



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October, 2026 | Developing Good People

## An update from our Principal

Pupils and staff have enjoyed an excellent start to the academic year. The record results achieved by our 2026 cohort have inspired our current pupils and energised our staff, creating positive energy at Heath Lane.

The positivity in school has been recognised by parents and carers who have joined me recently for tours of the school. They have commented that pupils are 'working really hard', the school is 'calm and focused' and 'the staff know our pupils'. The kind words and positive feedback mean a lot, thank you!

Our pupils have been working hard and deserve their half term break. I am delighted that they have also had notable success outside of the classroom too as this is such an important element of their development.

### Extra Curricular:

- 18 Enrichment clubs this term including the launch of our STEM Supernova Stream and our Scholars programme with De Montfort University.
- Our Year 10 Football team won their local area tournament, and our other Football and Netball teams have enjoyed notable victories against local schools.

### Pupil Volunteering:

- Our 'First Give' social action project has launched through our Year 8 PSHCE curriculum
- MacMillan bake sale led by our Year 10s and Year 11s
- We have launched our Student Receptionists giving Year 8 the opportunity to gain internal work experience and allow for leadership and responsibility.

### Pupil Leadership:

Our leadership ladder has launched with pupils taking the opportunity to volunteer for the following in each year group:

- Year 7: Literacy Leaders
- Year 8: Social action project
- Year 9: Extra Curricular leaders
- Year 10: School Ambassadors
- Year 11: Student council chair, co chair and secretary

I hope you enjoy our newsletter and I look forward to seeing you when you next visit school

- Mr Trimmingham



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## Celebrating Success at Our First Proud Principal Station

Our first Proud Principal Station of the academic year took place recently, giving pupils the opportunity to celebrate achievements they are particularly proud of.

From excellent classwork and positive contributions to 100% attendance, pupils shared their successes with the Principal and received rewards in recognition of their hard work and commitment.

A wonderful lunchtime celebration and a reminder of the fantastic effort and achievements taking place across the academy every day.





## Guinness World Record Attempt

Recently, some of our Year 9 pupils took part in an official Guinness World Record attempt.

As part of the National Year of Reading, the attempt was to break the record for the number of people reading online in a 12 hour period. The attempt brought together readers from across the world.

Heath Lane Academy pupils read for 10 minutes together and were impressed at the number of people from across the world who joined the attempt.

Literacy and reading are an integral part of everything we do at Heath Lane Academy and it was wonderful to see the pupils so excited to be part of this record attempt.

We will know in a couple of weeks if the attempt was successful and will post to let everyone know.



## Supernova STEM - Half-Term 1

Our Supernova STEM pupils have made an excellent start to the year by working towards their Bronze CREST Award through an investigation into identifying forged 1p and 2p coins. Pupils carefully planned their enquiry, testing different cleaning methods before deciding on the most effective approach, and selecting appropriate equipment to measure volume and calculate density. They will compare their results with density data published by the Royal Mint to determine whether any coins may be counterfeit. Pupils have now begun producing a full scientific write-up of their investigation, mirroring the methods and reporting standards used by scientists in industry. On 15th October, we were delighted to welcome the Leicestershire Police Forensic Team, who delivered an engaging forensic science workshop for our pupils. Supernova STEM has started strongly this year, with several new members joining the programme, and we are excited to begin our next area of study: Space and Rockets. 🚀



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## Girls Rugby development

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 girls recently attended a fantastic Rugby Development Event at Hinckley Rugby Club. The event gave pupils the opportunity to try a new team sport, improve their physical fitness, and develop fundamental rugby skills in a supportive and non-competitive environment. Throughout the afternoon, the girls took part in a range of activities delivered by specialist coaches from Hinckley Rugby Club. They also had the opportunity to listen to an inspiring talk from former England Rugby player Vicky Macqueen, who shared her experiences and highlighted the values that make rugby such a special sport. The girls demonstrated the core rugby values of discipline, respect, enjoyment, sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the event and were a credit to the school. It was fantastic to see so many pupils embracing new challenges, developing their confidence and enjoying the experience. Following the event, pupils were invited to join the girls' section at Hinckley Rugby Club to continue developing their skills, make new friends and gain more opportunities to play the game. Well done to all of the girls who took part!





## Year 7 Update

Earlier this term, our Year 7 pupils made an excellent start to PE at Heath Lane Academy, demonstrating great commitment and determination during their netball and handball lessons.

Throughout the sessions, pupils worked hard, supported one another positively and showed impressive teamwork and resilience. It has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm, willingness to embrace new challenges and positive attitudes to learning from the very beginning of the academic year.



## De Montfort University visit

On 14th and 15th September, Mr Calder took 85 of the year 7 pupils to De Montfort University for a morning of fun activities. The Pupils were given first-hand insight into what the life of a university pupil looks like. This information was invaluable for the pupils as they were made aware that university was an option for them. Something that not many of the year 7s had even considered as something in their future.





## Year 7 Explore the Bayeux Tapestry

Recently, our Year 7 pupils enjoyed a live broadcast from the British Museum, exploring the fascinating story of the Bayeux Tapestry and the events of 1066.

Hosted by Emma-Louise Amanshia, a familiar face from children's television, the session also featured a special guest appearance from Claudia Winkleman, giving pupils a unique and engaging insight into one of the most significant events in British history.

The broadcast was delivered in partnership with the British Library, English Heritage and Norwich Museum Service, providing an excellent opportunity for pupils to bring their classroom learning to life and deepen their understanding of the Norman Conquest.

It was a fantastic experience that encouraged curiosity and historical enquiry, helping pupils connect with the people, events and artefacts that have shaped our nation's past.



## Year 7 & 8 Head of Year Update

Being across two year groups, I initially thought this challenge would be a step too far. That was until I met the pupils here at Heath Lane.

The part that parents and pupils have played in helping me settle in has been incredibly important. The development I have seen in the pupils during my short time here has been remarkable.

Every single pupil in Years 7 and 8 has made great strides, developing not only academically but also as young men and women. I am incredibly proud of the progress everyone has made, and I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year has in store.

I wish everyone a wonderful and safe break, and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 26 October.

Mr Calder - Head of Year 7 and 8



## **Year 9 Update - Mrs Ley - Head of Year 9**

Year 9 have settled well into this half term and have continued to demonstrate our school values of Respect, Kindness and Hard Work both in lessons and around the academy. It has been fantastic to see so many pupils embracing opportunities to develop themselves beyond the classroom.

Many pupils have joined lunchtime and after-school clubs, helping to broaden their skills, build confidence and develop their character. These experiences provide valuable opportunities for pupils to discover new interests, work with others and grow as young people.

We have also been extremely proud of the many Year 9 pupils who volunteered to support our Open Evening. Pupils acted as excellent ambassadors for the school, guiding visiting families on tours and supporting staff within subject departments. Their maturity, enthusiasm and willingness to help reflected positively on both themselves and the wider Year 9 cohort.

This year, Year 9 pupils also have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Through this programme, pupils will develop a range of skills through volunteering, physical activities and personal development. They will also have the exciting opportunity to plan and participate in an expedition, including route planning, camping and outdoor cooking.

As the year progresses, pupils will begin preparing for some important decisions regarding their future, including considering their option choices and exploring potential career pathways. We look forward to supporting them through these exciting next steps.

### **Looking Ahead to Next Half Term**

Year 9 pupils can look forward to a range of exciting opportunities, including:

- PE Leadership
- Primary Sporting Events
- Careers Visits & workshops
- Pantomime Visit
- Rewards Visits
- Para Sportshall Athletics
- TeenTech Visit to De Montfort University
- Boys' and Girls' Basketball Tournaments
- Boys' Football Development Programme

We look forward to welcoming Year 9 back after half term on Monday 26 October.

As a reminder, please take some time over the break to check that your child has all the equipment they need for school, including replacing any missing stationery items. Arriving prepared for learning will help them continue to build on their successes and further develop into the responsible, respectful and hardworking young people we are proud to support.

Have a safe and enjoyable half-term break.



### Year 9 Take Inspiration from Georgina Luck

Earlier this term, our Year 9 Art pupils explored the work of illustrator Georgina Luck, using her distinctive style as inspiration for their own watercolour and fine liner pieces.

Throughout the project, pupils demonstrated excellent observational skills, paying close attention to detail while developing their painting techniques. The quality of work produced has been impressive, showcasing both creativity and accuracy.

Well done to Year 9 for their hard work and artistic achievements.



### Year 9 Develop Fine Art Techniques

Year 9 Art pupils focused on developing their biro and mark-making techniques, taking inspiration from the work of fine artist Mark Powell.

Through careful observation and experimentation, pupils explored a range of artistic methods while gaining an insight into the creative process of a professional artist. The quality of work produced has been excellent, showcasing both skill and attention to detail.

A special congratulations to EP for their outstanding biro artwork. Well done to all of Year 9 for their creativity and hard work.





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### Year 9 Netball tournament

Year 9 Netball Tournament Success! The Year 9 girls recently competed in the area netball tournament hosted by Heath Lane Academy. The weather was beautiful, and the team looked fantastic in their HLA netball dresses. After a tough start, losing their opening match, the girls showed great determination and resilience to win their next two games, securing victories against South Charnwood and Brookvale Academy. The team finished 2nd in their pool, narrowly missing out after losing their group play-off match. This meant they finished an impressive 4th overall out of 8 schools competing in the tournament. A fantastic achievement from all involved. The girls worked brilliantly as a team, demonstrated excellent competitive spirit, and represented HLA with pride. Well done to everyone who took part!



### Year 9 PE Leadership - Training

Year 9 pupils took part in PE Leadership Training last week, led by HBSSPAN School Games Organiser Martin Lynch. Throughout the training, pupils developed key leadership skills including communication, accurate timekeeping, and taking on the responsible role of referee during games and activities. They worked enthusiastically throughout the course and demonstrated excellent teamwork, maturity, and professionalism. These valuable skills will now be used to support a range of primary and secondary school sporting events scheduled throughout the academic year. A fantastic effort from all involved, and we look forward to seeing our young leaders make a positive impact at future sporting events.





## Year 10 Update

Earlier this term, our Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition pupils put their cooking skills into practice, creating a range of impressive dishes in the kitchen.

It was fantastic to see the commitment, enthusiasm and creativity demonstrated throughout the lessons, with pupils working hard to develop their practical skills and produce some delicious results. The kitchen certainly smelt incredible, and the final dishes were a credit to their effort and dedication.





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### Year 10 football

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 football team, who have represented Heath Lane brilliantly throughout their recent fixtures. The pupils have demonstrated fantastic resilience, hard work and teamwork, consistently working together as a unit and supporting one another on the pitch. Most importantly, they showed excellent respect and sportsmanship towards every opposition team. Their determination and positive attitude have seen them progress to the play-off final against Brookvale Groby.

#### Results

Heath Lane 2–0 Hastings High School

Heath Lane 4–2 Redmoor Academy

Heath Lane 3–2 St Martins Catholic Academy

Player of the Tournament: Travis





## Year 11 Update

### Year 11 Netball Tournament Success

Recently, our Year 11 netball team took part in the Area Schools Netball Tournament. The team performed brilliantly throughout the competition, winning one match, drawing one and losing two games.

Overall, the team finished 5th out of 8 schools, which is a fantastic achievement against strong opposition. Well done to all the pupils who represented the school. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, communication, determination and effort in every game, making us proud both on and off the court. Congratulations to everyone involved!

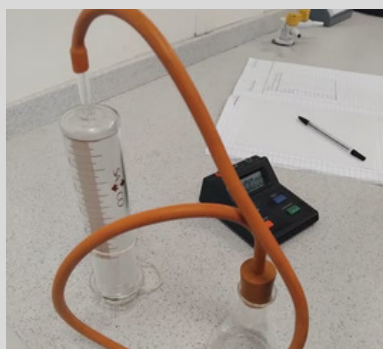
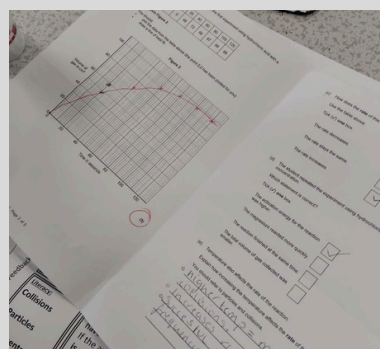


### Year 11 Explore Rates of Reaction

Year 11 Science pupils investigated rates of reaction through a range of practical activities and exam-focused tasks.

Pupils demonstrated excellent engagement throughout the lessons, applying scientific terminology confidently while developing their understanding of key concepts. It was fantastic to see such a positive approach to both practical work and examination preparation.

Well done to Year 11 for their hard work and commitment.

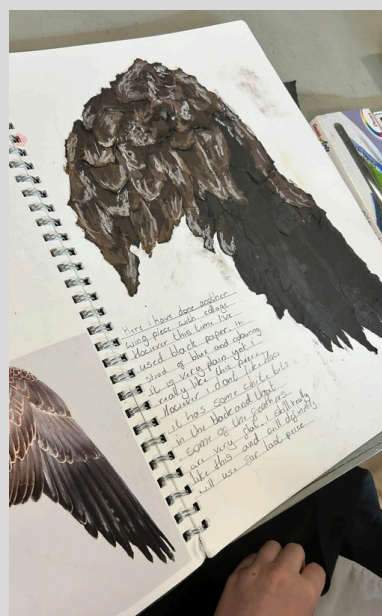
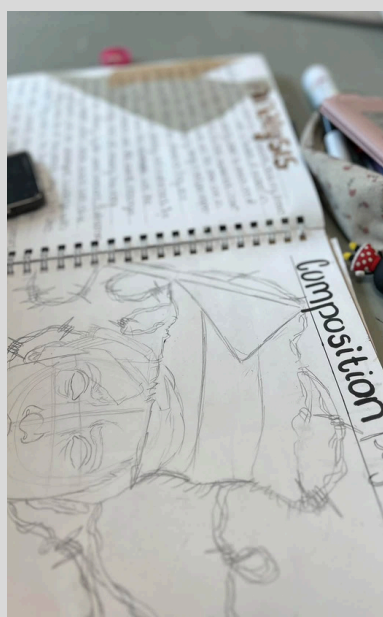




### Year 11 Art Portfolio Development

Year 11 Art pupils demonstrated excellent dedication as they continued to develop their GCSE portfolios. It has been wonderful to see the independence, creativity and artistic confidence on display, with pupils exploring their own ideas and compositions while refining their technical skills. The quality of work produced so far is a testament to their hard work and commitment.

Well done to Year 11 for their outstanding effort and creativity.





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### Year 11 Mocks

Mocks are starting on **Thursday 29th October 2026**, so please ensure pupils are studying at home in preparation for these, MOCK timetables have been given out and sent home already.

#### Update from Mrs Chapman - Head of Year 11

I have been so proud of the way our Year 11 pupils have embraced the challenges and opportunities of their final year so far. They have returned with a real sense of purpose, showing maturity, resilience and determination in everything they do. It has been wonderful to see Character Education woven through every subject area, helping pupils develop the confidence, responsibility and ambition that will support them both in their examinations and beyond. As we look ahead, I am excited to see what they achieve in their mock examinations after half term and to watch them continue to grow as young people. For now, I hope all of our pupils and families enjoy a well-deserved, restful break and take the opportunity to recharge ready for the busy and exciting months ahead.

## Open Evenings for Colleges

**NWSLC Schools Express**  
start here  go anywhere

**October 2026 NEWSLETTER**  
Welcome back to a new academic year!  
JUST A FEW UPDATES FROM NWSLC

**NWSLC UPCOMING OPEN EVENINGS**

Visit one of our college campuses

**NWSLC**  
North West Secondary Learning Centre

**OPEN EVENTS**

**Thursday 15th October 2026**  
Harrowbrook, Hinckley, Nuneaton and Wigston Campuses  
4pm - 7pm  
(For Grayson Place enquiries please come to Nuneaton Campus)  
MTI Campus | 5pm - 7pm

**Saturday 21st November 2026**  
Grayson Place, Harrowbrook, Hinckley, Nuneaton,  
Wigston and MTI Campuses  
9am - 12pm





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## Peace and Kindness Group

### Peace and Kindness Group Shoebbox Appeal 2026



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In December 2025 you helped us provide 22 shoeboxes full of wonderful gifts and supplies for the children of Belarus. This year we are aiming to match and hopefully beat that.

The Peace and Kindness Group have decided that as part of their charitable work this year they would collect items that could be used for the Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

This year we have asked each tutor group at HLA to create a completed shoebox. In addition we are looking for any donations of the following items to create additional shoeboxes:

- Hats, scarves, gloves
- Pencil Crayons
- Pencil and Pens
- Toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Small toy / playing cards / games

If you are able to donate any of the following please send them into reception and we will ensure they are made up into full shoeboxes and sent to our local collection point. Any donations need to be in school for Friday November 6th. Many thanks.



Respect

Kindness

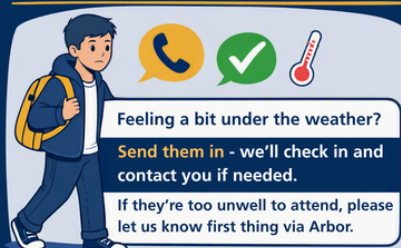
Hard work

## Attendance

Good attendance starts with keeping us updated. If your child is feeling a bit under the weather but still coming in, please complete our check-in form so we can monitor them during the day - [Check-in form](#)

If they're too unwell to attend, please let us know first thing via Arbor.

### Good Attendance Starts With Letting Us Know



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# CAREERS UPDATE

Our Careers programme is continuing to support pupils as they prepare for their next steps beyond Heath Lane Academy.

Year 11 pupils are currently taking part in one-to-one careers appointments and receiving personalised support with post-16 applications where required. Pupils are also being guided through the application process to help them make informed decisions about their future pathways.

We are also hoping to host a Careers Fair in November, providing pupils with the opportunity to explore a range of education, training and employment options. Further details will be shared once dates have been confirmed.

If you would like to discuss careers guidance or have any questions regarding your child's future progression, please feel free to contact me using the details below.

We are happy to support pupils and families with:

- Career planning and progression routes
- College, sixth form and university applications
- Apprenticeship opportunities
- Labour Market Information (LMI)
- Work experience
- Employability skills and future pathways

Contact Us

Careers Manager Email: [Shamina.khan@heathlaneacademy.org.uk](mailto:Shamina.khan@heathlaneacademy.org.uk)

Telephone: 01455845061 ext 231/ 07458005294

We look forward to continuing to work with pupils, parents and carers to support successful future career choices.



## T LEVELS VS A LEVELS: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Choosing between T Levels and A Levels is an important decision that can affect your child's future education and career path.

### What are A Levels?

- Traditional academic qualifications studied over 2 years.
- Pupils usually take 3 or 4 subjects.
- Widely accepted by universities.
- Best suited to pupils who enjoy classroom learning and may want to keep their career options open.

### What are T Levels?

- Technical qualifications equivalent to 3 A Levels.
- Designed in partnership with employers.
- Include a substantial industry placement of at least 315 hours. Early Years (Childcare) T Level, 750 hours
- Focus on developing practical skills for specific career sectors such as digital, engineering, health, and education.

| A Levels                                        | T Levels                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Academic study                                  | Technical and practical study                                         |
| Usually 3 subjects                              | One specialist pathway                                                |
| Mainly exams                                    | Mix of exams, coursework, and practical assessment                    |
| No mandatory work placement                     | Includes industry placement                                           |
| Suitable for a wide range of university courses | Suitable for employment, apprenticeships, and many university courses |

### Questions Parents Should Consider

- Does your child prefer practical or academic learning?
- Do they have a clear career goal?
- Are they considering university?
- Would work experience help them develop confidence and skills?



## T LEVELS VS A LEVELS: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### Progression Opportunities

Both qualifications can lead to:

- University
- Higher apprenticeships
- Employment
- Further training

Many universities now accept T Levels, although some highly specialised courses may have specific entry requirements.

### Where to Find More Information

- GOV.UK T Levels: <https://www.gov.uk/tlevels>
- UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com>
- National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

### Parent Summary

If your child enjoys academic subjects and wants maximum flexibility, A Levels may be the better choice. If they have a strong interest in a particular career area and prefer hands-on learning with real workplace experience, a T Level could be an excellent option.