

16th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 GCSE Revision – Learning Performance Workshop

The Year 11 year group received their first GCSE revision workshop courtesy of Learning Performance on Tuesday. The external speaker was exceptionally complimentary about the mature way in which all students approached the session. The day included information and advice on different revision strategies and changing perception around revision. There will be another workshop to all students on 24th February. For further information on Learning Performance please click the following link:

<https://learningperformance.com/>

This was followed by a parents presentation in the evening that was exceptionally well attended. This allowed the external speaker to highlight the advice given to students alongside how parents can support students. It also gave RHS staff a chance to present various ways in which the school is supporting students and preparing them for the upcoming GCSE Mock process. Part of this preparation includes the online revision booklet. This will be available on the school website from next week-

<https://www.richardhale.herts.sch.uk/school-life/examinations/>

Lots of further information, including the presentation from Tuesday evening can also be found on the Year Group Google Classroom. Parents are encouraged to actively look through this information with their son.

Celebrating National Poetry Day

In honour of National Poetry Day on the 2nd October, our students celebrated the power of verse by sharing their favourite poems, and their choices spanned an impressive range of styles and eras. It was wonderful to see so many different works resonating with our young people, from the playful nonsense of Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" to the wartime solemnity of John McCrae's "In Flanders' Fields." Their appreciation for literature wasn't limited to the classics, either; students shared love for contemporary works like Zach Bryan's "This road I know" and popular children's classics such as Julia Donaldson's "The Gruffalo." This exercise was a fantastic way to showcase the breadth of our students' interests and remind everyone that poetry can be found and enjoyed in countless forms. We encourage you to ask your child about the poem they shared and perhaps share one of your favourites at home.

The poetic efforts didn't stop there. Inspired by a resource from the National Literacy Trust, all Year 7 and 8 students were challenged to write their own original poem detailing their walk home from school. Mrs Jordan has been inundated with creative entries, showcasing a wonderful blend of observation and imagination. Judging is currently underway, and we look forward to announcing the winners of this exciting competition in next week's newsletter.

Duolingo House Competition Update

We would like to share a quick update on our recent celebrations for the European Day of Languages. The highly competitive two-week House Duolingo challenge has now closed. Both students and staff showed incredible enthusiasm as they battled for XP points. The Languages Department is currently busy tallying the scores, and we will be announcing the winning House and celebrating the top language learners with House Points next week.

Rugby

All Rugby fixtures for the season for all year groups can be found via the link below:

[Richard Hale School | Sports, Teams, Fixtures & Results](#)

Please Note: Venues and timings are subject to change from those listed on the link. Any updates will be communicated to all students in advance via Google Classroom and during their Games lessons.

For the latest Richard Hale sporting news and updates, please follow **@RHS_PE** on **X (formerly Twitter)**.

National Cup Results

Two outstanding performances lit up the National Cup this week. Our 1st XV delivered a thrilling 35–29 victory over St George's, securing a well-earned place in the third round, where they will face either Mill Hill or Harrow. Not to be outdone, the U14s dominated Berkhamsted with a commanding 32–0 win, showcasing a mature and composed performance from a hugely talented group. Opponents for their next round are yet to be confirmed. Well done to all involved

Rugby Results vs Hitchin

U17 XV - Won 52-15

U14A - Won 29-28

U14B - Won 33-31

U13A – Lost 2-4

U13B – Lost 4-8

U12 vs Hitchin

Played 3 Won 1; Drew 2

Friday 17th October vs TBSHS(Home)

4 x U12 matches vs TBSHS. All matches will be played at Morgan Playing Fields. 2.30pm KO

Saturday 18th October vs TBSHS

1st XV / 2nd XV / U15 - Home - KO 10.00am

U14AB – Away – KO 10.00m

U13ABC – Away – KO 10.00am

All Saturday home fixtures will be held at **Hertford RFC**.

Away fixtures will be held at: Jobbes Wood SG10 6FB

Standard Bearers for the Remembrance Ceremony – Tuesday 11th November 2025

In previous years at our Remembrance Ceremony, we have had Richard Hale students who belonged to different cadet groups acting as standard bearers. We are again hoping that there would be students from cadet groups from Police, Sea, Scout, Army or RAF which have a standard flag and would be able to be a standard bearer at the School's Remembrance Ceremony. If your son or daughter is interested, please contact Mrs Norris or Mrs Martin by emailing RHSevents@richardhale.co.uk to advise they would like to be involved.

Student News

Congratulations to the following students:

[Zachary Pearson](#), Year 9, who recently played in the Hockey Mentors U14 boys' side who won 3-1 against Repton School, a private boarding school in Derby.

[Rajko Shepherd](#), Year 9, who took part in a sponsored skating challenge to raise money for The Pioneer Club, a local community skate centre which is also the oldest skate club in the UK. Rajko skated from 8pm - 8am non-stop and raised over £1,300.

Free School Meals

Just a reminder to parents that Hertfordshire County Council are no longer providing food vouchers for the October and February half-term periods. For families requiring additional support, Hertfordshire County Council recommends that parents visit [‘support with cost-of-living pages’](#) on their website.

Ian Hawkins
Headteacher

October 2025 Calendar

Thursday 23 rd	Art Trip to Rome to 26 th Flu Vaccinations
Monday 27 th	Half Term Week

November 2025 Calendar

Monday 3 rd	Return to School
Monday 10 th	Year 12 Mid-Term Tests to the 14 th
Tuesday 11 th	Remembrance Ceremony
Wednesday 12 th	Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday 17 th	GCSE MFL Mock Writing Tests to the 21 st
Thursday 20 th	Year 13 Parents Evening
Monday 24 th	DTP/MenACWY Vaccinations
Wednesday 26 th	House Plays
Thursday 27 th	House Plays

December 2025 Calendar

Monday 1 st	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 3 rd	BTEC Mock Exams to 4 th Year 12/13 Economics Conference
Friday 5 th	Occasional Day – School Closed
Monday 8 th	Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams to the 18 th
Wednesday 10 th	Year 12 & 13 Further Maths Lectures, London
Thursday 11 th	Year 12 & 13 Geology – Natural History Museum Christmas Concert
Friday 12 th	Staff & Sixth Form Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 17 th	Christmas Lunch Year 12 Politics Parliament Visit
Thursday 18 th	Senior Presentation Evening
Friday 19 th	Founders Day & White Gloves End of Term – School finishes at 12.30
Christmas Holiday	

January 2026 Calendar

Monday 5 th	Return to School - Spring Term Begins
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Weeks

Monday 20 th Oct	Week 2
Monday 27 th Oct	Half Term Week
Monday 3 rd Nov	Week 1
Monday 10 th Nov	Week 2
Monday 17 th Nov	Week 1
Monday 24 th Nov	Week 2
Monday 1 st Dec	Week 1
Monday 8 th Dec	Week 2
Monday 15 th Dec	Week 1
Christmas Holiday	
Monday 5 th Jan	Week 2

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