



Heath Lane Academy
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Part of United Learning

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December, 2025 | Developing Good People



Half Term Two has been another vibrant and rewarding chapter at Heath Lane Academy, filled with hard work, new experiences, and plenty of festive spirit. Our pupils have embraced opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, from university visits and theatre trips to exciting careers events and sporting success. Creativity has flourished through competitions and performances, while charitable projects and community initiatives have showcased the kindness at the heart of our school. With mock exams completed, talents celebrated, and Christmas activities, it's been a busy and brilliant end to the term.

An update from our Principal

I hope you enjoy our Autumn Term newsletter. It is packed with so many wonderful examples of the exciting events that our pupils and staff have been involved in. For example, I write this introduction between judging the latest round of our Heath Lane Bake Off and judging our Heath Lane Variety Performance! Our pupils have so many talents, and I admire their hard work and dedication.

Our mission to Develop Good People is progressing at pace, we are certainly on track to be the 'most improved school in the East Midlands by 2028'. It has been another term of excellent work in the classroom and increasing opportunities and experiences in our enrichment programme. Our Year 11 pupils have produced our best ever set of Year 11 Mock 1 results for the third year in a row. We are excited to see what they can achieve in their GCSEs.

Other years will be sitting their Mid-Year Assessments in January, and I look forward to seeing their progress.

Beyond the classroom, this term we have seen pupils enjoy residentials, represent the school in sports fixtures, visit Universities, go to the Theatre, and so much more. We still have visits to the Panto, as well as further College and University visits in the final week before Christmas.

When I started at Heath Lane, I stated I wanted to lead a 'vibrant school', and it is a real pleasure to see the school developing so quickly and to see our pupils making the most of the opportunities they have. This is a team effort, and I want to thank you for your continued support. I wish you and your family a restful and happy Christmas and all the best for 2026!



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Update from Year 7 - Miss Jarvis

Year 7 have made an incredible start to life at Heath Lane Academy, fully embracing the school's culture and throwing themselves into both academic study and the wide range of extracurricular opportunities on offer. Their residential trip to PGL proved to be an early highlight, giving pupils the chance to build confidence, form new friendships, and push themselves beyond their comfort zones.

Our Parents' Evening provided families with the opportunity to celebrate the progress their children have already made. These events have helped create a strong sense of community and belonging within the year group.

Adding to the excitement, the school Christmas Market brought festive cheer and allowed pupils to contribute to a lively and joyful event; with stalls, activities, and plenty of seasonal spirit, it was a wonderful way to round off the term. We are very grateful to those who volunteered their time and attended our market.

Year 7 recently enjoyed their pantomime trip, which provided another opportunity to come together, have fun, and continue building the strong community spirit they have established this term. With so many positive experiences already behind them, Year 7 have set the tone for a successful, enthusiastic, and rewarding year ahead.





Update from Year 8 - Mrs Ley

A Busy and Brilliant Half-Term - Year 8 have had a fantastic half-term, showing Heath Lane Academy's values of respect, kindness, and hard work throughout a wide range of activities and events.

- Pantomime Rewards Trip - Forty-one Year 8 and 9 pupils enjoyed a rewards trip to the pantomime at De Montfort Hall. It was a brilliant way to celebrate those who have consistently demonstrated our school values, with pupils enjoying plenty of excitement and laughter.

- Leadership School Action Group - Several Year 8 pupils have volunteered to join the United Learning Leadership School Action Group. They will plan and lead their own community-focused project, take part in activities hosted by Oxford University, and present their work in the spring ceremony.
- Christmas Market - Three Year 8 pupils did a fantastic job running the Tombola stall at the Heath Lane Christmas Market. Their enthusiasm and teamwork helped make the event a great success.

- Sporting Success - Year 8 boys took part in a football development event at Market Bosworth School, showing great progress and teamwork.
- Our Year 8 football team also impressed in their tournament, remaining unbeaten with one win and two draws. Despite a last-minute equaliser preventing them from progressing, the team displayed outstanding resilience and determination.
- Year 8 pupils also represented the academy at the Area Basketball event at Hinckley Leisure Centre.
- Bake Off Achievements - Year 8 pupils rose to the challenge in the Year 7 & 8 Bake Off, creating and decorating gingerbread biscuits. Three pupils - Georgi, Beau, and Taylor - progressed to the next round, where they baked gluten-free Christmas cookies. Well done to all involved!
- Rewards and Celebrations - Pupils who received Golden Tickets this half term were entered into prize draws, winning delicious Freddo chocolate brownies from a local baker. Another group enjoyed a special cinema afternoon in our newly renovated Theatre, complete with snacks and a festive atmosphere.



Coming Up After Christmas

- Year 8 Reading Project with Newlands Primary School
- Leadership School Action Group project development
- This Girl Can & This Boy Can activity programme, including martial arts, yoga, multi-sports, exercise classes and a wellbeing station
- Sportshall Athletics at Hinckley Leisure Centre
- Year 8 & 9 Futsal Tournament
- Careers events



Update from Year 9 - Mr Green

Year 9 have had another brilliant half term, showcasing their enthusiasm both in and out of the classroom. Sporting achievements took centre stage, with both the boys' and girls' football teams representing the school in a recent tournament. The boys went unbeaten (despite a bullet own goal!), while the girls impressed in their very first competitive tournament.

- Around school, Year 9 continue to embody our core values of working hard, being kind, and showing respect, setting an excellent example to younger pupils.

- This half term also included a valuable careers workshop from De Montfort University, where pupils explored pathways in Law, Psychology, and Accountancy. Feedback from both pupils and university staff was overwhelmingly positive.
- Looking ahead, after Christmas, Year 9 will begin considering their GCSE option choices. Each pupil will have a one-to-one meeting to discuss their interests and preferred subjects.

Update from Year 10 - Mrs Chapman

University Visits, Performing Arts, and Talent

- In September, Year 10 pupils visited Cambridge University to experience university life first-hand. They attended lectures and enjoyed lunch on campus, exploring the facilities and getting a feel for life as a student.
- More recently, forty Year 10 and 11 pupils attended a high-profile podcast event held at Leicester Tigers' ground, giving them insight into media and broadcasting careers.
- Meanwhile, forty Year 10 Performing Arts pupils enjoyed a trip to see The Sound of Music at The Curve Theatre in Leicester.
- Heath Lane's Got Talent took place on Thursday, 11th December, which gave our pupils the chance to showcase their brilliant creativity and skills in school.





Update from Year 11 - Mr Richards

Mock Exams and Enriching Experiences

- Our Year 11 pupils have successfully completed their first round of mock exams and have received their results. We are delighted with the hard work and dedication they have shown during this important stage of the year.
- Alongside their studies, pupils have enjoyed a variety of enriching experiences, including visits to Caterpillar, local primary schools, and a tour of Leicester Tigers' stadium.

To round off a busy term, pupils also took part in a well-earned Christmas movie afternoon.

- Looking ahead, the next set of mock exams is scheduled for February, with plenty more opportunities for Year 11s, including further trips, guest speakers, and the much-anticipated Year 11 Prom.

Some of our departments have shared updates this term, highlighting the fantastic work and achievements of our students.

Update from the English department

We are delighted to share that 90 of our KS3 pupils have been selected for publication in the upcoming Young Writers Anthology. Their poems, written on the theme "I Have a Dream – Echoes of Tomorrow," impressed the judges with their creativity, ambition, and thoughtful reflections on the future. The anthology will be published on 29th December, and we are incredibly proud of every pupil whose work will feature.



Update from the Food department

This term, the 2025 Heath Lane Bake Off has been a real treat, with over 24 competitors taking part across four exciting heats. The semi-final on 11th December and the final on 17th December showcased some fantastic baking skills from our pupils.

Some of the delicious creations included:

- Gingerbread biscuits
- Decorated cupcakes
- Gluten-free Christmas cookies

The competition was a wonderful display of creativity and talent, and we are incredibly proud of all our bakers for their hard work and enthusiasm.





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Update from PSHCE and RE

• Year 8 - First Give Project

This term, our pupils took part in the First Give social action programme, working together to make a positive difference in our community. Each class chose a local charity to champion, researched the issues it tackles, and designed a social action project to raise awareness and support.

Pupils developed teamwork, presentation, and leadership skills as they planned campaigns, created fundraising ideas, and prepared their final presentations. The project ends with an inspiring school final where classes will showcase their work to a panel of judges, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Hinckley and Bosworth.

We are incredibly proud of the creativity, compassion, and hard work shown by all students involved. Their efforts highlight the power of young people to create meaningful change.

• Year 9:

Year 9 First Aid Training Update

Miss Faulks is currently working her way through the Year 9 classes to get all students first-aid ready. 9L have already successfully completed their British Red Cross first aid training, gaining essential skills to help in real-life emergencies.

We're looking forward to seeing the rest of the year group complete their training!





An Update from Mrs Mitchell

The Peace and Kindness Group, which started in September and meets every Friday after school, has had a fantastic Autumn Term. The group is dedicated to:

- Engaging in Random Acts of Kindness
- Fundraising for projects locally and overseas
- Supporting ongoing charity activities within the school
- Helping to make the world a kinder place for all

This term, the group has:

- Worked with the local community to create 21 Christmas Shoeboxes as part of Operation Christmas Child, organised by Samaritan's Purse. A huge thank you to all parents, carers, students, and staff who donated items and shoeboxes—these gifts will soon be delivered to children in time for Christmas.
- Created handmade products to sell at the Christmas Market last week. Thank you to everyone who supported the stall!

Thanks to their efforts, the group has raised over £100, which will be used to Toilet Twin a HLA toilet with one in Zimbabwe—a fantastic achievement.

We are incredibly proud of our dedicated students for their passion and energy, and we look forward to seeing what they achieve next term.



ToiletTwinning is a Registered Charity (Number 348444) (England and Wales) and Number 10087654 (Scotland)

Admissions Consultation

The Governing Body is currently consulting on the Academy's Admissions Policy. This is a routine consultation, required by the School Admissions Code, which takes place every seven years. Parents and carers are invited to view the draft Admissions Policy and share any comments as part of this process. The consultation will run from Tuesday 16th December 2025 to Tuesday 27th January 2026.

The draft policy is available to view on the [school website](#). If you would like a hard copy of the policy or have any general queries regarding admissions, please contact the school directly via email - consultation@heathlaneacademy.org.uk