

Hurstmere News

July 2025
Edition 21

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As we draw the academic year to a close, I want to express my deepest thanks to our students, staff, and families for making this year a truly memorable one for Hurstmere.

Last week, we were delighted to receive highly positive feedback during the Trust's Academy Review Visit, which recognised the strong progress we are making in all areas of the school's work. The report reflected what we know to be true: that Hurstmere is a school on a clear journey of improvement, powered by ambition and shaped by teamwork.

In this edition of our newsletter, you'll see these values in action across every page, from *Learning in Action*, which showcases the engagement in our classrooms, to *Learning for Life*, where our students build character, confidence and essential skills beyond the curriculum.

We've also taken great pride in *Celebrating Excellence*, recognising achievement in its many forms, whether in academics, sport, the arts or personal growth. You'll see a *Culture of Celebration* reflected throughout the newsletter, from exceptional student accomplishments to the countless moments where hard work and kindness have been rewarded. Through our *School Life Snapshot* section and *Building Cultural Capital Through Enriched Experiences* section, we celebrate the vibrant daily life of Hurstmere where trips, events, performances and projects create memories that last a lifetime. This has been a year full of unforgettable moments.

We also say goodbye to our Year 11 students and their families. Watching them grow into capable, thoughtful young men has been a privilege. We thank their families for their partnership over the years and wish every student success as they move on to the next stage of their journey. They remain part of the Hurstmere family, always.

We also say farewell and thank you to a number of staff: Mr McDonald, Mr Harris, Miss Payne, Mr Newell, Miss Okri, Ms Ramsay, Miss Dent, Ms Groucher, Ms Green, Miss Franiack, Ms Nedelcu, and Shannon Harvey, our Place2Be Practitioner. Although Shannon is moving on, we remain committed to student wellbeing and will continue to offer emotional support using the resources available to us.

Lastly, I would like to thank our incredible staff for their unwavering dedication throughout the year. Whether through their teaching, pastoral care, or tireless behind-the-scenes work, their contribution has been exceptional; it is because of them that we continue to grow in strength.

Wishing you all a restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming students back in September, ready for another year of ambition and achievement.

Lynn Bennett, Principal

Relax
Refresh
Recharge

“

Keep your face
to the sun and you
will never
see the shadows.

HELEN KELLER



Celebrating Our Class of 2025: A Journey of Resilience, Commitment & Pride

As we bring this academic year to a close, it is only fitting that we begin this edition of the newsletter by celebrating our incredible Year 11 students. Over the past five years, they have grown into young men we are truly proud of—not just for their academic efforts, but for their resilience, character, and the strong example they have set for the rest of the school. They have shown us what it means to rise to a challenge, and we are honoured to have shared this journey with them.



In the final stretch before their GCSE exams, our Year 11s demonstrated exceptional dedication to doing their very best. Many students voluntarily attended early morning booster sessions, with some even arriving at school as early as 7:30am to get that extra edge. Their willingness to go the extra mile was matched by the tireless commitment of our staff, who continued to offer support, guidance, and revision sessions right up to the very last exam.



One of the most powerful examples of this year group's determination was their full attendance at our walking-talking coached exams for Maths. Every student showed up- engaged, focused, and ready to be work through the specimen papers. These sessions were invaluable in building confidence and ensuring that no one felt alone on exam day.



Moments before they stepped into the exam hall, Mrs Davis delivered a final motivational message to the whole year group. Her words, rooted in belief, pride, and encouragement, served as a reminder of how far they have come and how much we believe in their future.

To our Year 11s: thank you. You've made us all proud. Now go out and show the world what Hurstmere boys can do!

Domino's & Determination: A Slice of Celebration for our Year 11s

We shine a light on the extraordinary commitment of our staff, not only in the classroom, but in the ways they go above and beyond to support and celebrate our students. As a well-deserved treat and a heartfelt gesture of appreciation, some of our staff surprised the Year 11s with a Domino's pizza treat to mark the end of their GCSE exams. This wasn't just about the pizza—it was a symbol of how much we value their efforts and a way to show them just how much we've enjoyed teaching them.

It's taken a true team effort to guide this cohort through the pressures of their final year. Staff from every corner of the school have played their part in helping the boys stay focused, motivated, and confident. This celebratory moment brought smiles and a sense of shared achievement. It was a fitting way to say: we're proud of you—and we're all in this together.



BBQ, Memories & Best Wishes: A Perfect Send-Off for our Year 11s

To mark the end of an unforgettable journey, our Year 11 students and staff came together for a joyful celebration afternoon. With sunshine, great food from the BBQ, and plenty of laughter, it was the perfect opportunity to relax, reflect, and enjoy each other's company one last time.

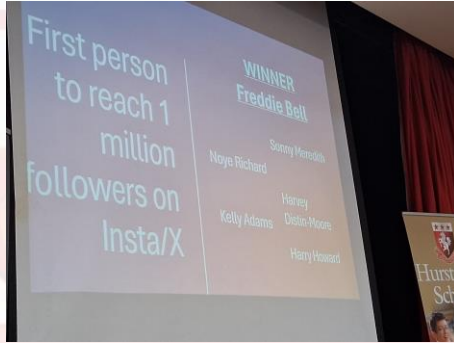
Students and staff shared memories, signed shirts with heartfelt messages, and took the time to say their personal thank-yous. It was a wonderful afternoon full of smiles and a real sense of Hurstmere pride. A fitting farewell to a wonderful year group!



BBQ, Memories & Best Wishes: A Perfect Send-Off for our Year 11s

A celebration assembly, delivered by Mr Davis, RSL for Year 11, reminded the students just how proud he is of every single one of them. With their tutors standing proudly by their sides, the room was filled with warmth and support. The assembly was a wonderful mix of humour and heart. There were plenty of laughs, touching moments, and some very well-deserved special awards recognising the unique contributions and characters within the year group.

“Remember, boys, you will always be part of the Hurstmere family”.

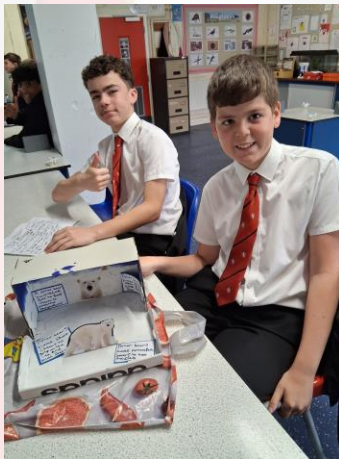


Learning in Action: Unlocking the Joy of Learning in Science

Year 8 pupils in Miss Payne's science class have been diving into the fascinating world of biological adaptations. As part of their studies, they explored how a wide variety of organisms and animals have evolved unique features to survive and thrive in their environments, from camouflaged insects in the rainforest to desert-dwelling animals that conserve water.

To bring their learning to life, students were tasked with designing and building 3D models of an organism of their choice. Each model had to showcase specific adaptations that help the creature survive in its natural habitat. Pupils demonstrated fantastic creativity and scientific understanding, using materials ranging from recycled cardboard and clay to wire and fabric and even some cakes!

The classroom was filled with everything from polar bears with thick fur to anglerfish with bioluminescent lures.



Learning in Action: Y8 Bring Drama to Life with 'Mugged' News Report

Year 8 Drama students have been exploring the powerful impact of performance through a creative and thought-provoking project inspired by the play *Mugged*. Using the fictional event of a murder from the play as their starting point, students were tasked with developing a staged news broadcast—bringing together drama, storytelling, and theatrical technique.

Pupils learned to apply **Cross Cutting** and **Split Stage** to present multiple perspectives and locations simultaneously. One side of the stage became a bustling newsroom, with anchors introducing the developing story, while the other side featured live reports from the crime scene, including interviews with a key witness and a police officer examining the evidence.

In their groups, students chose their roles, read through the scripts, and made decisions on movement, staging, and delivery. They collaborated closely, using drama techniques to build tension, highlight contrast, and bring their interpretations to life. The project has not only developed their performance skills but also encouraged teamwork, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of dramatic storytelling.



Learning in Action: Chilling Fiction & Real-World Themes in English

In English, Year 8 students in Ms Sporidis's and Mr MacKenzie-Ingle's classes have been exploring *Stone Cold* by Robert Swindells, a gripping novella that blends suspense with social commentary.

Set in London, the story follows a homeless teenager who crosses paths with a sinister serial killer. As well as keeping students hooked with its fast-paced plot and dual narrative style, the novel offers a powerful look at homelessness among young people and the challenges they face.

With plenty to discuss, analyse, and write about, students have been engaging in thought-provoking conversations and deepening their understanding of both storytelling and social issues.



Learning in Action: Beyond the Grades - Learning from Maths Assessments

Year 9 Maths students recently received their end-of-year assessments back as part of a focused feedback lesson. It was clear that many had revised thoroughly, with a large number achieving fantastic results, which is a true reflection of the hard work and commitment they've shown throughout the year. By reviewing their papers in detail, students have been able to spot any mistakes or misconceptions, helping them understand what to focus on moving forward, particularly as they begin their journey towards GCSE Maths. Their efforts in class have been exceptional this year, and the goal now is to carry that same determination into Year 10!



Learning in Action: ¡Viva España! Spanish Takes Off at Hurstmere

This year saw the exciting launch of Spanish at Hurstmere, and what better way to mark the occasion than with an unforgettable trip to Madrid! A group of Year 7 students had the incredible opportunity to explore Spain's vibrant capital city—an experience that brought the language and culture to life.

The students represented Hurstmere brilliantly throughout the trip, showing excellent behaviour, positivity, and curiosity at every stop. From cultural landmarks to interactive activities, the boys immersed themselves fully in Spanish life, creating memories they'll carry for years to come.

Back in the classroom, highlights from the trip were shared with other students through a fun quiz and lively discussions. The visit not only supported language learning but helped to spark a lasting interest in Spanish culture among the wider year group. With the success of this first visit, there's no doubt: Hurstmere is heading back to España next year!



Learning in Action: Behind the Books - Discovering the Past in History

In a recent Year 9 History lesson, students delved into one of the most complex and thought-provoking parts of their course: the Troubles in Northern Ireland. As part of the 'Making of Modern Britain' unit, the class explored the deep-rooted causes of the conflict and examined its impact on everyday life for communities on both sides. While not the lightest topic to capture on camera, it's undoubtedly one of the most powerful and eye-opening. Students engaged in meaningful discussion about identity, division, and the long-term consequences of political unrest.

In another History lesson, Year 9 students explored why Britain was ready for change in 1997, leading to the election of Tony Blair and the rise of 'New Labour'. This topic allowed students to examine how major political, social, and global events shaped the country we live in today.

As the lesson developed, students also looked at Britain's role in the global war on terror, Blair's controversial decision to invade Iraq, and the tragic events of the 7/7 London bombings. These complex and challenging topics prompted thoughtful discussions about leadership, legacy, and the impact of modern conflict.



Learning in Action: Remembering VE Day - Reflections from Our Students

Thank you and all your comrades for your brave service.

I may never fully understand what you went through, but I am truly grateful.

Respect for all the soldiers who fought and died to keep Britain a free country.

Thank you for your service, so we can live in peace.

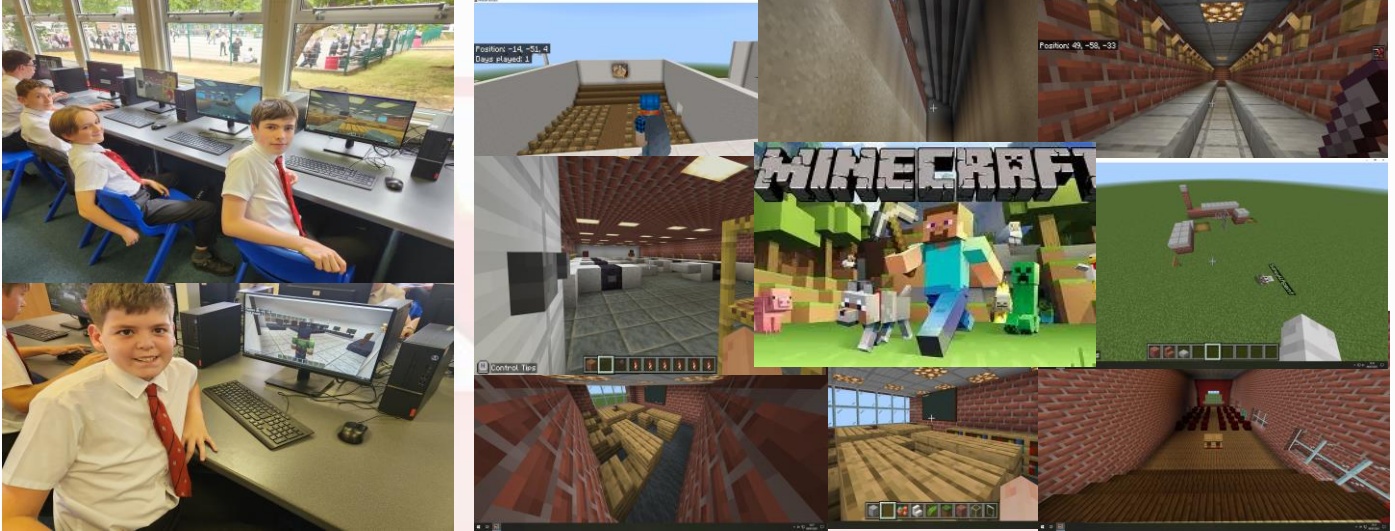


I appreciate the sacrifices you made and the commitment you've shown for us and our country.

Thank you for your service, without the guts of your generation we might be under the control of the Nazis.

Learning in Action: Digital Creativity Meets Real-World Problem Solving

Our Year 8 Minecraft Club has been busy reimagining Hurstmere in the digital world! Students tackled the challenge of recreating key areas of the school, including the Main Hall, Science labs, and Tech rooms, while grappling with real-world skills like measurement, spatial reasoning, and collaboration. Some students took on the extra challenge of building in Survival Mode, learning the value of resource management, patience, and perseverance as they gathered materials block by block. This hands-on project has brought learning to life, blending creativity, computing, and problem-solving in a way that truly excites.



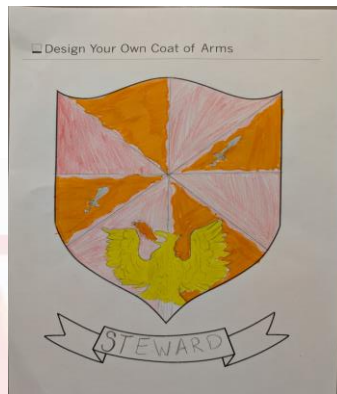
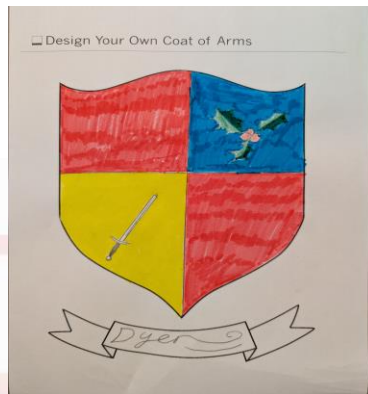
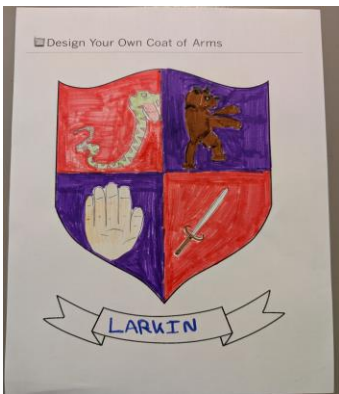
Learning in Action: Medical Mavericks Workshop

Our Year 10 students had an inspiring and hands-on experience during the *Medical Mavericks* workshop. The session offered a unique glimpse into the world of healthcare careers, giving students the opportunity to explore real medical equipment and try out clinical skills used by professionals in the NHS. From taking ECGs and measuring oxygen levels to using ultrasound scanners and trying out virtual surgery tools, the workshop sparked curiosity and enthusiasm for future careers in medicine and healthcare.



Learning in Action: Creativity, Challenge and Charity During Activities Week

This week in History, Year 7 delved into medieval society by creating their own coats of arms. They explored the symbolism behind colours, animals, and emblems used by knights to represent their identity, family heritage, and social status.



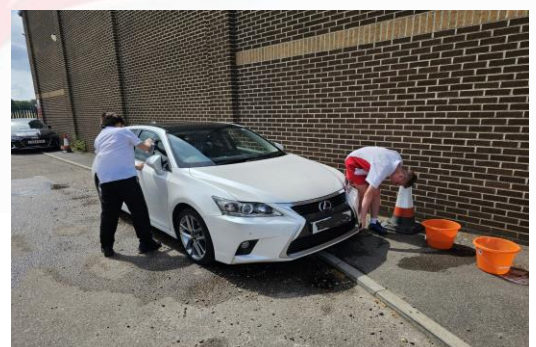
Year 7 students brought creativity into biology by decorating their own plant pots during science lessons. As part of their work on plants and growth, they explored what plants need to thrive, then applied their knowledge by planting seeds in their beautifully personalised pots – each one a reflection of their personality and care.



Our Year 8 students showcased their baking talents by making and decorating fairy cakes – with some definite future Bake Off stars among them!



Year 7 Cobham X showed brilliant entrepreneurial spirit by offering a staff car wash, raising funds for Cancer Research in the process.



Learning in Action: Geography Comes to Life in Herne Bay

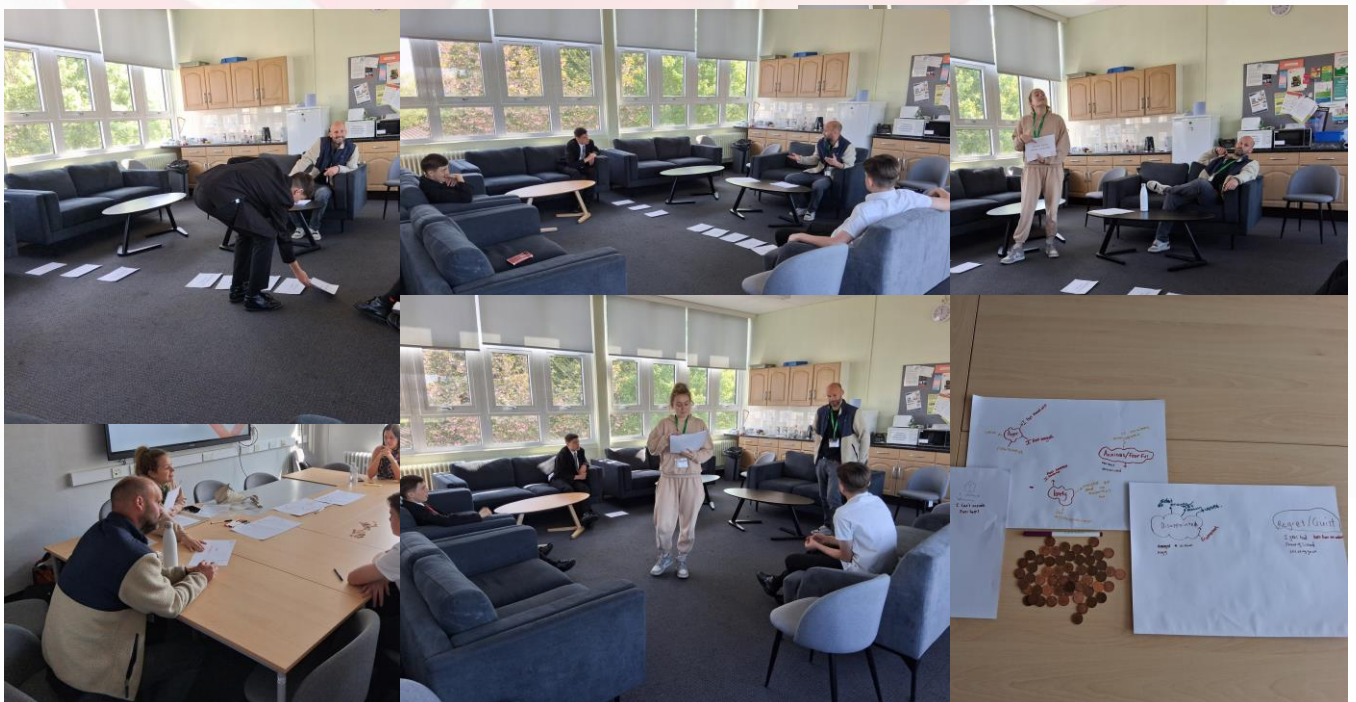
Year 10 students visited Herne Bay to complete vital fieldwork for their GCSE Geography studies. They collected data on beach profiles, pebble size and groynes to investigate longshore drift and coastal management in action. Students also completed field sketches and tackled exam-style questions to support their preparation for next year's exams. After a productive day of hands-on learning, there was just enough time to enjoy a well-earned ice cream before heading back to school!



Learning for Life: Building Skills with Little Fish Theatre

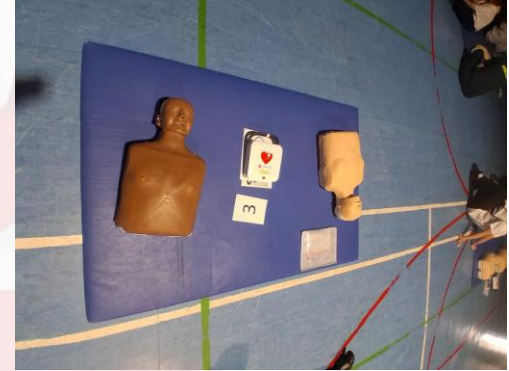


We were thrilled to welcome back the Little Fish Theatre Company for another inspiring workshop—this time with a group of Year 9 students. Their session focused on creative, arts-based activities that helped develop vital life skills such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. Through drama and performance, students were encouraged to reflect, express, and grow in confidence - this is learning for life in action.



Learning for Life: First Aid Skills for the Future

On Thursday 19th June, we were proud to welcome the London Lifesavers Schools Programme to Hurstmere. Our students engaged in hands-on, practical sessions focused on essential first aid and lifesaving skills- most importantly, how to respond if someone goes into cardiac arrest. The programme aims to equip young people with the confidence and knowledge to act swiftly in a life-threatening situation. Our students embraced the challenge with maturity and enthusiasm. They left the session more confident, more capable, and perhaps even ready to save a life in the future.



My favourite part was using the defibrillators to shock the heart.

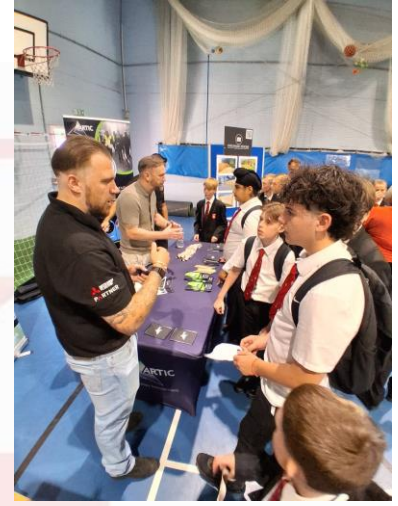
It was really good, I didn't know any of that stuff.

I learnt some of this at cubs, but I realised just how much I had forgotten! Now I would feel more confident to help.



Learning for Life: Shaping Futures at Our Careers Fair

On 27th June 2025, we proudly hosted a Careers Fair at Hurstmere. From Armed Response Officers to Chartered Surveyors and Legal Professionals, a wide range of career representatives joined us to share insights into their professions. Students engaged brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions and gaining valuable knowledge about potential future pathways. We were especially proud to receive glowing feedback from our guests, who praised the students' maturity, curiosity, and excellent manners. We're already looking forward to our next Careers Event!



Full gallery of pictures available at - <https://www.hurstmere-that.org.uk/speialevents/careersfair2025>

Learning for Life: A Day of Innovation and Enterprise

Enterprise Day 2025 was a vibrant, hands-on experience that gave students the opportunity to step into the shoes of young entrepreneurs. Working in teams, students developed creative products or service ideas, assigned team roles, created marketing plans, and set up stalls to sell to staff and peers - all while raising money for their chosen charities.

The day not only showcased incredible creativity and teamwork, but also brought our school's core values to life: from resilience and leadership to integrity and ambition. It was a celebration of student voice, community spirit, and practical learning - and a day that many will remember!



Learning for Life: Kindness in Action Through The First Give Charity Programme



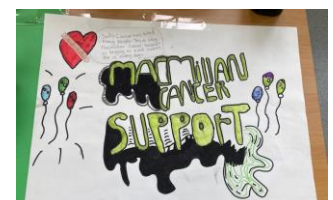
Miss Lambert's form group chose to support 'Little Buds', a charity helping the Special Care Baby Unit at Darent Valley Hospital. Mr Mark Cullen visited Hurstmere to deliver a powerful talk about the charity's work, giving students a clear insight into the impact of their support and the value of compassion in action.



Mme Marchioni and Ms Whiteland's classes teamed up for a charity football match, raising awareness and showing support for the causes they care about.



Ms Whiteland's class also chose to run a sweet stall during breaktime, and all the proceeds went to Macmillan, their chosen charity.



Stronger Together: Supporting Resilience with Place2Be

Journey of Hope is a student-centred, strengths-based programme designed to help young people explore and manage emotions linked to challenging or traumatic life experiences. Delivered by our in-school partners at Place2Be, the programme gives students a safe space to express themselves and develop healthy coping strategies for the future.

A group of Year 8 students recently completed the 8-week intervention, engaging thoughtfully in sessions and showing real growth along the way. Each participant was awarded a certificate of achievement in recognition of their commitment and progress.



Stronger Together: Transition with Care and Confidence

Transitioning from primary to secondary school is a big step, and our AEN team wanted to ease that journey. On Friday 2nd May, we hosted our first SEND Transition Event, welcoming pupils from across Bexley.

The event featured a carousel of supportive sessions:

All About Me - Sharing how students learn best.

The School Day - Understanding timetables and how to ask for help.

Growth Mindset - Managing worries and promoting wellbeing.

Team Building - Inclusive sports to build confidence and friendships.

It was a positive and reassuring day, helping students feel more prepared and supported for the move to Hurstmere in September.



Hot Chocolate and Cookies with the Principal - We're Listening

Every week, students across all year groups have had the chance to sit down with Mrs Bennett over hot chocolate and cookies for an honest and relaxed conversation about their school experience. Year 7 shared thoughtful suggestions, which Mrs Bennett was quick to note down, while Year 8 offered honest reflections on what's working well and what could be improved. Year 9 brought great energy and maturity to the discussion, raising points about both academic and social aspects of school life. Year 10 spoke confidently about their learning journey so far, offering valuable insights into their aspirations. And in their final term, Year 11 took a moment to reflect with pride on their time at Hurstmere, sharing memories and advice for younger students. These student voice sessions continue to shape how we grow as a school community...together.



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 25.04.2025

- Year 11 -** Lars L for 'ALL' of the R-Trails
Bobby J for Self-Belief
- Year 9 -** Harry R for Ambition and Self-Belief
- Year 8 -** Tom P for Leadership
James D for Respect
Archie B for Integrity
Jack Q for Integrity



Week Ending 02.05.2025

- Year 8 -** Jesse W for Resilience
Lorcan R for Ambition
Beau P for Respect and Ambition
Roary B for Resilience
- Year 9 -** Oliver A for Teamwork
Tommy W for Leadership

- Year 11** Sam H for Ambition
Louie H for Resilience
- Year 10** Kevinas B for Ambition
Seb D for Resilience
- Year 9** Will T for Resilience
- Year 8** Harrison F for Respect
Arjun W for Ambition
- Year 7** Muhammad K nominated by Mrs Bennett for being a credit to the school
Daniel P for Self-Belief
Oliver D for Teamwork



Celebrating Excellence: The Principal Rewards Winners Announced

Week Ending :

16th May 2025

Year 7 – Frederick W for Integrity

Year 8 – Albie L, Albert L, Mason A and Frankie L for Leadership and Respect

Year 9 – James W for Integrity

**Year 10 – Freddie W for Resilience
Henry W for Ambition and Respect**



Week Ending :

6th June 2025



Year 7 – Jesse D for Teamwork

Year 8 - Lincoln B for Resilience

Year 9 – Lorenzo M, Rhys K, Ethan D and Samuel P for Ambition

**Year 10 – Sangeerrth S and George P for Ambition
Jamie M for Respect**

Year 11 – Frankie S for Integrity

Week Ending :

13th June 2025

**Year 7 – Oscar G for Respect/Integrity
Lewis G for Leadership**

Year 8 – Harrison F for Ambition and Respect

**Year 9 – Lewis M for Ambition and Respect
James W and Isaac G for Integrity
Farris K for Respect and Integrity**



Celebrating Excellence: The Principal Rewards Winners Announced

Week Ending :

20.06.2025

Year 7 - Samuel S, Barney O and George N for Leadership
Blake S for Ambition

Year 8 - Hayden M for Ambition and Leadership

Year 10 - Nicholas J for Integrity
Teddy W for Integrity and Self-Belief



Week Ending :

27.06.2025

Year 7 - Cooper W for Self-Belief

Year 10 - Ryan A, Oliver C, William C, Oliver P, Tom R and Alex S for Ambition
Memphis A for Integrity and Ambition
Archy C for Resilience



Week Ending :

4th July 2025

Year 7 – Reggie M for Resilience
Charlie M for Teamwork

Year 8 – Riley H for Resilience
Zac T for Self-belief
Alex C for Respect
Luke G for Ambition



Year 9 – James C, Louie S and Matteo C for Teamwork, Leadership and Respect

Year 10 – Louie S for Resilience
Seb D, Bertie B, Ryan A, Regan D, Alex A, George C, Zac E, Jenson B & Bobby L for Leadership

A Culture of Celebration: Top Points, Top Prize – A PS5!



Congratulations to Jacob F (Year 9) and Blake S (Year 7), who each took home a brand-new PlayStation 5! These two students earned the highest number of achievement points across the entire academic year – a fantastic reflection of their effort, attitude, and commitment to our school values. Their dedication didn't go unnoticed, and this top reward recognises the consistency of their positive contributions to our school community.

Keep those golden tickets coming – every point counts!

A Culture of Celebration: Year 10 Jack Petchey Winners Take the Wheel

A brilliant group of Year 10 students recently had the thrilling opportunity to go go-karting - and they did Hurstmere proud! Their conduct throughout the day was exemplary, representing the school with maturity, enthusiasm, and team spirit. They truly made the most of every moment on the track, embracing the challenge and enjoying every second of the experience. A special thank you goes to Harvey and Will, whose achievement in winning the prestigious Jack Petchey Award made this celebration possible.



A Culture of Celebration: Enterprise Day Winners Day Out

27 of our outstanding Year 8 students were rewarded with a special cinema trip for their exceptional teamwork and enterprise skills. Accompanied by Miss Benedetti, Miss Brennan, and Mrs Osman, the boys enjoyed the thrilling new F1 movie as a well-earned treat. Their efforts on Enterprise Day raised an impressive £202 profit for charity - a fantastic achievement that truly showcased their entrepreneurial flair, collaboration, and commitment to making a difference.



A Culture of Celebration: Year 7 Give Back with Purpose



VE & AC



Year 7 students impressed once again in this year's First Give Grand Final. Cllr Newton, Mr Greening from Sidcup Rotary Club and former winning students judged an outstanding set of presentations. Each group showcased thoughtful research and genuine passion for their chosen causes. The winning form raised over £1000 for Macmillan Cancer Support. A huge well done to everyone who helped make this such a success.

A Culture of Celebration: Y11 Jack Petchey Winners Take on Combat Laser Games

Huge congratulations to our Jack Petchey Award winners, Jack and Johnny, and a big thank you to the staff who made today's reward trip possible. Our Year 11 students, along with a few lucky Year 8s, marked the end of the year with an exhilarating visit to Combat Laser Games. It was a brilliant afternoon filled with teamwork, laughter and well earned fun after a demanding year. Great memories made!



A Culture of Celebration: Year 8 Jack Petchey Champions Take on the Laser Challenge

A brilliant afternoon at Combat Laser Games with our exceptional Year 8 students, who represented Hurstmere with pride and enthusiasm. Their behaviour and sportsmanship showed exactly why they earned this reward. There was no shortage of friendly competition, great teamwork, and of course, plenty of Domino's pizza to top off the day!

A special thank you to Harrison and Aaron, our Jack Petchey Award winners, whose achievement made this celebration possible. A proud day for Mr Monksfield and everyone involved.



A Culture of Celebration: Year 8 and Year 9 Make a Splash at Danson Watersports

Some of our Year 8 and 9 students enjoyed an action-packed day at Danson Watersports Centre, taking on challenges that tested their courage, teamwork, and resilience. From paddleboarding to kayaking, they embraced every opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and support one another. It was a brilliant day filled with laughter, adventure, and valuable experiences that will stay with them for years to come.



Get in touch and book your adventure today

Tel: 020 8303 2828

Email: watersports@bexley.gov.uk



A Culture of Celebration: Staff Awards

We are proud to share that several members of our staff have been shortlisted for The Howard Academy Trust Awards. Mr Monksfield has been recognised for Secondary School Teacher of the Year, Mrs Cox for Support Staff of the Year, and our incredible Admin Team for Team of the Year.

Thank you to all the parents, students and colleagues who took the time to nominate - your support means a great deal.



Congratulations to our fantastic runners-up, Mrs Cox and the Admin Team, for being recognised at this year's Howard Academy Trust Awards - a truly well-deserved honour for your dedication and hard work.

A very special well done to Mrs Monksfield for winning the prestigious title of Secondary School Teacher of the Year. This is an incredible achievement and a reflection of your passion, commitment, and impact on our school community.

We are so very proud of you all - thank you for everything you do to make Hurstmere such a special place to learn and work.



School Life Snapshot: Creative Sparks Fly in Year 7 & 8 Literacy Workshop

In the Year 7 and 8 Creative Literacy Workshop, students have explored key writing techniques from novels, poems, and plays to create their own scenes based on different themes and characters. Working with texts such as *Demon Dentist* by David Walliams, Michael Rosen's *Gerbils*, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, and Roald Dahl's *Witches* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, students have compared characters and learned how to make their writing more dramatic and engaging.

They've grown in confidence by reading aloud with expression, discussing ideas, and using the ACOMPASS features to reflect on their work. Scenes have been both rehearsed and spontaneous – bringing creativity and performance together in every session.



School Life Snapshot: Take On the Ice Bucket Challenge for Mental Health

Some lucky Year 8s had the pleasure of drenching Mr Monksfield, their Raising Standards Leader, with buckets of ice-cold water as part of Hurstmere's Ice Bucket Challenge. The challenge was all in good fun, but with an important purpose: to raise awareness of the importance of supporting young people's mental health.



To keep the momentum going, Mr Monksfield nominated Mr Waghorn to take the next icy hit...and he bravely accepted! Events like this highlight the commitment across our school community to promoting wellbeing and supporting mental health.

**CHALLENGE
ACCEPTED**



School Life Snapshot: Lights, Music, Dance - Year 7 Disco Delight

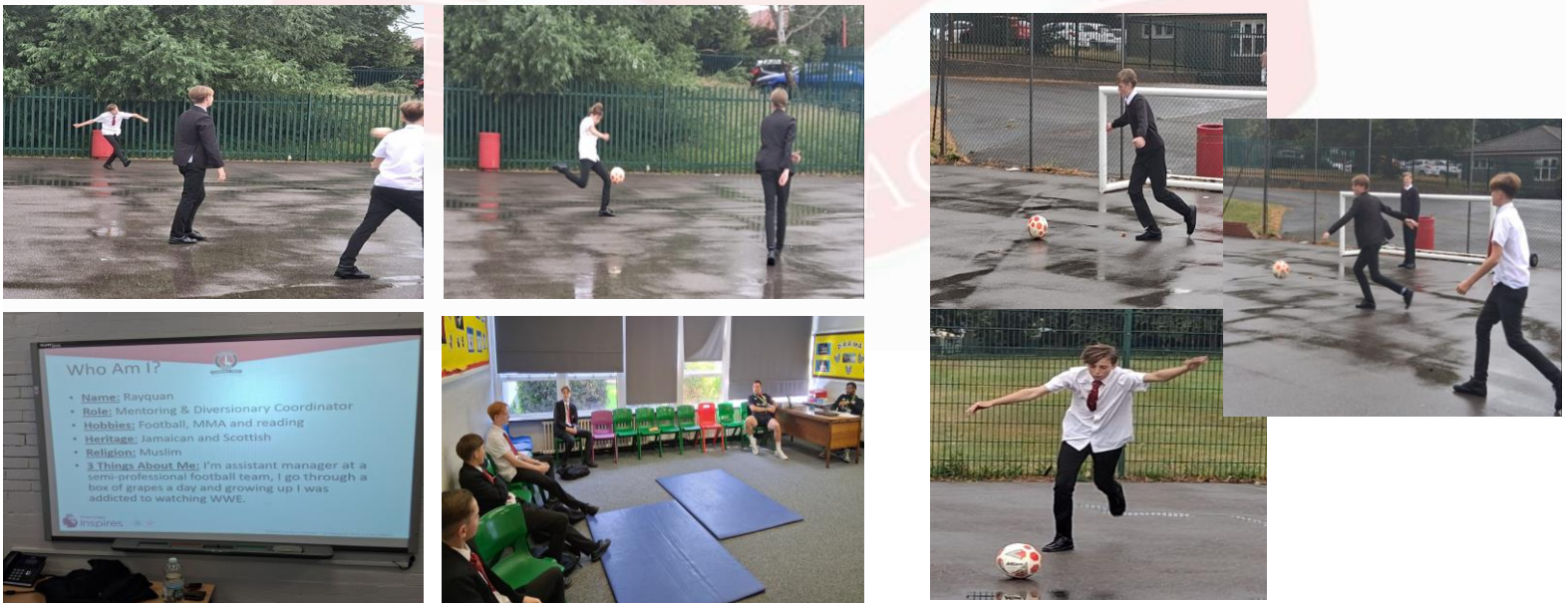
Our Year 7 students enjoyed an unforgettable evening at the school disco, joined by students from Blackfen. With music, dancing, and plenty of laughs, it was a fantastic chance for everyone to socialise, make new friends, and celebrate a great year. The energy was high, the moves were impressive, and the smiles said it all!



School Life Snapshot: Building Character with Charlton Trust



This term, the Charlton Athletic outreach team have been working with our Year 8 and 9 students to develop their leadership skills and help them understand what it means to be a positive role model. Through a blend of classroom discussions and physical team-based activities, students explored how to work effectively with others while reflecting on their own responsibilities as young citizens in the community. The programme encouraged self-awareness, teamwork, and the importance of setting a good example - both in and out of school.



School Life Snapshot: Celebrating 15 Years of Studio Fix Magic



HURSTMERE PRESENTS:
STUDIOFIX 15TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

2010 2025

FEATURING
STUDIO FIX ACTS
PAST AND PRESENT

PLUS ROCK BANDS
HARMONY ARMY
AND MAYBE EVEN THE
STAFF BAND ...

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON

TUESDAY 8TH JULY
HURSTMERE SCHOOL
SIDCUP DA15 9AW

What a night to remember. The 15th anniversary of Studio Fix, Hurstmere's very own recording label, was nothing short of extraordinary. Founded and led by our exceptional Musician-in-Residence, Mr Gilbert, and supported brilliantly over the years by Tom Monks, Studio Fix has been a cornerstone of creativity at Hurstmere. For 15 years, it has been a place where talent is nurtured, confidence is built, and young voices are given the chance to shine through original songwriting and composition.

From chart-worthy collaborations to heartfelt ballads and electrifying performances, Studio Fix has seen hundreds of our students record and release original tracks. Many have gone on to pursue music professionally, and we have received regional and national recognition, and numerous accolades! But beyond the awards, it has given students something far greater - belief in themselves.

This anniversary was more than a concert. It was a homecoming. A full Hall witnessed something truly magical: former students returning to perform alongside current ones, bridging generations with music that connected them all. Seeing ex-pupils step back on stage where it all began - some now doctors, musicians, sports broadcasters and mentors - was deeply moving.

The atmosphere was electric, filled with laughter, joy, and unspoken pride. Moments like this capture the very essence of Hurstmere. This is the magic of music. This is the magic of our school.



Building Cultural Capital Through Enriched Experiences: Year 7 Madrid Trip

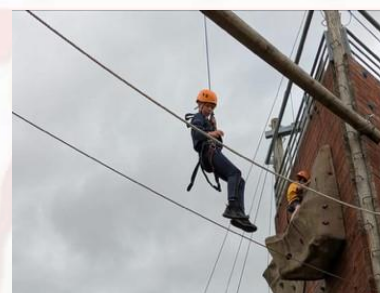
Dr Goodwin had the pleasure of taking 44 Year 7 boys, accompanied by Ms Lambert, Mr Mahmoudi, Mr Winters, and Mr Singh, to the wonderful city of Madrid 28 June - 1 July. The boys were able to practise their language skills and soak up the sights in the Spanish capital over four unforgettable days, in very hot temperatures! Highlights included the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, Las Ventas bullring and Retiro Park. The boys excelled in the Reina Sofía Museum, where they completed a Picasso art project, and wandered the squares of Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor. The trip marked a perfect end to our Year 7s' first year of studying both Spanish and French at Hurstmere. Gracias a todos!



Building Cultural Capital Through Enriched Experiences: Year 7 Mersea Island Magic

Our Year 7 students recently took part in an unforgettable residential trip to Mersea Island, a stunning coastal site run by PGL. Over the course of the trip, students embraced a range of exciting outdoor challenges including high ropes, archery, raft building, and zip wires.

The adventure encouraged teamwork, resilience, and independence, all while having a huge amount of fun. It was a brilliant opportunity for students to build new friendships, step out of their comfort zones, and create lasting memories together.



Building Cultural Capital Through Enriched Experiences: Year 8 Naples Trip

What an unforgettable adventure for our brilliant Year 8s on their trip to Naples! From climbing the iconic Mount Vesuvius and exploring the ruins of Pompeii, to making authentic Neapolitan pizza and enjoying a gelato-making demonstration - it was a week full of discovery and culture. 🍕 🇮🇹

Students soaked up the stunning views along the Amalfi Coast, explored the charm of Sorrento, and even took a ferry across to the beautiful island of Capri, heading up to Anacapri for breathtaking scenery and memories to last a lifetime. 🌊 🏞️

An incredible trip with a fantastic group of students - thank you to all involved for making it so special!



Please see the full picture gallery on the school website - <https://www.hurstmere-that.org.uk/schooltrips/naples2025>

Building Cultural Capital Through Enriched Experiences: Year 9 DofE Expedition Success

Around 50 Year 9 students took part in their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Training Day on Wednesday 25th June, in preparation for their expedition on 3rd-4th July at Meopham Forest, including an overnight stay at Hopehill Campsite.



Our Year 9 pupils had a fantastic first day on their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. After walking many miles and cooking their own meals, the boys enjoyed a well-earned evening back at camp. Spirits were high as they looked forward to day two!



Building Cultural Capital Through Enriched Experiences: Year 9 Paris Trip

Students explored some of Paris's most iconic landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the River Seine, and the Arc de Triomphe. Highlights included a scenic river cruise, a walk through the Louvre and Tuileries Gardens, and climbing to the top of the Arc for stunning city views. A memorable cultural adventure for all!



Building Cultural Capital Through Enriched Experiences: Year 9 Paris Trip

A highlight of the trip was an unforgettable day at Disneyland Paris, filled with thrilling rides and magical moments. From classic attractions to the Mickey Mouse Pizza, students experienced the full wonder of Disney - a truly enchanting adventure!



Unlocking Unique Opportunities with End-2-End TV: From Gamers to Drone Pilots

Six Year 9 students have taken part in an exciting digital media project this year in collaboration with end2end TV and the Geography department—combining drone training with professional filming experience. With over 90% of young people regularly gaming, it's easy to miss the valuable skills they gain. This project showed how abilities like hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, and strategic thinking can translate into real-world applications.

Under the guidance of end2end TV, the students trained for and passed their CAA Flyer ID qualifications, learning about drone safety, airspace rules, and manual flying. Although strong winds meant they couldn't fly on a recent Year 10 Geography field trip, the team still captured brilliant footage of Longshore Drift using ground cameras—creating a high-quality resource for Geography lessons next year. We're incredibly proud of their progress—from beginners to confident, responsible drone pilots in training. We look forward to continuing the project next term and seeing where their new skills take them.



www.end2endtv.co.uk

Opportunities

For All Hurstmere Pupils
In the grounds of your school!

Clubs & Societies, connect with groups that match your interests

- 🍌 **Snack & Tech Society** For Year 7/8 Every Tuesday lunchtime
- 📺 **Digital Crew** For Years 7–11 Saturday fortnightly 10.30-12.30

Education Hub, access practical courses and learning support

Exclusive BTEC Tech Award L1/2 in Creative Media Production

Open to Year 8 upwards, offering practical, hands-on skills in creative media production, such as filming, editing, animation, design & print

Arts Award centre, develop creative, technical, leadership & volunteering skills in our expanded community space - strong links with industry - new activities will be added on our website

Practical - Inclusive - Exciting

- 🎥 Full Broadcast Studio
- 🎛️ Production Control Room
- 🗣️ Voiceover Booth
- 📖 Storyboard Department
- ✂️ Animation/Editing Suite
- 📍 Find us in Room 64

www.end2endtv.co.uk



Rising to New Heights: Creative Media Expands at Hurstmere with e2e

Over the past three and a half years, end2end TV has proudly partnered with Hurstmere School to build a creative media pathway like no other. Thanks to strong support from the school community, a fully equipped broadcast studio was embedded within the curriculum, offering students hands-on experiences in storytelling, filmmaking, and technical production across subjects and enrichment clubs.

Now, we're entering an exciting new chapter. Despite national funding challenges, Hurstmere and end2end TV are working together in a refreshed, forward-thinking way to continue offering rich, real-world media opportunities to students.

From September, the on-site studio will expand into a new **Community Media Space**, open to all Year 7-11 students, with additional evening classes available for the wider community. The new facilities will include:

- 🎨 A mural-designed animation and editing suite (sponsored by Jay Clarke, storyboard artist for *Isle of Dogs*)
- 🎥 A live-action studio for detailed animation and filming
- 🗣️ A professional voiceover booth
- ☁️ Full access to Adobe Creative Cloud
- 🎬 Strong industry links and professional film shoots

We're also proud to announce the **launch of the BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production**, equivalent to a full GCSE, starting September 2025. Open to learners aged 13-18, the course runs on either side of the school day and is perfect for those who thrive on creativity, collaboration, and hands-on learning.

To help make this vision a reality, we're calling on local supporters and partners to get involved. This isn't just a course- it's a bold step forward for education that blends creativity with career-focused skills.

- 🎥 Watch the promo video and explore more at: www.end2endtv.co.uk/btec
- 📧 For info on BTEC or Summer Workshops (including Year 7 transition sessions): end2endtv@hurstmere.org.uk

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW CREW!

Starting on Saturday 6th September, end2end TV will be running fortnightly sessions from 10:30am-12:30pm, offering a fun, hands-on introduction to digital media and creative production for young people aged 8-16. Whether your child is curious about cameras, passionate about content creation, building their acting or presenting skills, or simply looking to try something new, this is the perfect chance to get involved.

These sessions are inspired by the success of our incredible e2e Crew—a team of talented young people who have gained real-world experience filming events, leading community projects, and producing professional-quality media. Many started with us as young as eight and have since gone on to lead award-winning news teams, operate industry-level equipment, and even live stream for organisations like the British Film Institute and Southbank Centre.

With expert guidance in a supportive and inclusive environment, each participant will build technical, creative, and teamwork skills that last a lifetime. This is more than just a club—it's a space where young people are trusted, encouraged, and empowered to shine. Find out more on: www.end2endtv.co.uk/workshops

e2e
end2end TV

NEW!

ENROLLING NOW!
E2E DIGITAL CREW
AGES 8-16

SCAN ME! >>>

SATURDAYS
FORTNIGHTLY FROM 6TH SEPTEMBER
10.30-12.30PM
CHOICE OF COLOURED KIT
WWW.END2ENDTV.CO.UK

Spotlight on Lorcan: From Hurstmere to the Hampstead Stage!

We are incredibly proud of Lorcan R in Year 8, who starred in the world premiere of *Apex Predator*, a gripping new play that ran at the prestigious Hampstead Theatre this spring.

The play was written by acclaimed playwright John Donnelly—known for his work at the Royal Court Theatre—and directed by Blanche McIntyre, a leading figure from the Royal Shakespeare Company and The Globe. With such an outstanding creative team behind it, *Apex Predator* offered Lorcan an extraordinary opportunity to shine on a professional stage.

Lorcan was cast in the central role of Alfie and began rehearsals on 17th February 2025. Over several weeks, he worked with a talented cast and crew to bring the play to life. The production opened on Saturday, 22nd March and ran until Saturday, 26th April 2025, receiving high praise from audiences and critics alike. The official production photographs, taken by renowned theatre photographer Ellie Kurttz, capture the power and emotion of Lorcan's performance—showcasing his maturity, stage presence, and growing confidence.

Mrs Bennett, who watched Lorcan on stage, said:

“Lorcan has shown outstanding commitment and talent. We are so proud of everything he has achieved.”

To be cast in a professional production at such a young age is truly remarkable. Taking on such a demanding role with professionalism and poise is no small feat. Lorcan's journey has been a source of inspiration for students and staff alike, and we look forward to seeing where his passion for performance takes him next!



Sprinting to Success: Sports Day Shines at Hurstmere!

On Friday 11th July 2025, we held our annual Sports Day—and we couldn't have asked for better weather! The sun shone all day, creating the perfect setting for a brilliant afternoon of competition.

Students performed with incredible determination, perseverance and effort. It was fantastic to see so many giving their all and supporting one another throughout the day.

Points were awarded based on finishing positions, with each team's score contributing to their house total. The competition was close, but the focus remained on fun, teamwork and sportsmanship. A huge thank you to all staff who helped make the day run smoothly, to our amazing 'Friends of Hurstmere' volunteers, and to the students for making the day such a success.



More pictures available on the school website :

<https://www.hurstmere-that.org.uk/special-events/sportsday2025>

Premier League & Premier Moments: Hurstmere Sports Leaders Lead the Way

The Sports Leaders programme at Hurstmere continues to go from strength to strength, with 60 students from Years 7 to 11 taking part this year. These dedicated boys have given up their own time to train, lead, and support festivals and competitions both within school and across the borough. Whether it's coaching younger pupils, setting up events, or officiating games, they have become true role models. This year alone, they've delivered 10 events at Hurstmere and contributed to 3 cross-borough competitions, working with over 900 young people in total. Their enthusiasm and leadership have been outstanding, and their efforts were rewarded in a very special way this Spring!



On Friday 25th April, Hurstmere received a rare honour: a visit from the Premier League trophy itself. Ours was the only school selected on the cup's official tour. The day kicked off with a fantastic workshop for a group of Year 8 students, delivered by Charlton Athletic, followed by a private viewing of the trophy for our Sports Leaders—a moment they truly deserved.

The afternoon was full of excitement as local MP Louie French, Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, visited the school to mark the occasion. The event concluded with the whole school having the chance to view the trophy, and, of course, grab the all-important selfies! It was a brilliant day, and a powerful reminder of what teamwork, leadership, and community can achieve.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 interested in becoming a Sports Leader should listen out in September assemblies for how to apply!



Leading the Way: Hurstmere Students Take Charge of Summer Sport

Our Year 7 Sports Leaders ran their first event in June, welcoming Year 3 pupils to the School Games Change4Life 60 Active Minutes Festival. After several training sessions with Miss Allsop, they were ready to lead a variety of fun games designed to boost agility, balance, and coordination.

At the event, the leaders worked in teams to run five activity stations, including Target Throw, Parachute Games, and Penalty Shoot Out. They ensured every child stayed active, had fun, and learnt new skills. Visiting teachers praised our students for their energy and excellent interaction with the younger children. Well done, boys!



Year 9 students from Hurstmere were selected to take part in the Bexley Young Leaders in Cricket Course, hosted here at school. They trained alongside peers from Bexley Grammar and Beths Grammar, learning the rules of Dynamos Cricket, how to score matches, and how to officiate effectively.

As part of the course, the students were required to complete volunteering hours by helping run the Bexley School Games Dynamos Cricket competitions. It was fantastic to see them grow in confidence, build new skills, and work closely with students from other schools. Several of our young leaders have since gone on to support cricket coaching at their local clubs, inspiring younger players and continuing to develop their leadership skills in the community.



Hurstmere's Year 8 Sports Leaders have been busy training to deliver Rapid Fire— a fun, inclusive KS1 introduction to cricket that focuses on developing batting and fielding skills. The leaders have shown a strong understanding of the game and how to coach the key techniques effectively. They're now looking forward to putting their training into action when they deliver the event—weather permitting, of course!



Leading the Way: Hurstmere Students Take Charge of Summer Sport

Bexley Leadership Academy Hits a Home Run with Baseball Festival!

As part of the Bexley School Games programme, hosted here at Hurstmere, Miss Allsop—our dedicated School Games Organiser—works closely with schools across Bexley to ensure students experience the many benefits of sport and physical activity.

A key strand of this work is the Bexley Leadership Academy, where 18 students from Years 9 and 10 across the borough have been trained in sports leadership. Throughout the year, these students receive coaching and volunteer at a range of sporting events to put their skills into practice.

This term, the leaders took on the challenge of delivering an MLB Baseball Festival for Year 5 pupils from five local schools. With expert training from Greenwich Giants coach Will—who taught them the rules and pitching techniques—they were ready to go.

The festival was a big hit, with students and leaders alike enjoying the chance to learn a new sport and build new skills. The Leadership Academy continues to provide brilliant opportunities for our Hurstmere leaders, and we look forward to growing it further next year.



Year 9 Sports Leaders Inspire at Hurst Primary Football Festival

As part of our community outreach, a group of our Year 9 Sports Leaders visited Hurst Primary School to run a football festival for Year 3 and 4 pupils during their School Sports Week. On a scorching afternoon, the leaders worked with 90 enthusiastic pupils—leading a warm-up, running four skill-based activities, and officiating friendly matches for their groups. With the Women’s Euros taking place this summer, it was especially exciting to see so many talented girls getting involved. Our boys did a fantastic job of encouraging all participants and helping them build their confidence on the pitch. Hurst’s PE Lead praised our students for their professionalism, energy and commitment, and thanked them for giving up their time to create such a positive experience for the younger pupils.



Sticks Up, Game On! Hurstmere Leads the Way in Inspiring Future Hockey Stars

As part of the Bexley School Games programme, we partnered with England Hockey and six of our primary feeder schools to introduce Year 5 pupils to the sport and spark excitement ahead of international fixtures.

In May, Hurstmere hosted a Hockey Skills Festival led by our brilliant Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders. Pupils rotated through six stations focused on dribbling, passing, and shooting. We were joined by expert coaches from Bexleyheath & Belvedere and Burnt Ash Hockey Clubs, who shared tips and encouraged students to get involved locally.

Schools in the programme also received tickets to the Pro League Schools Day at Lee Valley to watch England in action. Two primary schools attended a Pro League Hockey Skills Festival and met players, while another proudly represented Bexley at the London School Games.



Bexley Champions! Year 9 & 10 Athletes Storm to Victory

A huge well done to our Year 9 and 10 Athletics teams, who shone at the Bexley Championships! Competing across a range of events, our students delivered outstanding performances and came away with an impressive haul of medals. Congratulations to all the boys involved—you've done Hurstmere proud!



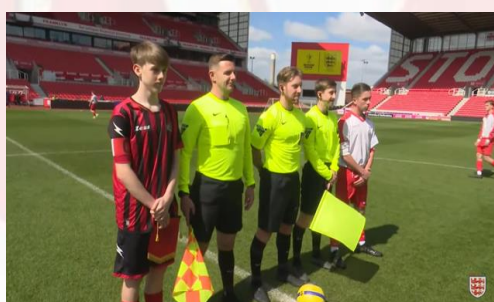
U16 Victory! ESFA National Cup Comes Home to Hurstmere Once Again

Year 11 B Team are crowned National Champions 2025!

Unbelievable achievement from a fantastic group of lads - Well Done!



Congratulations!



More pictures here: <https://www.hurstmere-that.org.uk/specialevents/esfacupfinal2025>

Year 11 WINNERS of the North Kent Cup Final 2025

Year 11 North Kent Final ended in a 2-0 win for Hurstmere vs Stone Lodge!



Excellent performance from all the boys!

Thank you for an amazing 5 years of football!



Sporting Updates and Results



Hurstmere Year 10s 112-8 beat Chis and Sid 110-7 by two runs. An excellent way to start the season.



Year 7A beat WGSB 4-0 to win the North Kent Trophy. An excellent result - well done on winning the Kent Cup this year.



Well done to our Year 8 cricket team for their victory. The team dismissed their opponents for 26 and won by 9 wickets! The team now moves into round 3 of the Kent Cup!



Congratulations to our Year 7B team on their success of winning the North Kent Cup. The boys performed excellently in a convincing win vs Beths in the final.



Hurstmere Year 10s 137 for 4 beat WGSB 103 for 8 by 34 runs. Well done, boys!



Great work from the Year 10 cricket team to battle back from 26-5 to score 120-7 to beat Beths. A brilliant 58 not out from H. Berryman, securing a place in the North Kent Final.



Well done to our Year 8B team for retaining the Kent Cup! A thrilling 3-3 draw against Ravenswood means the trophy is shared - great effort, boys!



Well done to our Year 8, 9 & 10 cricket teams for reaching the North Kent Finals! Year 9 & 10 narrowly lost in close games, while Year 8 won by 50 runs to retain the trophy - congratulations!



Hurstmere faced BGS in our second tennis fixture – a close 10-8 loss, but a great afternoon with strong performances and plenty of fun all round!

WEST STREET ERITH FAMILY HUB



We're here for you

105 WEST STREET, ERITH,
DA8 1AW
Tel: 020 3045 5480
Opening hours: 9am - 5pm
Monday - Friday

"REAL HELP. REAL PEOPLE.
RIGHT HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY"

The Erith Family Hub is here to support you and your family from pregnancy through to your child's 18th birthday. Whether you're a new parent, a growing family, or just looking for advice, we're here for you.



Whether you need a quick chat, practical help, or a safe place to connect with other parents, the Family Hub is your local starting point.

No judgement, no pressure – just support, right when you need it. Feel free to walk in or drop us a call, we're here to help.

We offer:

- Friendly, one-to-one support and guidance
- Parenting, relationship and family advice, workshops and play sessions
- Connections to local services – all in one place
- Help with Health, development, Education and Well-being.



SAMARITANS

The internet, suicide and self-harm Free training webinar for practitioners

Do you feel confident supporting someone who may be using the internet in relation to their self-harm or suicidal feelings?

Are you talking to them about how their online use might affect their wellbeing?

Join our free training webinar.

Samaritans are here to help you have safe conversations about online use.

During the webinar, you will learn:

- How people use the internet in relation to self-harm and suicide
- What the new Online Safety Act means for self-harm and suicide content online
- The role that practitioners can play in supporting people
- How to talk to people about their online use
- How Samaritans can support you in your role

Register to our training webinars

May 28th, 12.30 - 2pm

REGISTER

June 26th, 12.30 - 2pm

REGISTER



www.bexley.gov.uk

Thamesmead Youth Hub

NEW VENUE.
"safe place to be"

Parkway Primary School
Alsike Road
Erith, DA18 4DP

Tuesday is young people in School
Year 6 and 7 – 4.30-7pm
Thursdays young people Year 8
and above – 5.30-8pm

TARGETED YOUTH WORK

Multisport sessions, an outside gym and a variety of workshops around issues affecting young people.

Offering advice, guidance, activities and a safe place to be.

Annie Holloway - 07530275846
Annabelle.holloway@bexley.gov.uk

Thamesmeadyouthhub

AGE 11-18 years

www.bexley.gov.uk/TYS



www.bexley.gov.uk

Sidcup Youth Hub

NEW VENUE.
"safe place to be"

St Andrews Rd,
Sidcup DA14 4SA

Wednesdays 6 - 8.30pm
Young people aged 11-18

Sidcupyouthhub

OPENS 28th MAY

Offering advice, guidance, activities and a safe place to be.

Karen Leach
Karen.leach@bexley.gov.uk
07969 849610

AGE 11-18 years

www.bexley.gov.uk/TYS

Information for Parents

Diary Dates

21st August 2025 - Year 11 - GCSE Results Day



BACK TO SCHOOL : (Week A)

Year 7 - 8.25am : Tuesday 2nd September '25

Year 11 - 9.55am : Tuesday 2nd September '25

Year's 8,9 & 10 - 8.20am : Wednesday 3rd September '25

2025/26 Term Dates are available on our school website

