

16th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable Easter break. As always, it is great to see the students return and this term is always busy with exams for many students (both internal and external) and the wide range of activities that take place this term alongside the usual routines in school. We are looking forward to the term ahead!

I would also like to welcome Year 6 parents to my weekly update letter and we look forward to meeting them in May at the Treasure Hunt.

Parent Survey

As part of our self-reflection and planning for the future improvement and development at Richard Hale School, we are keen to gather the views from parents.

Using the link below you can access the parent survey, please take time to complete the questions which are multiple choice and should not take too long to complete. There is an open text box at the end of the survey for you to make any additional comments or points which you feel would help support the school moving forward. The deadline for responding to the survey is Friday 1st May.

<https://forms.gle/HMzeDRTyxVfrhFyE6>

We are very interested in hearing your views on the key areas of the school and this will feed into the responses we have from the other members of the school community. All the feedback will be analysed and will inform our development planning in the future.

Thank you for your support with this.

RHSPA Quiz Night - Friday 24th April

There are just a few days left to buy your advance discounted tickets for the school Quiz Night on Friday 24th April. Tickets bought before Monday 20th April cost just £5 per person - or just £25 for a team of six! **Email your ticket requests to parentassoc@richardhale.co.uk**

Quiz Night kicks off at 7.30pm - bring your friends and come and test your trivia. There will be a licensed bar, plus prizes up for grabs. All proceeds will go to the RHSPA for school projects and improvements

PA Raspberry Pi National Finals

I am delighted to share that Team MediSend has been selected as a finalist in the PA Raspberry Pi Competition 2026. This is a fantastic achievement and one that the whole school community can be incredibly proud of. The team will now go on to represent Richard Hale School at the National Finals on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at Google London, Pancras Square.

Team MediSend consists of Year 10 students Leo McCarthy Malone, Finlay Lowles, Ethan Hatchett and Joseph McNab, all of whom have done an outstanding job in developing such an impressive and purposeful project.

Their idea, MediSend, was created to address a significant global healthcare issue: the waste of vital medicines in some areas while nearby clinics face serious shortages. The team designed a system that enables pharmacies and clinics to log and share medication stock locally, helping surplus medicine reach the places where it is needed most before it expires. Using Python, Kivy and SQLite, the students developed an intuitive and practical solution aimed at supporting healthcare workers in lower-income and semi-rural areas, where supply chains can often be inconsistent and unreliable. What makes this project especially inspiring is not just the technical skill behind it, but the compassion, thoughtfulness and sense of social responsibility that drove the idea in the first place.

As part of the finals day, the students will demonstrate their invention and present their ideas to a senior judging panel, share their innovative solution with all guests attending the event, and take part in the awards ceremony where they will receive their finalist trophy.

You can watch the team's presentation here, MediSend Presentation Video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_wC0-aDZZUzYvB-YDzsdzqltjNaINZY/view?usp=sharing

To reach this stage in a national competition is a tremendous accomplishment in itself, and the boys should be hugely proud of what they have achieved already. As a Year 10 team, they now also have the opportunity to join Richard Hale's growing list of teams who have gone on to win the overall prize in their age category, which makes this achievement even more exciting.

They have represented the school superbly, and I am sure you will join me in congratulating Leo, Finlay, Ethan and Joseph on this outstanding success and wishing them every success for the finals in May.

Year 8 Basketball: District Cup Winners

The Year 8 basketball team concluded a superb season this week by clinching the District Cup Final in a clinical performance. The road to the trophy required significant grit; after a dominant opening win against Goffs Academy (46–4), the team faced a tough physical challenge against St Edmund's College in December, narrowly losing 22–26. This result placed them second in the group and set up a high-stakes semi-final against a disciplined Broxbourne side coached by Graham Hiscock (a highly experienced coach and the Chair of the Hertfordshire Basketball Association). The game was a tense, see-saw affair, but after falling behind by a point in the fourth quarter, the boys showed immense composure to mount a final run—sealed by an Abe Martin three-pointer—to win 19–13.

The final on Tuesday 14th April provided a rematch against St Edmund's on neutral ground. This time, the team led from start to finish in a performance that served as a testament to the boys' character. We overcame St Edmund's size advantage through highly organised defence

and tenacious rebounding, which allowed us to get out and run the floor. Crucially, the boys remained composed under pressure, passing ahead and finishing their layups with precision. The victory was built on fantastic individual contributions within a cohesive unit. The Bryant twins led the scoring, with Tom and Luc providing 12 and 11 points respectively, while Justin Kiarii provided an unexpected lift off the bench, scoring 7 points in limited minutes. Throughout the game, the leadership of Israel Allen set the tone, providing endless energy and superb communication from start to finish.

The atmosphere was bolstered by a large contingent of parents and those squad members who, despite not being selected for the final twelve, travelled to support their teammates. This collective spirit has been the hallmark of the team all year, and it was a fitting way to bring a wonderful season to a close.

Highway to Hale – Rock & Pop Concert Night

We are delighted to invite families to an exciting evening of live music, *Highway to Hale*, taking place at the Corn Exchange on Wednesday 29th April with a 7:00pm start. Expect a high-energy rock and pop vibe and a great atmosphere.

This concert is also a fantastic opportunity for our students to perform in a real live music venue, giving them valuable experience of playing on a professional stage and building confidence performing in front of an audience.

Tickets are available on Wisepay:

Adult: £10

Concession: £6

Family of 4: £30

A bar will be available on the night for the purchase of refreshments. We look forward to welcoming parents and pupils for an enjoyable evening supporting our musicians.

Parent Parking

We have received a complaint from a member of public regarding parent parking at Hale Road/Queens Road when collecting students. Can I please remind parents to park considerately when collecting students, car parks in Hertford have 30 minute free parking so please meet students away from the school.

Young Life – Bash Camp

We have been asked to share the following details with you from Young Life:

Fun Day Camp, activities designed to spark joy, creativity and friendships.

26th – 29th May 2026 – 12.30 – 5.30

Eden House, Hatfield, AL10 8AX

Cost £40

To enrol please copy and paste the following into your search engine –

tinyurl.com/YLIBASH2026

Curriculum

On the school website there are curriculum overviews for all year groups and subjects to help inform parents of what their child will study each half term and through the course of the year. These can be accessed via the learning tab on the website (Curriculum) or via this link <https://richardhale.herts.sch.uk/learning/curriculum/>

Communication

We welcome communication with parents and want to work with you to support your child's learning and experience in school.

If you need to communicate with the school this can be done by phone (01992 583441) or email.

Email is often the most effective method of communication and all staff emails are available on the school website to enable you to contact them directly. If you are unsure as to who to contact or for general enquiries, please email admin@richardhale.co.uk.

Emails will receive an email response within 2 working days. This may only be a holding email with a set date and time for further communication to take place. (This applies to term time only and working weeks). Please be aware that those sent at weekends may not be dealt with until the following working week, and emails sent in holidays will probably elicit no reply until term time. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours to your email, please email head@richardhale.co.uk stating you have not received a response and include your original email, this will then be followed up for you.

Full details concerning communication can be found in the communications policy on the website.

Student Absence

For years 7-11, if your son is unwell or has an dental or medical appointment, please email attendance@richardhale.co.uk so that his attendance can be marked accordingly.

For Sixth Form absences please email sixthformattendance@richardhale.co.uk

Ian Hawkins
Headteacher

April 2026 Calendar

Monday 20 th	Year 10 Work Experience Week GCSE MFL Speaking Exams Week
Tuesday 21 st	Gold DofE Parents Meeting
Wednesday 22 nd	Post-18 Pathways Evening
Thursday 23 rd	Year 7 Bude Information Evening
Friday 24 th	PA Quiz Night
Monday 27 th	A Level MFL Speaking Exams
Wednesday 29 th	Junior Maths Challenge
Thursday 30 th	Year 12 Exams start

	A Level Art Exam
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May 2026 Calendar

Friday 1 st	A Level Art Exam
Monday 4 th	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday 5 th	A Level Art Exam Year 7 Parents Evening
Wednesday 6 th	BTEC Exams start GCSE Exams start Year 12 Exams End
Monday 11 th	A Level Exams start
Friday 15 th	BTEC Exams end Year 10 Geography Field Trip 1 – Epping Forest
Saturday 16 th	Year 6 Treasure Hunt
Monday 18 th	French Language Trip to the 22 nd
Monday 25 th	Half Term Week

June 2026 Calendar

Monday 1 st	Return to school
Tuesday 2 nd	Year 10 History Trip – Tower of London
Thursday 4 th	Year 10 Parents Evening
Monday 8 th	Year 12 Geography Trip, Bath to the 10 th
Tuesday 9 th	Year 10 & 12 Geology Trip, Cornwall to the 12 th
Monday 15 th	GCSE Exams End Year 10 MFL Mock Speaking Exams week
Tuesday 16 th	D&T Rotary Club Competition
Wednesday 17 th	Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 18 th	Year 10 English Exam
Friday 19 th	A Level Exams End Year 10 DofE Practice Expedition to the 21 st
Sunday 21 st	Year 7 Trip to Bude to the 26 th
Tuesday 23 rd	Sixth Form Induction
Wednesday 24 th	Sixth Form Induction
Friday 26 th	District Athletics
Monday 29 th	Biology Field Trip – Day 1
Tuesday 30 th	Year 6 New Parents Evening HPV Vaccinations Biology Field Trip – Day 2

Weeks

Monday 20 th Apr	Week 2
Monday 27 th Apr	Week 1
Tuesday 5 th May	Week 2
Monday 11 th May	Week 1

You are receiving this email because you have elected to receive the Headteacher's weekly newsletter from Richard Hale School. If you are no longer interested, please reply to this email with the subject UNSUBSCRIBE