series will enjoy this original story for the main characters. Our heroes must work together if they are to prevent the evil Space Cutes from destroying the city. The book has the high production illustrations that make the series so popular. Pikey is so imaginative when it comes to the plot scenarios that his fans never get bored with the series. It will be interesting if he can get the top spot over the holiday period.



This is book twenty in the ever-popular series featuring Greg Heffley, the Wimpy Kid. Greg decides that he wants a birthday party but does not trust anyone else to plan it. Greg soon discovers that planning a party is more complicated than he thought. He faces cake disasters and issues with the decorations. The biggest planning problems are caused by his own family! Fun and laughter is guaranteed. I have added the link to the series, just in case you wish to check the order.

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/k/jeff-kinney/>

Happy Holiday reading!  
Mrs Thornton BA (Hons) MCLIP  
School Librarian



# Sport...

## Football Update

The Year 7 boys' football team has made an excellent start to the season, showing real promise in both district and county competitions.

In recent district league fixtures, the team demonstrated resilience and determination. They narrowly lost to Oriol High School, earned a well-deserved draw against The Gatwick School, and secured a strong win over Holy Trinity School.

Their success has been more impressive in the County Cup, where the boys have produced two outstanding results, beating both Willingdon School and The Regis School. These victories have earned them a place in the quarter-finals, where they will face Shoreham Academy in what promises to be an exciting match.

One of the strengths of this team has been the excellent squad rotation, ensuring that many boys have had the opportunity to represent the school. Every player involved has contributed positively, showcasing the depth of talent within the year group.



Well done to all the players - good luck in the next round!

Mr Bagnall

## Netball Update

The U16 Netball team faced their last game of the season against Thomas Bennett Community College at the beginning of December. The girls had to win this game to be able to win the league, so a lot of pressure was on them to give it their all.

The Girls battled their way through the game forcing Thomas Bennett to concede a number of goals scored by Olivia Weaver and Ella Lampey. Thomas Bennett Community College fought back scraping back a goal difference of 2. In the last quarter the girls gave it everything they had with some great defensive play from Lucy Hamshaw and Vongai Musanhi, to see the game out with a 14-6 win. A huge congratulations to all the girls who represented the U16 team, without them, we wouldn't have won the league! The girls will now progress to the County Netball tournament in the new year, playing all Schools who won in their district. Amazing effort from everyone!



Miss Calthorpe





# Sport Continued...

## Badminton Update

### Hazelwick Key Stage 4 Badminton Teams Crowned Area District Champions!

Congratulations to both the Hazelwick Key Stage 4 boys' and girls' badminton teams, who achieved outstanding success in their recent area district competitions.

The boys' team performed brilliantly, winning three out of their four matches. Their crucial victory over Thomas Bennett Community College secured their place at the top of the standings and ensured qualification for the next stage of the competition.

The girls' team delivered an exceptional display of dominance, winning all four of their matches. Even more impressively, they achieved a clean sweep in every fixture, securing each match with an emphatic 5-0 scoreline. A truly fantastic achievement!

As area district champions, both teams now progress to the County Championships, which will take place after Christmas. We wish our players the very best of luck as they prepare for the next round.



Mr Bagnall



## Hockey Update

### Mixed Hockey

With Hockey Club being reintroduced to the Hazelwick Extra-curricular timetable, we have had an increase in students attending over the last few months. A selection of students were chosen to represent Hazelwick in a mixed friendly tournament against Sackville School.

Playing two games per team, the students worked extremely hard to learn and pick up more skills and knowledge of how to play Hockey against some very skilful Sackville players. Both teams worked really well both collaboratively and individually, fighting to score as many goals as they could and that they did. In total, both groups managed to score a whopping 21 goals in four games for Hazelwick, as well as winning a game and drawing another. A huge well done to everyone who participated, it was so lovely to see how hard our students work, especially despite playing a challenging and more experienced team.

Miss Calthorpe





# Sport Continued...

## Rugby Update

### Year 7 Rugby vs Ifield Community College Match Report

Our Year 7 rugby team put in a fantastic performance this week, securing a 35–10 victory over Ifield Community College. The boys showed a great deal of natural ability and worked superbly as a team throughout the match. We are hopeful that many of them will continue to build on this by playing more regularly, either in school fixtures or at local clubs.

Tries were scored by Joel Akujobi, Bryan Oruambo, Renell Moore, and Jack Oak, with Austin Sharpe earning a well-deserved **Player of the Match** award for his outstanding effort and determination.

Mr Bagnall



### Autumn Term District Leagues

We are reaching the end of the Autumn term district league competitions for boys football, girls netball and boys rugby.

Next term we will be starting the district boys basketball, girls basketball and girls football competitions.

We still have sides in the Sussex Schools Football Association county cup, now in the third round. U16's and U12 boys will play Willingdon School and Shoreham Academy respectively. The U14 girls have also progressed and will play Bohunt School, Horsham. County cup games will take place in January.

English Schools Football Association 'new teams' national cup games for the U14 and U16 girls are also scheduled for the new year.

Mr O'Brien



## Student News...

### Gymnastics 10 Hour Bronze Competition

Holly Earl in Year 10 is an aspiring gymnast, competing in a number of competitions regularly. Most recently, Holly competed in the 10 hour bronze competition. Within this, Holly had to perform on a range of apparatus, including; floor, bars and beam.

Holly outperformed, earning herself 1st on floor, 3rd on bars and 10th on beam. This led to her placing 8<sup>th</sup> out of 34, winning the shield along with a number of medals.

Superb!  
Well done Holly.



### Irish Dancing Competition



Freya Grundstoks in Year 7 has been an Irish Dancer for a number of years now and participates frequently in competitions across the country. In one of her most recent competitions, Freya travelled to the United National Championships, in which she went up against around 20 other dancers.

Freya worked hard and managed to win a trophy for her wonderful performance as well as placing 6<sup>th</sup>. A huge well done for all her efforts and continuing passion for the style of dance.

Well done Freya!



# Spotlight on Safeguarding...

**For your information this month, via the Newsletter, we are raising awareness of the topic of sextortion.**

Financially motivated sexual extortion, commonly referred to as sextortion, is a form of online blackmail. Victims can be of any age, though the National Crime Agency state that the majority are boys aged between 14-17 and young men between 18-30 years of age. The Internet Watch Foundation have reported a 72% increase in cases of sextortion compared to the same period in 2024 and the police receive more than 110 reports of child sextortion attempts every month, although it is feared that there are many more which go unreported. Nick Stapleton from Scam Interceptors states that the sextortion scam typically starts out of the blue when someone of a similar age contacts the young person on social media. The profile will often contain images of someone who is good looking and the scammer may say they are from the same area as the potential victim. The conversation with the scammer will often be flirty and they may share an explicit photo to encourage the young person to do the same. But the moment the victim does the same, the scammer will reveal themselves and say that if you do not pay them, the explicit photos sent by the victim will be sent to their family and friends. Scammers have also been known to create fake explicit images by finding a person on social media and superimposing their face onto explicit images and using this to blackmail them.



## What can parents and carers do about concerns over sextortion?

Police Inspector Marc Cananur recommends non-judgemental conversations about online behaviour and to discuss stories from the news. He identified a number of red flags that you need to warn your child to look out for:

- Moving too fast: Someone quickly forms a close 'connection'.
- Asking for personal details: like where they live or go to school.
- Sending sexual images: or asking for one in return.
- Pressure and anxiety: making them feel scared or guilty.

## What can you do if your child is contacted by a sextortion scammer?

- The child should speak to parents/carers or if they feel they cannot, speak to a trusted adult or they can contact Childline - [Childline | Free counselling service for kids and young people | Childline](#)
- Block and ignore the scammer, they just want money and will move onto the next person.
- Take evidence – screenshot the scammers personal profile and messages, plus their username, email address, phone number and bank details if they provided them – don't delete messages.
- If money has been sent, they should not send any more and contact the police or CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection Command) - [CEOP Safety Centre](#)
- Visit [Take it Down](#) or [Report Remove](#) and they help you remove or stop the online sharing of the image or video.

## Where to get further information and support:

- **NCA (National Crime Agency)**  
[What is Sextortion - National Crime Agency's misogyny? Guidance for parents and carers | Internet Matters](#)

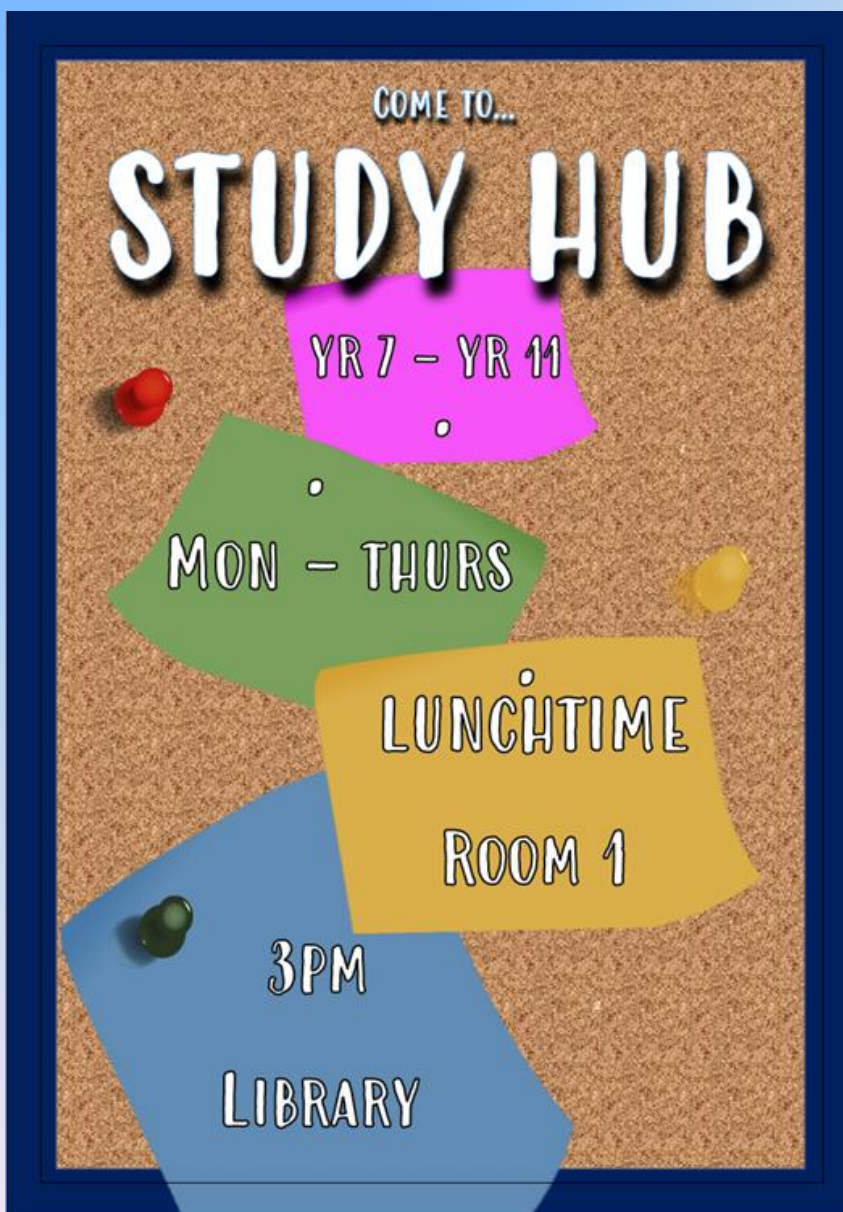


## Insight - Parent Portal

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.