

19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Stargazing Evening Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

Bengeo Primary School proved to be the perfect venue for our Year 5 Stargazing Evening, with seven local primary schools joining us for the event. We were blessed with clear skies and supported by the fantastic volunteers from the Hertford Astronomy Group, who helped students observe a range of celestial wonders—including the International Space Station, a brilliantly bright Venus, and Jupiter with its moons.

Students also had the chance to explore the mobile planetarium, adding an exciting immersive element to the evening. Our Year 12 Physics students were outstanding ambassadors throughout, guiding younger pupils as they designed, built, and launched their own cardboard rockets.



### **Non-Uniform Day Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Next Friday is a non-uniform day and we would like students and parents to make a £2 donation as part of this, to be paid via Wisepay. We are raising money for two incredible charities, with the funds raised split equally between them. Firstly, we have set the aim of 'twinning our toilets' at school via Tearfund's project to provide safe and clean sanitation in parts of the world where this is not a given. By the end of this year we aim to twin every toilet in the school, with each one equating to a new toilet facility built in community where it is desperately needed. Secondly, we are supporting the Teenage Cancer Trust via Mr Smith's upcoming London Marathon. We are pleased to support him with this challenge and the important work of this charity.

## **Easter Egg Appeal**

Thank you to the whole school community for your generous donations to our Easter egg appeal, on behalf of the Hertford & Ware Foodbank. We collected over 60 eggs which will no doubt bring some joy to those that need it over the Easter period.

## **Year 7 Chess Competition**

Congratulations to members of our Year 7 chess team who took part in a tournament against Simon Balle School this week. This was hopefully the first of many competitions to come and the boys enjoyed the challenge of playing new competitors and trying out the very professional outfit that Simon Balle had arranged. The chess club takes place every Thursday lunchtime at school and new players are always welcome, whatever your level or experience!

## **Year 10 National Bowl Final at Ealing Trailfinders**

The Year 10 National Bowl Final at Ealing Trailfinders, proved a challenging but rewarding experience for Richard Hale, who were defeated 40–17 by a strong Embley School side. Embley made a fast start, capitalising on early pressure to build a commanding 30–0 lead by halftime, controlling both possession and territory. Richard Hale responded impressively after the break. A hard-earned lineout deep in Embley territory led to a powerful driving maul, with Freddie Betts crossing the line to make it 30–5. Moments later, Ben Crispin intercepted on the halfway line and ran in to score, closing the gap to 30–12.

The momentum continued as Alfie Elliot delivered a precise crossfield kick, which Frankie Mills gathered brilliantly before beating the last defender to score in the corner, bringing the score to 30–17. Despite the comeback, Embley regained control in the closing stages, adding further tries to secure a 40–17 victory.

Standout performers included Ben Crispin, who was outstanding under the high ball, fearless in his kick returns and reliable as the last line of defence, as well as contributing a superb individual try. Alfie Elliot controlled the game with maturity, kicking with precision and organising the backline effectively to spark the second-half resurgence. Frankie Mills was electric in attack, finishing clinically while breaking tackles consistently and posing a constant threat out wide. Ollie Court led from the front with his powerful ball carrying, repeatedly punching holes in the Embley defence and gaining valuable metres.

Although the result did not go their way, this performance was a reflection of the immense effort the squad has put in throughout the season. From the early stages of the year to competing on a national final stage, the team has developed drastically in both confidence and cohesion. The ability to respond from 30–0 down showed real character, while the individual contributions highlighted how much players have grown in their roles. Together, this progress underlines a team that has worked incredibly hard all year and built a strong platform for future success.

## **Year 7 County 10s at Berkhamsted School**

The Year 7 rugby team delivered an impressive performance across their recent fixture block, winning five of their six matches (WBGS 5–0, Avanti 4–0, Columbas 3–1, Berko B 4–0, Berko A 5–2), with their only narrow loss coming against BSHS (2–3).

Playing on the largest pitch of the day, the team covered more ground than any other side, making their achievements even more commendable. Standout individual efforts included Jude Wright, who consistently broke defensive lines and made strong tackles, and Toby Hare, whose relentless tackling set the tone for the team's defence. Max and Harry Lodge also impressed, working tirelessly both on and off the ball throughout the day. Overall, it was a fantastic team effort, highlighting both the players' resilience and their growing confidence. Well done to all involved.

### **World Poetry Day at Bentley House**

This week, Mrs Jordan and 18 students from Years 7–10 visited Bentley House for a heartwarming intergenerational poetry recital. Our students performed a mix of classic works and original poetry, with light hearted verses about "growing old" sparking plenty of laughter from the residents.

The morning concluded with the residents sharing their own favourite poems, followed by cake and refreshments—a highlight that was particularly well-received by the boys! It was a fantastic display of community spirit and creative confidence.

### **Careers Survey**

As part of our ongoing relationship and work with the Careers & Enterprise Company, together we would appreciate your time to complete a short survey on careers related learning. This survey will also help us identify where we can support parents more with their understanding of the different options available to students at both 16 and 18 years old. Please complete the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/richard-hale-school-parents-26>

### **RHSPA Quiz Night**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April the RHSPA will be holding a Quiz Night. Please bring your friends and test your trivia. Order your advance discounted tickets from [parentassoc@richardhale.co.uk](mailto:parentassoc@richardhale.co.uk) - £5 per person or £25 for a team of six (if bought before Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April). There will be a Licenced bar and prizes / kudos up for grabs! All proceeds to the RHSPA for school projects and improvements.

### **Progress Reports**

Year 7 PR1 Progress reports will be available on the SIMS Parent App from 3.20pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026. If you have any problems accessing the system please email [simsparentapp@richardhale.co.uk](mailto:simsparentapp@richardhale.co.uk).

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Just a reminder that School finishes at 12.30pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March and summer term begins on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

### **Water Bottles**

With the warmer weather coming, can I please ask parents to ensure students bring refillable water bottles as the school is unable to provide plastic cups.

## **Meningitis outbreak in Kent**

Please see below a joint communication from the Director of Public Health and Executive Director of Children's Services.

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Re: Meningitis outbreak in Kent**

Understandably, you may be worried about the news of an outbreak of meningitis in Kent. This is affecting young people in the area and sadly there have been two deaths.

There are no confirmed cases of Meningitis in Hertfordshire linked to this outbreak and although this is a serious disease it is uncommon.

Meningitis is usually caused by a bacterial or viral infection. Bacterial meningitis is rarer but more serious than viral meningitis. Infections that cause meningitis can be spread through, sneezing, coughing, and kissing. Close and prolonged contact is needed to pass the bacteria to others.

Meningitis is usually caught from people who carry these viruses or bacteria in their nose or throat; they may not be ill themselves.

Hertfordshire County Council would like to reassure you the situation is being monitored closely. We are working with NHS partners and following UK Health Security Agency advice and guidance.

Symptoms of meningitis develop suddenly and can include:

- a high temperature (fever)
- being sick
- a headache
- a rash that does not fade when a glass is rolled over it (but a rash will not always develop)
- a stiff neck
- a dislike of bright lights
- drowsiness or unresponsiveness
- seizures (fits)

These symptoms can appear in any order. You do not always get all the symptoms.

Call NHS 111 for advice if you are not sure if it is anything serious or you think you may have been exposed to someone with meningitis.

[Meningitis - NHS](#)

Trust your instincts and do not wait for all the symptoms to appear or until a rash develops. Someone with meningitis or sepsis can get a lot worse very quickly.

Call 999 for an ambulance or go to your nearest A&E immediately if you think you or someone you look after could have meningitis or sepsis.

### Vaccinations against meningitis

Vaccinations offer some protection against certain causes of meningitis. These include the:

- MenB vaccine – offered to babies aged 8 weeks, followed by a second dose at 12 weeks and a booster at 1 year
- MenACWY vaccine – offered to teenagers, sixth formers and "fresher" students going to university for the first time
- 6-in-1 vaccine – offered to children at 8 weeks, 12 weeks, 16 weeks, and 18 months
- pneumococcal vaccine – 2 doses offered to babies at 16 weeks and 1 year, and a single dose offered to adults aged 65 or over
- MMRV vaccine – offered to children at 12 months and 18 months

If you have missed any of these it is never too late to catch up, just speak to your GP surgery.  
Yours sincerely

**Sarah Perman, Director Public Health**  
**Jo Fisher, Executive Director, Children's Services**

Ian Hawkins  
**Headteacher**

### March 2026 Calendar

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 <b>End of spring term, school finishes at 12.30pm</b>
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 A Level Drama Practical 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
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 7 Parents Evening
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	BTEC Exams start GCSE Exams start
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	A Level Exams start
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	BTEC Exams end Year 10 Geography Field Trip 1 – Epping Forest
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Treasure Hunt
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	French Language Trip to the 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term Week

### June 2026 Calendar

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Return to school
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 10 History Trip – Tower of London
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Parents Evening

### Weeks

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Week 2
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Easter Holidays
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Holidays
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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