

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Geography Fieldwork Update: Epping Forest and Bath**

Last week, our Year 10 geographers swapped their classroom for the outdoors as they headed into Epping Forest to conduct essential fieldwork for their exam Paper 3. The students focused their investigation on the River Debden, tracing its journey from the source to the middle course to test the validity of the Bradshaw Model. At High Beech, the group witnessed the water rising to the surface at the rivers source before observing how the channel began to enlarge and meander further downstream. The students



measured how the river channels width and depth changed, along with the velocity. Although the weather was not always in our favour, the students remained high-spirited, wading into the river with tape measures in hand to secure their primary data.

In tandem with our younger students, our Year 12 A Level geographers are currently in Bath for a residential trip designed to upskill them in primary data collection for their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). During this busy week, they are investigating the complex impacts of studentification on the city of Bath and exploring coastal management strategies at Weston-Super-Mare. The students are also conducting comparative studies on carbon storage in local woodlands and meadows, alongside an analysis of how tourism affects the rural village of Cheddar. This intensive fieldwork provides the foundation for their independent investigations, allowing them to apply advanced geographical theories to real-world environments this summer as they prepare to collect their own data!

### **A Captivating Matinee at the Theatre: Drama Students Enthralled by Blood Brothers**

The Drama Department recently took Year 9, 10, and 12 Drama students to an unforgettable matinee at the newly renovated BEAM Theatre in Hertford to witness the spectacular professional production of Blood Brothers. Written by the brilliant Willy Russell, the legendary musical tells the captivating and moving tale of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with fateful consequences. It is a story deeply rooted in class, fate, and family, and its emotional depth held our students spellbound from the very first note.

This matinee provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to see their set play for GCSE Drama in the flesh. Seeing the text transition from the page to a professional stage gave them invaluable insight into staging, characterisation, and production design - elements that are absolutely crucial in the GCSE exam. Experiencing the production live will undoubtedly enrich the students' analytical writing and practical work moving forward.

Few musicals have received quite such acclaim as the multi-award-winning *Blood Brothers*. Bill Kenwright's iconic production recently surpassed 10,000 performances in London's West End - one of only three musicals ever to achieve that incredible milestone. Our students particularly enjoyed the high quality of the performances, the flawless vocal delivery, and the powerful staging, which brought the gritty reality and heartfelt emotion of the story to life. Seeing a production of this calibre right on our doorstep at the beautiful new BEAM Theatre was an absolute privilege.

One GCSE drama student noted that the energy on stage was electric, and seeing the theories studied in class come to life in such a beautifully renovated local venue was incredibly inspiring. Ultimately, the Drama Department is certain that this experience will inspire the students' own practical work and performance analysis for terms to come.

### **U13 'B' National Cup Final Match Report**

Richard Hale School vs Wright Robinson College, Manchester.

What a journey it has been for our U13 'B' football team.

The boys arrived at school bright and early at 7:15am, fuelled by breakfast, excitement and determination as they set off for Stoke-on-Trent for the National Cup Final. From the moment we arrived, the focus and intensity were clear to see. Preparations began immediately inside the Academy Dome, where the squad completed their warm-up with energy and enthusiasm before making their way to the stadium for the final stages of preparation on the pitch itself. When the game kicked off, Richard Hale started superbly. The boys looked sharp, confident and dangerous in attack, and it did not take long for the breakthrough to arrive. Within the opening six minutes, Harlee Woolgrove showed tremendous determination and composure to chip the goalkeeper before following up to make sure the ball crossed the line and give Hale a deserved 1-0 lead.

Enthused by the early goal, Hale continued to press forward and created several promising opportunities in search of a second. However, football can be cruel at times, and against the run of play a defensive mix-up led to the ball striking the arm of one of our defenders. The referee pointed to the spot and Wright Robinson converted the penalty to level the game at 1-1.

The momentum shifted and, despite the boys battling hard, the opposition capitalised on a series of challenges that were not fully cleared, taking the lead shortly before half-time. At the break, Mr Smith and Mr Patterson delivered calm and encouraging words, alongside a few tactical changes. The response from the boys was outstanding. Hale emerged for the second half with renewed purpose, intensity and belief.

Then came a moment worthy of any final. Wilfred Cottee stepped forward from 35 yards and unleashed an unstoppable strike into the back of the net to bring the scores level at 2–2. It was a goal of real quality and one that lifted everyone connected with Richard Hale.

The game continued at a relentless pace from end to end, with both teams giving everything. Wright Robinson regained the lead after Hale were unable to clear their lines, setting up a dramatic finish.

Deep into added time, the boys produced one final moment of quality, resilience and cup final magic. Excellent build-up play led to Zac Slattery delivering an outstanding switch of play to Josh Lale, who showed remarkable composure to run through on goal and calmly finish with his weaker foot to make it 3–3.

The final would be decided by penalties.

As is so often the case in shootouts, the margins were incredibly fine and, unfortunately, this time luck was not on our side. Wright Robinson prevailed 4–2 on penalties.

While the result did not fall in our favour, the boys should be immensely proud of what they achieved this season. Reaching a National Cup Final after navigating eight rounds is a remarkable accomplishment and reflects the commitment, resilience and teamwork shown throughout the campaign. Most importantly, the players represented Richard Hale School with outstanding character, sportsmanship and pride. They have done themselves, their families, the staff and the entire school community proud. Congratulations to every member of the squad on an unforgettable season.

### **Student News – Year 7**

Congratulations to Greyson Tovey-Artis who captained the Hertford U12's Hockey team to win the National Championships last weekend with Roman McMillan in goal making vital saves and Cameron McMillan scoring an amazing goal too. The winning of this England Hockey championship makes them part of a team who are the best in England currently for their age group at field hockey. For this to have happened they have trained for many years and is a real success story for the team which comprises boys from Richard Hale (3) Haileybury, Heathmount, and Bishops-Stortford College. It is a perfect example of inter-school collaboration and places Richard Hale very much in the sporting limelight that it enjoys across other sports that are played at Richard Hale.

We are also delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Bors Farago, Year 12, whose work in Computer Science, AI, engineering and STEM has received significant recognition. Bors has been selected for the final round of the Face-to-Face option of the International Greenwich Olympiad 2026. His project, a phone-powered laptop using a Samsung phone, reflects his creativity, technical ability and interest in practical innovation. He has also been awarded Gold in the TeenTech Awards 2026 for his project, AI Image Comparison. Judges praised his impressive technical understanding, professional presentation, use of feedback, and the accessibility of his browser-based solution. One judge described his work as showing the level of “technical knowledge, understanding and tenacity” expected from senior developers. In addition, Bors has achieved Flight Status through the

Astro Pi Mission Space Lab programme, with his team's program set to run on the International Space Station between April and May 2026. Further recognising his expertise, Bors has also been invited by the Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society to judge at the 2026 CSES Schools' Technology Exhibition, supporting younger students as they present their own STEM projects. This is a superb set of achievements and a real testament to Bors' talent, independence and ambition. We are extremely proud of him.

### **Second-hand uniform sale success!**

Saturday's second-hand uniform sale proved hugely popular and raised a massive £1,650 for school projects! Thank you to everyone who donated their pre-loved blazers, ties, games kits and jumpers to sell - please keep them coming! Thank you also to the Parents' Association volunteers who organised and ran the event.

### **Uniform**

Blazers will be optional after half term, however, this does not mean students can wear a different top in place of a blazer, if they are cold, they must wear their blazer. Students will need to ensure any items such as timetables are transferred to bags if not wearing the blazer. Students must continue to wear shoes, trainers are not allowed, students can wear trainers to play games at break or lunch but must be in shoes at all other times.

### **Hale News**

Please find below the link to the latest edition of Hale News:

<https://richardhale.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/HALE-NEWS-Summer-1-2026.pdf>

### **Road Safety Strategy**

Please see below information from Hertfordshire County Council we have been asked to share with you.

*Hertfordshire County Council is trying to gather the views of parents and carers by asking them to complete a survey, link below.*

*The survey is linked to a new Road Safety Strategy in Hertfordshire and asks about routes used by children, traffic speeds and includes what would make journeys to school feel safer for those who chose to walk or cycle. The strategy itself has a goal to cut serious injury collisions involving children by 70%.*

[Road Safety Strategy consultation | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

I hope everyone has a relaxing and restful half term.

Ian Hawkins  
**Headteacher**

## May 2026 Calendar

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

## July 2026 Calendar

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Biology Field Trip – Day 3
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 Tutor Meetings
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 10 Geography Field Trip 2 – Stratford
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Concert Art Exhibition – Private view
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Art Exhibition
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Intake Day Year 8 Work Shadowing
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 12 Work Experience Week
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Production
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Uniform Day Academic Year ends and school finishes at 12.30

## Weeks

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term Week
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Week 1
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Week 2
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Week 1
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Week 2
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Week 1
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Week 2

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Week 1