

26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Exceptional Achievement in Music

We are incredibly proud to announce that Robbie Vere, Year 8 has been selected for the prestigious ORA Singers Young Composers' Programme. Out of a highly competitive field of applicants, Robbie's entry composition stood out to the panel, earning him a place on the "Apprentice" strand of this unique training scheme.

As one of only 40 students chosen, Robbie will participate in a series of specialist workshops led by professional composer Rory Wainwright Johnson. An incredible opportunity for a very talented young composer.

### House Music 2026

We are delighted to invite you to this year's House Music Competition which takes place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in the Main Hall. Students have been working incredibly hard on their performances, and we are excited to share their talent and creativity with you. Tickets are now available through Wisepay - Adults: £5, Concessions: £3 and Family of 4: £15. Refreshments will be available for purchase during the interval supplied by the PTA.

### Senior Ski Trip

This year's Senior Ski Trip was one to remember, as 40 Year 11 and 13 students travelled by plane to the beautiful resort of St Johann in Tirol, Austria, for an unforgettable week in the snow.

The snowfall was incredible, with almost 50cm falling over the course of the week, creating fantastic conditions on the slopes. The skiing was excellent all round, offering challenges that tested everyone's ability while allowing students to build their confidence and skills throughout the trip. After long days on the mountain, students enjoyed a range of après-ski activities. Highlights included swimming sessions to relax tired muscles at the Panorama Welt and a much-anticipated pizza night in nearby Kitzbühel, which gave everyone the chance to unwind and enjoy some well-earned downtime together.

The group stayed in a traditional Austrian-style hotel, which provided a warm and welcoming base for the week. The cosy atmosphere and great hospitality offered by Barbara and her team added to what was already a brilliant experience. Wednesday saw some healthy competition during the student ski races. Congratulations to the winners:

- **Group 1:** Luke Watkiss (overall winning time)
- **Group 2:** Billy Parsons
- **Group 3:** Stan Stokes
- **Group 4:** Tyler McClung

There was a moment of drama on the journey home, as heavy snowfall threatened to close Munich Airport. Fortunately, travel plans remained on track and everyone returned safely after an exciting end to the week. Overall, the 2026 Senior Ski Trip was a fantastic success. A

huge thank you to the students for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour, to parents for their support, and to staff for their hard work in making the trip such a memorable experience for all involved.

### Junior Ski Trip

During half term, 59 boys and 9 members of staff visited Claviere in Italy for the junior ski trip. Snow conditions were incredible and the boys made great progress with their instructors to the point that the nursery slopes were empty by the second day.

The evenings were buzzing with excessive use of the complimentary pool and foosball tables, a trip to the local pizzeria, quiz and games nights, and the last ever Bob's Bingo.

### Teaching Assistant Vacancy

We are looking to appoint a motivated, enthusiastic and committed person to join our Student Support Centre. For full details please see the Vacancy page on our website:

<https://richardhale.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

### Progress Reports

Year 12 PR1 Report will be available on the SIMS Parent App from 3.20pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. If you have any problems accessing the system please email [simsparentapp@richardhale.co.uk](mailto:simsparentapp@richardhale.co.uk).

Ian Hawkins

**Headteacher**

### February 2026 Calendar

Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 and 13 Photographs Year 11 Food Tech Practical
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### March 2026 Calendar

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sixth Form Offer Holder Evening
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day DofE Year 10 Parents Meeting
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 9 Welwyn Youth Drama Festival
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE MFL Mock Writing Tests to the 13 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 12 Parents Evening
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 13 Revision Evening
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 DofE Training day
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	House Music
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	BTEC Mock Exams and Year 13 Resits to the 27 <sup>th</sup> GCSE Drama Practical
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 9 Parents Evening
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 English Exam
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Uniform Day End of spring term, school finishes at 12.30pm

## Easter Holidays

### April 2026 Calendar

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Term begins A Level MFL Mock Speaking exams Year 10 Exams to the 17 <sup>th</sup>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE Art Exam
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE Art Exam
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Work Experience Week GCSE MFL Speaking Exams Week
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Post-18 Pathways Evening
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 7 Bude Information Evening
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	A Level MFL Speaking Exams
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Maths Challenge
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 12 Exams start A Level Art Exam

### May 2026 Calendar

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	A Level Art Exam
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Bank Holiday – School Closed</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 7 Parents Evening
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	BTEC Exams start GCSE Exams start

### Weeks

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Week 1
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Week 2
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Week 1
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Week 2
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Week 1
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Week 2
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Week 1
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Week 2
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Week 1

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