



# Harlow Fields School and College

## Family Newsletter

30th January 2026 Issue 10

Dear Families and Carers

### The Paul Cash Therapy Suite is now officially open!



Last week, we opened a very special new space at Harlow Fields – the Paul Cash Therapy Suite – in loving memory of our much-missed Site Manager, Paul Cash.

Paul passed away on 20 January 2025, and he is still thought about every day by staff and pupils. Paul was one of those people who seemed to be everywhere at once – always helping, always fixing, always checking in on the children. He knew everyone, and he looked out for our pupils as if they were his own.

Paul worked behind the scenes, but everything he did was for the children and young people at Harlow Fields. He was kind, cheeky, warm-hearted and full of humour, and he brought a smile to so many of us, even on the busiest days. His loss left a great big hole in our school community.

Following Paul's death, many families and friends made generous donations in his memory. We wanted to use these in a way that truly reflected who Paul was and what mattered to him – our pupils. These donations have now been used to create a dedicated therapy suite, giving something lasting and meaningful back to the children he cared so deeply about.

The new therapy suite will be used for speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and reflexology. It provides a calm, welcoming space where important work happens every day – helping pupils to communicate, regulate their emotions and develop physically. It is a place of quiet progress and care.

The suite was officially opened on 22 January 2026 in a quiet and respectful moment led by Paul's wife, Karen, with Tom, the family's undertaker, supporting. It was a time for reflection and remembrance.

Many staff and pupils worked together to make this space truly special. Bronte coordinated the whole display and spent hours carefully preparing and cutting each piece by hand. Natalie created the beautiful West Ham-themed remembrance balloons, which felt especially fitting for Paul. Al respectfully designed the West Ham theme for the opening, including the ribbon in Paul's team colours, and helped assemble many of the items in the room.

Pupils and staff across the school also contributed, showing just how much Paul is still part of our community.

The Paul Cash Therapy Suite will ensure that Paul's legacy lives on at Harlow Fields – supporting our pupils every day, just as he always did, with care, kindness and heart.



**Please see the video on our website (huge thank you to Molly Grove for this work!)**

 <https://harlowfields.essex.sch.uk/about-us/therapies> 

## Harlow Fields School and College – Term Dates

### 2025–2026

#### **Spring:**

5 Jan – 27 Mar

Half term: 16–20 Feb

*Early finish 27 Mar:* Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

#### **Summer:**

13 Apr – 20 July

Half term: 25–29 May

INSET: 1 June, 20 July

*Early finish 17 July:* Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm



### **Important School Events**

#### **February:**

6 Feb NSPCC Number Day | 11 Feb Safer Internet Day | 13 Feb Family Performance (Harlow Brass Band)

#### **March:**

2 Mar Parent Coffee Morning

6 Mar World Book Day & Come and Learn With Me

W/c 9 Mar Parent Meetings

16 Mar PMLD Merit Assembly (2pm)

17–23 Mar Neurodiversity Celebration Week

17 Mar Sixth Form Merit Assembly (2pm)

18 Mar Upper School Merit Assembly (2pm)

19 Mar Lower School Merit Assembly (2pm)

19 Mar Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)

27 Mar Family Performance (Harlow Brass Band)

#### **April:**

20–30 Apr Finalise classes for 2026–27

23 Apr Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)

#### **June:**

8 Jun Publish class staffing for 2026–27 | Parent Coffee Morning (9.30am)

12 Jun Come and Learn With Me | Year 14 Leavers' Event

25 Jun Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)

26 Jun Prom

W/c 22 Jun Parent Meetings (end of year reports)

27 Jun PTA School Fete

#### **July:**

3 Jul Sports Day

9 Jul Come and Learn With Me

10 Jul Family Picnic

13 Jul Sixth Form Merit Assembly (2pm)

14 Jul Upper School Merit Assembly (2pm)

15 Jul Lower School Merit Assembly (2pm)

16 Jul PMLD Merit Assembly (2pm)

17 Jul Family Performance (Harlow Brass Band)

## **2026–2027**

### **Autumn:**

1–2 Sept INSET | 3 Sept pupils return | 23 Oct break up

Half term: 26–30 Oct

2 Nov return | 27 Nov INSET | 18 Dec end

*Early finish 18 Dec:* Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

### **Spring:**

4 Jan INSET | 5 Jan pupils return | 12 Feb break up

Half term: 15–19 Feb

22 Feb return | 25 Mar end

*Early finish 25 Mar:* Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

### **Summer:**

12 Apr INSET | 13 Apr pupils return | 3 May Bank Holiday | 28 May break up

Half term: 31 May–4 June

7 June return | 21 July end

*Early finish 21 July:* Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

### **INSET (no pupils):**

1–2 Sept 2026 | 27 Nov 2026 | 4 Jan 2027 | 12 Apr 2027

***Please forgive the typos in previous publication***




## **HFSC Food Bank**

Available to any family who may need it.

 Opposite the Headteacher's Office




 Donations welcome via reception

 Quiet, confidential collection available

Supporting one another, always.

## **Facilities for Hire**

Planning a birthday or celebration?

 Large halls |  Specialist playgrounds |  Sensory areas

Perfect for inclusive, relaxed events where every child feels welcome.

# 🌟 **Star Pupils of the Fortnight!** 🌟

*We are so proud to share this week's pupil nominations from across the school. These pupils have been recognised for their fantastic attitudes, progress and kindness — well done to all of you!*

## **Picasso Class – Brody**

*Brody's attendance has been amazing since returning in January, and he is making brilliant progress in communicating his wants to staff. Fantastic effort, Brody!*

## **Elm Class – Alexander**

*Alexander has been nominated for listening carefully, following instructions and communicating his emotions with adults in a positive way. Well done, Alexander!*

## **Blossom Class – Blossom**

*Blossom has shown great improvement in her self-regulation skills. We are very proud of the progress she is making.*

## **Willow Class – Matin**


*Matin has been working extremely hard on his communication. He is engaging more in lessons and confidently initiating interaction with adults. Brilliant work, Matin!*

## **Roding Class – Emily**

*Emily has been nominated for her kindness and her willingness to always help her peers and staff. What a wonderful role model.*

## **Roding Class – Joseph**

*Joseph is always engaged in lessons, listens carefully to staff and is a kind and supportive friend to others. Well done, Joseph!*

 **A huge well done to all our nominees this week — we are very proud of you!**





## Donations Needed for Our Home Management Room

We are currently seeking kind donations of everyday household items to support learning in our Home Management Room – a vital space where our young people develop important independent living skills in a safe, supportive and realistic environment.

As a specialist school and college, we place great importance on helping our students build confidence with real-life tasks such as cooking, cleaning, organising and personal care. Practising these skills using familiar, everyday items plays a key role in preparing them for adulthood, independence and life beyond education.

We would be extremely grateful for donations of items such as:



### Household & Kitchen Items

- Crockery, mugs and cutlery
- Pots, pans and cooking utensils
- Storage items (baskets, boxes, organisers)



### Home & Cleaning Items

- Cleaning equipment and supplies
- Soft furnishings (e.g. cushions, throws)
- Bedding (new or freshly laundered)

All donated items will be used directly with students to support hands-on learning, helping them practise daily routines, build independence and gain confidence in a realistic home setting.



Please bring donations to:

FAO: Lorna – School Office / College Office

Thank you, as always, for your continued kindness and support — it truly makes a difference to our young people's futures. 💚