

Easter Newsletter



HLC Secondary

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MARCH 2026

WELCOME

From the Head



Dates for the diary

- **14th April - first day back after Easter**
- **4th May - Bank Holiday**
- **22nd May - Last day before half term**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and successful Spring term, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the many achievements and experiences that have made this such a positive period for our school community.

This term has been rich in opportunity. From the unforgettable ski trip to Italy, where students demonstrated resilience and teamwork, to our World Book Day celebrations, which brought a shared love of reading to life across the school, it has been wonderful to see students engaging so enthusiastically beyond the classroom.

Our Performing Arts provision continues to go from strength to strength. The recent production of *The Addams Family* was a fantastic showcase of talent, dedication and creativity, and we are incredibly proud of all students and staff involved. Similarly, our students have excelled in sport, with impressive successes across football, netball, swimming and dodgeball, reflecting both commitment and team spirit.

We are also proud of the many ways in which our curriculum continues to inspire and broaden horizons. Highlights this term include our Maths enrichment visit to Warner Bros. Studios and the success of our students in the LCT Maths Feast, where they demonstrated outstanding problem-solving and teamwork. Our Modern Foreign Languages events have celebrated the diversity of our community, reinforcing the message that our shared values unite us all.

As we approach the exam season, we remain fully committed to supporting both the academic progress and wellbeing of our students. We know this can be a challenging time, and we are grateful for the continued support of parents and carers in helping students to maintain a healthy balance.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. It is through our strong partnership that we are able to provide such a wide range of opportunities and ensure that every student feels they belong, are inspired, and can succeed.

I wish you all a restful Easter break and look forward to welcoming students back for the summer term. Please note, due to a staff professional development day, our return date for all students is **Tuesday 14th April 2026**.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Roycroft'.

D Roycroft
Head Teacher

BELONG

In their recent Drama lessons, Year 7 students have been working with the script from Matilda and have produced a fantastic range of performances that showcase their developing skills. During a visit to 7LDR4's lesson, three impressive adaptations of the script were performed. Well done, Year 7!

RESPECT

Our Year 10 Food Technology students have been hard at work crafting freshly made egg pasta. Students followed the full process from start to finish and left with a delicious portion of homemade pasta to take away. We're excited to see how their culinary skills continue to grow and hope to sample some of their creations soon!

OUR VALUES

INSPIRE

We celebrate the creativity and problem-solving shown by Year 7 students in their recent IT lessons. Students designed obstacle courses for Spheros — coding robots programmed to follow specific paths or avoid challenges. The course was both unique and ambitious, but the coding worked and the project was a great success!

SUCCEED

HLC is proud to have achieved the School for Nature Award following our students' participation in the Great Garden Birdwatch. A big thank-you to Mrs Cotterell and all involved for their commitment to supporting our local wildlife.

ENJOY

This Value Moment highlights the impressive Geography revision showing the pride and effort students are putting into their studies. Revising independently not only helps build knowledge but also makes learning in the classroom far easier. Keep up the great work!

SPORTS SUCCESS



SPORTS



SKI TRIP

Students enjoyed an unforgettable skiing adventure after flying from Stansted to Milan Bergamo Airport and settling into Villaggio Olimpico. The group shared delicious team meals each morning and evening, before taking part in full days of ski lessons. Over five days, students completed 20 hours of coaching, making fantastic progress on the green and blue slopes, with some confident skiers even tackling the red runs. Evening activities brought plenty of fun too, including pool, a games night, a quiz, a crepe-and-hot-chocolate walk, and a visit to the beautiful alpine village of Bardonecchia. The trip ended on a high with a lively disco—an experience the students won't soon forget!



Girls' Football Festival

Our girls shone on the football pitch, with the Y8/9 team finishing as runners-up in the shield competition. The Y10/11 squad went one step further, becoming U16 plate champions after a series of outstanding games. A superb effort all round!

KS3 Dodgeball Success

Our KS3 dodgeball team put in an excellent performance, showing great teamwork and resilience to finish as runners-up. A fantastic achievement for the group!

Swimming Gala

A huge well done to all students who took part in the swimming gala. It was a brilliant team effort across every event, with swimmers demonstrating skill, determination and school spirit throughout.

Netball Achievements

Our TWSSA Netball teams delivered fantastic performances, with Year 10 securing a brilliant gold (plate) finish and Year 11 earning a well-deserved silver. In the U15 County Netball competition, Year 10 continued their impressive form, finishing second overall after a strong run to the final. Well done to all involved!

Year 9 Boys Football – County Semi-Final Bound

Our Year 9 boys football team secured their place in the county semi-final after a dramatic match against New Road. With goals from Preston Worrall and Liam Cooper, the game finished 2–2 before heading to penalties. Albi Taylor, Harry Norris-Moore and Kai Mason Walker all scored from the spot, and goalkeeper Liam Stevenson not only made a crucial save but then stepped up to convert the winning penalty himself. The team now look ahead to a home semi-final against either Ercall Wood or Shrewsbury School.

Year 8 Boys Football – Quarter-Final Victory

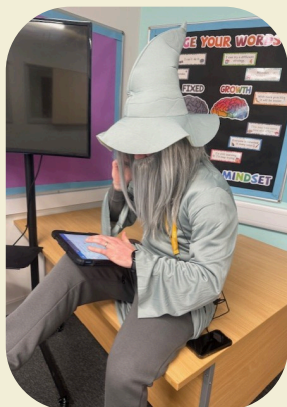
Congratulations to our Year 8 boys football team, who showed fantastic character in their County Cup quarter final. After a tight first half that ended 1–1, the boys battled back from behind to take a 3–2 victory, with Kelvin scoring a last-minute winner. A brilliant team performance, and we look forward to cheering them on in the semi-final.

World Book Day



This World Book Day, we continued to celebrate the lifelong benefits of reading – for success in every subject and every part of life. Students explored a World Book Day Treasure Hunt and took part in the “Guess the Teacher” challenge, matching staff to their favourite childhood books and photos.

Staff across the school shared books they love and were eager to recommend, and many embraced the chance to dress up once again as their favourite characters and authors. The day was a wonderful celebration of stories, imagination and the joy of reading.



PERFORMING ARTS

The Addams Family

Our talented musical cast performed *The Addams Family* five times in early March, delighting paying audiences, our current Year 7s and the HLC Primary Year 6 pupils. The cast dedicated months of hard work, including weekend rehearsals, to create a show that was creepy, kooky and fabulously spooky. With brilliant vocals, slick choreography, strong direction and impressive set and costume design, the production was entertaining from start to finish.

Singing Competition

Congratulations to Isla and Archie, who represented the school at the Wenlock Olympian Society singing competition. Isla impressed the adjudicators with her expressive performance of *Quiet* from *Matilda the Musical*, winning her section. Both students sang beautifully—well done!

Performing Arts Clubs

Our Performing Arts department continues to offer a range of creative clubs. Vocal Group meets on Wednesdays from 3–4pm, and Music Tech Club takes place on Mondays from 3–4pm. All students are welcome to come along and get involved.

Great Big Dance Off

Congratulations to all of students who auditioned for Dance Company Select, Aspire Dance Company and ImpACT Drama Company recently.

Dance Company Select recently took to the stage at the Great Big Dance Off at Dudley Town Hall, performing alongside schools from across the Midlands. They showcased a joyful jazz piece titled *Colour My World*, celebrating happiness and light.

The group performed with maturity and professionalism throughout—well done to everyone involved!

DanceFest 2026

Rehearsals are now underway for Dancefest, which will take place at Theatre Severn on 17th June at 7pm. Keep an eye on tutor notices and the school Instagram for ticket information. It's not too late to get involved—after Easter, students can join KS3 Dance Club on Mondays, Street Dance Club on Tuesdays, or Musical Theatre Club on Fridays, all running from 3–4pm.



Maths Enrichment

WARNER BRO'S STUDIOS

On 2nd March, 48 Year 9 students set off for an exciting visit to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour in Watford. Their day began with a Maths workshop, where they discovered just how many roles in the film industry rely on mathematical skills. Students then put their understanding of scale factor into practice, exploring the clever techniques used to make Hagrid appear as a half-giant on screen. Following the workshop, students toured the studios and explored some of the most iconic sets and props from the Harry Potter films, including the Great Hall, Gryffindor Common Room, the Forbidden Forest and, of course, Platform 9¾ with the Hogwarts Express. Many also took part in the green-screen broom experience, taking to the skies for a thrilling Quidditch flight. It was a magical day for everyone involved – mischief managed!

LCT MATHS FEAST

On 11th March, eight Year 9 students proudly represented our school at the LCT Maths Feast hosted at Burton Borough. Throughout the event, they tackled a series of challenging logic tasks and mathematical puzzles, competing against other schools from across the trust. Every team performed exceptionally well, demonstrating outstanding problem-solving skills, resilience and teamwork. We are thrilled to share that our students finished joint first in the competition. A huge well done to all involved – a fantastic achievement!





MODERN

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

This half term, the MFL Department proudly unveiled a new display titled “Our Ethos Speaks Every Language.” This inspiring showcase features student translations of our five core school values – Belong, Respect, Inspire, Succeed and Enjoy – into more than 30 languages, reflecting the incredible cultural diversity within our community.

The display is a powerful reminder that while we may come from different places and speak different languages, we are united by shared values. It stands as a vibrant celebration of what makes our school community so special: many voices, one ethos.

MFL BAKE OFF

On 19th March, the MFL Department hosted our annual MFL Bake Off, once again highlighting the creativity, talent, and cultural richness of our school community. Over 20 students and 10 staff members took part, filling the room with the aromas of home-cooked dishes inspired by cuisines from around the world.

Participants represented countries such as Japan, Nigeria, Ukraine, Italy, Pakistan, and France – sharing recipes researched with curiosity or lovingly passed down through families. Students proudly presented dishes that reflected who they are and the traditions that matter to them.

After the showcase, everyone had the chance to taste one another’s creations, discover new flavours, share their stories, and vote for their favourites. The room buzzed with excitement, laughter, and a strong sense of togetherness.



PEN PAL EXCHANGE



Year 10 Bring Back the Joy of Letter Writing with French Pen Pal Exchange
Last week, Year 10 French students received their first letters from partner students in Châtenay-Malabry, a town just outside Paris. The excitement was clear as envelopes were opened, handwriting examined and new friendships began. Students have since written thoughtful replies – entirely in French – sharing their interests, experiences and personalities. Their letters were posted this week, and anticipation is already building as they await the next response from their French correspondents.

LANGUAGE IN THE COMMUNITY

This term, our Year 10 and Year 11 students taking GCSEs in their community (native) languages have shown outstanding commitment as they prepare for their speaking exams. Many have attended after-school intervention sessions and worked independently to refine their skills.

We are proud to share that this year students are completing GCSEs in 10 different languages, including Turkish, Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi, Russian and Italian, among others. Walking through the MFL Department and hearing so many languages spoken with confidence has been truly inspiring.

Community language GCSEs offer students a valuable opportunity to gain formal recognition for the language skills they use at home and within their communities. They also boost overall results, support future educational pathways and develop strong communication and cultural awareness – qualities highly valued by employers and universities.

Parents and carers of Year 9 students are encouraged to contact the MFL Department if their child speaks another language at home and may benefit from taking this qualification next year.

We are incredibly proud of our students’ dedication and look forward to celebrating their achievements later this year.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS' WELLBEING DURING

Exam Season

As GCSEs and assessments approach, many students may feel increased pressure. We want to reassure families that supporting mental health remains a key priority at HLC Secondary.

Exam Stress Workshops

Our recent Exam Stress Workshops, led by the Telford Minster Youth Group, were very well attended and well received. Students explored practical strategies for managing exam anxiety and took part in a calming creative activity. Feedback was extremely positive, and we hope to run more sessions in the future.



How Parents Can Help

You can support your child through exam season by encouraging:



Open conversation about how they're feeling



A balanced, realistic revision routine



Regular breaks, sleep and downtime

If your child needs additional support, these free services are always available

kooth

Kooth is a free online service offering emotional and mental health support for children and young people

www.kooth.com

shout
85258

here for you 24/7

ChildLine
0800 1111

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a school environment where wellbeing is prioritised. By working together, we can help every student feel safe, supported, and confident as they move through exam season. Should you wish to reach out to us regarding your child's wellbeing, please get in touch

wellbeing.hlc@LCT.education