



*effort achieves*



# Hazelwick School Newsletter

February 2026

## Dates for your Diary:

### Wed 4th Mar:

Year 8, Parents'/Carers'  
Evening - in person

### Mon 9th Mar:

Year 9, Vaccinations

### Wed 11th Mar:

Year 8, Option Forms due in

### Thu 12th Mar:

Music Spring Showcase

### Fri 13th Mar:

Fun Run to raise money for  
St Catherine's Hospice

### Mon 16th - Fri 27th Mar:

Year 9, Exams

### Wed 18th Mar:

INSET Day - school closed  
to students

### Wed 18th Mar:

Year 9 DofE Training Day

### Fri 27th Mar:

End of Term (1.25pm)

### Mon 13th Apr:

Summer Term Starts  
Week 2

## Welcome to the February newsletter.

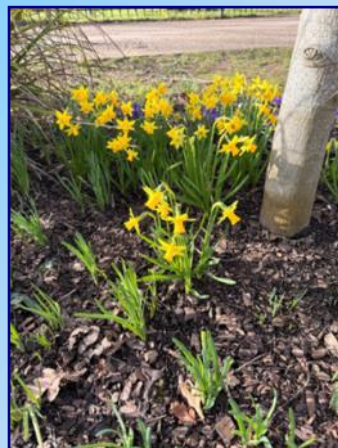
The seemingly endless wet weather finally broke this week, albeit briefly, and this has coincided with the arrival of the Spring flowers across the school site. I am hugely grateful to our fantastic site team for everything they do and continue to do to ensure that the site looks wonderful, and that students are able to get the most from their time in school.



We are aware that there are roadworks that are taking place close to the North Entrance of the school and we appreciate that these will be causing some challenges. These are of course entirely beyond the control of the school. However, please can I ask that appropriate consideration is given to how/where students are dropped off. We have had reports of students being dropped off in the main lanes of the flyover and Hazelwick Avenue. Please can all parents/carers refrain from doing this as it is placing both our students and other road users at risk. There have always been a range of places to drop off and collect students in the vicinity of the school at the start and end of the school day. These include Tesco garage, Hazelwick School Close, Hazelwick Mill Lane, Tesco car park and the Gratton's Park car park on St Mary's Drive. A brief walk for students can often reduce the congestion faced by those that are collecting them.

We will also be having a focus on uniform, and blazers in particular, and these expectations will be re-shared with students this week.

The Newsletter this month is full of wonderful examples of the opportunities that students have had and the work that they have produced. We are delighted that they get to experience these positive and beneficial opportunities, and we are very proud of the hard work and dedication that they show to achieve the great work that we witness.



*D Leadbitter.*

With best wishes, Mr D Leadbitter, Headteacher



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

## History of Design

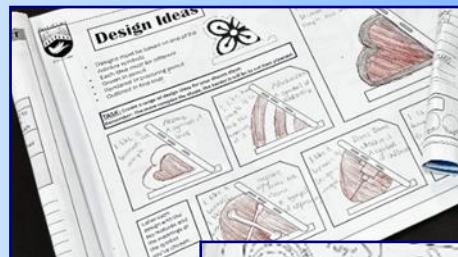


Year 8 have been researching and looking at the key characteristics of Akan culture, with a focus on Adinkra symbols and design, using pyrography techniques with wood burning pens to showcase their chosen symbol.

*'Adinkra are visual symbols that represent concepts, proverbs, and aphorisms. They originated from the Akans of Ghana in the 1700s or before. Back then, they featured as prints on cloth which royals wore to important ceremonies. But they have transcended these Akan origins. They now grace logos, clothing, furniture, architecture, and more.'*

Lovely work Year 8, well done.

Mrs Thomassen



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

Year 9 have enjoyed learning a new method of cooking – Stir Fry.

Here are some of the dishes they made.



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

Earlier this term, Year 12 and Year 13 students studying the AAQ in Health and Social Care attended a talk from the local charity 4sight. The organisation works with people in West Sussex who are partially sighted or blind.

Students learned about the support 4sight offers to local people. One of the speakers, Dan, also shared his experience as someone who lives with a visual impairment. The talk will be useful for students as they write their coursework on person-centred care and how services support individuals with visual impairments.

Mrs Banbury



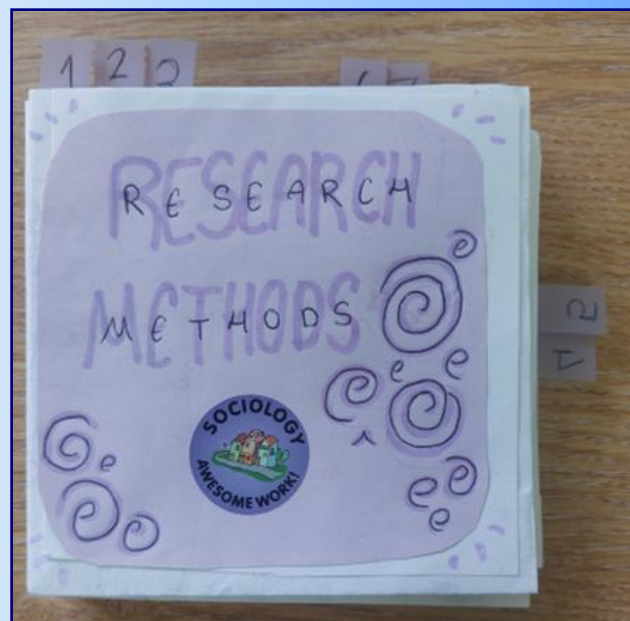
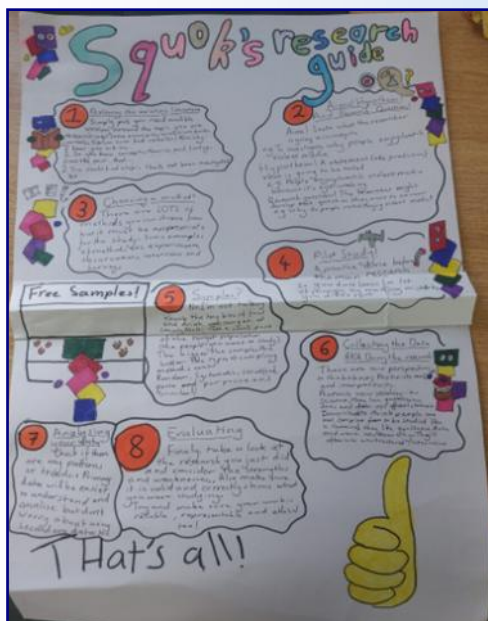
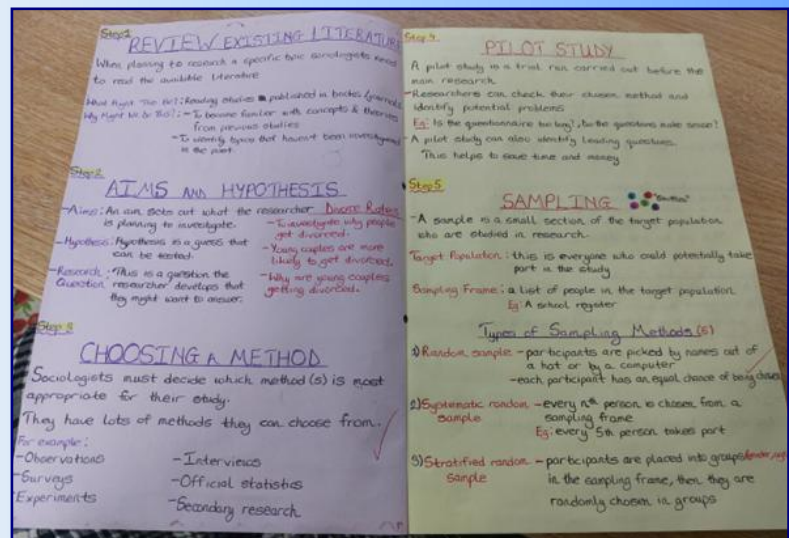
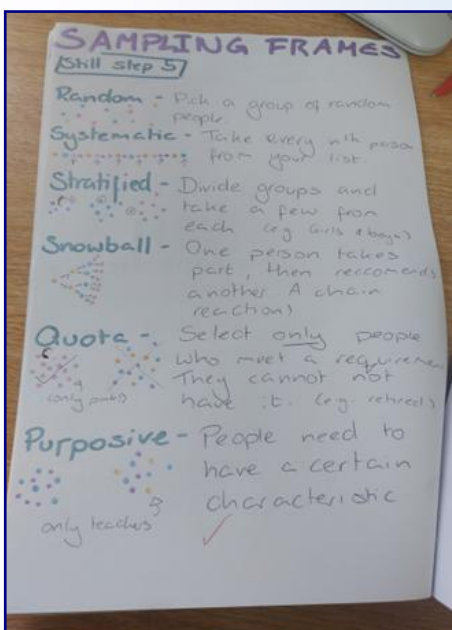


# News, Events & Activities from the Sociology Department...

Year 9 students have been working hard and learning about how sociologists carry out their research. They have created some amazing guides to research which will be really useful revision resources for them in year 11!

Well done to everyone involved!

Mrs Stapleton



# STEM News...

## Year 8 Engineers in Action!

Our Year 8 students had a fantastic time taking part in a hands-on engineering workshop, working alongside *live* engineers who shared real-world advice, expertise and inspiration.

Students rose to the challenge brilliantly, designing and building renewable energy systems while problem-solving, testing ideas and refining their designs with guidance from professionals currently working in the engineering industry. The engineers were hugely impressed by the students' creativity, teamwork and willingness to ask thoughtful questions and act on feedback.

The room was buzzing with curiosity and excitement as students explored how engineering concepts link directly to the real world — a brilliant opportunity to see where STEM subjects can lead beyond the classroom.

We're incredibly proud of how engaged and enthusiastic our Year 8 students were throughout the event. Judging by the smiles (and the excellent builds!), it was an experience they won't forget.

'Amazing experience. We learnt a lot of useful skills and had lots of fun!' - Nayonika Sujitkumar

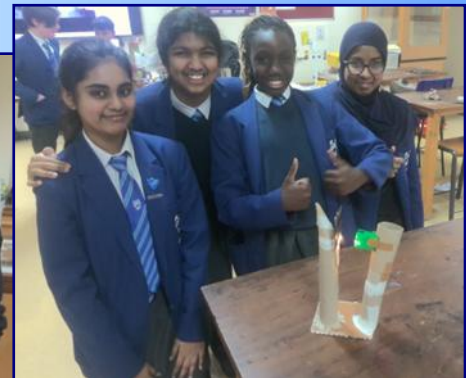
We are looking forward to our next events:

February ~ Sixth Form Robotics Challenges Horsham

March ~ Media and Science

April ~ Sixth Form Robotics Finals Southampton University

Mrs Jedamzik





## Hazelwick takes part in the Senior National Reading Championship Quiz...

Hazelwick school had two teams in the regional heat of this national quiz run by the National Literacy Trust. While our fabulous teams of Year 8 and Year 9 students weren't placed in the top three, they certainly had a lot of fun!

They fought 16 other schools over eight rounds of challenging questions all about children's and young adult fiction. Our Year 8 participants, who can compete again next year, were undeterred by the defeat and have decided to read even more so they can take the top place in 2027.

Well done to both of our hardworking teams!

Ms Hampton



### Year 8

Mikail Khan  
Nayonika Sujitkumar  
Musa Uddin  
Mariam Mafaas  
Seren Hawkins

### Year 9

Jade Frankham  
Eloise Cathcart  
Jasmine Kausmally  
Yasmin El Emam (does not appear in the photo)

## Celebrating Success in the FE Maths Challenge...

We were delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students who took part in this year's FE Maths Challenge, a national competition run by MEI that involved over 42,500 students from 124 colleges and schools across the country. Reaching the Hazelwick College Final was already a significant accomplishment, and all participating students were recognised as winners for progressing through the first rounds.

MEI's Further Education Maths Challenge is a national competition designed to inspire and support post-16 students who are improving their maths skills, either by working towards a Functional Skills Maths qualification or by aiming to improve their GCSE Mathematics grade. It provides an exciting opportunity for students to build confidence, develop problem-solving strategies, and enjoy maths in a collaborative, competitive setting.

During the event, students competed in pairs, tackling a challenging Tarsia puzzle and a fast-paced Kahoot! maths quiz, demonstrating impressive problem-solving, teamwork, and resilience. The atmosphere was lively and supportive, with students encouraged to "be brave" and give their best throughout the challenge.

At the end of the competition, we held an awards ceremony to recognise our top three pairs:

- 1st place – Harry and Faith
- 2nd place – Annabelle and Aqib
- 3rd place – Sophie and Hanifah

Our top four will now go on to represent Hazelwick at the South Regional Final at Brighton MET College in March. Certificates of participation were also presented to all finalists in recognition of their hard work and commitment.

We are incredibly proud of every student who took part. Their enthusiasm, determination, and mathematical creativity shone through, and we look forward to supporting our finalists as they progress to the next stage of the competition.

### Further Education Maths Challenge - An MEI Competition



Mrs Andrews





## KPMG Dragon's Den Competition 2026

The KPMG Dragon's Den Competition was launched in a Year 12 assembly in October 2025. Students formed teams of four and were given a brief by KPMG which challenged them to prepare a pitch to potential investors for one of three investment opportunities. The in-school selection process had three main stages which involved completing an application form followed by two rounds of pitching to Miss Doherty and members of the Senior Leadership Team. The final two teams (out of six) were selected to represent the school on 23rd January at the KPMG Canary Wharf office in London. Our students delivered outstanding presentations and impressed the investors with their convincing and well prepared answers in the Q&A sessions. They were competing against other local Crawley schools and one of our teams won the competition for the second consecutive year!

Miss Doherty

### **Team 1 (winners): Aditya Vaidya (12LBO), Karolina Szulc (12LBO), Zaynab Bashir (12DFO) and Vaidanshi Razdan (12MCR)**

Taking part in the KPMG 'Dragon's Den style' business pitch competition was a challenging and exciting experience we enjoyed and learned a lot from. From the beginning, it felt very different from anything we had done before, having to create a presentation and pitch it to SLT first, then in front of KPMG.

As a group, we developed an environment-focused mind after picking 'Maison Eco', an eco-friendly restaurant which forced us to think of methods that focused on being both sustainable and profitable. This helped us gain a deeper understanding of how businesses actually work especially when looking at profit, costs and return on investment and designing menus. We also had to look carefully about our competitive advantage and how sustainability could help our restaurant stand out.

Throughout the competition, we met every week to practise our pitch and to improve our ideas. The competition helped us strengthen our teamwork and communication skills, as well as confidence when speaking in front of others. Although it was challenging at times, we found the competition really fun. The experience has helped us gain skills that will be useful in the future such as problem-solving, time management and working effectively as a team. It also gave us confidence in presenting our ideas and thinking more commercially which will benefit us in future careers.

We are very grateful for the opportunity that we had to go to Canary Wharf and present our pitch in front of KPMG. We would like to thank Miss Doherty and Mr Rawlings for the support, feedback and guidance they provided us throughout the competition. Winning the final was an amazing achievement and the journey taught us valuable skills and gave us an experience we will not forget.

### **Team 2: Shrey Mathur (12LBO), Tom Duncan (12DFO), Om Patel (12DFO) and Joseph Enock (12DFO)**

The KPMG Gatwick Restaurant Challenge was a thrilling and engaging opportunity to apply our business knowledge to a real project, greatly improving our problem-solving, analytical, and presentation skills. Right from the beginning of the application process, our teamwork and reasoning were tested. We spent many hours researching and preparing our slides, alongside multiple rehearsals to ensure our pitch was thorough and impactful.

On the day of the presentation, we were commended for our creativity and determination, especially when it came to adapting and being flexible to new information proposed during the challenge. After the presentations, the "Dragons" shared valuable insights into the finance industry and the vast variety of job roles available, deepening my understanding of the career Paths. Overall, the experience was very enjoyable and honed our soft skills, helping not only in our current academic studies, but also transferrable to future opportunities. I would like to thank KPMG for providing us with this challenge and to our Hazelwick Business department for their continued support. Lastly, we would highly recommend this opportunity for those interested in business, economics and finance.





## Bank of England visit by Charlie Evans - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

In January we had a visit from a policy analyst of the Bank of England who gave a very interesting presentation to our economics and business students. In the talk students were given a run down of some of the key functions of the Bank of England namely: money supply, managing payment systems and regulation of the financial services industry. His presentation resonated well with all those present who were able to link this to their current studies. Students were really engaged by taking notes throughout his talk. This was then followed by a question-and-answer session which highlighted the enthusiasm of our students who were really positive in coming forward with things to ask.

Besides this invaluable exposition of the functions of the Bank of England, Charlie Evans also highlighted career possibilities for students from different entry points: an apprenticeship with A levels to those starting as a graduate. Charlie is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year at the Bank of England and is on a degree apprenticeship programme where he works, but gets paid to do his economics degree part-time and mainly online. He was keen to stress that the Bank of England was a very inclusive organisation and that nobody should feel deterred from applying.

The students were able to identify themselves with Charlie as he was only two or three years older than them and studied for his A levels in Crawley. His passion for Economics came over to the students and which he said was instrumental in succeeding in gaining his current employment at the Bank of England.

Miss Doherty and Mr Rawlings





# House News...

Despite being a short six-week half term, Spring term one has been full of exciting house events for our students to participate in. To kick off 2026, Mrs Millard ran the 'Winter Photography' competition which saw students finding and photographing the various beauties that Winter has to offer (when we are not having consistent rain)!

From frosty mornings to glorious sunrises, our students captured a range of wonderful images that showcased the world around us. Inayat Khan House was victorious within this competition, with the overall winner being a member of 9NWI. Thank you to Varada Shamal for her fantastic entry – I love how she has captured the frostiness of winter! To showcase all of the wonderful contributions in this competition, it only felt right to have a winner from each House so please do look at your house's winner and runner-up!

Congratulations to those who won for their House and thank you to all who participated – what an excellent way to earn points for your house!



Parr House  
Winner: Isabella Fuller - 9DCA



Moody House  
Winner: Jasmin Moreira-Pushman - 9DLO



Moody House  
Runner-up: Suhani Malodia - 9DLO



Inayat-Khan House  
Winner: Varada Shamal - 9NWI



Inayat-Khan House  
Runner-up: Cameron Rose-Elliott - 9NWI



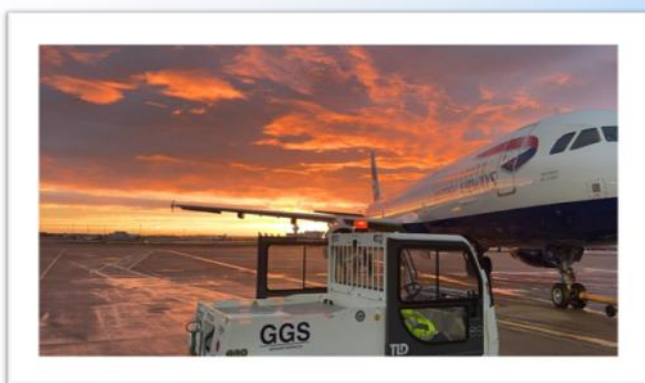
## House News Continued...



Lovelace House  
Winner: William King - 9ESP



Lovelace House  
Runner-up: Anabel Miorali-Linan - 10UHA



Sancho House  
Winner: Sofia Gomes - 9YBA



Sancho House  
Runner-up: Neveah Evans - 10RKR

Ms Podsiadly ran a balancing competition where students were challenged to hold their balance as best as they could. Coming in first place was Dhairya Patel 7STU in Sancho House, holding his position for a staggering 17 minutes 46 seconds. In second place for Lovelace House, we had Alicja Winckiewicz and Nailah Redman-Moka 7MST with an admirable 11 minutes 01 second and in third place for Parr House, with a strong 7 minutes, was Ashar-Ali Rasheed 7FTH. Honourable mentions go to Millie Gilbert 7TBR and Leo Trinidad, Keon Changa and Ronan Patel 7IHO for their participation! 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place earned their house 1250 points and runners up earned their house 250 points.

Students were tasked with creating their own planet in Mx Nolan's 'Design a planet' competition which highlighted our student's imagination and creative ability. Lovelace House took this competition by storm, earning themselves a staggering 1750 points to add to their house total. Congratulations to the winners and runners-up for each house – perhaps if it keeps raining in 2026, we might have to make a move to one of these planets...anything for a bit of sunshine!



# House News Continued...

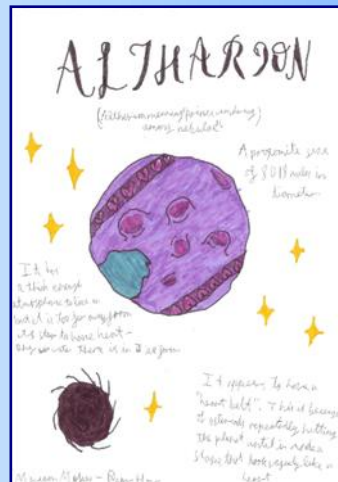


Winner

Iaroslav Sinkevich

**Faraday House**

'Speck of Hell'



Winner

Mariam Mafaas

**Parr House**

'Altharion'



Winner

Nayonika Sujithkumar

**Lovelace**

'Ember'

Just before the half-term break, Mrs Stapleton and Miss Pearson ran the University Challenge, testing students' general knowledge. Students were thrilled to know that they knew the answer to questions such as 'What is the study of mushrooms called?' and the atmosphere was exciting as students battled it out to answer questions. The overall winning team was Team 5, which had a real mix of Houses!

On this team were Sofia Gnatowska (Lovelace), Liza Gnatowska (Parr), Megan Howe (Sancho), Nuha Mohamed-Azhar (Faraday) and Emily Hammond (Inayat Khan). They scored the most in the overall round and in the bonus rounds afterwards!



# House News Continued...



|          |         |       |      |             |        |
|----------|---------|-------|------|-------------|--------|
| Lovelace | Faraday | Moody | Parr | Inayat-Khan | Sancho |
| 895      | 540     | 700   | 685  | 1060        | 540    |

With all of these House events happening, competition between the Houses has been fierce! But, overall, Sancho has been crowned number one for this half-term. Let's see what next half-term will bring!

Congratulations to Sancho and Mr Suckling for their success and good luck to the rest of us to try and catch up!

|              | Inayat Khan     | Lovelace        | Parr            | Sancho          | Faraday         | Moody           | Winning House |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>38428.00</b> | <b>44072.00</b> | <b>42097.00</b> | <b>44082.00</b> | <b>38419.00</b> | <b>38784.00</b> | <b>Sancho</b> |
|              | <b>5</b>        | <b>2</b>        | <b>3</b>        | <b>1</b>        | <b>6</b>        | <b>4</b>        |               |



# Careers Café...

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

## National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week began on 9th February 2026. We gave students across all year groups the chance to explore apprenticeships and the wider world of work.

This national initiative helped students understand the full range of pathways available after age 16. It also supported our responsibility to provide high-quality, impartial careers information and to challenge common misconceptions about apprenticeships. Most importantly, the activities inspired many students and opened doors to future possibilities they may not have previously considered.

Across tutor time and lessons, students took part in a wide range of year-group-specific activities, including short videos, real apprentice stories, myth-busting tasks, quizzes, and resources designed to develop career awareness and employability skills.

We were delighted to welcome external speakers who brought apprenticeships to life through real insight and experience:

- **Year 9 – Crawley College**

Nick from Crawley College spoke to students about local apprenticeship opportunities and the variety of practical, skills-based pathways available in the area. They encouraged students to start thinking about career interests and the benefits of hands-on learning.

- **Year 11 – East Surrey College**

Mark Scrimshaw delivered an informative session titled “*What is an Apprenticeship?*” Students learned what life as an apprentice involves, including how training is split between the workplace and college. Mark explained that apprentices:

- Developed both practical skills and the theory behind them.
- Built a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate their achievements.
- Completed assessments, which could be practical or written depending on the course.

This gave Year 11 a clear and realistic understanding of what to expect if they chose this pathway after Year 11 or Year 13.

Subject teachers also made use of newly updated resources to help students see where different subjects could take them. Many shared real local examples of apprentices linked to their curriculum areas, and students had the chance to explore the new *Apprenticeship Arcade*, a fun and interactive set of games designed to build careers knowledge.



# Careers Café Continued...

## APPRENTICESHIP SECTORS AT OSC

We offer a range of apprenticeships across the following sectors:



Creative & Design



Business & Administration



Construction



Engineering & Manufacturing



Digital & IT



Accounting & Finance



Early Years & Childcare



Hair, Beauty, Make-up & Spa



## SEARCH & APPLY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP

### HOW TO SEARCH

There are several ways to find an apprenticeship vacancy.

#### Option 1

##### Visit Find An Apprenticeship

This is the government apprenticeship vacancy portal with free access to a large number of vacancies across England.

[findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

#### Option 2

##### Visit specialist job sites

There are many specialist websites for school and college leavers looking for their next step. They offer free advice and vacancies:

[Getmyfirstjob.uk](http://Getmyfirstjob.uk)

[Notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://Notgoingtouni.co.uk)

[UCAS.com](http://UCAS.com)

#### Option 3

##### Speak to an Employer directly or visit their website

Search the careers section of the website to view current vacancies. Alternatively, you can contact an employer by telephone or email.

### AND ALSO...

Social Media is a great place to follow different employers and see vacancy ads. Look at different platforms including **Facebook**, **LinkedIn**, **Instagram** and **TikTok**.



## Crawley College Open Event - Tuesday 10 March 2026

By Chichester College Group

Crawley College - Crawley, West Sussex

Tuesday, Mar 10 at 16:30 GMT

### Overview

Crawley College Open Event - Tuesday 10 March 2026

It's time to explore our campus to find out in person about studying with us!

# Careers Café Continued...

## Year 11 Careers Achievement Celebration

Just before the half term break, we held an invite-only celebration event with biscuits and drinks for Year 11 students who performed particularly well during our Careers Mock Assessment Centre on the Post 16 Apprenticeship and College Taster Day. The celebration recognised students who demonstrated exceptional employability skills, teamwork, communication, and leadership during the assessment activities.

Our guest facilitator, Eppie, who had led the mock assessment sessions, commented on what a pleasure it had been to work with our students, saying: *“Thank you for inviting me into your warm, welcoming school. I had a fantastic day.”*

In line with the criteria for meaningful employer encounters, Eppie prepared a follow-up reflection session for students, which was shared at the celebration event. Although all students received personalised feedback on the day, she also highlighted five standout students from each group, praising their specific contributions. In addition, she singled out six students overall for their *outstanding* performance across the assessment centre task.



The celebration concluded with a recap of the key competencies discussed during the assessment activities, ensuring students could clearly see how their strengths aligned with real workplace expectations.



### Overall Exceptional Candidates

**Joseph** - Group B  
**Riad** - Group D  
**Mikey, Reuben, Stefan, Mali** - Group A

Congratulations!

West Sussex,  
Brighton and Hove  
CAREERS HUB

CAREERS &  
ENTERPRISE  
SCHOOL

### A quick recap of those key skills...

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Working Together</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages teamwork</li> <li>• Gets involved and takes a role in the team</li> <li>• Listens</li> <li>• Interacts with others</li> <li>• Involves others</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning &amp; organising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers objectives</li> <li>• Manages time</li> <li>• Prioritises tasks</li> <li>• General organisation</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision Making / Initiating Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers good solutions / ideas</li> <li>• Identifies problems and opportunities</li> <li>• Provides reasoned rationale</li> </ul> | <p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listens to others</li> <li>• Can express clearly and concisely</li> <li>• Builds on others' ideas</li> <li>• Brings others into the task</li> </ul> <p><b>Dealing with pressure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remains calm when objectives change</li> <li>• Responds to others calmly</li> <li>• Can evaluate progress</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

Celebrate
 +
 Improve

### Plumpton College Open Event

Plumpton College is holding an Open Event on **Saturday 21 March from 9am to 12pm**. Visitors can look around the facilities and speak with staff and students about the courses on offer.

[Upcoming Events - Plumpton College](#)



# Read On!

We have been busy in the library with all things World Book Day which is celebrated on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. As the World Book Day tokens have been handed out to students, I have included information as to how the tokens can be used and details about the free books. The theme of my article this month is book recommendations. Jacqueline Wilson fans may find my list of authors who write in a similar style useful. Updates regarding the longlists for the Carnegie Medals and the Schools Library Association 2026 Information Book Award have been included as these can make useful reading lists. Just in case you want to search for further recommendations, I have featured the Bookfinder tool from BookTrust. Keep reading for Mrs Jedamzik's review of the fascinating book 'Rasing Hare' by Chole Dalton. Many thanks to Mrs Jedamzik for being our guest reviewer this month.



## World Book Day 2026

This year's World Book Day is celebrated on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March and we have been busy handing out the free book tokens to students. There is an excellent choice of books for children of all ages this year. Please note that the title by Nathanael Lessore is written for older teens. The full list of books, with a brief review can be found by clicking this link:

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

Children can swap the tokens for one of the free books between the 12<sup>th</sup> February and the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Alternatively, the token can be used to obtain £1.00 off a book or audio book that costs more than £2.99. The full terms and conditions for tokens and information about digital tokens can be found by clicking the link below:

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

There are pages on the World Book Day dedicated to families, which include a link to dressing up ideas, free videos and audio books, and the FAQ section.

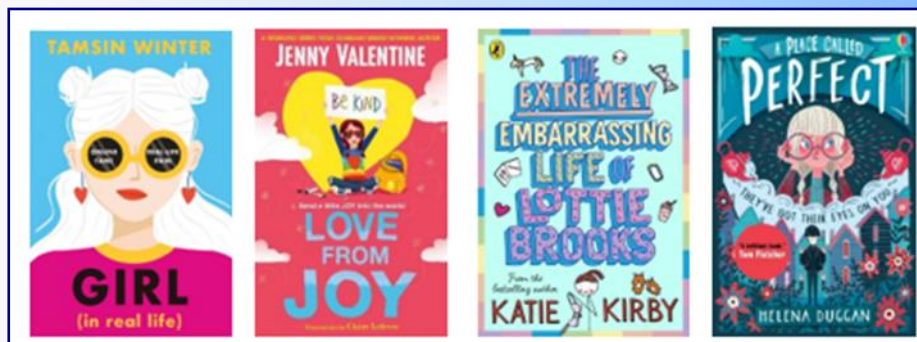
<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

The website also lists the different events and competitions that are taking place. This section of the website gives the link to the sign-up page for reading ideas, and book recommendations which will be emailed directly to you.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/events-and-competitions/>



# Read On Continued...



## Who else writes like Jacqueline Wilson?

Many students come to the library when they have read all of Jacqueline Wilson's books or wish to widen their reading by trying a 'new to them' author. I thought I would share some of the authors that I recommend. I have 'divided' my recommendations into two types: families and friends and historical to reflect Jacqueline Wilson's two main story genres. Please note that some of the titles are aimed at older teens and the story content may reflect this.

### Families and friends:

Eve Ainsworth  
 Katya Balen  
 Brian Conaghan  
 Helen Duggan  
 Adiba Jaigirdar  
 Katie Kirby  
 Karen McCombie  
 Elle McNicoll  
 Joanna Nadin  
 Radhika Sanghani  
 Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott  
 Alexandra Sheppard  
 Jenny Valentine  
 Lisa Williamson  
 Tamsin Winter

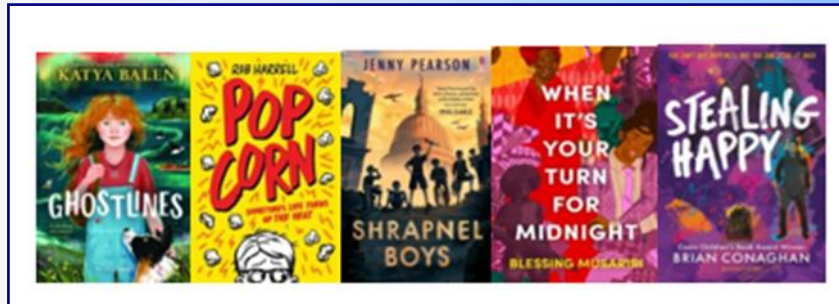
### Historical:

Jasbinder Bilan  
 Emma Carroll  
 Catherine Fisher  
 Jamila Gavin  
 Mary Hooper  
 Michael Morpurgo  
 Rhian Tracey

The full list of titles/series order for each author can be found at the Fantastic Fiction website:

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

# Read On Continued...



## 2026 Carnegie Medals

The list of nineteen titles longlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Writing for this year has been announced and features five previous winners. The list of titles that make the shortlist will be announced on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and the winners on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### The Carnegies Medal for Writing: Longlist:

Black Star by Kwame Alexander  
 Ghostlines by Katya Balen  
 Stealing Happy by Brian Conaghan  
 On the Wall by Anne Fine  
 Fia and the Last Snow Deer by Eilish Fisher  
 Not Going to Plan by Tia Fisher  
 Popcorn by Rob Harrell  
 The Boy I Love by William Hussey  
 Songs for Ghosts by Clara Kumagai  
 When It's Your Turn for Midnight by Blessing Musariri  
 Birdy Arbuthnot's Year of 'Yes!' by Joanna Nadin  
 Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody by Patrick Ness  
 Wolf Siren by Beth O'Brien  
 Shrapnel Boys by Jenny Pearson  
 Handle With Care by Louisa Reid  
 Twenty-Four Seconds from Now by Jason Reynolds  
 Birdie by J. P. Rose  
 Traumaland by Josh Silver  
 The Spick and the Span by Pil Van Martin

For further information about each title, the link below gives a synopsis, themes, and suggested age groups.

<https://carnegies.co.uk/writing-longlist-2026/>

## Read On Continued...



### 2026 Carnegie Medal for Illustration Longlist

In contrast to the Medal for Writing, seventeen of the nineteen illustrators for the Medal for Illustration have never featured on the list before. 'Fia and the Last Snow Deer' written by Eilish Fisher and illustrated by Dermot Flynn has made both longlists.

Please check out the link below for the titles that have been selected for the longlist for illustration:

<https://carnegies.co.uk/illustration-longlist-2026/>



### Schools Library Association 2026 Information Book Award Shortlist

Non-Fiction readers may wish to read the twelve shortlisted books for this year's Information Book Award.

The Award aims to celebrate and promote information books written for children and young people, up to the age of sixteen. The Award encourages children and young people to vote for their winner, with three Children's Choice categories. The Chair of Judges Helen Cleaves commented that: "From automata to autism, this shortlist is nothing if not diverse, offering a wealth of information adventures for children from toddler to teen. What's more, these books have the whole package: stunning artwork and meticulous design combine with engaging text for maximum impact."

<https://www.sla.org.uk/Public/News/Articles/2026/IBA-Shortlist-2026.aspx>



# Read On Continued...

## Bookfinder

The book charity BookTrust has a useful book recommending tool called 'Bookfinder.' This allows you to search by age group and interests/genre. In the results list, the interest age will be given and a brief outline of the story. Clicking the title will take you to a detailed synopsis which also includes notes about content, such as strong language, violence, and sexual references. Books written in a similar style or theme will also be listed at the bottom of the page. The age groups range from baby to fourteen years and includes a non-fiction option. The link below will take you directly to the Bookfinder search page. The website also has a wealth of resources and information about the benefits of reading.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/bookfinder/>

## WORDfest

Crawley's 'festival of words' takes place at the end of this month and runs until the 28<sup>th</sup> March. WORDfest is an arts organisation that was launched in 2011 and provides a wide range of events for young people and adults that celebrates reading and writing. Many of the events are free and take place at various locations across the town. Please note that you may need to reserve a ticket for the free events. This is the link for the events programme.

<https://www.wordfestcrawley.org/events-programme>



## West Sussex Libraries: How to join

As this year is the Year of Reading, with the aim for readers to 'Go All In', I thought I would remind you that it is free to join your local West Sussex library. In addition to borrowing up to twenty items, our local library service provides a range of electronic resources. They also provide free access to computers, loan wellbeing resources including blood pressure monitors, and deliver a range of free events for adults and children. I have included the link to the 'Join the Library' page of the Public Libraries webpage which gives instructions on how to join in person and online.

<https://libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/join>

Keep reading!

Mrs Thornton BA (Hons) MCLIP  
School Librarian

# Read On Continued...

## Guest Reviewer

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

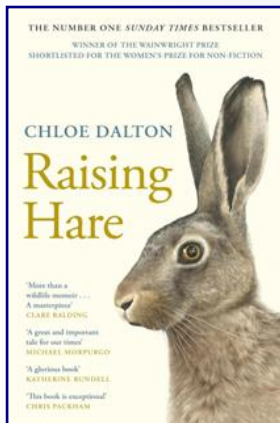
**Book Title:** Raising Hare

**Author:** Chloe Dalton



I came across Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton when I was looking for a book that felt very different to my usual non-fiction academic analysis on maths, law, politics or economics. Unlike many of the books I usually read, this is a true story rooted in the natural world. From the very first pages, it becomes clear that this is not a book about action or drama, but about quiet observation, patience, and learning to understand something entirely outside of human control; most probably something that I (and many others) may find a little uncomfortable.

The book tells the story of Chloe's unexpected encounter with a newborn hare and her decision to care for it, despite knowing that hares are wild animals that should not be domesticated. As the hare grows, Chloe documents its behaviour in careful detail, charting its routines and responses while trying not to interfere more than absolutely necessary. The narrative follows the passing seasons, grounding the story firmly in the countryside and giving the reader a strong sense of place and indeed the natural process of a wild baby animal growing up. Alongside the practical challenges of raising the hare, Chloe reflects on wider ideas about nature, conservation, and the ways in which humans often misunderstand wildlife. Much of the reflection in the book comes not from events, but from uncertainty: whether the hare will survive, whether it can ever return fully to the wild, and whether human involvement ultimately helps or harms. The writing is clear and no nonsense (which I like) but very easily and quickly drawing you in, encouraging the reader to slow down and notice details that are usually overlooked.



### What do I think about the book?

What I appreciated most about Raising Hare was its realism. I've seen a few wild hares in my lifetime but very rarely indeed which really drew me into this story as hares are somewhat mythical creatures due to their apparent invisibility and fear of being seen. Chloe does not exaggerate her role or sentimentalise the experience too much; instead, she writes with honesty and very clear observation. The book made me reflect on how rarely we truly observe the natural world in our busy lives, even when we believe we care about it, which I most certainly feel I do. I found the balance between emotional attachment to animals and clear-eyed realism particularly impactful, and by the end of the book I felt both moved and challenged in my thinking about mine as well as all our responsibility towards the wildlife that surrounds us, however small and often hidden from us.

### Who would enjoy this book?

This book would suit readers who enjoy non-fiction, memoirs, or nature writing, especially those who prefer thoughtful reflection over fast-paced storytelling. It would appeal to anyone interested in wildlife, rural life, or environmental issues, as well as readers who enjoy books that leave space for quiet consideration. Raising Hare is not a book to rush through, but one to read slowly and thoughtfully as it encourages you to reflect on your impact in the world and what you can and possibly could do to change things for the better moving forward. I'm not saying go out and adopt a baby hare and try to raise it but maybe, as spring time approaches, just become more aware of how nature, even on our lovely Hazelwick campus, changes and how you can have a positive impact on this small piece of environment and encourage your friends to do the same.



# Sport...

## Hazelwick Senior Girls Secure a Team Bronze in their Final Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships

The brilliant Year 13 team of Niamh Lesova, Alice Cox and Kirsten Goodbourn (pictured) secured a fantastic team bronze medal at the recent Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships in Brighton. This is a fitting end for the fantastic service they have given the school over many years of cross country. Alice placed 8<sup>th</sup>, Niamh 10<sup>th</sup> and Kirsten 27<sup>th</sup>.

In the senior boys, Samuel Davis finished a very respectable 22<sup>nd</sup> over a tough course and we look forward to following his progress on the track this summer.

In the junior and intermediate age groups we had a good turnout of athletes and they acquitted themselves very well.

The junior girls team was Belle McLaren, Belle Imhoff, Holly Phillips and Kara Murray (pictured).

The junior boys team was Jude O'Neill, Adam Chanakira, Adam Baccar and Oliver Williamson (pictured).

In the Inter boys category, we were represented brilliantly by Abdelmalek Aliane, Oliver Davis and Maddox Dunning (not pictured).

Well done all!

Mrs Reynolds



# Sport Continued...

## U16 Badminton Team

The U16 boys badminton team is celebrating a fantastic achievement after winning the district tournament and competing in the county finals. Competing against some exceptionally strong schools, the team demonstrated determination, teamwork and skill throughout the event.

They secured an impressive victory against Shoreham College and delivered two hard-fought matches against Longhill and Lewes Priory, gaining valuable experience at a very high level of competition.

Congratulations to Abdelmalek Aliane, Oliver Davis, Jacob Marshall, Oscar Nsohya and Tanmay Nutakki for representing the team so well. Their effort, sportsmanship and commitment made the school proud.

Mr Bagnall



# Sport Continued...

## Year 10 Talented Athlete Programme – Workshop 2 – Sports Nutrition

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February the Year 10 students who are part of the talented athlete programme participated in a workshop about how to fuel their bodies for their various sports. The calorie expenditure that is needed to remain healthy as a young athlete is huge.

Kate from Performance Canteen gave advice and led a practical workshop to create some quick and easy food options, including how to make a sports drink. The students then ate and drank their creations and asked lots of excellent questions. It's now up to the students to try and implement some of the ideas and really consider the importance of staying fuelled.

Good luck!

Mrs McHugh





# Sport Continued...

## **Under-12 Basketball Teams Show Great Effort in League Competition**

Our Under-12 boys' and girls' basketball teams have made a positive start to their league campaigns, showing enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination in every match.

The boys' team has recorded one win so far, with a strong victory over Thomas Bennett Community College, but The Holy Trinity School proved particularly strong opponents, providing a valuable learning experience for the team.

The girls' team has also been competing against the same schools and, although results have not yet gone their way, they have played extremely well and shown great commitment and improvement in every game.

Both teams have demonstrated excellent effort, teamwork, and promise for the future and we look forward to seeing their continued development.

Mr Bagnall



# Attendance and Punctuality...

Good attendance and punctuality are vitally important for all students from Year 7 through to Year 11. Hazelwick School ensures that all its students receive a full-time education that maximises opportunities for all students to realise their true potential. The school recognises that punctuality and regular school attendance are essential to social inclusion and integral to effective learning and academic progress.

To achieve and maintain high levels of attendance and make the most of the opportunities available at school, it is important that students follow the steps below:

- Attend school every day.
- Arrive to school by 8.25am and to be settled in their form rooms by 8.30am.
- Take holidays and family visits at weekends and during school holidays only.
- Stop the use of electronic devices at a reasonable time in the evenings and to get a good night's sleep to be able to wake up efficiently in the mornings.
- Access online resources for support if needed, including the school website's Wellbeing page for advice on mental health and to speak to their Head of Year team if there are any concerns.
- Attend school and make use of the school's medical wing if feeling slightly unwell in the mornings, rather than missing the whole day.
- Use travel apps to plan journeys ahead when travelling to school; the Metrobus: Sussex, Surrey, Kent app and Google Maps app can provide live bus trackers, bus timetables or information on road traffic.

## Did you know?

- Students with no absence are 3.1 times more likely to achieve GCSE Grade 5 or above than students who missed 10 – 15% of all sessions.
- Students with no absence are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSE grades 9 – 4 including English and Maths, than students who missed 15% - 20% of KS4 lessons.
- Of students with absence of 50%, only 3% managed to achieve 5 or more GCSE grades 9 – 4, including English and Maths.

Parents and carers are asked to contact the school by 8.30am on each day of their child's absence. When a student's attendance becomes a significant concern through accumulated unauthorised absences and unauthorised Leave of Absence requests, a referral to West Sussex Pupil Entitlement Team for consideration of a Fixed Penalty Notice or court action could be made.

For more information on the school's Attendance Policy please visit the Key Documents and Policies section of the school website.



# Spotlight on Safeguarding...

**For your information this month, via the Newsletter, we are raising awareness of the issue of road safety.**

According to Road Safety GB, the United Kingdom is one of the safest places in Europe in terms of safety when comparing the numbers of road deaths. However, there are concerns over the number of children either injured or killed on UK roads. During 2023, more than 6000 under 16s were injured while walking or cycling based on data supplied by the AA. As we move towards the Spring and the clocks going forward at the end of March, statistically it is more likely that young people will either die or be injured on the roads. The RAC states that with the longer days there is more exposure to risk plus children will more likely walk and cycle to school during the warmer months. Unsurprisingly, the times when young people are more likely to be injured or killed is during rush hours between 8am and 9am and 3pm to 4pm.

The government has added a new personal safety strand to the statutory RSHE curriculum, which includes recognising risk and keeping safe around roads. Schools need to begin teaching this content by September 2026. At Hazelwick School, Year 7 PSHE students will begin studying the topic of road safety and also rail and water safety after the February half term break.



**The following advice is for parents/carers to help with informing their children regarding the importance of road safety.**

RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) suggests the following advice for parents/carers to discuss with their children:

- Phone should be put away when crossing roads.
- Headphones should also be removed when crossing the road.
- Hoods should be pulled down when crossing the road as it decreases visibility when up.
- Encourage children to avoid peer pressure to behave in unsafe ways near roads.
- Children should walk directly to school and avoid diversions and stops along the way.

When Cycling:

- All children should wear a helmet when cycling.
- All bikes should have reflectors and lights, particularly during winter when it gets darker earlier.
- Encourage children to wear hi-vis or fluorescent clothes as this will make it easier for them to be seen on the road.
- It is advised for children to wear gloves particularly in the colder weather as it helps them control their bikes with a better grip.

## Where to get further information and support:

- **RoSPA**  
<https://www.rospa.com/siteassets/images/active-travel/parents-and-carers/which-equipment-does-my-child-need-to-be-safer-while-cycling.pdf?lang=en-US>  
<https://www.rospa.com/siteassets/images/active-travel/parents-and-carers/which-equipment-does-my-child-need-to-be-safer-while-cycling.pdf?lang=en-US>

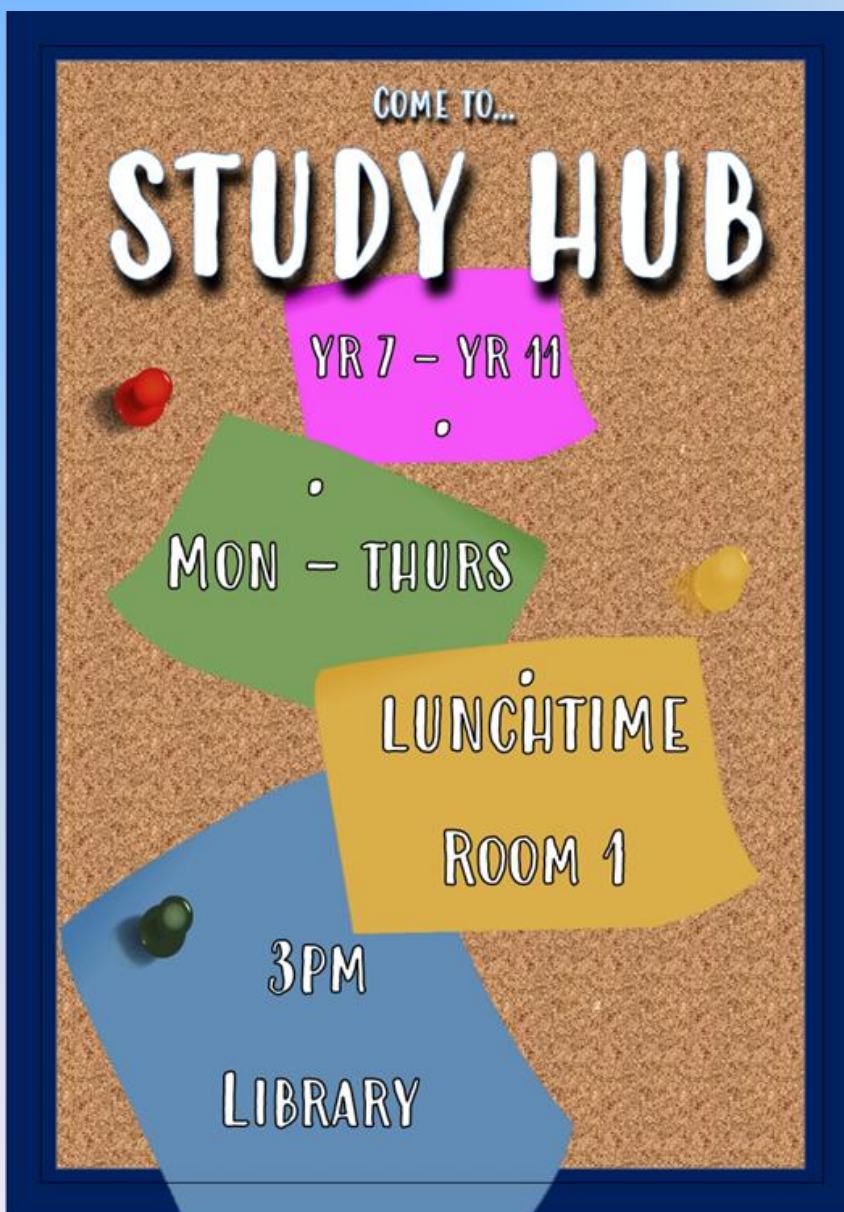


## Insight - Parent Portal

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.