

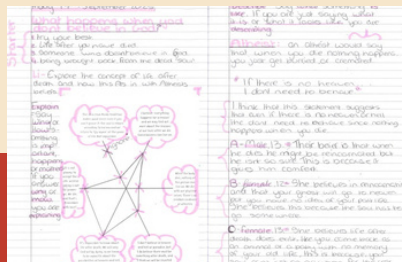
FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



HLC SECONDARY

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OCTOBER 2025

WELCOME

From the Head



Dates for the diary

- **Monday 3rd November - students return to school**
- **Friday 19th December - last day of term**

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As the vibrant colours of autumn settle around us, it's a pleasure to welcome you to our Autumn Term newsletter. The start of the academic year has been filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a real sense of community here at HLC Secondary.

We were thrilled to welcome our new Year 7 students, who have joined us from over 30 different primary schools. Their excitement and eagerness to learn have brought a fresh buzz to our corridors, and they are already making a fantastic impression.

Our Year 11 students are now focused and preparing diligently for their upcoming mock exams, which begin on 3rd November. We are proud of their commitment and resilience, and we continue to support them every step of the way.

This term has been rich with a wide variety of enrichment opportunities that have brought learning to life beyond the classroom. Students have enjoyed memorable trips both locally—to Wroxeter, Carding Mill Valley, and the Long Mynd—and further afield, including Liverpool and the Bay of Naples. Within school, the excitement continued with a captivating Macbeth performance that made Shakespeare resonate for our English students, engaging STEM activity days with local primary schools, and a dynamic Year 11 dance workshop that celebrated creativity and self-expression. Our students also developed essential life skills through Bikeability, boosting their confidence and road safety awareness. We've hosted a successful Open Evening, welcoming prospective families and showcasing the spirit of HLC, and our Careers Fair offered students valuable insights into future pathways. Mental health and wellbeing remain a priority, and our participation in Hello Yellow Day was a powerful reminder of the importance of looking after ourselves and each other.

Reading continues to be a cornerstone of our culture, with students engaging in Reading for Pleasure and earning rewards for their dedication and progress.

As we move further into the term, I want to thank our staff, students, and families for their continued support and positivity. HLC is more than a school—it's a community where every individual is encouraged to thrive.

Warm regards,

D Roycroft
Head Teacher

BELONG

Year 10 textiles students took part in a fabulous mixed media workshop with artist Jennifer Collier, creating beautifully designed bird boxes. The group showed outstanding engagement, creativity, and focus throughout, producing some truly impressive outcomes. Well done to everyone involved – it's wonderful to see these newly developed skills being carried forward into future textiles work.

RESPECT

Logan, year 9, created a wonderful piece of geography work recognised for not only the quality of the content but also the care and attention to detail shown in the presentation. Exercise books are one of the most powerful tools for revision and reflection – taking pride in them, using our PRIDE principles, helps students build strong habits for success all year round.

OUR VALUES

INSPIRE

Students in 9LRS1 took part in a lively philosophical debate exploring ideas around free will, predestination, and the problem of evil. Working collaboratively, they prepared arguments, challenged each other's thinking, and applied complex reasoning and evaluation skills to a range of deep questions. Their thoughtful discussion and teamwork were truly inspiring.

SUCCEED

Students from HLC joined peers from across the LCT Trust to rehearse as part of the new LCT Choir. They worked with dedication to learn four songs and thoroughly enjoyed singing alongside such a talented group. As well as performing brilliantly, HLC students were excellent ambassadors for the school, demonstrating both skill and professionalism.

ENJOY

Members of the KS3 Classics Club visited the historic Roman city of Wroxeter (Viriconium), once the fourth largest city in Roman Britain. Students explored the excavated remains of the city centre, including the impressive public bathhouse complex. It was an enjoyable and enriching experience, and the group represented HLC with enthusiasm and respect.

REWARDS

Subject Awards

House Points

	Year	Name	Value
English	10	Noor M	Succeed
Maths	11	Lucy H	Succeed
Science	10	Kushdeep K	Inspire
History	8	Irene A	Succeed
Geography	10	Chris P	Inspire
Religious Studies	9	Isabella N	Succeed
Languages	8	Tommy C	Belong
Performing Arts	7	Pedro W	Inspire
PE	10	Teagan D	Inspire
Art/Design	7	Alex C	Enjoy
Technology	8	Millie S	Succeed
ICT	11	Logan H	Succeed
HSC	10	Cameron C	Succeed
Business/Travel	11	Issac T	Succeed
Statistics	11	Ben G	Succeed

	Points	Winner
Year 7	237	Evelyn W
Year 8	202	Bella E
Year 9	216	Evan M
Year 10	244	Lola M
Year 11	241	Tenille A

	7	8	9	10	11
Apollo	10528	10232	8961	11110	11290
Bridge	11448	9000	10070	10988	9861
Concorde	11067	10193	9619	9477	11300
Darby	10775	10028	10422	10031	10170

SPORTS SUCCESS



SPORTS

Sports Council

This year, the HLC Sports Council is led by Ellie C and Stanley B as team captains, supported by vice-captains Freya S, Katie P, Charlie B, and Ataullah Y. The Council's vision is to promote and improve sport across the school, encouraging participation, teamwork, and a love of physical activity. Throughout the year, the team will also be organising a series of charity events to raise funds and awareness for important causes.

County Trials

Congratulations to Ella R, Eleni H, Teagan D and Lexi T who have been successful in gaining a place in the County netball/football teams.

Year 9 Netball Champions

Congratulations to our Year 9 netball team – the TWSSA Plate Winners! The team showed outstanding teamwork and determination, winning all their group matches and defeating Charlton 7-5 in the final. What an achievement!



Cross Country Achievements

Well done to our cross-country runners for their incredible performances in their final race of the season! Special mentions go to Tanvir (5th), Katie H (8th), and Lily F (10th) for their top-ten finishes. Fantastic effort from all involved!

Year 7 and 8 Shine at LCT Indoor Athletics Tournament

This half term, our Year 7 and Year 8 students represented HLC at the LCT Indoor Athletics Tournament, showcasing fantastic teamwork, determination, and sporting spirit. Competing against other schools from across the Trust, our teams performed brilliantly and achieved an impressive 2nd place overall!



ENRICHMENT

This Girl Can

Our girls took part in the This Girl Can event at Lilleshall National Sports Centre – trying new sports including cricket, squash, netball, archery, and boxing (led by a former HLC student now working with Brightstars!). They gave everything a go and even sampled healthy beetroot and parsnip brownies. A fantastic day of fun, fitness, and inspiration!

Bikeability Success for Year 7

Our Year 7 students have been taking part in Bikeability sessions, developing essential cycling and road safety skills. The programme has been a great success, helping students gain confidence on their bikes while learning how to ride safely and responsibly.

These sessions not only promote independence and fitness but also teach important lessons about awareness and care on the roads. Well done to all our Year 7s for their enthusiasm and progress throughout the training.

PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts Clubs

We've had a fantastic start to our after-school performing arts clubs! Students have been busy developing their talents in street dance, vocal group, rock school, and Macbeth rehearsals, among others. It's been wonderful to see so many pupils getting involved and sharing their creativity each week.

Dance Company Select and Aspire Dance Company

A huge congratulations to all students from Years 7-11 who successfully auditioned for our dance companies! Rehearsals are already in full swing, and our dancers recently enjoyed a technique workshop led by former student Mia, who is now training professionally at Addict Dance Academy. We're looking forward to a busy term ahead, with upcoming performances at our Christmas Showcase and the OAP Christmas Lunch.

Professional Workshop

Our Year 11 Performing Arts students had an incredible opportunity to take part in a professional workshop to support their Component 2 coursework. They learned repertoire from Rambert's performance of *Peaky Blinders* – a challenging and inspiring experience that gave them a taste of professional dance training.



PERFORMING ARTS

Upcoming performances

We're excited to invite you to our annual Christmas Showcase on Tuesday 9th December! This year's event promises an evening full of incredible talent and festive cheer, featuring performances from our KS4 groups, our dance companies, a special preview of The Addams Family, and a short adaptation of Macbeth that our students have been working on with great enthusiasm and dedication.


Come along to celebrate the season and enjoy an evening of creativity, performance, and Christmas spirit!

Rehearsals are well underway for this year's school musical, The Addams Family!


Performances will take place on 3rd, 4th, and 5th March at the HLC Theatre. Tickets will be available in the New Year – keep an eye out for details and don't miss what promises to be a spectacular show!

Instrument Lessons

We're delighted to offer students the chance to take part in instrumental music lessons this year. Even better – students who are eligible for Free School Meals can enjoy their first year of tuition free of charge. It's a wonderful way to explore a new skill and grow in confidence through music!

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MODERN



FOREIGN LANGUAGES

KS4 LANGUAGES



This half term, our KS4 French and Spanish students have made an outstanding start in developing their vocabulary skills. Demonstrating impressive independence and initiative, students are actively creating personalised flashcards as they encounter new vocabulary during lessons and homework tasks.

To build on this momentum, the MFL department is embedding regular opportunities for students to revisit and consolidate key vocabulary in class. This consistent reinforcement is designed to support long-term retention, significantly boosting students' reading and listening comprehension as they prepare for their GCSE exams. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and ownership our students are showing in their language learning journey!

EUROPEAN LANGUAGES WEEK

During the week beginning 22nd September, Hadley Learning Community celebrated European Languages Week – a vibrant initiative that promotes linguistic diversity and highlights the importance of language learning across Europe. With 49 different languages spoken within our school community, HLC is proud to be a place where cultures and languages come together and thrive.

The week aimed to inspire students to appreciate the value of communication across cultures and to explore new languages with curiosity and confidence. Highlights included a whole-school assembly led by our team of 19 Language Ambassadors, who delivered inspiring messages about the power of language to connect people and open minds. Their enthusiasm and leadership helped to make the week both educational and memorable.

Classrooms across the school joined in the celebration with a range of fun and creative activities – from taking the register in different languages to experimenting with technology settings in other tongues. The “Languages Open Hearts and Minds” competition was also launched, encouraging students to reflect on how language learning builds understanding and unity. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped celebrate the many languages and cultures that make HLC such a special and inclusive community.





READING



FOR PLEASURE

This year, we're placing a greater emphasis on encouraging our students – and their families – to read more for pleasure. Research shows that regular reading supports wellbeing, confidence, and long-term success.

At HLC, we promote reading in two key ways:

- Reading for pleasure during form time and at home.
- Reading for purpose through lessons and Sparx Reader activities.

We know it can be hard to make time for reading with so many digital distractions, but even small changes can make a big difference. This half term, why not pop into our school library (open 9am-1pm daily), or take a moment to enjoy an autumn walk, a warm drink, and a good book?

Let's build healthy habits and rediscover the joy of reading – together!



AMBASSADORS

The reading ambassadors are looking forward to reading the entries to our spooky writing competition. Get writing this half term. Comic books, stories, poems - whatever you want! Hand in to Mrs Towers on the 3rd November.



HOMEWORK

Please also look out for your weekly Sparx homework emails (check your junk folder) so you can help support homework completion and reading success; it really makes a difference. We only ask for 30 mins a week on Sparx Reader as a compulsory homework - which we could easily find from that 49 hours on devices a week!



SPOOKY SUGGESTIONS

Reading Ambassador's Spooky Read Suggestion: Gloom by Jack Mackay - suitable for year 6 up. If you liked A Series of Unfortunate Events, Coraline, or The Goosebumps series - this creepy and unsettling tale is for you! Why not try BorrowBox or Libby apps to read this for free using your library card details? Library cards are available from our school library, which is open 9am-1pm on Saturdays to the community and every weekday from 9am-1pm in half term too.





EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

CAREERS FAIR

Our annual HLC Careers Fair took place on Thursday 17th October and was a huge success! Over 40 exhibitors attended, including Crossbar Coaching, Madeley Academy, Schneider Electrical, McPhillips, and the British Army. Students impressed visitors with their thoughtful questions and enthusiasm, showing real curiosity about their future options. Year 11 students had exclusive access for the first hour, and it was great to see younger year groups exploring opportunities too.

We're already planning our next event – Year 10 Mock Interviews in January – and would love to hear from any parents or relatives who could support. If you or your workplace can help, please email us at HLC.CAREERS@LCT.Education



OPEN EVENING

What a wonderful evening! A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Open Evening 2025 and for the fantastic feedback we received. It was brilliant to see so many families exploring the school, meeting our dedicated staff, and finding out what makes HLC such a great place to learn and grow.





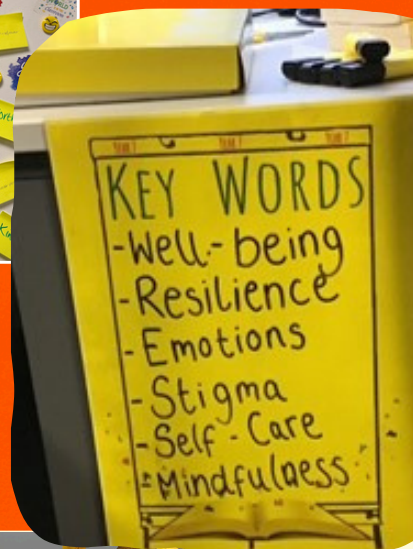
HELLO YELLOW

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Our school community came together to celebrate World Mental Health Day and to shine a light on the importance of wellbeing. Throughout the week, we ran assemblies focused on kindness and support, carried out wellbeing surveys for every year group, and shared recommended self-help apps with students. Year 11 also took part in dedicated workshops on managing exam stress.

Our “Yellow Desk Challenge” saw tutor groups decorating their tutors’ desks with as much yellow as possible – a colour that symbolises hope and positivity. Staff joined in by wearing yellow, creating a wonderful atmosphere of unity and care.

Mental health is something we talk about every day, not just once a year. Let’s keep normalising checking in on each other, and remember that it’s always okay to say, “I’m not okay.” Together, we can keep the conversation going and make kindness part of our daily routine.



Trips & Enrichment



Geography Students Explore Italy's Bay of Naples

From October 3rd to 6th, students from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in an unforgettable educational visit to Italy's Bay of Naples. The purpose of the trip was to strengthen students' understanding of key geographical concepts including tectonic activity, coastal processes, and urban development.

The four-day itinerary was packed with enriching learning experiences and cultural exploration. Highlights included:

- A walking tour of historic Naples, featuring a fascinating descent into the city's ancient underground tunnels.
- A guided hike to the summit of Mount Vesuvius with a volcanologist, followed by an immersive tour of the Pompeii ruins, bringing textbook topics vividly to life.
- A scenic ferry journey along the Amalfi Coast, with visits to the stunning coastal towns of Positano, Amalfi, and Salerno.
- A final morning exploring the picturesque town of Sorrento before travelling home.

The trip provided students with an invaluable opportunity to connect classroom learning to real-world Geography, as well as to experience Italy's rich history, landscapes, and culture. It was a truly memorable experience for all involved.



Ticket to Antarctica

Our students are taking part in a once-in-a-lifetime adventure with the British Antarctic Survey's "Ticket to Antarctica" project! HLC's name will travel to the Rothera Research Station in Antarctica aboard the RRS Sir David Attenborough and will even appear on one of its search planes.

STEM Co-ordinator and Computing Lead, Mrs Natalie Stewart, said:

"We're so excited to be part of this incredible journey. It's a fantastic way for our students to connect with real scientific exploration and see how far curiosity can take them!"

The project allows our students to receive weekly updates from scientists in Antarctica, learning first-hand about polar research and why protecting these regions matters for the planet.

HLC's STEM adventures don't stop there – our partnership with NASA continues, following a recent trip where two Year 8 students attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. They trained like astronauts, built teamwork skills, and tackled mission simulations as part of the Blue Skies Programme, supported by the Jon Egging Trust and Northrop Grumman. What an incredible experience!



Year 10 River Study Adventure

Year 10 Geography students ventured to Carding Mill Valley for their fieldwork study – investigating how the discharge of the River Ashbrook changes downstream.

Over 120 students took part across three days, braving all kinds of weather before finishing the week in sunshine! The trip provided invaluable hands-on experience and brought classroom learning to life



Trips & Enrichment



Macbeth English Workshop

Our Year 11 students enjoyed a live performance of Macbeth this week, giving them the chance to see Shakespeare's powerful language brought vividly to life ahead of their mock exams.

The performance deepened their understanding of character relationships, stagecraft, and key themes, and the Q&A session with the cast offered valuable insights into interpreting the play. Students were fully engaged throughout – an excellent way to prepare for their upcoming assessments!



Exploring Faith in Liverpool

Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies students recently took part in an inspiring trip to Liverpool, where they visited the city's two magnificent cathedrals – one Anglican and one Catholic. The visit brought to life their Living the Christian Life topic, allowing students to explore key similarities and differences between the two places of worship.

Our students showed great curiosity and respect throughout the visit, representing HLC brilliantly. We're already looking forward to giving our Year 10 students the same opportunity later in the year!



Online Safety News

October 2025



New DM Rules: What Parents Need to Know

TikTok has just updated Direct Messages (DMs). These changes mean that teens over 16 can now send voice notes and up to nine images or videos privately to friends, either from their camera or photo gallery. Previously, TikTok DMs were limited to videos, text, gifts and stickers.

Here are the main changes:

- Users can now send voice notes in DMs, up to 60 seconds long.
- You can share up to nine images or videos at once in a DM, either taken with the camera or selected from the phone's gallery.
- Images and videos can be edited before sending.

It's important to remember that many children do not sign up with their correct date of birth. This means the feature may be accessible to them, potentially exposing them to risks such as sextortion, inappropriate content, and contact from predators.

What to do:



- Delay access to social media.
- Ensure your child's account is set up with their correct date of birth.
- Use parental controls
- Talk about image sharing, what's ok, what's not
- Remind your child how not everyone online is who they say they are and only to ever connect with people they have met and know in real life.

Age checks online



– what parents need to know

Under the Online Safety Act, websites that host pornographic or harmful content must use age checks (such as ID verification or age estimation) to block under-18s.

This is a positive step, but it is not foolproof – and it's important that we don't rely on these measures alone to keep children and young people safe online.

Remember, pornographic material can be found in many places – even on Spotify. Social media and gaming platforms are also full of sexual and graphic content.

What can you do as a parent?

- Use parental controls on your broadband, devices and apps.
- Keep having open, ongoing conversations about what your child is seeing online. Build digital resilience – talk through what to do if something upsetting appears, so they know how to handle it and feel confident coming to you.

Age checks are one helpful layer of protection, but your involvement and connection with your child will always be the strongest safeguard.

New School Year, New Online “Friends”

At the start of a new school year, many children make new friends — and often add new contacts online. The risk is that not everyone behind a profile is who they claim to be. With AI tools, it’s now easier than ever to create fake profiles and images that appear completely real. These two people don’t exist — they’re AI-generated images. Show your child how easy it is to be tricked using this-person-does-not-exist.com. Every refresh creates a new “face” — none of them belong to real people.

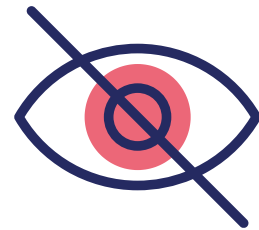


TOP TIP:

Keep the conversation open. Ask, “How do you know this person?” and remind your child that a profile picture alone is never proof that someone is who they claim to be.

In today’s digital world, building critical thinking skills is just as important as setting up parental controls.

If children learn early on that not everything — or everyone — online is real, they’ll be far better prepared to spot red flags and come to you when something feels wrong.



How to support your child if they see distressing content online.

In recent weeks it has been highlighted again how fast and easily really distressing content can spread online. This is not new unfortunately.

Even if your child doesn’t have social media or a phone, they may still be shown upsetting content by friends or told what to search for online.

Here’s how to support them:

- **Talk to them directly.** Explain that a very disturbing video is going viral, and if anyone sends it or mentions the name of a particular person or event, they should avoid watching.
- **Check in.** Many children may have already seen it but not said anything. Changes in mood or behaviour could be them trying to process what they’ve seen.
- **Remind them not to share.** Stress why it’s harmful to spread content like this. If you see the video yourself, report it and then focus on supporting your child.
- **Stay calm.** Anger or panic will only make them less likely to come to you next time.
- **Reassure them.** It’s not their fault if someone sent it to them or they came across it online.

Even if platforms eventually remove this type of content, it’s already been shared widely. This is another reminder that social media companies do not prioritise child safety — and why conversations at home matter most.