



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February, 2026 | Developing Good People



An update from our Principal

The spring term is an important time for our pupils in all years as they receive their Mid Year Assessment results and, in the case of Year 11, sit their final set of Mock Exams before their GCSEs. Our pupils are benefitting from our work with United Learning as they are taught the United Learning Curriculum and sit United Learning Assessments. This allows us to compare our pupils with a significant proportion of their peers nationally. Our pupils are seeing the benefit across all years, and our last two cohorts of Year 11 pupils have achieved successive record outcomes. Mid-year assessments indicate this trend will continue. Our Heath Lane year group 'Rank orders' have also created a real buzz in school and lots of positive discussion about pupils attainment, hard work, and respect and kindness scores.

Pupils achieving great grades is life changing for them, increasing their life choices and their potential earnings. We continue to work very hard as we know how important this is. As well as developing our curriculum and assessment, we have also been working hard as staff to further develop our pedagogy and teaching. Our 'I teach, we check, you practise' method is consistent across the school, and I encourage you to come and see us in action during one of my Principal tours. Pupils doing well also requires high expectations of everyone. We continue to work with pupils to secure the highest standards of behaviour. Miss Hussain, our new Vice Principal, is leading on this area with staff, pupils and parents, and I thank you for your ongoing support to ensure every pupil and teacher enjoys disruption free learning. I am pleased to report that the school is consistently calm and pupils are focused on their learning.

I look forward to my next Principal's Proud event on Friday before half term. The chance to recognise pupils wonderful work is one of the many privileges of my job. I hope to see lots of pupils showcasing their work and receiving well-earned golden tickets and chocolate!

Update from Year 7 - Miss Jarvis

Half term 3 has seen Year 7 reach their half way mark of this Academic year. This term has ended with important information: their school reports. As pupils have received their reports, it's clear just how much hard work, respect, and kindness have shaped their progress. These reports don't just reflect academic achievement—they capture the effort put into every lesson, the thoughtful way students treat one another, and the positive attitude they bring to school each day. It's a moment to be proud of how far they've come and to celebrate the character they continue to build. I hope they celebrate their success and are excited to see their rankings. All their hard work is paying off, and it stabilises them for a good start to Year 8. I am excited to celebrate with them during their celebration assembly.



Update from Year 8 - Mrs Ley

It has been a busy and inspiring time for our Year 8 pupils, with opportunities to lead, compete, and support others. From helping Year 6 pupils at Newlands Primary grow in confidence with their reading, to taking part in This Girl Can, representing the school at the Indoor Sportshall Athletics competition,

and exploring future pathways through careers workshops with Leicester University, students have shown enthusiasm, resilience, and teamwork throughout. These experiences reflect the confidence, curiosity, and community spirit our Year 8 pupils continue to demonstrate both in and beyond the classroom.

Year 8 Reading group

Year 8 pupils have done a fantastic job supporting Year 6 pupils with their reading at Newlands Primary School, creating a warm and encouraging atmosphere that has helped younger learners grow in confidence. By modelling strong reading habits and listening carefully, they have improved fluency while building positive relationships across year groups. This partnership supports Year 6 pupils as they prepare for secondary school and helps Year 8 develop leadership, empathy, and communication skills.

This Girl Can

Year 8 girls enthusiastically took part in a range of sporting activities, including martial arts, dance, fitness, rugby, and spinning, helping to inspire more active lifestyles. By stepping outside their comfort zones and embracing new challenges, they improved their own well-being while becoming positive role models who show that sport is fun, empowering, and accessible to everyone.

Indoor Sportshall Athletics

Year 8 boys' and girls' teams represented the school brilliantly at the Area Indoor Sportshall Athletics competition at Hinckley Leisure Centre. Competing across a full programme of field and track events, they demonstrated great determination, teamwork, and resilience, achieving fantastic results and showing superb competitive spirit throughout.

Yr 8 Careers workshops – Engineering and English

Year 8 pupils took part in an inspiring session led by Leicester University, exploring future career opportunities through a hands-on engineering challenge to design a boat able to hold 1kg using everyday materials. They also examined how language evolves over time, considering how modern slang develops and reflects cultural change. The experience was creative, engaging, and left pupils buzzing with ideas.



Coming Up After Half Term

- Rewards – Hardwork, respect, and kindness
- Rewards - Attendance
- Easter Egg raffle – Raising money for charity
- Leadership School Action group presenting a project at Oxford University
- This Boy Can - Getting active
- Tutor group competitions



Heath Lane Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Update from Year 9 - Mr Green

Year 9 have had a very successful half term. A number of our students are taking an active part in the school council and are representing the year group to discuss what the year group feel is working and areas for improvement. The students are particularly excited about the new astroturf and are really pleased they are able to use it during social time. Students attended the reward assembly and enjoyed celebrating the achievements of their peers. The most eagerly contested award of best tutor group was won by Miss Paul and her students who demonstrate the core values of hard work, kindness and respect. Their prize is

time off timetable on Friday to watch a movie with popcorn and drinks. Congratulations.

Coming up on March 16th is Options Evening where parents and carers are invited to understand the process of students selecting their preferences. More detail and invitations to follow after half term. Enjoy the half term break!

Update from Year 10 - Mrs Chapman

Year 10 have received mid-term reports, which has been a pleasure to see. It's really focused them for the future and the upcoming mocks in the summer term.

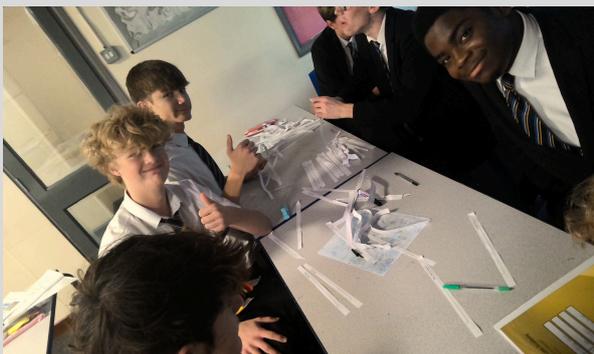
Year 10 Dance students have been working hard for the East Midlands Big Dance competition they are taking part in on Thursday, 12th March, fingers crossed we get through to the final.

Letters have gone home for work experience that's taking place in June, we are looking forward to year 10 getting hands on in roles to help shape their future.

Year 11 update

Year 11 History

Miss Faulks' Year 11 History students have been revising using creative and engaging techniques to help embed key knowledge and prepare effectively for their GCSE exams.



Year 11 English

Year 11 went on a trip to the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham to see a production on Macbeth on Monday 2nd Feb. The production was aimed at GCSE revision and featured a fast-paced version of the play, highlighting key scenes and key quotations. Students found the production to be excellent for their revision and thoroughly enjoyed the trip.





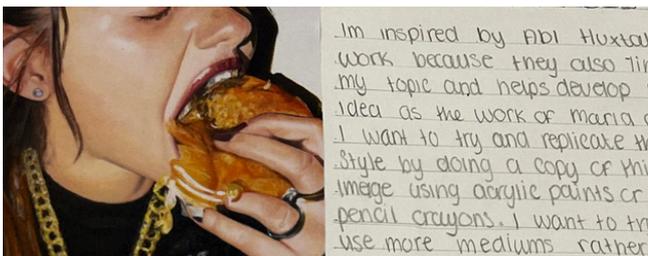
Update from the Science department

Next Half term in Science is British Science Week and the theme is "Curiosity: What's Your Question?" Students will be encouraged to tap into their natural inquisitiveness, celebrating the idea that all scientific discoveries begin with a moment of curiosity—an observation, a "why?", or a spark of wonder. This theme will help our students in becoming good people and working hard by understanding how questioning helps us understand our environment, make informed choices, and engage thoughtfully with issues such as technology, health and the climate crisis. There will be a poster competition, with prizes available for Year 7s - Year 9s, and the posters will be entered into the National British Science Week competition. Staff from the Science department will be delivering assemblies all week, with more information about the competition.

GCSE Art

Year 10 Art GCSE - Amazing Students

Here are some examples of the artwork being completed in our GCSE Art class. It is a pleasure to teach students who strive so hard to create this wonderful work. Each student is working on their own individual project, developing new skills and exploring inventive and creative ways of using materials.





EVERY DAY MATTERS

Why attendance matters more than you might think. Pupils who attend school regularly aren't just keeping up - they're thriving. Those with attendance above 97% are averaging top GCSE grades and are towards the top of the rankings in their year. Meanwhile, pupils with attendance below 65% are averaging lower grades, with lower engagement and outcomes across the board. The message is simple: every day in school helps your child build confidence, stay connected, and reach their potential, academically and socially.

