

Hurstmere News

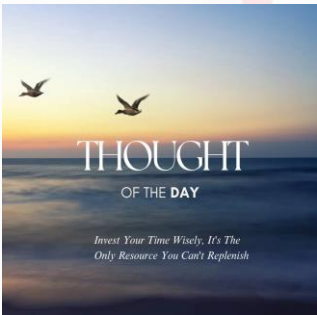
April 2025
Edition 20

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As the Spring Term draws to a close, I would like to reflect on a term filled with pride, opportunity and achievement across our school.

Students have embraced a wide range of activities—from sports leadership and creative arts to inclusive events and unforgettable trips, including the Year 10 ski adventure to the United States. These experiences continue to build character, confidence and teamwork among our young people.



British Science Week gave us the chance to reflect on this year's theme, Change and Adapt, which resonates strongly with our school's improvement journey. As we raise expectations and grow together, our students are learning to embrace challenge and progress with resilience.

I am currently accompanying our Year 11s on an incredible trip to Iceland. My thanks go to the dedicated staff who have given up their time to support this, and to those running revision sessions over the Easter break. Your commitment makes a huge difference.

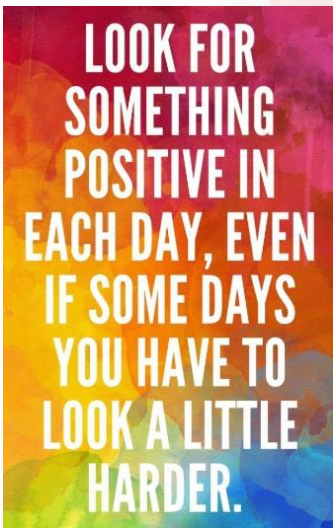
To our Year 10 and especially our Year 11 students—best of luck in your upcoming examinations. You have worked hard this term, and we are all cheering you on.

We also say goodbye to Miss Staras, our Administrative Apprentice, and Mr Widdop, who has supported the PE department. We wish them both the very best.

A special farewell goes to Mrs Murphy, my Personal Assistant, who retires after 17 years of devoted service. She has been a cornerstone of our school and will be deeply missed. We wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable Easter.

Lynn Bennett
Principal



Science in Action: Students Explore Change and Adaptation during British Science Week 2025

British Science Week celebrated its third decade in 2025, running from 7th to 14th March. This year's theme, *'Change and Adapt'*, provided the perfect opportunity for students to explore how living things and materials respond to an ever-changing world.

From the way our eyes adjust to light, to how our bodies manage energy, and how substances are transformed through chemical processes, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 delved into fascinating scientific concepts that underpin both life and innovation.

Year 7: Light and the Eye – Adapting to Our Surroundings

Year 7 students investigated how the human eye adapts to different lighting conditions. For instance, when we move from a bright environment into a dark room, our pupils automatically adjust to control the amount of light entering the eye, allowing us to see clearly in varying conditions. To support their understanding, students created pinhole cameras and explored the similarities and differences between these and the human eye.

Year 8: Burning Foods – Energy and Adaptation

Year 8 explored how our bodies adapt to meet their energy needs by investigating the energy content of different foods. Through practical experiments, students burned items such as crisps, biscuits, popcorn and cereal, using the heat released to warm water and measure the change in temperature. This allowed them to calculate the energy contained in each food, linking this to how our bodies convert food into fuel—even during sleep (fun fact: we burn approximately 50 calories an hour while sleeping!)

Year 9: Electrolysis – Changing and Transforming Materials

Year 9 students examined how change occurs at a molecular level through the process of electrolysis. They began with independent research into real-world applications, such as metal extraction and the development of clean energy sources. Following this, students carried out hands-on experiments using electrolysis to split chemical compounds, observing how energy can drive significant material transformations. This process is also being explored by scientists as a sustainable method for producing hydrogen fuel—an important step towards reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

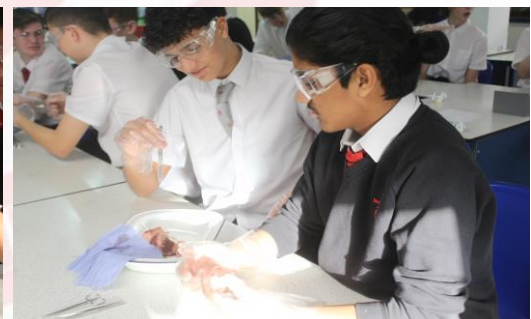
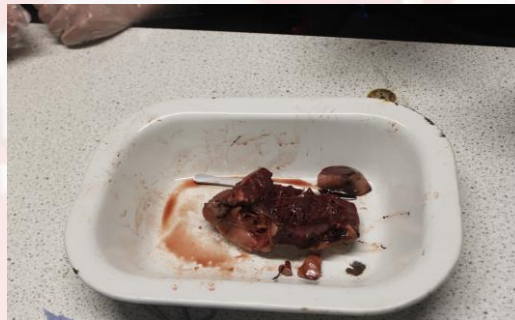
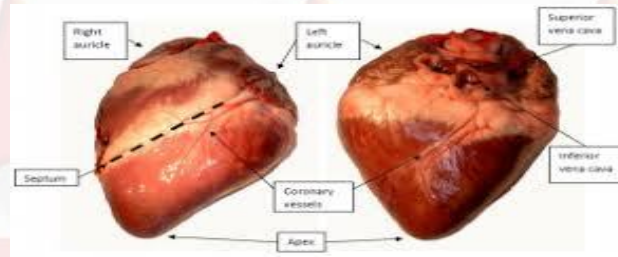


Getting to the Heart of the Matter: Year 10 Explore Human Biology

As part of British Science Week, Miss Payne's Year 10 class explored the theme of *organisation within the human body* through a fascinating hands-on dissection of a heart.

This practical activity allowed students to examine the intricate structure of the heart, deepening their understanding of how this vital organ functions within the circulatory system. By carefully observing the chambers, valves and major blood vessels, they were able to identify key anatomical features and discuss how oxygenated and deoxygenated blood flows through the heart in a coordinated cycle.

The experience not only brought textbook learning to life but also encouraged the development of key scientific skills. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to connect theory with practice and gain a greater appreciation of the complexity of the human body.

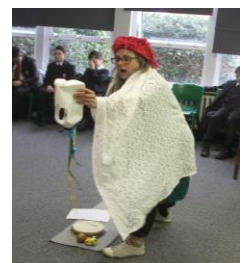


Temptation, Tension, and Telling Tales: Year 7 Drama in Action

Year 7 Drama students have been exploring the art of storytelling—why we tell stories and what makes someone a great storyteller. As part of this, they discussed their favourite books and identified the qualities that captivate an audience.

Using the story of Genesis as a stimulus, students created still images to represent key moments, experimenting with levels and spatial awareness to enhance visual storytelling. They also practised narration and speaking directly to an audience, developing techniques to hold attention and build atmosphere.

Through exaggeration and the use of slow motion, they learned how to heighten tension and dramatise key moments. Their performances reflected original and creative interpretations of the theme of temptation, particularly focusing on the symbolism of the forbidden fruit.



Bringing Geography to Life: Year 7 & 8 Students Get Creative with 3D Models

Year 7 and 8 Geography students recently took their learning beyond the textbook by creating detailed 3D models to reinforce key classroom concepts. This kinaesthetic approach helped students make tangible connections between theory and real-world applications.

Year 7 focused on coastal landscapes, constructing models that included features such as cliffs, wave-cut platforms, arches and beaches. Their work demonstrated how these landforms relate to one another, for example, showing how a wide wave-cut platform often forms beneath a tall cliff, or how a beach is typically found at the back of a bay.

Meanwhile, Year 8 turned their attention to urban geography, specifically the living conditions within slum settlements. After watching a documentary about Kibera, one of the largest informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya, students created their own interpretations of the densely packed, makeshift dwellings found in such areas. Their models captured the cramped and challenging living conditions faced by millions across the globe.

A selection of the most impressive models will be proudly displayed during the next Year 6 Open Morning in September.



Inside the Heart: Year 10 Scientists Explore Cardiac Structure

Year 10 students carried out a heart dissection to explore its external and internal structures. They began by identifying the dorsal and ventral surfaces before locating key anatomical features.

To simulate a CT scan, students made a horizontal cross-section of the heart, revealing its internal layout. They ran water through chambers and vessels to trace blood flow, then measured ventricle volumes using pipettes and cylinders.

Students also examined papillary muscles and tested the strength of the chordae tendineae, before cutting into the ventricle walls to measure muscle mass. Finally, they inspected the septum for abnormalities such as a hole in the heart. This hands-on experience deepened students' understanding of cardiac anatomy and reinforced scientific skills in a real-world context.



Stratford Regeneration in Focus: Year 11 Hit the Field

There's nothing quite like stepping outside the classroom to bring learning to life. Year 11 Geography students recently completed their second day of fieldwork, investigating regeneration in Stratford following the 2012 Olympic Games.

They collected a range of data to evaluate the success of the redevelopment and saw first-hand one of their key Paper 2 case studies in action.



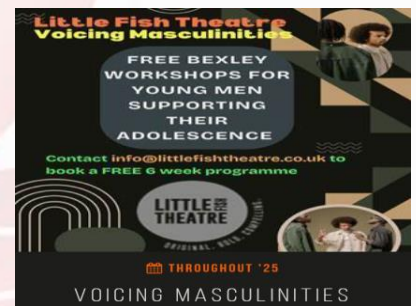
“Masculine Voices”: Year 9 Explore Identity and Expression Through Drama

Hurstmere is proud to continue its ongoing partnership with Little Fish Theatre Company, who are well known for delivering impactful and thought-provoking workshops and performances linked to our PSHE and Personal Development curriculum.

This term, a select group of Year 9 students have been invited to take part in a new pilot workshop series entitled Masculine Voices. Delivered over six one-hour sessions, the programme provides a safe and creative space for students to explore what it means to be a young man in today's society.

The sessions aim to break down stereotypes, encourage open discussion, and help students reflect on both the positive and challenging aspects of masculinity. Through drama-based activities, storytelling, and conversation, students are developing greater emotional awareness, communication skills, and confidence in expressing themselves.

Once trialled at Hurstmere, the Masculine Voices programme will be rolled out in other schools across the local area. We are proud to be leading the way in shaping inclusive, thoughtful, and supportive conversations around modern masculinity.



Boosting Success: Year 11 Make the Most of Targeted Support Sessions

Since September, our school day has been restructured to allow students more time for personal development. This change has brought a renewed focus on PSHE, Reading, and Character Education across all year groups.

For Year 11, this dedicated time has also created an ideal opportunity for subject-specific intervention sessions—our very own academic “boosters.” These sessions offer targeted support in key subjects, helping to reinforce knowledge, build confidence, and close gaps ahead of the upcoming GCSEs.

Recently, several of these sessions were observed by visitors from THAT Trust, who praised both the quality of teaching and the purposeful atmosphere in each room. While we are incredibly grateful to the staff who plan and lead these sessions, it is the commitment and engagement of our students that truly make them effective. These booster sessions will continue right up until students sit their final GCSE exams in each subject.



Good Luck Year 10 & 11 - You've Got This! Best Wishes as Exam Season Begins

To our Year 10 students:

As you prepare to sit your PPEs after the Easter break, we wish you the very best of luck. These exams are a great opportunity to reflect on your learning so far and get ready for the challenges of Year 11. Stay positive and give it your all!

To our Year 11 students:

You have shown real progress in your recent PPEs, and we are proud of the hard work and determination you have demonstrated. With continued focus and effort, we are confident you will achieve the success you deserve in the summer exams. Keep going—you're nearly there!



Growing Green: Students Cultivate Wildlife-Friendly Garden

Over the winter and into spring, students have been busy transforming the garden area near the AEN building. They have built composters to recycle fallen leaves from the oak trees in the car park, which will be used to enrich the soil in new flower beds. The garden is being developed to support local wildlife and pollinators, with students preparing areas to grow a variety of plants and vegetables—from carrots to sunflowers. Seed planting and bed preparation have been met with enthusiasm, as students continue to take pride in nurturing their environment.



Thanks to a generous donation of 165 saplings from the Woodland Trust, students have also begun planting trees across the site. Some have been used to form a natural hedgerow along the garden fence, alongside several fruit trees kindly donated by a parent. Others have been planted in a different area of the school to help reduce surface flooding on one of the playgrounds. These additions aim to boost local biodiversity and attract pollinators to support the crops being grown.

Future plans for the garden include digging a natural pond to support insects and amphibians—especially after students recently discovered toads nearby. There are also plans for bee-friendly flower islands and water stations. As the space continues to grow and develop, it is hoped the garden will become a peaceful retreat for students and a valuable outdoor learning space for both Science and Geography.

We are always grateful for any donations of flowers, seeds or gardening tools to help nurture this special area of the school.

StudioFix Buzzing with Creativity



StudioFix is alive with energy as students produce original tracks across genres including rock, rap, and pop. From songwriting to recording, they are making the most of top-tier equipment and bringing bold musical ideas to life. The studio continues to be a vibrant hub for talent, teamwork, and creativity at Hurstmere.

Supporting Student Wellbeing During Exam Season

Place2Be Mental Health Practitioner at Hurstmere, Shannon Harvey, visited all Year 11 form groups to deliver a session focused on managing exam stress ahead of their upcoming GCSEs.

The sessions included a range of interactive and reflective activities designed to help students understand the impact of exam stress and explore practical strategies for coping both before and during the exam season.

Students were also reminded about the Place2Talk service, which offers confidential emotional support for anyone who feels they need it. In addition to the usual slip-and-post box referral system, students can now also request an appointment by emailing the Place2Be counsellor directly using their school email address: www.Place2Talk@Hurstmere.org.uk

Navigating exam season

Student guide to managing exam stress

Exams can be a challenging time, and the pressure to do well can feel overwhelming, especially if you're feeling pressure from school or family.

It's perfectly normal to feel worried about your exams, but it's important that you find ways to manage your worries.

We've shared some advice below.

Know the signs of stress



What signs tell you that you are stressed?

- Perhaps you do certain things (shop, eat, sleep, study more, don't study)
- Perhaps you think certain things (catastrophise, "I can't do this")
- Perhaps you feel certain ways (grumpy, sad, hopeless, helpless)



Recognise when you're stressed

Think about what signs tell you are stressed - perhaps you find you have a racing heart, or find it difficult to sleep - these are perfectly normal responses. Know the signs so you recognise when you're struggling.



Develop coping strategies

There are different ways you can calm your body's stress response. Look online for guided breathing exercises or relaxation techniques (we love these [relaxation techniques from NHS Scotland](#)).



Create a daily timetable

Create a plan and be realistic about what you can achieve each day. Planning your revision time will help you know what you want to study when, which can make revision seem less overwhelming.



Take regular breaks

Make sure you take regular breaks, as your brain cannot concentrate for hours at a time. If you can, use breaks as an opportunity to go outside, exercise, or spend time with family and friends.



Play to your strengths

Not everyone learns the same way, so consider your strengths and how you learn best. You may prefer to read, watch videos, draw diagrams, write lots of notes... Find what works best for you.



Keep things in perspective

Remember that there's more to life than your grades. Exams are only a small part of the picture, and your results don't define who you are.



Ask for help

Let your family, friends, and teachers know if you are struggling so that they can support you.

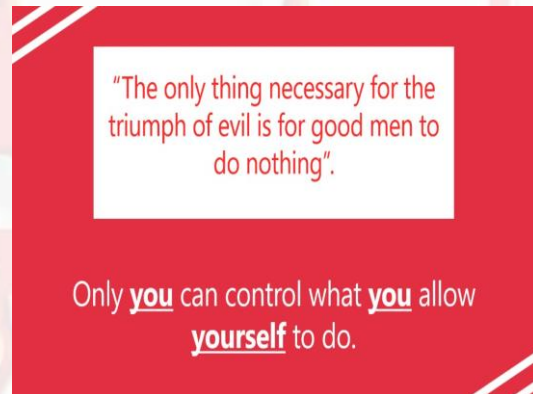
If you're feeling overwhelmed and need to talk:

- Text CONNECT to 85258 for free to speak to Shout
- Call 0800 1111 to speak to Childline, or visit [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk) for their free online chat
- Visit place2be.org.uk/help for more advice

Reflecting and Remembering: Hurstmere Marks Holocaust Memorial Day

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January and the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Mr Harris delivered a powerful assembly to all year groups.

The assembly explored the horrors of the Holocaust, examined the nature of genocide, and emphasised the responsibility we all share in preventing such atrocities from ever happening again. It was a moving and thought-provoking session that encouraged reflection on our roles within society. Students across all year groups engaged with great maturity and respect, giving this important subject the attention and reverence it deserves.



Ramadan Reflections: Friday Prayers at Hurstmere



During the holy month of Ramadan, Hurstmere was proud to support our Muslim students by hosting Friday prayers in the main hall.

Friday, known as Jumu'ah in Islam, holds special significance as a key day of communal worship. To mark this, Mr Mahmoudi arranged for Mr Ameen Chowdhury, the imam from Sidcup Mosque, to lead the prayers each week throughout Ramadan.

The sessions, held every Friday from 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm, created a calm and respectful space for reflection and spiritual connection. Students of all backgrounds were welcome to attend, making it a meaningful and inclusive part of our school community during this important time.



Year 9 Tackle Important Topics with TfL and the Met Police

On Thursday 16th January 2025, all Year 9 students took part in an interactive workshop delivered by Transport for London (TfL) and the Metropolitan Police.

The session focused on the issue of sexual harassment—what it is, the laws surrounding it, and how young people can play an active role in preventing it. While the workshop placed particular emphasis on the experiences of young men in London, students were encouraged to consider the broader societal context. Throughout the session, students were highly engaged and asked a number of thoughtful, mature questions. The facilitators were extremely complimentary of the students' behaviour, attentiveness, and the respect they showed during the discussions.



Premier League Inspires: Hurstmere Boys Finish Strong as Runners-Up



On 20th January, a group of Hurstmere students took part in the Premier League Inspires tournament—and proudly secured second place!

A huge well done to all the boys involved. They demonstrated fantastic teamwork, resilience, respect, and leadership throughout the day. A stellar achievement and something to be proud of!



Message from Charlton Athletic:

I'd like to say a massive well done to all the young people who represented Charlton at our London Premier League *Inspires* event. The boys were fantastic throughout the day, showing positive values, great behaviour, and impressive football skills.

A big thank you as well to both members of staff, who were incredibly helpful and kept the boys in a positive mindset through all the challenges and excitement of the day. Very proud of the Hurstmere Massive!

Promoting Safety and Positive Choices: Year 9 & 10 Take Part in Knife Crime Awareness Initiative

As part of Hurstmere's ongoing commitment to safeguarding and educating students about the dangers of knife crime, we recently ran a successful awareness initiative in partnership with the Metropolitan Police. All students in Years 9 and 10 participated by walking through a metal-detecting knife arch, followed by a respectful bag check conducted by our safeguarding and support staff. This was not in response to any specific concern, but rather a proactive and preventative measure aimed at reinforcing the importance of personal safety and informed decision-making.

Ahead of the event, Mr Lever delivered an assembly to outline what students could expect and to highlight the key message: that every young person has a role in keeping our community safe by making positive, responsible choices.

We are extremely proud of how our students conducted themselves—police officers and staff praised their maturity, respect, and calm engagement throughout. The event also served as a reminder of our expectations regarding school rules, including the prohibition of fizzy drinks, chewing gum, aerosols, and energy drinks. (Roll-on deodorants are permitted.)

We intend to continue this educational initiative occasionally in the future as part of our wider work to ensure that Hurstmere remains a safe, supportive and values-driven school for all.



What the boys thought ...

"It worried me to see the police in our school, but I realise now it was done to keep us safe—which is a good thing."

"I really enjoyed the assembly and the experience of the bag search; the school did this to keep us safe."

"Knife crime is going up in the UK, so I think knife education is important. It didn't bother me as I'm not the type of kid to get into trouble."

"I didn't mind as I am used to going through the metal arches at the airport. The police were very nice people."

Flying High: Hurstmere's First Drone Pilots Take Off



We are thrilled to announce that Andrew and James have officially achieved their Flyer IDs with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)—a fantastic milestone that marks the beginning of their drone flying and filming journey as part of their Silver Arts Award (equivalent to a GCSE 9-4).

Working with end2end TV as part of the e2e Crew, the boys have already made an impressive start. Their dedication, technical skill and creativity make them Hurstmere's very first Drone Pilots in training—true trailblazers and proud ambassadors for our school. You can also watch them in action [here](#).

Achieving their CAA certification is a standout moment, reflecting their commitment and setting a high standard for others to follow. Andrew and James continue to inspire those around them with their enthusiasm and talent. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and look forward to celebrating many more successes in the future.

Lights, Camera, Action! Exciting Workshops from end2end TV

Ski Slopes & Skylines: Year 10's Unforgettable USA Adventure

In February, forty-nine Year 10 students and 6 staff members set off on the trip of a lifetime to the USA! For many of the boys, this was their very first time visiting America, and it did not disappoint.

After landing in Boston, we travelled by coach to Thornton, New Hampshire, where we were welcomed to our stunning five-star accommodation at the Owl's Nest Resort. The team there were incredibly helpful throughout our six-night stay—and the food was not only delicious but plentiful, which certainly suited our group!

The main event of the trip was a ski safari, with three days at Cannon Mountain followed by two days at Waterville Valley. On the first night, we were treated to eight inches of fresh snowfall—perfect powder for an exciting first day on the slopes. The boys quickly adapted, swapping the dry slopes of Chatham for real snow, and learned to turn, stop, and soon, tackle more challenging runs with confidence. Each evening, the return trip on the iconic yellow American school bus was filled with laughter and storytelling from the day's adventures.

Evenings were a mix of relaxation in the hot tub and pool, room inspections, and one surprisingly exciting trip to Walmart—an event met with far more enthusiasm than a trip to Asda would have sparked!

After five days on the slopes, we packed up and headed for New York City, stopping off at the outlets for some essential shopping en route. In the Big Apple, we took in Times Square, the Empire State Building by night, and enjoyed a classic American meal at the Hard Rock Café. Our final day included a walk through Central Park with 'Taylor's Travels', a moving visit to Ground Zero where students showed great respect, and a ride on the Staten Island Ferry for views of the Statue of Liberty, before making our way to JFK for the flight home.

The boys were fantastic all week—polite, well-behaved, and a credit to Hurstmere. It was a true privilege for staff to share this experience with them and get to know them outside the classroom.

Thank you, boys, for making it such a memorable and enjoyable trip!



In Their Own Words: Year 10 Talk About Their Epic Ski Experience



I really enjoyed the ski trip—it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I would definitely go again if I had the chance. The highlight for me was being able to ski more freely during the last couple of days, once I had really improved. Skiing with the teachers was great fun too! I loved learning a new skill, and the hotel and food were out of this world—it completely exceeded my expectations of a school trip. Visiting New York on the way home was a brilliant bonus, especially as I'd never been before. The Empire State Building at night was definitely the highlight of the city. I really hope I get to go again one day. A huge thank you to all the teachers for giving up their time and taking us on such a fantastic trip!

At the very first ski meeting, I remember all the teachers saying, "This will be the trip of a lifetime." At the time, I thought they were just exaggerating to get us to sign up—but they were absolutely right. It really was the trip of a lifetime for every single one of us. Everything we did and everywhere we went was so much fun—from the mountains and the amazing food to the brilliant instructors and our fantastic teachers. I'll remember this experience for the rest of my life. I genuinely couldn't have asked for a better trip. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen!

Best experience ever! I was really nervous about skiing on the big slopes at first, but it turned out to be amazing—and I picked it up really quickly. The practice lessons we had before the trip were so helpful, as they taught us the basic techniques we needed. I had such a laugh and made memories with my mates that I'll never forget. I'd highly recommend this trip to anyone!

Skiing was great fun. The highlight for me was skiing at Waterville Valley because the runs were more challenging.

For me, the highlight of the school trip to America was the skiing—it was exhilarating.

The highlight of the ski trip for me was learning to ski while having fun with my mates.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a black pen, writing the words "Thank You!" in a cursive script on a white surface. The background is slightly blurred, showing a red and white pattern.

Feedback about our staff and students:

"I would be so happy to send my child on a school trip with the Hurstmere staff, you have truly taken good care of the group and it has been a pleasure to have you all stay here." *Staff at Owls Nest.*

"What great guys- so polite and well behaved. We look forward to welcoming you back next year." *Waterville Valley Ski Instructors.*

"The boys were really well behaved and polite on the flight. It's been a pleasure having you fly with us." - *Virgin Atlantic Cabin Crew.*

Work Experience

All students in Year 10 undertake a one-week work experience placement during their Summer term. Work Experience is intended to enable students to gain experience of the world of work. Students are encouraged to find their own placements but are supported by the Careers Adviser.

Aims of Work Experience

- To enable students to appreciate the demands, priorities, disciplines and relationships found in the world of employment.
- For students to develop self-confidence and self-discipline while working with adults.
- To experience the difference in the working and school environment.
- To help students to see the relevance of school subjects to the world of work.

Year 10 Work Experience dates for 2025 - Monday 14th July - Friday 18th July 2025

Please encourage your son to actively look for a placement and return the completed Work Experience Forms asap, to Mrs Watson in the School office - c.watson@hurstmere.org.uk

Shaping Futures: Personalised Careers Guidance at Hurstmere

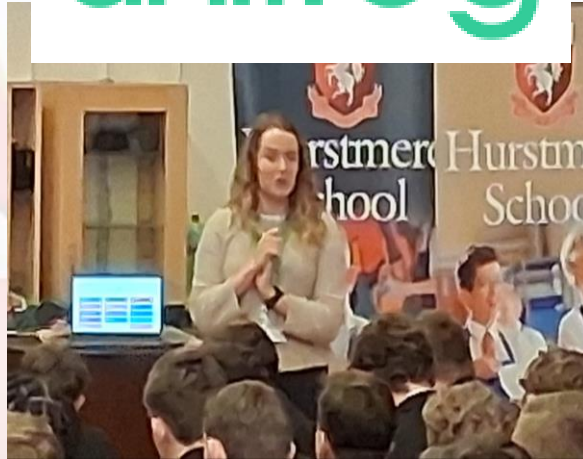
Every Tuesday, Hurstmere is pleased to welcome David Hancock, our dedicated careers adviser from the Shaw Trust. David works closely with students in Years 9, 10 and 11 to support them in making informed decisions about their next steps.

For Year 9s, this includes guidance on choosing GCSE options that align with their interests and future goals. For Year 11s, support is focused on post-16 pathways—whether that's sixth form, college or apprenticeships. Students are encouraged to explore a range of courses and career routes based on their strengths, aspirations and subject preferences. David's sessions are student-centred and collaborative, offering tailored advice and open discussions based on what each individual would like to explore. This ensures that every student leaves with greater clarity and confidence about their future.



Year 10s Explore Their Future with Unifrog

Year 10 students were given an exciting insight into their future opportunities during a dedicated assembly led by Unifrog—the UK’s leading destinations platform. The session introduced students to the wide range of tools and resources Unifrog offers to help them make informed decisions about their next steps beyond school.

The Unifrog logo is displayed in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font. It is centered at the top of a large, faint watermark graphic that depicts a stylized figure with arms raised, set against a red star and shield background.

The focus of the session was on how to research and apply for meaningful work experience placements, as well as how to explore post-16 pathways including sixth form, college, apprenticeships, and even university options. With Unifrog, students can compare different routes side by side, build their CVs, log activities and achievements, and begin shaping a future that matches their interests and aspirations.

This assembly marked the start of an exciting phase for Year 10, who now have access to a powerful platform that puts their future planning firmly in their own hands. We encourage all students to log in regularly and make the most of this fantastic opportunity. The future is theirs to explore!



Inspiring Ambitions: Hurstmere's Careers Exploration Day



CAREERS FAIR **FRIDAY 27TH JUNE 2025** **12.30 – 3PM** **HURSTMERE SCHOOL HALL**



As part of our ongoing commitment to preparing our students for their future careers, we are excited to be potentially hosting a Careers Fair on 27 June 2025 at 12.30 - 3pm at Hurstmere School.

We are reaching out to ask whether any of our parents or guardians work in a profession or industry that would be suitable for holding a stand at the event. This is a fantastic opportunity to inspire our students by showcasing different career paths, industries and the skills required to succeed in the workplace.

The Careers Fair will allow our boys to explore a variety of professions, ask questions directly to professionals and gain valuable insight into potential future careers. Your involvement could help them better understand the opportunities available and the qualifications or experience they may need to pursue their ambitions.

If you or your company would be interested in participating, please contact Miss Payne at r.payne@hurstmere.org.uk, by 1 May 2025. We would be delighted to discuss how you could contribute to this important event. Companies that are happy to have a stand and support this Careers Fair will have the opportunity to have their company's name featured in the Schools' Newsletter and social media platforms.

Thank you for your time and support we greatly appreciate the positive impact your involvement could have on our students' futures.

Celebrating Excellence: The Principal Rewards Winners Announced

Congratulations to the winners of the Principal Rewards. Presented every Friday morning by Mrs Bennett, these awards honour students who have been nominated by staff for outstanding achievements or for exemplifying our school values. Well done to all our deserving recipients!

Week Ending 10.01.2025

- Year 7 - Harrison B for Self-Belief
- Year 8 - Zach B for Ambition
Ollie K for Self-Belief
- Year 9 - Farris K for Self-Belief
- Year 10 - Henry W for Ambition and Self-Belief
Frankie W and Charlie S for their quick thinking
- Year 11 - Charlie P for Integrity
Oliver C for Ambition



Week Ending 17.01.2025

- Year 7 - Tommy E and Rhys-Jordan S for Integrity
- Year 8 - Jack Q, Riley H and Jack C for Resilience
- Year 9 - Mohammed K for Integrity
Isaac G for Respect
- Year 10 - Isaac S for Resilience
- Year 11 - Cameron A, Josh W, Jack M and Jake B for Integrity & Leadership



Celebrating Excellence: The Principal Rewards Winners Announced

Week Ending 24.01.2025

Year 7 - Arthur W for Teamwork
Frederick W for Self-belief
Reece S for Integrity

Year 9 - Corey C, James C, Matteo C, Henry G,
Frankie Land Evan B for Ambition

Year 11 - Rohan A for Ambition



A Principal Reward Voucher entitles the bearer to one main meal, a dessert and to queue jump to the front of the line, compliments of the school. This reward is in recognition of our pupils demonstrating one of our school values, R-Trails (Respect, Teamwork, Resilience, Ambition, Integrity, Leadership and Self Belief).

**Week Ending
14.02.2025**

Year 7 - Alex G for Respect, Tommy S for Ambition and Respect

Year 8 - Jack C for Integrity, Luke G for Ambition

Year 9 - Rocco A for Ambition and Respect, Olly S for Respect

Year 10 - Oliver P for Ambition and Self-Belief

Year 11 - Harris C for Ambition, Jake K for Ambition and Self-Belief, Milo K for Ambition



Celebrating Excellence: The Principal Rewards Winners Announced

Week Ending 07.03.2025

Year 7 - Cooper W, Daniel P and Jack Q for Leadership; Max K for Self-Belief

Year 8 - Albert L and Mason A for Ambition; Sam H, Leo W and Henry M for Integrity

Year 9 - Malachi P for Ambition and Self Belief; Joe L for Leadership; Luke D for Teamwork; William P for Resilience

Year 10 - Oliver S and Alexander S for Ambition and Self-Belief; William M for Ambition and Respect; Aayush O for Self-Belief

Year 11 - Eliot R, Arda O, Jake K and Casper F for Ambition



Week Ending 14.03.2025

Year 7 - Aayan R, Dhiren P and Nathan S for Ambition

Year 8 - Felix W, Maxwell H and James S for Ambition; Scott C for Teamwork

Year 9 - Louis S for Teamwork

Year 10 - Joe S for Ambition

Year 11 - Sam H for Ambition and Self-Belief



A Principal Reward Voucher entitles the bearer to one main meal, a dessert and to queue jump to the front of the line, compliments of the school. This reward is in recognition of our pupils demonstrating one of our school values, R-Trails (Respect, Teamwork, Resilience, Ambition, Integrity, Leadership and Self Belief).

Celebrating Excellence: The Principal Rewards Winners Announced

Week Ending 21.03.2025

Year 7 – Jacob P and Oliver C for Ambition

Year 8 – Darsh P and Efe R for Ambition

Year 9 – Jackson L, Alfie S, Dylan S and Dillon M for Ambition

Year 11 – Frankie B for Leadership



Week Ending 28.03.2025



Year 11 B Team - Congratulations to our Year 11 Football Team, who have qualified for the ESFA Cup Final, to be played at Stoke City's ground on Tuesday, 6th May 2025. Best of luck for the final boys!

Oscar J, Henry C, Charlie P, Max T, Sonny M, Freddie C, Freddie M, Ralph S, Harry H, Will Wood, James W, Charlie T, Dan C, Oliver S and Callum M.



Well done to 8 Sidney X for all your achievement points!

Congratulations to 8 Sidney X for finishing at the top of the achievement points leaderboard! Their hard work and positive attitude have not gone unnoticed. As a reward, Mr Monksfield, their RSL, treated the group to a well-deserved Domino's pizza lunch. Well done, 8 Sidney X – keep it up!



Hurstmere Students Lead the Way at Bexley Leadership Academy



BEXLEY SCHOOL GAMES



As part of the Bexley School Games programme, hosted here at Hurstmere, a group of Year 9 and 10 students have been representing the school at the Bexley Leadership Academy. This fantastic initiative brings together students from across the borough who have a passion for leadership and volunteering.

Throughout the sessions, academy members have worked collaboratively to strengthen their leadership skills and help deliver inclusive, engaging events. This term, they organised and ran a Year 5 *Just4Fun Dodgeball Festival*, where they introduced the younger children to key skills before leading them through exciting dodgeball games including *Catch the Snitch* and *Through the Gates*.

The focus of the event was to be active, make friends, and most importantly—have fun—and that goal was clearly achieved. Hurstmere's sports leaders always do a brilliant job running events, but it's especially rewarding to see them grow in confidence as they collaborate with peers from other Bexley schools. Well done, boys—keep up the fantastic work!



Hurstmere Sports Leaders Inspire the Next Generation

During the second half of the Spring Term, Hurstmere's sports leaders have continued their training and played a key role in supporting the Bexley School Games programme, proudly hosted at Hurstmere. They have helped provide opportunities for primary school pupils to visit and take part in a range of sport and physical activity.

This month, Year 8 sports leaders welcomed Year 3 children from ten different schools to a *Change4Life* Festival. The event focused on promoting fun and inclusive physical activity, supporting the Chief Medical Officer's recommendation for children to be active for at least 60 minutes a day.

The boys planned and led five engaging activities designed to develop skills, introduce new sports and boost physical activity. These included *New Age Kurling*, *Tri Golf*, and *Rob the Nest*. Their energy, enthusiasm, and leadership ensured every child stayed active—and judging by the smiles, laughter and high energy levels, the festival was a big hit with everyone involved.



**BEXLEY
SCHOOL
GAMES**



A group of dedicated sports leaders from Years 9 and 10 have continued their advanced training as part of the Bexley Leadership Academy, working alongside peers from Bexley Grammar and Townley Grammar School for Girls.

The most recent focus of their training was *Inclusion* in sport and physical activity. The group explored the importance of ensuring all activities are accessible to everyone, discussed how to make effective adaptations, and learned how to apply the STEP principle to maximise engagement and participation.

As part of their continued development, the students have now been challenged to complete a volunteering placement between now and the end of June—whether in school, a local sports club, or out in the wider community.



Another group of Year 7 boys recently took part in the *Equal Play* programme—an inclusive event designed to give young people the opportunity to play and compete with others of similar ability. Hosted at Hurstmere, the event welcomed students from four schools to take part in a Table Tennis competition. Pupils were encouraged to select their own opponents and take on the role of officials, developing not only their physical skills but also building character, teamwork, and important life skills through fair play and mutual respect.



Sports Leaders Shine at Panathlon Event



BEXLEY SCHOOL GAMES



In January, Hurstmere's Year 9 Sports Leaders Team partnered with *Panathlon*, a national charity dedicated to delivering sport and physical activity for children with SEND. After receiving initial training, the boys led the Bexley School Games Panathlon competition, which featured seven activities inspired by Paralympic sports such as Boccia, Kurling, and Football. The event was held at Erith Leisure Centre and welcomed 60 Key Stage 2 pupils from seven local primary schools.

Our sports leaders were praised for their excellent interaction with the children and their ability to adapt activities to meet a range of individual needs. They represented the school exceptionally well and should be very proud of the positive impact they made.

Well done, boys—you were a credit to Hurstmere!



A Friendly Badminton Game at Bexley Grammar School

As part of the School Games programme, a group of Year 7 students took part in the *Bexley School Games Just4Fun* initiative—an event designed for boys who enjoy sport in a relaxed and social setting, with the emphasis firmly on participation and enjoyment rather than competition.

Eleven Hurstmere students travelled to Bexley Grammar School, where they took part in friendly Badminton and Table Tennis matches against three other schools. It was fantastic to see the boys not only developing their skills, but also showing great sportsmanship by supporting each other, engaging with students from other schools, and confidently stepping into officiating roles when not playing.

A brilliant day of fun, friendship and fair play!



Sporting Achievement

Hurstmere was recently voted 94th Best Sports School in the Country by School Sports Magazine. The award is based on our extra-curricular success and offering throughout the year groups. Our placing puts us in the top 2% of schools and the third best in Kent.

Well done to the PE Department and Students for their continued success!

Some various Sporting pictures of our wonderful boys



Sporting Updates and Results



Year 11 ESFA rd5, Hurstmere Vs Riddlesdown ended in a 5-1 win for Hurstmere. A tough game that opened up in the later stages!



Year 11 A team ESFA Vs Hampton! Game of 2 halves with Hurstmere dominating the 2nd half, winning the game 3-0! Onto round 7...



Year 11 B team ESFA cup vs Tunbridge Wells Grammar ended in a dominant performance from Hurstmere winning 3-0! Excellent team performance to limit chances for TWGSB!



Our Year 8B team have made it through to the Kent Cup final following a great win against Dover Grammar. The boys are the current holders of the cup and looking to defend their crown.



Year 11 A team vs Shenfield ended in defeat, losing 2-1 from a deflected free kick in the dying minutes of extra time! Guttled to lose in such a manner in the last 16 of the competition!



Year 11 Kent cup semi final vs Ravenswood ended in defeat with Ravenswood winning 5-3 on penalties AET. Hard fought game by both teams!



Year 11B Team, ESFA Quarter Finals in Bournemouth against Glenmoor & Winton Academy. Excellent team performance and another clean sheet to win 4-0 and move into the National Semi Final!



Yr 11 A team vs Harris Garrard in the North Kent quarter final. A dominant performance saw Hurstmere win 8-1!



Well done to the Year 8 Rugby 7s team. The team finished 2nd in a competitive group and played some great rugby throughout scoring plenty of tries.

Sporting Updates and Results



Year 11 B team are through to the ESFA national final!
Outstanding performance from everyone!
Hard game leading 1-0 until the final minute to end 1-1 and go into extra time.
1-1 AET and won 6-5 on penalties!

Year 11 A team, Hurstmere vs Beth's North Kent Semi Final, after 5 years of competitive fixtures between the schools, Hurstmere finished the final ever game by winning 2-1 and off they go into the NK final!



On Tuesday, 18th March, the Year 11 B team played Kingsdale in the semi-final of the ESFA National Schools Competition. The boys all showed self-belief, teamwork and resilience to get through the fixture. The boys were leading 1-0 at half time and conceded a goal in the dying minutes of the game to finish 1-1 and go into extra time. Chances were created for both teams, but after extra time, the game remained 1-1 and went to penalties. The boys who put themselves forward to take penalties showed courage, and each player converted their spot kicks, **winning** the penalty shootout 6-5 and progressing to the national.

The National this year will be held at Stoke City FC in May.



Year 8 inter-house football competition after school today. Well done boys!

Our Very Own Judo Champion

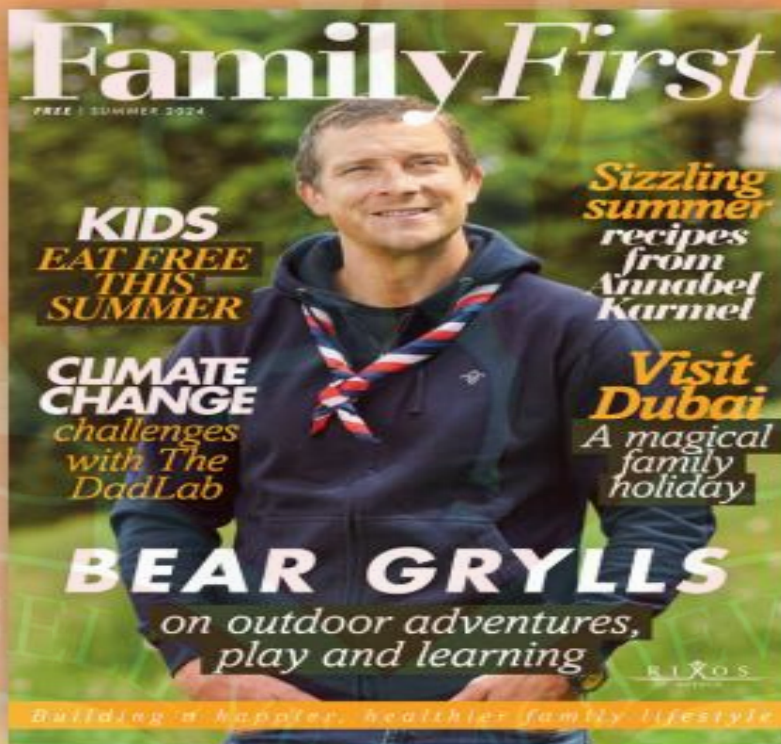
Well done to Louie, who had an outstanding weekend—winning all six of his fights against international competitors and securing a gold medal for England. A fantastic achievement!



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Friends Of Hurstmere

'Friends of Hurstmere' would like to thank everyone for supporting their Bingo event, the evening was a great success, everyone had a good time, lots of laughter. Alex W did a fantastic job as Bingo Caller! After expenses, we made approx. £710.00 for FOH



**For Sale at the end of the school day
outside the front of the school on
23rd April 2025**

£1.00 per item – CASH or CARD



You are invited by
Friends of Hurstmere to join our
new events and booking app
CLASSLIST



This app allows you to find out about future
Friends of Hurstmere events and purchase tickets accordingly
It is easy, reliable and allows you to receive regular updates
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<https://classlist.page.link/TmombN4p4EMwztuh6>

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To add Hurstmere School to your account on the app, click on your profile photo
(bottom right-hand corner) scroll down to **Account**, click on **+Apply for a new
school**, and enter Friends of Hurstmere

Please contact Friendsofhurstmere@gmail.com
If you have any issues logging on to this platform
The school office are unable to help

Tubs4Pubs



Thank you to everyone who sent
their clean, empty plastic
confectionery tubs to us.

All proceeds from the recycled
tubs will be donated to
Macmillan Cancer Support.

Over the past five years,
Tubs2pub has collected 26,253
kg of plastic - that's around
230,000 tubs - raising £23,908
for Macmillan Cancer Support

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Hurstmere Notice Board



Hurstmere
School

Hire our facilities

Scan to book



- 3G Pitch
- Astro Pitches
- Sports Hall
- Grass Pitch
- Gymnasium
- Changing Rooms

Opening Hours:

Mon to Fri: 16:30 - 22:00

Sat: 08:00 - 20:00

Sun: 08:00 - 20:00

To book:

www.hurstmere.schoolhire.co.uk



Sidcup Youth Hub

Targeted Youth Service is changing venues for our youth hub age 11-18
"A safe place to be"

Hurst community centre, Hurst Rd, Bexley DA5 3LH

Every Tuesday 6-8:30pm

www.bexley.gov.uk/TYS

Contact - Annie Holloway
07530275846



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Information for Parents

Diary Dates

24th April 2025 - Year 7 Subject Parents Evening
14th - 18th July 2025 - Year 10 Work Experience
21st August 2025 - Year 11 - GCSE Results Day

Term Dates

Term 4

Tuesday 25th February 2025 to Friday 4th April 2025

Easter Holidays

Monday 7th April 2025 to Monday 21st April 2025

Term 5 - Summer Term

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 - Friday 23rd May 2025

May Break

Monday 26th May 2025 - Friday 30th May 2025

Bank Holidays

Monday 5th May 2025 & Monday 26th May 2025

Term 6

Monday 2nd June 2025 - Friday 18th July 2025

Summer Holidays

Monday 21st July 2025 - Friday 29th August 2025

INSET DAYS (Pupils not in school)

Thursday 28th & Friday 29th August

BACK TO SCHOOL 2nd SEPTEMBER 2025

2025/26 Term Dates available on our school website