

20th October 2025

October Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

As outlined at the beginning of this academic year, I will write to you at the end of this half term, and again at Christmas, Easter, and summer, to provide updates on our school's progress and celebrate our successes.

I am pleased to announce Hornchurch High School's continued academic success, with provisional Department for Education (DfE) data published on Thursday confirming that the school is now ranked among the **top three in the borough for Attainment 8**. We have **outperformed many selective schools**, strengthening our position as the **highest-performing comprehensive in Havering**. The data also shows that our Strong Basics measure for English and Maths at grade 5+ is **well above both the national and local authority averages**.

I would like to thank all our students and staff for their hard work, and, of course, our parents and carers. These impressive outcomes are only possible when we work together in a strong partnership with shared goals, supporting our young people to achieve their very best.

This eight-week half term has been extremely successful. Our Year 7s have settled in well, enthusiastically embracing school life with, and getting fully involved in the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available to them.

Our Year 8 and 9 students have returned with focus and determination, demonstrating a positive attitude towards their learning and a clear desire to build on their achievements from last year.

Year 10 and Year 11 have risen to the challenge of their GCSE studies, with many subjects already beginning their Non-Examination Assessments (NEAs), which contribute towards students' final GCSE grades.

We are continuing to strengthen and expand our Languages Department and are excited to introduce Mandarin to a select group of Year 7 students as we build capacity. We have chosen to introduce Mandarin because it is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, with over a billion speakers globally and it offers significant benefits for students' wider learning.

Studies show that learning a tonal language like Mandarin can enhance memory, problem-solving skills, and cognitive flexibility, helping to strengthen the brain's overall capacity for learning. In addition to these cognitive benefits, Mandarin provides cultural insights, opens up international opportunities, and, in the longer term, may enable students to apply for the prestigious Confucius Institute Scholarship post-16, offering further academic and cultural enrichment.

While this is initially being offered to a small group, all students will have the opportunity to participate in Mandarin through an extracurricular club, ensuring everyone can engage with this exciting new language.

Attendance continues to be a key priority, as regular attendance has a significant impact on students' learning and progress. You should have received a letter about our '**Non-Stop November**' initiative, which begins on **3rd November**. This campaign is designed to encourage excellent attendance throughout the month and to remind students of the importance of being here, ready, every day, on-time (H.E.R.O).

We are pleased to be holding our first Parent Engagement Forum this evening. Parents had the opportunity to put themselves forward in previous communications, and we look forward to working together to strengthen our partnership with families. We will keep you updated on the progress and outcomes achieved by this forum in the future.

A reminder that the term dates for this academic year are available on our school website. The term dates for the 2026–2027 academic year are also published online and can be found at the bottom of this letter.

Following the calendar, you will find our newsletter for this half term, which showcases all of the highlights, achievements, and celebrations from across the school. We hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful accomplishments and experiences of our students over the past weeks.

The **final day of this half term for students will be Wednesday 22nd October 2025, with a normal full school day**. We wish you and your families a well-deserved, restful break to recharge, and we look forward to **welcoming students back on Monday 3rd November 2025**. Happy Diwali to all those celebrating this week. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance, via the reception telephone line or the 'Contact Us' page on our website.

Yours sincerely,



Ms S Madhvani
Headteacher



HORNCHURCH

HIGH SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Term Dates 2025_2026

Hornchurch High School

School Term and Holiday Dates 2025 - 2026



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
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January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
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May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
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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 2nd September	Start of Term (Y7)
Wednesday 3rd September	Start of Term (ALL)
Friday 24th October to Friday 31st October	Half Term
Friday 19th December	Last Day of Term

Spring Term	
Monday 5th January	Start of Term
Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February	Half Term
Friday 27th March	Last Day of Term

Summer Term	
Monday 13th April	Start of Term
Tuesday 26th May to Friday 29th May	Half Term
Thursday 16th July	Last Day of Term



Partnership Learning

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Home to Hylands Tennis Club



HORNCHURCH

HIGH SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Term Dates 2026-27

Hornchurch High School

School Term and Holiday Dates 2026 - 2027



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

September 2026						
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December 2026						
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March 2027						
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April 2027						
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May 2027						
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June 2027						
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July 2027						
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August 2027						
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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	
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	Start of Term (Y7)
Thursday 3rd September 2026	Start of Term (ALL)
Monday 26th October 2026 - Friday 30th October 2026	Half Term
Friday 18th December 2026	Last Day of Term

Spring Term	
Monday 4th January 2027	Start of Term
Monday 15th February 2027 - Friday 19th February 2027	Half Term
Thursday 25th March 2027	Last Day of Term

Summer Term	
Monday 12th April 2027	Start of Term
Monday 31st May 2027 - Friday 4th June 2027	Half Term
Friday 16th July 2027	Last Day of Term



Partnership Learning

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HORNCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Headteacher

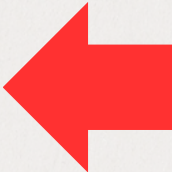
Our recent results reflect the dedication and high standards that define Hornchurch High. I'm incredibly proud of what our students and staff have achieved, yet again – a testament to what can be accomplished through hard work, ambition, and belief. We're proud to be a place where students *aspire, believe, and achieve* every day. Hornchurch High is a school where every child is encouraged to excel. I would like to extend my thanks to parents and carers for your ongoing support at home – it really does make a difference. ~ Ms. Madhvani

PARENTS' EVENINGS

 **Save the dates**

Year Group	Date
Year 11	Tuesday 13th January 2026
Year 9	Tuesday 3rd February 2026
Year 8	Tuesday 10th February 2026
Year 10	Tuesday 21st April 2026
Year 7	Tuesday 28th April 2026

School name	Type of school	Number of pupils at end of key stage 4	Attainment 8 score
Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School	Academy	120	62.1
The Coopers' Company and Coborn School	Academy	209	58.1
Hornchurch High School	Academy	132	53.9
The Campion School	Academy	151	52.7
The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls	Academy	232	51.3

 **Top 3
for A8**

Strive, Learn, Conquer

Our motto, *Excellence for All*, reflects the ambition at Hornchurch High School, where our values – aspire, believe, achieve – guide everything we do. We aim to be the best school in the borough, providing a wide range of opportunities so your son or daughter can have choice, take control of their future, and see education as a powerful agency for success.

Provisional DfE data published on Thursday shows we are one of the **top three schools in the borough** for Attainment 8, outperforming many selective schools and therefore the **best comprehensive in Havering**. Our Basics measure for English and Maths at grade 5+ is **well above** both the England and local authority average, reflecting the high standards we set for every student.

Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs

This tells you the percentage of pupils who achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs.



Attainment 8

Schools get a score based on how well pupils have performed in up to 8 qualifications.



SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



Hornchurch High School's sports teams have had a strong start to the season. The Year 9 football team drew 2-2 against Emerson Park, showing good attacking, solid defending, and determination to fight back late in the game. In cross-country, students tackled tough courses at the Havering competition with great effort and resilience, highlighted by James 7A achieving an impressive 4th place. The Year 7 basketball team enjoyed their first competitive games against Redden Court, demonstrating enthusiasm, teamwork, and a willingness to learn. The Year 8 netball team showed great teamwork, technical skill in attack with 80% shooting accuracy, and Olivia-Rae 8P stood out as Player of the Match.

WORD OF THE WEEK WINNERS

Congratulations to our first Word of the Week Wizards of the school year. These students have shown exceptional dedication to expanding their vocabulary, earning the most House points in their year groups. They will receive a special edition novel to reward their linguistic brilliance:

- Year 11: Freda
- Year 10: Ankiel
- Year 9: Vladimir
- Year 8: Rejan
- Year 7: Arush



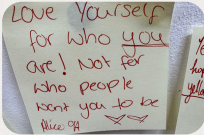
Going Yellow for YoungMinds: Hornchurch High Shines a Light on Mental Health!

On Friday 10th October, we took part in the national #HelloYellow campaign to show our young people that they are never alone when it comes to their mental health. The school was filled with yellow as students and staff joined in by wearing yellow accessories, socks, and t-shirts to raise awareness and spark positive conversations.



"I've already made so many new friends and we all look out for each other."
— Arthur, Year 7

During the week, form time activities focused on mental health and wellbeing, giving students the chance to reflect and talk openly in a supportive setting. To finish the week, we launched our Yellow Positivity Wall, where students, staff, and visitors shared uplifting messages, quotes, and thoughts to brighten someone's day. It was fantastic to see the whole school community come together to support such an important cause.



Guiding Every Step, Shaping Every Future

Year 10 students have started one-to-one careers meetings with an independent, qualified careers advisor, providing guidance as they begin to explore their future pathways. Year 11 students have continued to receive support through drop-in careers sessions during form time. Additionally, Sixth Form and college open evenings are now underway, and we are supporting all Year 11 students as they make informed decisions about their post 16 next steps

SORTING HAT : HOUSES

Our new Year 7 cohort discovered which house they belong to. Students are now part of one of four houses: Fuji, Matterhorn, Kilimanjaro, or Everest – reflecting our school motto: aspire, believe, achieve.

The big reveal happened during a special assembly, where staff and students opened envelopes together to discover their house and received their house badge. Bring on the house competitions – let the games commence!



It's great to be part of something bigger and achieve together.

— Maria, Year 7

This Week in Pictures



Students are taking part in weekly self-defence lessons, learning practical skills to stay safe and confident.



Students are sharpening their speaking and critical thinking skills through weekly Debate Mate sessions.



We're excited to launch a Mandarin programme this term, giving students the chance to explore a new language and culture. Fun fact: 1/6 of the global population can speak Mandarin!



Each Thursday 3-4pm, students join a Royal Academy of Dance workshop, working with our teachers to build dance, performance, and confidence skills.



Student Leader School Update

The Student Leadership Team is really proud of how the school community has started this half term. We've seen students showing excellent **thinking**, taking time to reflect and challenge themselves in lessons. There's been great **resilience**, with everyone working hard to overcome challenges and keep improving. Most of all, we've noticed fantastic **collaboration**, with students supporting one another and sharing ideas to achieve their best. It's been a positive and focused start, and we're looking forward to seeing these learning behaviours continue to shine!

Election Time

The selection for our new Head Students is underway, with candidates presenting their vision and supported by current leaders. Interviews conclude this week, with appointments announced after half-term. Students interested in other leadership roles – Year Reps, Wellbeing, and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors—should apply by seeing Mr Norris, gaining confidence, responsibility, and the chance to make a real impact on school life.