

Hurstmere News

16th October 2026

Edition 25

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As we reach the end of the first half term of the new academic year, I am delighted to give you an update on all the outstanding progress and achievements that are happening across our school community. As always in our October edition, I would like to begin by congratulating last year's Year 11 pupils, who achieved an excellent set of GCSE results this summer. Their hard work, in partnership with our incredible staff, has truly paid off, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

A new academic year brings a fresh focus on our key priorities as a school, and one of our biggest initiatives has been the introduction of phone pouches. I am delighted to report the significant positive impact they have already had on our school culture. With phones securely stored throughout the school day, students are more focused in lessons, more engaged in their learning and more present in the classroom. Staff have noticed a real difference in concentration and participation. I would like to thank students for adapting so positively, and families for supporting us with this change. We are confident it will continue to help every student make the most of their time at Hurstmere.

Our **teaching and learning** focus this year is cognitive engagement, which means making sure **every student is thinking hard in every lesson**. This half term, staff have worked together on our key classroom strategies, with a particular focus on **mini-whiteboards**, which allow teachers to see at a glance who has understood and who needs more support. Next half term, we will be developing structured talk in lessons, giving students regular opportunities to discuss their ideas, explain their reasoning and use the subject-specific vocabulary of each curriculum area. This will continue to deepen their thinking and strengthen their disciplinary literacy, so they can **read, write and speak like scientists, historians and mathematicians**.

In addition to our work in the classrooms, we have hit the ground running with our Year 11 intervention programme already underway to support pupils as they prepare for their upcoming PPE exams. We have also paired these sessions with 'coached exams' across the core subjects, which give students a walk-through experience focusing on exam technique and approaching different question types. All sessions have been well attended, and I am confident that this extra support will have a positive impact on their performance.

Outside the classroom, the school has been a hive of activity. We were delighted to welcome over **1,200 visitors** to our Open Evening and hosted inspiring visits from Charlton Athletic captain **Lloyd Jones** and our local MP, **Louie French**. Thank you also to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning, and to the Friends of Hurstmere for another fantastic Bingo Night!

Finally, I would like to thank our staff for their dedication, and you, our families, for your continued support. I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable half term, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 2nd November**.

Thriving from Day One: Year 7 Students Settling into Hurstmere



It is a great privilege to be the Raising Standards Leader for Year 7. This role gives me the opportunity to work closely with our students as they begin their journey at Hurstmere, supporting them to engage enthusiastically in school life and encouraging them to make a positive contribution to our community.

Our aim is not only to develop students academically but also to help them grow into confident, responsible young people who can make a meaningful impact on the world around them. I am incredibly proud of how well Year 7 have settled in so far and look forward to supporting them throughout what promises to be an exciting and successful year ahead.

Mr Davies

Raising Standards Leader, Year 7

A Fantastic Start for Year 7!



Our new Year 7 cohort has settled into life at Hurstmere brilliantly.

It's been wonderful to see students enjoy their new surroundings, making new friends, and having fun together during break times and lunchtime activities.

The playground has been full of smiles, laughter, and plenty of opportunities for the boys to get to know one another as they begin their secondary school journey.

We are incredibly proud of how well they have embraced this exciting new chapter and look forward to watching them continue to grow and thrive throughout the years.



Year 10 Triple Science: GCSE Required Practical

Our Year 10 Triple Science students recently completed one of their GCSE required practical investigations, exploring the fascinating world of food chemistry. Using a variety of foods, including apple crumble and custard, scrambled egg, and wholemeal toast, students carried out scientific tests to identify the key macromolecules present, including starch, protein, lipids and glucose. This hands-on experiment forms part of their study of the digestive system and allowed students to apply their scientific knowledge in a practical setting while developing essential laboratory skills.



Year 7 Science: Exploring Cells Under the Microscope

Our Year 7 students have been developing their understanding of cells through an exciting hands-on practical investigation. Students prepared their own microscope slides using thin slices of onion tissue before carefully staining them with iodine solution. By observing the samples under microscopes, they were able to identify key structures within plant cells, including the nucleus and cell wall. This practical experience brought classroom learning to life and helped students gain a deeper appreciation of the building blocks of all living organisms.



Year 8 Probability and Sets

Mr Davies' Year 8 students recently completed their **Probability and Sets Key Piece**, demonstrating excellent mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Throughout the unit, students explored how probability can be used to predict outcomes and applied their understanding of sets to organise and analyse data. They worked confidently with Venn diagrams, sample spaces and probability calculations, showing resilience when tackling more challenging questions. It was fantastic to see students explaining their reasoning clearly and applying their knowledge to a range of real-life scenarios. Well done to all involved for their hard work and commitment to developing their mathematical skills.



Year 9 French Speaking Activity

Our Year 9 students brought their French lessons to life by taking part in a fun and interactive board game activity designed to develop their French vocabulary.

Working with classmates, students practised speaking and listening skills as they used French words and phrases in a range of games and challenges. The activity encouraged confidence in communication, teamwork and friendly competition, while helping students reinforce and expand their vocabulary in an enjoyable way.

Bravo to all of our Year 9 linguists for their enthusiasm and engagement!



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.

Week Ending 11th September 2026

- Year 9 – Rhys N for Ambition
Noah B for all RTRAILS
- Year 10 – Bobby D and Lenny H for Ambition



Week Ending 18th September 2026

- Year 7 – Charlie P for RTRAILS
- Year 8 – Lenny D for Ambition
- Year 9 – Freddy M for Ambition
William R for Teamwork
- Year 10 – Alfie H for Self-Belief
Jesse S for Ambition
- Year 11 – Harry B for RTRAILS



Week Ending 25th September 2026

- Year 8 – Bryan Z for Leadership
- Year 10 – Taner B for Self-Belief
Mason C for Respect
Max K for RTRAILS
- Year 11 – Carter R and Joseph M for RTRAILS
Rocco A for Resilience
Will V for Ambition



Celebrating Excellence: The Principal Rewards Winners Announced

Week Ending 2nd October 2026

Year 7 - Charlie E for Integrity
Lucas K, Cruz A, Harrison T, Bobby M and Seth B for Ambition

Year 9 - Joe D for Respect

Year 10 - Michael O for Leadership
Calum C for Integrity
Alex C for Teamwork

Year 11 - Evan B and Stanley W for Ambition and Self-Belief
Jacob F for all RTRAILS



Week Ending 9th October 2026

Year 8 - Thomas P and Henry S for Respect

Year 9 - Tommy GP for Ambition
Louie F for Leadership
George T for Resilience

Year 10 - Jesse W for Resilience
George F and Jacob B for Ambition and Self-Belief



🌟 Principal's Rewards 🌟

Presented by the Principal every Friday morning, these prestigious awards recognise students who demonstrate our RTRAILS values in an excellent manner.

A fantastic achievement and a moment to be proud of! 🏆 ✨

Celebrating Excellence: The Principal Rewards Winners Announced

Week Ending 16th October 2026

Year 7 - Kayin F for Ambition
Billy D for Leadership

Year 8 - Bryan Z for Resilience and Ambition

Year 10 - Aaron R for Resilience and Ambition
Lincoln B for Resilience and Leadership
Mason A, Taner B, Charlie T and Ben P for Respect

Year 11 - Will V for Self-belief



#ProudToBeHurstmere

A Celebration of Success - Prize Giving Evening

Our annual **Prize Giving Evening, A Celebration of Success**, was a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students across a wide range of academic subjects, extracurricular activities and personal accomplishments. The evening highlighted the hard work, dedication and resilience shown by students throughout the year, with awards presented to those who have excelled both in and out of the classroom. We were delighted to welcome families, staff and guests to share in this special occasion and to celebrate the many successes of our school community.

Congratulations to all award winners and to every student whose efforts have contributed to another successful year. We are incredibly proud of you all.



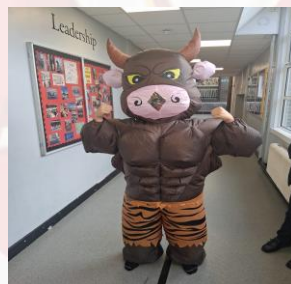
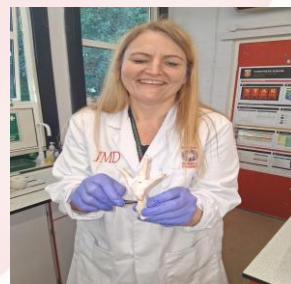
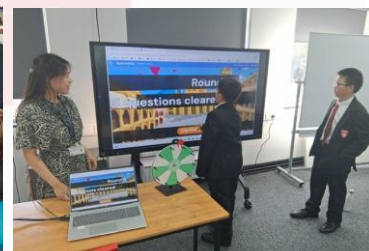
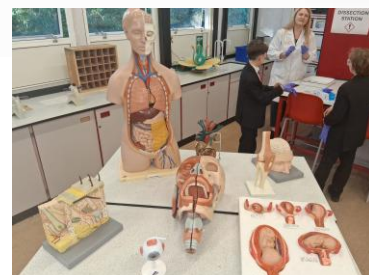
Safety in the Community

On Monday 14th September, our Year 7 and 8 students had a visit from the police to talk about their safety in the community and online.



Open Evening 2026

On 24th September 2026, we were delighted to welcome over 1,200 visitors to our Open Evening. The evening provided a fantastic opportunity to showcase everything that makes Hurstmere such a special school. From inspiring lessons and engaging activities to meeting our dedicated staff and students, visitors gained a real insight into our vibrant school community. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event such a success.





Thank you to everybody who participated in our wonderful Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September 2026.

THANK YOU!



Charlton Athletic Captain Inspires Hurstmere Students

We were delighted to welcome Charlton Athletic captain Lloyd Jones to Hurstmere School, where he spent time speaking with our students about the highs and lows of his football career. Lloyd shared valuable insights into the importance of hard work, resilience, determination and learning from setbacks, inspiring students to stay focused on their goals both in and out of the classroom. During the visit, students proudly explained our **RTRAILS** values and how they play an important role in daily life at Hurstmere. Lloyd reinforced the importance of being respectful, looking after your wellbeing, showing kindness, and supporting those around you. His honest and motivating message encouraged students to believe in themselves, work hard, and always look out for one another. We would like to thank Lloyd for taking the time to visit and inspire our students with his experiences and positive advice. It was a memorable and meaningful opportunity for all involved.



* Respect * Teamwork * Resilience * Ambition * Integrity * Leadership * Self-Belief



BINGO Night at Hurstmere!

What a fantastic evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition!

A huge thank you to the **wonderful Friends of Hurstmere (FOH)** for organising another brilliant event.

Their dedication and voluntary efforts bring our school community together while raising vital funds that make a real difference for our students.

From the excitement of shouting “BINGO!” to the smiles all around, it was a night to remember.

Thank you to everyone who came along – we hope you had just as much fun as the FOH gang did!



Year 7 Christmas Card Competition 2026



Get creative and show off your artistic talents in our annual **Year 7 Christmas Card Competition!**

If you would like to enter, please collect a competition template from the **School Office** and design your very own festive Christmas card.

The winning design will be entered into the Trust-wide competition, with the chance to win an exciting prize and have your artwork featured on the official Trust Christmas card.



Collect your template from the School Office



All completed designs must be handed in by Tuesday 3rd November 2026



Remember to use the whole template and make your design as colourful and creative as possible!

We can't wait to see your festive masterpieces! 🎅 ✨

Good luck! 🎄 🏆

Sport at Hurstmere



Year 8 were defeated 4-0 by Rutlish School in the first round of the ESFA Cup. Despite the result, the boys represented the school well, showing commitment and determination from start to finish.

Hurstmere Year 7
Win 6 - 0
in the ESFA

Hurstmere faced Bexley Grammar School in the North Kent Cricket Competition. While we were unsuccessful this time, the team performed admirably and should be proud of their efforts. Well done to everyone who took part.



A fantastic performance from Year 7, as Hurstmere stormed to an emphatic **9-0 victory over Cleeve Park**. The team played with skill, determination and great teamwork from start to finish, producing an outstanding display and some excellent goals. Congratulations to all the players on a brilliant result and for representing the school so well.

Sports Leaders at Hurstmere



**BEXLEY
SCHOOL
GAMES**

A fantastic example of partnership working between Hurstmere Boys and Sherwood Park as part of the School Sports Games Partnership.

A huge thank you to Louie French, our local MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup, for taking the time to visit and speak with our pupils. Louie shared his passion for promoting sport and physical activity within our local community, inspiring students from both schools to recognise the value of participation, teamwork and healthy lifestyles. We are grateful for his support and commitment to encouraging opportunities for young people across the area.





On Par for Success! 🏌️

Huge congratulations to **Freddie**, who has enjoyed an outstanding year in golf, representing both his club and Kent, while competing at some of the highest levels of junior golf in the country.

Among Freddie's impressive achievements are winning **Division 1** of a major competition at Sundridge Park with a superb **one-under-par round of 70**, and competing in the prestigious **Reid Trophy**, England Golf's premier Under-14 tournament, featuring many of the top young golfers from across Europe. Freddie also proudly represented **Kent** in the South of England Trophy, helping his team reach the final and secure **second place in the South East England County Championship** after an incredibly close finish. Impressively, Freddie won both of his matches during the competition.

Following a remarkable three-under-par round of **66**, Freddie's handicap has fallen to an exceptional **1.1**, highlighting the fantastic progress he continues to make.

To top off an incredible season, Freddie has qualified to play at the world-famous **Royal St George's Golf Club** after finishing 10th in the Order of Merit standings against competitors up to the age of 18.

He will compete in the final at the end of October.

We are incredibly proud of Freddie's achievements and wish him the very best of luck at Royal St George's! 🎉 🏆 🏌️



Flying High on the Motocross Track!

Jack, one of our talented students, recently took to the track to compete in a thrilling motocross event.

Demonstrating courage, focus and a real passion for the sport, he tackled challenging terrain and fierce competition with confidence.

Congratulations on a fantastic achievement, and we wish him continued success in future events!





Diary Dates

Term Dates

Term 2 - 2nd November 2026 - 18th December 2026

Term 3 - 5th January 2027 - 11th February 2027

Term 4 - 22nd February 2027 - 25th March 2027

Term 5 - 12th April 2027 - 28th May 2027

Term 6 - 7th June 2027 - 21st July 2027

2027 Term Dates are available on the School website



Important Safety Notice



For the safety of our students, please do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines or in the area marked 'Keep Clear' outside the school entrance when dropping off or collecting pupils.

This area must remain clear at all times

We ask all parents to park safely and legally

Children's safety must come first