



23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

## Spring Term 2025-26 – Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

As outlined at the beginning of this academic year, I will write to you at Christmas, Easter, and summer, to provide updates on our school's progress and celebrate our successes. Please be sure to read through to the end of this PDF, as it features our newsletter highlighting and celebrating the achievements of our departments and students.

### Academic Success

We are delighted to have received a letter from the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, recognising the excellent outcomes achieved by disadvantaged pupils at Hornchurch High School at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. She praised the school's performance, noting that it places us "among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement". Well done to all staff, pupils, and members of our learning community who have supported our pupils.

### Attendance

As outlined in Term 1, attendance continues to be a key priority (above 97%), as regular attendance has a significant impact on students' learning and progress. Research shows that even a small number of missed days can have a significant impact on a child's future. For example, missing around 13 days of school can result in a drop of one GCSE grade, and each day missed is linked to lower future earnings. Good attendance not only supports academic success, but also improves long-term opportunities, including employment prospects and financial stability. Every day in school truly makes a difference. You can access the research here titled '[The Impact of School Absence on Lifetime Earnings](#)' commissioned by the Department for Education.

### Continual Feedback

Your feedback as parents and carers is invaluable, and as we reach the end of term, your voice is important for us and our live school improvement plan. There is also an option for a follow-up meeting after the survey, so please complete it so we can collaboratively make further improvements. Please complete the following survey with your child: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J5DYQY3>





In previous surveys, as parents/carers, you had requested learning journeys for each subject, our subject leads have created them and they can be found at the [end of each subject's overview](#) on our website, so you can visually see what content your child is taught at key learning points, to further support them at home. An example can be found to the right.



### Safer Schools Scheme

There is a 6 month review period and Havering council is seeking feedback from the wider local community about the scheme, please email [schemes@havering.gov.uk](mailto:schemes@havering.gov.uk) with any feedback regarding the scheme in the surrounding areas of Hornchurch High School.

### Progress Reports and Parents' Evenings

Students are assessed three times a year, and teachers provide a predicted grade based on assessments, classwork, and contributions. The Spring Progress Report for Years 7–10 will be sent out today/tomorrow, accompanied by a letter explaining the reporting system. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's Head of Year. Year 11 students will receive theirs in person on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> during their mock results day.

Please find below the remaining Parents' Evening dates for your son or 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 10 – Parents' Evening	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Year 7 – Parents' Evening	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Year 11 Examinations

Year 11 Summer Series Examinations for 2026 Hornchurch High School pupils runs from 8<sup>th</sup> May to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026. Students will receive individual examination timetables after Easter. The JCQ exam timetable includes a contingency day, which is 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026, which would be used if an exam is nationally disrupted, so students must be available. Year 11 parents have already received a letter regarding this information and will receive further communication at the start of next term.

This Easter will be a slightly different type of break for our Year 11 students. Rather than a traditional holiday, they will be working through revision booklets that encompass all the content taught in class, clearly indicating what needs to be revised at home. With exams approaching, it is not possible to revisit every aspect of the past two years' learning, so this focused approach allows students to





concentrate on areas identified for improvement based on feedback from their mock examinations. Alongside their academic work, it is essential that students maintain a healthy routine, including regular exercise, rest, a balanced diet, and structured daily habits (without electronic devices). This period of focused revision over Easter is an important step in preparing for their examinations, after which they will enjoy two and a half months of well-earned holiday.

### **Havering Easter Holiday Programme**

We want to encourage all students to stay active and healthy over the Easter break. Keeping physically engaged not only supports wellbeing but also helps maintain positive routines outside of the school day. There are lots of great options available locally, from organised sports sessions and clubs to free and informal activities for children of all ages. You can find details of holiday programmes, sports camps, and other opportunities on the [Havering Active holiday activities page](#).

### **End of Term Arrangement and Summer Term**

The final day of this spring term is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 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 non-uniform and donate £1 however, all dress must be appropriate for a professional learning environment. The term dates for 2025/26 and 2026/27 are published on our website should you wish to plan future holidays. The first day of spring term will start on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026** with students arriving at 8:15 for a prompt 8:30 start, our breakfast club starts at 8am. All students have access to free bagels and free porridge with toppings – we encourage students to take advantage of this offer. From all of us at Hornchurch High, Eid Mubarak to those who celebrated recently, and a very Happy Easter!

Yours sincerely,

Ms S Madhvani  
Headteacher





**HORNCHURCH**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

**Term Dates 2025-26 | Current Academic Year**

**Hornchurch High School**  
School Term and Holiday Dates 2025 - 2026



September 2025						
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April 2026						
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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



**HORNCHURCH**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

**Term Dates 2026-27 | Next Academic Year**

**Hornchurch High School**  
School Term and Holiday Dates 2026 - 2027



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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)
Friday 23rd October - 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

# HORNCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## Message from the Headteacher

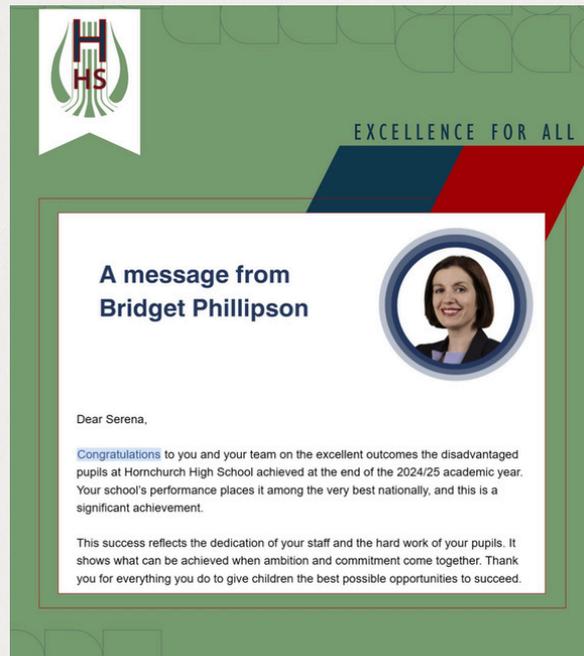
It has been a fantastic spring term, and we are proud to have been recognised for the excellent outcomes achieved by our disadvantaged pupils, reflecting our commitment to high standards for every student, and a wealth of opportunities. A warm welcome to our Year 6 families joining us in September 2027, we are delighted to have a full cohort and look forward to welcoming you. Eid Mubarak to those who celebrated recently, and a very Happy Easter to those celebrating soon. Thank you, as always, to our parents and carers for your continued support. ~ Ms. Madhvani

## PARENTS' EVENINGS

\* Save the dates

Parents' Evenings 4-6.30pm	
Year Group	Date
Year 11	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Year 9	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
Year 8	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Year 10	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Year 7	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026

Remember to sign-up to [Easyfundraising](#) - a quick way to raise money for the school through your everyday online shopping.



## "Among the very best nationally"

We are delighted to have received a letter from the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, recognising the excellent outcomes achieved by disadvantaged pupils at Hornchurch High School at the end of the 2024/25 academic year.

She praised the school's performance, noting that it places us "among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement". Well done to all staff, pupils, and members of our learning community who have supported our pupils.

### 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.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP – FIRST GIVE

A huge congratulations to Rafael, Mikail, Aamani, Tinashe, Jenson and Kevin who impressed judges with their passion for making a difference in their community. As a result, they secured £1,000 for the charity Body and Soul.



### Well-being Ambassadors

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors did a fantastic job this term as they planned and delivered an assembly focused on the importance of kindness. They spoke confidently to students about how small, positive actions can make a big difference within our school community. Their leadership and thoughtful messages were warmly received.



## WORD OF THE WEEK WINNERS

Congratulations to our Term 2 Word of the Week Wizards. 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: Kaan
- Year 8: Anish
- Year 7: Farabi



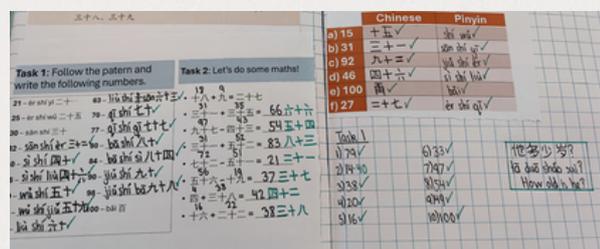
## Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation – ‘I Love You, Mum – I Promise I won’t Die

Havering Council is working with local schools in a bid to raise awareness of the risks of taking alcohol and drugs. It is part of a five-year action plan to help young people between the ages of 12 and 24 to understand the implications of taking drugs and alcohol and the impact it can have on their lives, friends and families. Year 9 and 10 pupils were visited by the DSM Foundation to perform a powerful piece of verbatim theatre, written by acclaimed playwright Mark Wheeler, that tells the story of Daniel Spargo-Mabbs who tragically died at the age of 16 from an accidental overdose. The unravelling what happened to Dan,

the decisions he made and how it affected his family and friends. It was followed by a workshop with the cast, which gave the young people a chance to learn more about how to keep themselves safe, how to deal with peer pressure and to how to look out for their friends. Councillors Oscar Ford, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, attended the performance Hornchurch High School and spoke to our pupils. Havering Council also published a press release about their visit to our school, which can be accessed [here](#).

## 新年快乐

In February, our Mandarin class led the celebrations for the Chinese New Year. This annual, colourful, 15-day celebration marks the beginning of the new lunar year with families welcoming good fortune, honouring their ancestors, tucking in to delicious feasts and exchanging red envelopes. Our students would like to wish all those that celebrated 新年快乐 (pronounced shin-nyen kwai-ler), which means "New Year happiness."



**“Hopefully we get to visit China at some point in the future”**

## INTERMEDIATE UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE



This term, a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students took part in the Intermediate UKMT Maths Challenge, a national competition designed to stretch problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning. We are delighted to share that our students achieved an impressive set of results: 19 Bronze, 6 Silver, and 2 Gold certificates. A huge congratulations goes to Robert and Luyi, who performed exceptionally well and have qualified for the next round, which is invite-only and reserved for the highest scoring students nationwide. This is a fantastic achievement! Well done to all who took part.

## CAREERS



This term's Careers Fair was a fantastic success, giving our students the chance to explore a wide range of future pathways and speak directly with employers, training providers, and further education representatives. We would like to extend a huge thank-you to all the providers and ex-students who attended and supported the event. It was especially inspiring to welcome back former students who returned to share their achievements and offer valuable advice to the next generation. Their stories and guidance made a real impact, and we are grateful for their continued connection to our school community.



## World Book Day

World Book Day 2026, held on Thursday, March 5th, focused nationally on "Reading For Pleasure" with the motto "Go All In," aiming to help children dive deeper into their interests, such as gaming, sports, or history through books. The theme this year highlights making reading fun and accessible to all, encouraging children to choose their own books.

This year's World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of creativity, imagination and reading across the school. Students and staff fully embraced the spirit of the day with a range of activities running throughout the week.

During form time, students took part in a variety of competitions, including quizzes, Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover, and the popular Masked Reader. These activities brought lots of excitement and friendly competition to the start of each day.

In lessons, classes took part in a special Twisted Tales DEAR session, where students explored what happens when two well-known

stories are combined, creating imaginative mix ups of characters, settings, and plots. They then had the chance to write their own short extracts, showcasing their creative writing skills. Adding to the fun, both students and teachers came to school dressed as their favourite book characters, filling the corridors with colour, costumes, and plenty of laughter. Their efforts helped raise money for the Drama Department's upcoming performance of Matilda, totalling £162.06 which will support the creation of staging and costumes.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make World Book Day 2026 such a success!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go"



## HOUSE SYSTEM

This term has seen a fantastic level of engagement across our Department House Competitions. Students have taken part with great enthusiasm, earning valuable points for their houses in a wide range of challenges. The Computing, Science, History and Maths departments have all hosted exciting competitions, each giving students the chance to boost their house totals.

The competition for the House Cup remains incredibly close, and this term has brought a major shake-up to the leaderboard. The current standings are:

- 1st Place – Matterhorn: 35,626 points
- 2nd Place – Everest: 35,567 points
- 3rd Place – Fuji: 33,414 points
- 4th Place – Kilimanjaro: 33,394 points

## Extra-curricular



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



All Year 7 students attended a live theatre performance, *The Firework Maker's Daughter* at the Polka Theatre!



All Year 9 pupils attended The Globe theatre this week to watch *Playing Shakespeare* with Deutsche Bank: *Romeo and Juliet*. This action-packed, 90-minute version was created especially for young people and is the perfect introduction to Shakespeare for everyone.



Out of school competitions and achievement for jujitsu include: Ryan (year 11) who won one gold and three silver medals, Michael (year 10) who won two silver and one bronze, and Amy (year 7) who won gold and one silver. A huge congratulations!

## British Science Week: The Mystery of Greg the Skeleton

This year, we celebrated British Science Week with a science-themed mystery! Our beloved skeleton, Greg, was discovered "murdered" and students were tasked with solving the crime. Taking on the role of detectives, students worked through a series of scientific experiments to uncover clues and eliminate suspects. It was fantastic to see so many students fully engaged, thinking critically, and applying science in a fun and interactive way. A huge well done to everyone who took part and helped bring science to life during British Science Week.



## Model United Nations Conference

On Saturday 7th February some of our Year 9 and Year 10 delegates took part in the West London Model United Nations Conference at the American School in London. In preparation for the event, students carried out extensive research to ensure they could present well-informed solutions on behalf of the nations they represented.

Throughout the day, our students debated and collaborated with confidence and integrity during a series of committee meetings focused on urgent global issues. These included the challenges of global health in rapidly changing climates, the colonial legacies of climate injustice, food sovereignty, and climate responsibility in large-scale events.

It was an insightful learning experience that placed youth voices at the centre of some of the most pressing dilemmas of our time. A huge well done to Vladimir, Minal, Amy, Areesha, Juliette, Amina, Shiloh and Eniola.

# The Sports Edition

## Football



After two tough losses, the Year 10 football team showed real character and resilience in their latest clash against Britton's School. The highlight of the match came with a fantastic strike from the edge of the box by Charlie - his first ever goal for Hornchurch High. This moment capped off a commanding performance and secured a well-deserved victory. The team's determination and unity were evident throughout, proving that setbacks can lead to stronger comebacks.



The Year 9 team's performance vs. St Edward's was the most complete team display of the season. Every single player played their part, from the goalkeeper (George) who made crucial early saves, to the forward line, who created some unbelievable chances and went on to score five excellent goals. A 5-0 scoreline reflected just how dominant and united the team were. This performance will certainly be remembered as one of the highlights of the season.

## Rugby



The Year 7 rugby team played their first-ever match together against a strong Hall Mead side. The boys showed excellent teamwork throughout the game, narrowly losing by just one try in the closing moments. It was a fantastic effort and a promising start for the team.

## Netball



Congratulations to the Year 9 & 10 Netball teams with their impressive wins against St. Edward's!

Both teams worked incredibly hard with their through court connections, brilliant interceptions and impeccable shooting skills.  
 Year 9 – 12-8  
 Year 10 – 10-3

## Basketball

The Year 7 basketball team had a very positive first season, showing great effort, teamwork and determination throughout the competition. The team recorded strong wins against Emerson Park and St Edwards, as well as a narrow defeat to Royal Liberty in a closely contested match.

Their performances helped them reach the semi-finals, where they were unfortunately knocked out by Redden Court. Reaching this stage was a great achievement for the team in their first season.

Overall, it has been a great year with plenty to build on, and the team will look to keep improving and give 100% effort going into next season.



*A huge congratulations to all who represent the school - we are incredibly proud of you!*

