

HALE NEWS



HEAD'S WORDS



This term is always short, but I am amazed at how much we have managed to cram into it.

In terms of highlights, the senior production blew away the January cobwebs and lifted all our spirits with the fantastic, "We Will Rock You!" It was great to see the live band performing the classic hits of Queen and the students performing their parts with comedic excellence and of course using their voices to the full as the cast sought to unite the bohemians at the place of champions and overthrow the Killer Queen. It really did have it all, with fantastic performances from students in Year 8 to Year 13. Well done to everyone involved!

Over this half term we have had a large number of sporting fixtures as we have progressed through the cup competitions. Particular praise must go to the Year 10 Rugby team who have reached the semi finals of the national bowl competition. The students endured the long round trip to Birkenhead, but played brilliantly in a close game where we were successful in making the next round. The Year 7 football team have reached the national quarter finals following a win after penalties and we also have Year 8 making the same stage. We are all waiting for the draw with anticipation!

I wish everyone an enjoyable half term, especially those on the senior and junior ski visits, we look forward to hearing all about the trip when you get back.

Mr. Hawkins

A note from the editors

If the start of January usually feels like a slow climb, someone forgot to tell our students. We have hit the ground running this half-term, and the corridors have been buzzing with energy since the very first bell of the year. This edition is packed to the brim because, quite frankly, there's been no slowing down.

What has stood out most to us as editors is the high level of student engagement. Whether it's in the science labs, on the stage, or during lunchtime clubs, seeing the genuine enjoyment our students are finding in their school life is the perfect antidote to the chilly and often wet weather outside.

We've curated the best highlights, photos, and stories from the past six weeks to give you a front-row seat to everything your children have been achieving. It's been a whirlwind start, and we wouldn't have it any other way!

Thank you!

We hope you enjoy it.

Important Dates

Monday 23rd February

Return to School

Tuesday 24th February

Year 11 Revision Workshops

Wednesday 25th February

Year 13 Parents Evening

Friday 27th February

Year 11 and 13 Photographs

Wednesday 4th March

Sixth Form Offer Holder Evening

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

Friday 6th March

Year 9 Welwyn Youth Drama Festival

Monday 9th to 13th March

GCSE MFL Mock Writing Tests

Tuesday 10th March

Year 12 Parents Evening

Thursday 12th March

Year 13 Revision Evening



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CHARITY UPDATE



FOOTBALL SHIRT COLLECTION

The school is immensely proud of the generosity and community spirit shown by its students through the recent charity drive in support of Onda Solidaria, a charity we have been working with for the past 13 years.

Mr Patterson organised the collection of an incredible 249 football shirts and 68 pairs of shorts, which will be sent to boys and girls in Brazil. This remarkable achievement reflects the compassion, teamwork, and global awareness the school strives to nurture within its community. The school would like to extend sincere thanks to all students, families, and staff who contributed to making this initiative such a meaningful success.



**ONDA
SOLIDÁRIA**



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ONDA SOLIDÁRIA

On the 15th of January 2025 we at Richard Hale were lucky enough to conduct an interview with Ricardo Calçado, the founder of one of our affiliated charities, Onda Solidária.

Onda Solidária and Richard Hale have had links since 2013 with students of our school often donating items such as football shirts to be taken to Brazil and given to underprivileged children as a symbol of the links between our two communities and the shared love for football between the children of Hertford and the children of Brazil, with over 200 shirts donated this year, which was kindly organised by Mr Patterson! From our interview with Ricardo we came to understand the value of this connection with the children helped by Onda Solidaria as Ricardo explained the experience of setting up their 'eco school' which aims to educate, feed and otherwise help underprivileged children from a small town two hours from Rio De Janeiro and we came to understand the true impact of donations we have participated in for years.

Furthermore we were able to learn more about what occurred during the previous trips to Brazil that have been made by former students through our interview with Ricardo and an interview with previous head girl Ella Richardson. From her perspective Ella was able to tell us of her experience doing work experience in Brazil, collaborating with Onda Solidaria and how she was lucky enough to witness firsthand the opportunities provided to people such as water schemes for the public as well as sports opportunities, describing the experience as a 'real eyeopener'.

Ricardo also spoke of this experience and described the importance of it from their perspective and how incredible it is for all associated with Onda Solidaria in Brazil to see this come to life and the subsequent strengthening of the direct relationship between the pupils of Richard Hale alongside Onda Solidaria and the understanding and grasp of the impact of the help we give within areas of Brazil. Moreover an interview with Mr Davies of Richard Hale school enlightened us about the history of this important link and the gratitude felt by both sides for the opportunity. He described the impact on one particular Brazilian student who first received a football shirt from an RHS student and extra English lessons from Onda Solidaria from the age of 10 years old. He is now working in the supreme court in the capital Brasilia as well as having become a director of the charity and he visited RHS, speaking to students in January 2024, having never previously travelled outside Brazil. This is a great example of the importance of the charity and the efficiency and scale of what can be done for those they help. Finally, we spoke to many year 8 and 9 pupils about why they donated and the effect donating has on them. They told us that it brings them joy to be able to give to people less fortunate than them and that they hope their football shirts would bring the same joy to other children and improve their experiences with the sport.

We videoed all the above interviews and will be producing a reel shortly, which we hope to be able to share with a wider audience.

By George Foxall and Ellen Mortimore.

On New Year's day, on the Brazilian flagship news programme there was a piece about the football shirts that were collected last year! See the Instagram post for more details (it is in Portuguese):



HOUSE EVENTS

Current standings

- 1st. Croft
- 2nd. Wallace
- 3rd. Hale
- 4th. Kinman
- 5th. Cowper
- 6th. Page

HOUSE	POINTS
CROFT	106 1/2
WALLACE	98 1/2
HALE	95 1/2
KINMAN	82
COWPER	78 1/2
PAGE	74 1/2

House Volunteering

We're delighted to again be running our annual House Volunteering Competition this term.

Alongside supporting their House, students across all year groups have a fantastic opportunity to get involved, give back and make a positive difference within their local community.

The more voluntary activities a student completes, the more House points can be earned for their House.

Whether it's washing your car, doing a litter pick in your local neighbourhood or making a donation to a foodbank, we'd love for as many students as possible to get involved.

The deadline for entries is 22nd February and all submissions should be made via the House Volunteering Google Classroom.

HOUSE VOLUNTEERING



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We Will Rock You - Drama Department

Last Thursday and Friday, audiences were treated to two outstanding performances of We Will Rock You, showcasing the talent and dedication of students from Years 9 to 13.

From the very start of the year, students committed themselves wholeheartedly to this production, generously giving up weekends and countless hours of rehearsal time. That dedication was evident in every aspect of the performances, which were delivered with confidence, energy and professionalism.



The lead roles of Galileo and Scaramouche were performed by Sam Curzon and George Kimberley alongside Charlotte Ward. Sam brought emotional depth and sensitivity to Galileo, while George delivered the role with passion and fire - both brilliant interpretations. Charlotte was a commanding Scaramouche, impressing the audience with her performance of Somebody to Love and capturing the role's strength, intelligence and unapologetic feminist spirit.

The formidable Killer Queen was portrayed by Daniel Parsons and Oscar Edmondson, both of whom rose impressively to the challenge of this bold and demanding role. Each delivered a striking and authoritative performance. Her loyal right-hand man, Khashoggi, was played by Nathan Gunnell and Alex Brown. Nathan imbued the character with an engaging and chilling menace, while Alex cleverly leaned into the role's comic potential, drawing laughter while maintaining tension.

Brit and Oz, played by Oscar Williams, Mark Bateman and Ella Stemp, were perfectly cast as the free-spirited Bohemians. Their performance of Headlong was a standout moment of the show, bursting with vitality and character.

A particularly memorable moment came with Ella Stemp's rendition of Only the Good Die Young. This beautifully sung performance moved many in the audience and has since been widely praised - a truly poignant highlight of the production.

The role of Buddy was shared by Michael Hunter and George Foxall. Michael's sharp timing and clarity shone through, while George brought a playful and mischievous edge to the part.

The live band, expertly led by Mrs Laker, was exceptional. In addition to leading the musicians with confidence and precision, she also orchestrated the music herself - a meticulous and time-intensive process involving many hours of careful work. The result was seamless and polished, with several audience members commenting in disbelief that the music was not pre-recorded. Iconic tracks such as We Will Rock You and Another One Bites the Dust were delivered with accuracy and drive, keeping feet tapping and hands clapping throughout.

The guitars were also a particular highlight, as one might expect with music by Queen, under the watchful eye of Mr Weymess-Cook. Ollie Desborough, Jacob Hawkins and Thomas Attridge took to the stage to perform those famous, technically demanding riffs with confidence, precision and real rock-and-roll flair, adding energy and authenticity to the sound throughout the show.

Costumes and props, imaginatively sourced and created by Ms Maughan, added enormously to the visual impact of the show. The contrast between the rigid, uniformed Yuppies and the expressive Bohemians was striking, and the dramatic entrance of the Killer Queen - a bold fusion of the Queen of Hearts and Maleficent - quite literally took the audience's breath away.

The technical teams worked seamlessly behind the scenes. Lighting - designed, programmed and operated by James Hadleigh, transformed the stage, which has rarely looked so impressive. Sound was expertly managed by James Cox and Jack Talmer, who undertook the demanding task of balancing live vocals with a full band - a challenge worthy of any professional theatre.

Backstage, Jack Rason led the team with great skill and calm as Stage Manager, fulfilling a vital and often under-appreciated role that ensured the smooth running of every performance.

Huge thanks must go to the entire company, who overcame numerous challenges along the way with resilience and teamwork, and to the many staff members who generously lent costumes, props and a great deal of rock-and-roll spirit.

The students were exceptional and fully merited the acclaim they received. This is an experience they will undoubtedly treasure, looking back and thinking, "Those were the days of our lives."



We Will Rock You – Review by William Haworth (Year 8)

We Will Rock You is set in the future, where rock music has been made illegal and individuality is not allowed. One of the immediate highlights was Killer Queen's amazing costume, which really stood out on stage. Galileo's powerful singing was another highlight, especially during I Want to Break Free. I also really enjoyed Brit's energetic dancing, which added lots of excitement to the performance. I thoroughly enjoyed the show and would definitely recommend it to others, particularly because of the comedy included throughout.

We Will Rock You – Review by Nathan Feyi-Shonubi

I went to see We Will Rock You on Friday 6th February. The musical is about two Bohemians who join a group of rebels to try and restore rock 'n' roll in a dystopian future where music is controlled. All of the acting was phenomenal and full of emotion. The singing was excellent, with a particular highlight being I Want to Break Free, sung brilliantly by Galileo. The music by Queen was extremely catchy and suited the scenes perfectly. The singers and musicians did an amazing job performing every song. Ollie Desborough in Year 8 was exceptional and played some fantastic guitar solos. The set was very impressive, with lots of rock memorabilia and even a motorbike on stage. The lighting was also excellent, and I especially enjoyed the flashing lights during the songs.

Overall, the show was outstanding, and the hard work of the cast and crew really showed throughout the performance.





An ode to Mrs Marshall



It was the year 2000 when Pauline applied,
A receptionist role - her CV complied.
An interview with Karen, the Head's right hand,
A perfect fit, just as fate had planned.

≈

With medical know-how and a warm, friendly smile,
Pauline was a natural—though IT took a while!
With Mike James as head, Steve, Cam and Brian by his side,
Pauline took school life, all in her stride.

≈

First aid, nurse maid, diabetic student support,
She offered words of wisdom without a second thought.
Watching from the side lines, as student numbers grew,
In came new phone systems and email too!

≈

The changes she's seen from that front desk position,
The students she's calmed, the staff's ambition.
Art trips to New York and vaccinations planned,
Pauline has been a constant safe pair of hands.
Even the pope sent his thanks this year, with a wave,
Thankfully he doesn't know how she can sometimes behave!

≈

Pauline, our dear friend, colleague and our rock,
You will be so very much missed, but it's time for you to take stock.
Go enjoy your retirement, with your heart and mind open,
Knowing that you leave us all just a little bit broken.



— HAPPY —
Retirement



Head of House Spotlight (January 2026)



Ms Oz - Cowper

The first Head of House Spotlight of the year goes to the House Drama Team! They have worked incredibly hard, staying after school for rehearsals, learning lots and lots of lines and delivered a fantastic performance in front of a large audience. It was amazing to see such a funny, supportive, and dedicated team come together and shine on stage. Well done to everyone involved, your effort and teamwork have made me, and I'm sure your parents, very proud!



Mr McKay - Croft

Our best start to a House Competition for the last 4 years so the potential for the 4-peat is there but we have to keep showing the determination and commitment to all events to get ourselves over the line! Loving the quotes from the Year 8 group as well, one of my favourites I've heard so far: "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." - Henry Ford



Mr Smith - Hale

The pupils in Hale House have made a strong and impressive return to school, competing in large numbers across a range of activities with real enthusiasm and team spirit. Their behaviour has been consistently positive as they aim high, demonstrate commitment, and take pride in everything they do.

"Selfless action is a source of strength." — Mahatma Gandhi



Mr McNamee - Kinman

Success is rarely an isolated event, it is the byproduct of a process executed with discipline and focus. Let's keep the momentum going, with numerous events coming up over the next few weeks across a variety of year groups. Get involved and make a difference.



Mr Parker - Page

House chess is currently taking place and well done to those in year 9 who have already contributed. It's great to see such a positive start. Don't worry if you have not had a chance to play yet, you can come along on Tuesday and Thursday next week to gain points. Well done to everyone working on their super curriculum and gaining those extra achievement points.



Mr Wolff - Wallace

I would like to provide a personal shout-out to Year 9 students Austin Turner and Levi Jardine, who were part of an undermanned Year 9 Basketball team that ran a much larger (in terms of both physical size and amount of players) Broxbourne team very close last week. Austin was not 100% fit due to knee issues, and Levi agreed to play less than 36 hours before tip-off, and both did extremely well. A fantastic show of commitment, gentlemen!

CELEBRATING Success

Well done to the Year 8 boys who were recognised for their effort, attitude and achievement at their assembly

Congratulations to all who received certificates and badges.

8



10 11

CELEBRATING Success

Well done to the students who attended the Key Stage 4 Achievement Breakfast as a reward for their dedication to learning and positive involvement in school life.

The breakfast provided a great opportunity to recognise the boys' sustained effort, high standards of behaviour and commitment throughout the last term.

The boys were also given the challenge of a bonus question for the chance to win a gift voucher. Congratulations to Kayden in Year 11 who was the only student to correctly guess the answer!



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CELEBRATING Success

A huge well done to our fantastic Year 9 Students of the Month, who have truly stood out for their resilience, commitment, and positive attitudes. From learning lines for House Drama and getting involved in extra-curricular activities, to producing high-quality super-curriculum work and showing maturity, kindness, and respect every day - these students consistently embody our school values.

Whether through quiet dedication, outstanding work ethic, willingness to help others, or simply turning up each day ready to learn, their efforts have not gone unnoticed. We are incredibly proud of you all - keep it up!



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SCIENCE

student achievement

This term, Science teachers nominated students from across the year groups for their excellent effort and achievement. The Science department was proud to celebrate their success, with each student awarded a certificate in recognition of their hard work.

Year 7

Kornel Siuda
James Bengé
Calum Taylor
Raymond Ryan
Connor Osborne
Arthur Allan

Year 8

Thomas Booth
Thomas Upponi-Davis
Felix Baines
Hugo Lawrance
Justin Kiaríi
Noah Conroy

Year 9

Oliver Murphy
Remi Bramer
Henry Staples
Tamer Wilson
Aidan Hoodless
Callum Lodge
Charlie Hubball
Montgomery Aldridge
Alessio Sicheri

Year 10

Ellio Carubia
Finlay Lowles
Camerson Sanderson
Xavier Jenkins
Theo Canter
Sam Hale
Freddie Amos
Archie Connoly
George Storey

Year 11

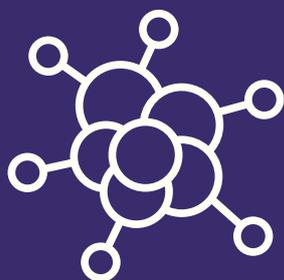
Murray Deacon
Janav Singh
Bryn Jones
Luke Donaghy
Oliver Macmurdie
Kai Joseph
Stan Dumont
Devaduth Shibu
Harry Serjeant

Year 12

Stewin Saiju
Henry Darvell-Green
Charlie Cox
Henry Darvell-Green
Harry Forbes
Emmanuel Salau

Year 13

Francesco Finocchiaro
Sami Quershi
Harry Griffin
Peter Sharman
Mario Grasso



Chemistry Update



This half term, Y13 Chemistry students had the privilege of having a talk from Steve Thomas from GSK after he had kindly analysed their Aspirin samples using H-NMR Spectroscopy. Steve went through in further detail about the workings of the analytical techniques as well as how these are used with GSK, a great insight for those pursuing a scientific career.

Congratulations to Mallory Bergeal and Jonny Rofe for the highest purity of over 99%! A fantastic achievement with many other groups also achieving over 90% purity.



On Saturday 7th February, 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butane' took to Jesus College in Cambridge to compete in the Cambridge Chemistry Race. The team had a range of questions to divide and conquer over 2 hours, getting more and more difficult, bridging into University level content in the latter questions, competing against other keen Chemists from across the country.

After an intense 2 hours, the team finished 12th from 25 teams within the college, scoring an impressive 83 points, Richard Hale School's best point tally to date! Congratulations to Billy Parsons, Charlie Cox, Aston Oakley, Eliza Mann and Emmanuel Salau for the hard work in preparation and the overall result.



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Members of our STEM Club achieved their Silver CREST Awards last year, following over 30 hours of sustained work each, and external moderation by CREST.



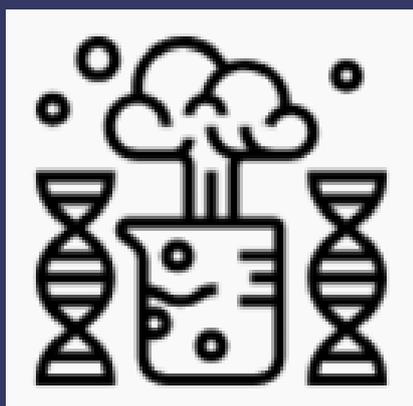
Aston Oakley in Y12 undertook an independent project exploring how cooking changes the chemical properties of pasta, designing and carrying out experiments to investigate starch structure and texture.

In our Y11 team, Avin, Ben, Isaac, Murray, Tyler and Will investigated the psychology of taste, researching and testing how other senses influence taste, texture and enjoyment of food using controlled experiments.

Both projects reflect the CREST ethos of independent enquiry, experimental design and real-world science.

Congratulations to both teams, pictured here with their well-deserved certificates.

Mrs Spencer
STEM Club Coordinator



Our STEM Club students receiving their Silver CREST Awards for their science projects.



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HEAD OF YEAR 9 UPDATE

MRS LOOYEN

Year 9s have made a solid start to the year, showing maturity, commitment, and a real willingness to get involved as they begin this important stage of their school journey.

This year marks the start of their GCSE courses, and the year group has handled the transition well. Students have adapted quickly to the increased expectations, showing focus in lessons and a positive approach to their studies. Their engagement so far suggests they are building strong foundations for the years ahead, truly taking on board our motto - "with great power comes great responsibility".

Alongside their academic work, Year 9s have taken part in a range of practical and enrichment opportunities. One being a day spent in the Garage, where students learned hands-on mechanical skills and explored how theory applies in real-world settings. The session gave them the chance to try something different, develop practical knowledge, and engage with learning beyond the classroom.

Participation in extra-curricular activities continues to be a real strength of the year group. Whether in sport, drama, or other clubs, students have shown commitment and consistency, representing the school well and approaching activities with focus and determination to be the best they can be.

The sense of community within Year 9 is also clear to see on a daily basis. Lunchtimes are often spent outside, with large groups involved in a somewhat chaotic but enjoyable football game, competing at table tennis, or simply spending time together. These moments reflect a year group that works well together, shows mutual respect, and enjoys being part of a shared school experience.

Year 9s also completed a CPR training session, delivered by a highly experienced paramedic supported by a team of student paramedics. Learning CPR is a vital life skill, and students approached the session seriously, engaging well throughout the morning and demonstrating a clear understanding of its importance - all while discovering that the correct rhythm for chest compressions is helpfully matched to the beat of "Stayin' Alive". A practical lesson that proved both memorable and genuinely valuable.

Overall, Year 9s have approached the year with focus and balance, managing the demands of GCSE study alongside wider school life. They have shown themselves to be a brilliant year group who take everything in their stride and truly encompass the school's values in all aspects of school life.

Keep it up, boys!



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VEX ROBOTICS' COMPETITION REPORT BY LYLE

On 28th January 2026, a VEX Robotics competition was held at John Warner School in Hoddesdon, where teams from different schools competed in this season's challenge, 'Push Back'. The competition tested students' engineering skills, teamwork, and ability to adapt their robot designs under pressure.

The Richard Hale Year 9 team took on various roles during the preparation and during the competition. Here are the participants and their roles within the team:

- Kayden: Coding & Building,
- Lyle: Designing, Building & Testing,
- Rajko: Building.
- Zach: Coding, Building & Testing
- Renly: Building Testing & Driving
- Lucas: Building & Logbook

Our robot immediately stood out from the rest. We had spent weeks designing, and building our robot, nicknamed 'J5'. Unlike most teams' designs, our robot had a three-wheel setup with two powered front wheels, a well-engineered rear 'caster wheel' and a claw at the front used to grab game objects. This unusual design made our robot vastly different from everyone else's and showed creativity, risk-taking, whilst also JUST meeting the size regulations!

We had a difficult start to the competition. At one point, we were ranked 14th, the lowest position, and struggled to perform consistently, due to an arm mechanism that was proving faulty at points. Despite this, we did not give up. Through teamwork, communication, and making improvements between matches, collectively we finally created a competitive robot. Zach Pearson was also able to Code an autonomous mode to help us gain even more points. Closer to the end, Ren's skilful driving also helped us climb to 12th place, narrowly avoiding the quarter finals cutoff.

By narrowly securing a spot in the quarter finals, we kept our hopes alive by forming both a competitive and strategic alliance with Hitchin Boys' School, and together we performed strongly, earning a place in the semi-finals. Our determination and adaptability paid off, and we finished the competition in an impressive 3rd place overall.

The event was a challenging and rewarding experience that demonstrated perseverance, innovation, and the importance of teamwork in engineering competitions.



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MEET THE TEACHER

INTRODUCTION

Hi all, if you haven't met me already I am Mrs Morris. I started in Jan 2025 after having my little girl (who is now 2 years old). I have previously worked in both mainstream and specialist secondary settings, mostly teaching science to young people with learning needs.

MRS MORRIS



ROLES IN SCHOOL

SENDCO &
Associate Assistant
Headteacher

FUN FACTS

I like ballroom dancing, have some knowledge of a few languages (Italian, French, and German), and love mountain sports such as skiing and mountain biking. My right elbow is mostly metal due to a previous biking accident.

TEACHING

I love being a SENDCo because you get to know everyone across different departments and can have such an impact for so many different students and families in so many different ways. It is great problem solving with teachers, and finding new ways of doing things to help students do well and enjoy school. We have a wonderful team of TAs and my favourite part of the job is hearing all the stories about students achieving things they thought they would not be able to do. Some students come to us having not enjoyed their primary years, and it is wonderful to see them flourish with support at Hale.



The Scholars Programme gives students in secondary school the opportunity to explore higher education and build key skills to help them succeed in the next stages of their education. The Brilliant Club works with students in Years 7-8 on our Key Stage 3 placements, and Years 9-10 on our Key Stage 4 placements.

Students take part in a series of seven university-style tutorials, delivered in-school by a PhD tutor throughout the course of an academic term. The tutorials are based on the tutor's area of research expertise, so pupils explore an inspiring, supra-curricular topic whilst developing key academic skills that support their attainment across the curriculum. Students receive feedback and support from their PhD tutor to write a final assignment of 1,500-2000 words, demonstrating the subject knowledge, written communication and critical thinking skills they have developed throughout the programme.

On completion of the programme, students visit a university for a Graduation Event to celebrate their achievements and build their understanding of higher education, helping them make informed choices in the future and believe that they can succeed in university-style learning.



More details to follow in Spring 2



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CELEBRATING Mock Moments

Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who have achieved above expected progress in four or more subjects during their mock exams:

- Josh Broughton
- Fin Cannon
- Ross Chilton
- Alex Corneliu
- Keeyan Cottiss
- Murray Deacon
- Owen Edgehill
- Aqeel Fauz
- Jamie Hanlon
- Elliot Living
- George Murton
- Jamie Neville
- Raphael Paul
- Luka Reynolds
- James Rice
- Harry Scott
- Janav Singh
- Oskar Snell
- Ed Taylor
- Ben Upponi-Davis
- Will Wagstaff



Miss Harvey, Head of Year 11

SHOUT OUT FOR GERMAN

19-24 January 2026

Celebrating the German language

We celebrated the German language for a week in January with students from all year groups exploring our favourite German words, discovering why German is such a special language to learn. It helps our students stand out from the crowd, developing a unique and valuable skill, and here at RHS, German often nudges ahead in the popularity stakes thanks to its clear phonics and logical rules... although let's not mention cases or word order just yet...



As part of the celebrations, our Year 12 German for Business class also took part in a live webinar hosted by the Goethe Institute, German and a Career in Finance and Management. The students heard from Philip Dodds, a Director at UBS, who shared how his career took him to Germany and beyond, and spoke enthusiastically about the doors that open with foreign language skills and the value of living and working abroad. The session highlighted exciting opportunities, encouraging students to consider study years, placements, or future careers involving Germany.

And finally, a special shoutout to Mr Clay, who's been learning German on Duolingo and is looking forward to practising a little on the upcoming ski trip!

SPORTS NEWS

Mr McNamee
and Mr Hicks



Year 7 rugby continued into the Spring term, culminating in our final block of fixtures against QE Barnet, Merchant Taylors', Berkhamsted and Haileybury.

Throughout the year, we have had 74 students represent RHS rugby at Year 7 level, some new to the game and others more experienced. The development and progress across all teams, both collectively and individually, has been a privilege to witness.

While at Year 7 our focus is firmly on development, progress and providing positive experiences, these processes have taken care of the outcomes, delivering some outstanding results against traditionally very strong rugby-playing schools.



Next year promises to be extremely exciting. Our current Year 7 cohort will join the Saturday rugby programme from September to December, where they will face our most competitive fixture card to date.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks for the support throughout the year, whether from the sideline, providing transportation, or managing specific responsibilities on match days. Your help is invaluable in creating positive sporting experiences for our students.

Richard Hale's long journey north began before dawn, boarding the coach at 6am for another demanding away fixture. As the fifth most southern team in the competition, Hale have become accustomed to travelling vast distances, playing the majority of their matches in northern territory. This trip to Birkenhead was no different, testing both physical and mental resilience.

Despite the early start and heavy travel load, Hale produced a fierce display of attritional rugby from the opening whistle. The match was dominated by strong defence, tactical kicking, and relentless forward play. Crucially, Hale struck first, delivering an early psychological blow in a tightly contested encounter. That opening score set the tone for a battle that neither side was willing to surrender.

Birkenhead responded with intensity, and the game developed into a brutal arm-wrestle, with momentum swinging repeatedly. Both teams traded scores in a contest defined by discipline, courage, and work rate. When the final whistle sounded, the scoreboard reflected the balance of the contest: 17-17.



Every player demonstrated outstanding commitment and resilience, showing maturity well beyond their years. The squad's unity and composure under pressure were exemplary.

Attention now turns to the semi-finals in the first week of March, with Hale awaiting confirmation of their opponents—Perse, Cambridge, or Harrogate Grammar. With a possible final on the horizon, this performance suggests they are ready for the challenge ahead.

If you're into it, read into it.

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YR7 & 8

BOOK



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LUNCH
TIMES**

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DAVIS OR MRS
JORDAN FOR MORE
DETAILS**

YR 9-11 BOOK CLUB

Wednesday 8am-8:30am

MEET IN THE LIBRARY

See Mrs Glover for
more details

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BOOK CLUB

Let's read, chat, and connect!

YEAR 12 AND 13
FRIDAY LUNCHTIME

Meet in the Library

SEE MRS
MOSELEY
FOR DETAILS



We have biscuits, join the conversation over a biscuit or two!



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