



HORNCHURCH
HIGH SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

13th December 2023

Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an exceptionally rewarding period this term at Hornchurch High School as we strive to accelerate academic standards. I extend my gratitude for the unwavering support received from everyone, especially under the guidance of the new leadership team. The recently announced 2023 year 11 examination results stand as the best in Hornchurch High's history, with the school's best progress score to date. Many students have progressed to esteemed post-16 institutions like the London Academy of Excellence. This achievement signifies the beginning of a journey towards further enhanced outcomes, and our vision is to be the best secondary school in Havering over the next three years.

Challenge Partners Quality Assurance Review

Hornchurch High School has partnered with Challenge Partners, a practitioner-led education charity accelerating school improvement, leadership development and pupil progress. Hornchurch High had its first Quality Assurance Review (QAR) 27th – 29th November, a three-day, rigorous peer evaluation of teaching and learning, curriculum and outcomes, and leadership at all levels. Led by an expert lead reviewer who is Ofsted trained, reviews are conducted by a team of headteachers/senior leaders from schools nationally.

I am pleased to inform you that we were judged **effective** in all categories and **effective** in the overall peer evaluation judgement. These are some of the excerpts from the report:

- Raising the aspirations of all students is a key ambition of leaders. Senior leaders communicate their conviction that anything is possible through the school's motto, 'Excellence for All'. They have created an environment where staff and students feel part of a collective team that is working to improve the school.
- Through rigorous quality assurance processes, senior leaders have identified the correct priorities for improvement. Out of necessity, the school improvement plan is extensive with time-linked success criteria. Bringing a level of consistency to whole-school practices and processes has been fundamental to improving the school.
- Many of the school's systems and structures have been overhauled and renewed. A new behaviour policy, based on the school's values, has been introduced and follows a model of the best practice found nationally. Students behave very well in class and around the school and understand why this is important.
- Leaders have successfully created an atmosphere of trust between teachers and students. Students understand leaders' high expectations of behaviour. There is strict adherence to rewards and sanctions with a no-nonsense approach to how students will conduct themselves in and around the school.
- Students are provided with the correct equipment needed to actively participate in learning activities, with students even having a say on the type of writing pen to be used.
- Students take advantage of various educational visits to broaden their cultural and social experiences. For example, students visit the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Tate Modern and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and are encouraged to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

As a school, we also submitted an application for an Area of Excellence to be considered: 'Professional development – forms, mechanisms and sequencing', and I'm pleased to say that it was validated by



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reviewer consensus. This means other schools nationally will be visiting Hornchurch High to observe best practice of professional development.

Head and Deputy Head Student Elections

At Hornchurch High School, every student actively participated in a democratic election process to choose their head students. At Hornchurch High we do what is right for our context and our students and this year we have diverged from the norm of having two head students, opting for three individuals this year. This unconventional decision was rooted in the belief that each of the three elected students brings a unique perspective to the table, thereby enhancing student representation. Through a thorough interview process where students had to present to their peers and attend a formal interview with a panel, the students showcased their dedication to representing the entire student body. I am proud to introduce that our Head Students for 2023_24 are Olivia, Connor and Amy. These three head students will play a crucial role in ensuring that the voices of students are heard in pivotal decisions and developments within the school. Acting as both internal and external ambassadors, they are poised to exemplify the values of Hornchurch High School and serve as role models for their peers. Their responsibility extends to reporting to the senior team and governors, reinforcing their integral role in the school's leadership structure.



Left to right: Zainab (DHS), Mitchell (DHS), Olivia (HS), Connor (HS), Amy (HS), Brayden (DHS)



Head Students: Olivia, Connor and Amy

Sporting and Extra Curricular Achievements

Hornchurch High celebrates recent sporting victories with notable successes from the netball, rugby, and volleyball teams. The netball teams delivered impressive performances against Frances Bardsley, Redden Court, St Edwards, Hall Mead, Sanders Drapers, and Robert Clack. Congratulations to all team members for their contributions. In their first rugby fixture of the year, the Year 8 team secured a thrilling 40-35 win against Sanders Drapers, showcasing promising talent. Meanwhile, the Year 11 Volleyball team added to the triumphs by defeating Marshalls Park and Bower Park, highlighting the school's commitment to excellence in various sports. These achievements reflect the dedication and skill of Hornchurch High's athletes across diverse sporting disciplines.

Debate Mate sessions have seen an excellent turnout, drawing consistent attendance from every student. The engaging mentor, well-equipped and knowledgeable, creates a supportive environment where students not only return but also encourage their peers to participate and develop new skills. The sessions are informative, enjoyable, and leave students eagerly anticipating the next week. The room comes to life reflecting their commitment to excel in debates for upcoming competitions later in the year.





Performing Arts

In a thrilling collaboration with the Queens Theatre (Hornchurch) and the National Theatre, forty Year 8 students have been immersed in an engaging drama programme over the past two terms. Weekly drama workshops have centred on devising drama, with the cohort enjoying a special puppetry workshop from a leading actor from War Horse. The culmination of this exciting initiative will see the students showcasing their talents in a performance at a professional theatre later this year. This unique opportunity not only enriches their theatrical skills but also provides a platform for a memorable and professional experience.



Jack Petchey Award

The Jack Petchey Award for this term at Hornchurch High School aims to acknowledge and reward the dedication of some of our most hardworking students, providing an opportunity to celebrate their success. We are pleased to announce this term's winners are: Ayush (Year 11) for his commitment to studies, particularly excelling in Spanish; Mia (Year 9) for her consistent and outstanding contributions to the school, including noteworthy performances at school events and unwavering support for her peers; and Millie (Year 10) for her remarkable resilience and dedication to her subjects in year 10. Congratulations to these deserving recipients for their exemplary efforts and achievements.

Learning Community | Parent Workshops

The first-ever Parent Workshop at Hornchurch High School, delving into strategies for supporting children with home revision, was a resounding success. Led by Ms. Padda, Director of Teaching and Learning, the event saw active participation from parents and provided practical insights. The positive responses highlight the success of this initiative in bolstering communication and collaboration with parents/carers. As a result, we plan to run a series of workshops in 2024. If there are any themes you would like us to specifically cover and plan for, please let us know:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/parentworkshopsuggestions>



Year 10 Careers Fair | Olympia London

The entire Year 10 cohort attended the *What Career Live? What University Live?* careers Event at Olympia London on 10th November 2023. The event aimed to expose students to various career pathways, including university, apprenticeships, and employment. Students like Anna expressed an interest in Cambridge University and found the NHS job list intriguing, expanding options available. Students found the event beneficial in exploring their career interests and gathering information for





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their future education and post-16 plans. All students across the school will shortly be partaking in a whole school careers event.

Post-16

Hornchurch High School is actively supporting its year 11 students in the crucial phase of exploring various sixth forms and colleges across East London. Recognising the significance of informed decision-making, the school has organised outings, taking groups of students to different post-16 settings. This proactive approach aims to provide our students with first-hand experiences and insights into the diverse educational opportunities available to them. As we enter the spring term the school remains committed to facilitating these exploratory journeys, ensuring that each student is well-equipped to make confident and informed choices for their next steps in education.



Progress Reports Year 7-10 | Issued Thursday 14th December 2023

Throughout the academic year, students engage in three tracking assessments—autumn, spring, and summer. Following each assessment, teachers meticulously generate a predicted grade, a triangulation of their performance in assessments, classwork, and contributions to lessons. In their reports, you'll find a target grade, a grade derived from their KS2 scaled scores, and a predicted grade. The predicted grade reflects what they could achieve at the end of Year 11 if they maintain their current level of dedication and effort. This holistic approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of each student's academic progress and potential.

You will receive your child's Autumn Progress Report later this week, please contact your child's Head of Year should you wish to discuss their progress in more detail.

<http://www.hornchurchhighschool.com/home/contact-us/>

Christmas Lunch | Friday 15th December 2023

On Friday 15th December, Hornchurch High School is delighted to extend a heartfelt holiday gesture to all its students. In the spirit of festive generosity and under the guidance of our new leadership team, we are thrilled to announce that every student will receive a complimentary Christmas lunch this year as a token of appreciation for their hard work and commitment. Due to logistics, there will be no other canteen options on this day.

Yr 11 Mock GCSE Results Day | Tuesday 19th December

Year 11s will receive their reports from the November mock examinations on this day. Students have been feeding back to their mocks but have not seen their grades yet, the focus has been on honing in on the skills and knowledge that need to be developed further. On this day they will receive an



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attainment grade, what they would have actually received if it was the real examination with the real grade boundaries. As well as a *predicted grade*, what the teacher thinks they can achieve over the next 16 teaching weeks. This predicted grade is the grade that students will use for sixth form and college applications. We will support students further with this once we return back to school.

Uniform Reminder

Mr Lockwood recently wrote to you regarding uniform expectations. To reiterate:

- Black socks or black tights – no white socks
- Modest skirt length, we are in a professional learning environment
- No make-up (students will be asked to remove it with make-up wipes)
- No false nails (please arrange removal prior to the start of term)
- No nail varnish
- No false eyelashes or eyelash laminations
- No jewellery (it is not advised to have a new piercing during the Christmas holidays – students will be asked to remove it, irrespective of the healing process).

Uniform Swap Shop 2023-24

Acknowledging the challenges posed by the current cost of living crisis and its impact on the affordability of school uniforms, we extend a warm invitation for your support. If you have any uniforms in good condition, we kindly encourage you to contribute by dropping them off in the designated boxes located in the reception area. Your generosity will play a vital role in ensuring that all students have access to the uniforms they require. Thank you for supporting students and their families at Hornchurch High.

In addition, the borough recognises the cost of living continues to rise across the country impacting residents of Havering. The council has launched a new 'Cost of Living Online Hub' that brings together all of the support available to residents:

<https://www.havering.gov.uk/costofliving>

Reading | Library

At Hornchurch High School, a strong emphasis on the significance of reading is woven into our educational fabric. After Christmas, students from Years 7 to 10 will have a 1-hour weekly library lesson, underscoring our commitment to fostering a love for reading. The library sessions provides students with a regular opportunity to exchange books and engage in the shared experience of reading aloud - fostering both individual growth and a collective appreciation for literature. Teachers, as guides on this literary voyage, will not only listen to students' read but also model the joy and importance of reading. Beyond the classroom, our aim is to instil a lasting love for literature, encouraging students to delve into the world of books during the holidays. Through this holistic approach, we aspire to foster a lifelong connection to the transformative power of words. If a particular book is absent from our shelves, we encourage students to share their recommendations with our new librarian and we will stock it.





Parents' Evenings 2024

Please find below the Parents' Evening dates for your son/daughter. These dates have been scheduled following a data drop, providing you with an opportune time to engage in meaningful discussions about your child's progress.

Parents' Evenings 4-6.30pm	
Year 9 – Options Presentation & Year 9 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
Year 11 – Parents' Evening	Tuesday 16 th January 2024
Year 10 – Parents' Evening	Tuesday 30 th January 2024
Year 8 – Parents' Evening	Tuesday 23 rd April 2024
Year 7 – Parents' Evening	Tuesday 7 th May 2024

Spring Term Start 2024

The first day of spring term will start on **Monday 8th January 2024** with students **arriving at 8:15 for an 8:30 start**. The student gates will be open from 8:00am which can be found on the corner of Hartland and Broadstone Road, please do not enter via the car park/reception. The school day starts promptly at 8:30. Our breakfast club starts at 8am.

The final day of this autumn term is **Tuesday 19th December, when students will be dismissed by 12.00 noon** for staff to attend an end of term review meeting. The final day is business as usual in terms of lessons periods 1 and 2. Students may wear a Christmas jumper in lieu of the blazer and donate £1 however, all other uniform expectations still apply.

The term dates for 2023/24 are published on our website should you wish to plan future holidays. In addition, we have just published our term dates for 2024/25. They are both attached at the end of this letter.

From all of us here at Hornchurch High may I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms S Madhvani
Headteacher





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Term Dates 2023_2024

Hornchurch High School

School Term and Holiday Dates 2023 - 2024



September 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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October 2023						
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November 2023						
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December 2023						
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January 2024						
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February 2024						
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March 2024						
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April 2024						
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May 2024						
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June 2024						
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July 2024						
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August 2024						
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	School Holidays
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	Bank Holidays
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	Staff PD Days non-pupil days
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Autumn Term	
Tuesday 5th September	Start of Term (Y7)
Wednesday 6th September	Start of Term (ALL)
Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October	Half Term
Tuesday 19th December	Last Day of Term

Spring Term	
Monday 8th January	Start of Term
Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February	Half Term
Thursday 28th March	Last Day of Term

Summer Term	
Monday 15th April	Start of Term
Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May	Half Term
Tuesday 23rd July	Last Day of Term





Term Dates 2024_2025

Hornchurch High School

School Term and Holiday Dates 2024 - 2025



September 2024						
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October 2024						
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November 2024						
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December 2024						
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January 2025						
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February 2025						
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March 2025						
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April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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July 2025						
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August 2025						
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	School Holidays
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	Bank Holidays
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	Staff PD Days non-pupil days
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Autumn Term	
Tuesday 3rd September	Start of Term (Y7)
Wednesday 4th September	Start of Term (ALL)
Friday 25th October to Friday 1st November	Half Term
Thursday 19th December	Last Day of Term

Spring Term	
Monday 6th January	Start of Term
Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February	Half Term
Friday 4th April	Last Day of Term

Summer Term	
Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Term
Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May	Half Term
Friday 18th July	Last Day of Term

