



HOPE HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter Term 1 2025

Headteacher's Message - Autumn 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first term, we are delighted to reflect on what has been an inspiring and successful start to the academic year at Hope High School. From the very first day in September, our corridors and classrooms have been filled with energy, creativity, and a real sense of community.

We began by welcoming our new Year 7 learners, who have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, whether mastering essential workshop skills in Design & Technology or creating their very first BlockBots. Their confidence and teamwork have been wonderful to see. Across the school, students have immersed themselves in exciting practical learning: from pottery and pasta-making to festive baking and laser-cut designs for our Christmas Fayre. These experiences have not only developed technical skills but also resilience, independence, and pride in achievement.

This term has also been rich in enrichment opportunities. Highlights include our cross-curricular Music and Literacy Day, inspiring careers sessions, and memorable trips, from exploring the immersive room at West Lancs High to visiting Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Liverpool Central Library. Each event has broadened horizons and strengthened cultural awareness.

Our community spirit has shone brightly too. Together, we raised an incredible £219 for Macmillan Cancer Support, celebrated Mental Health Awareness Day, and marked Remembrance with heartfelt tributes and creative projects. Anti-Bullying Week reminded us of the power of kindness, and our partnerships with local charities have continued to make a meaningful difference.

As we look forward to the festive season and the new year ahead, we want to thank our students for their hard work, our staff, and Governors for their dedication, and you, our parents, and carers for your unwavering support. This term has been a true celebration of learning, creativity, and community. We are excited for all that 2026 will bring.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Mrs. Dunbavin & Mrs. Fletcher

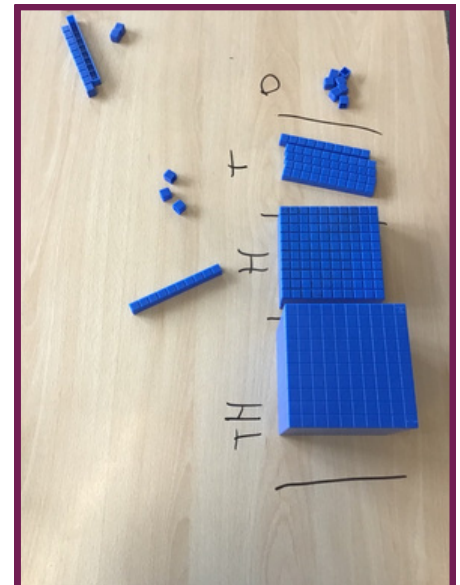
Welcoming Our New Year 7 Learners!

At the beginning of September we had the pleasure of welcoming a fantastic group of new students into the Design & Technology room for their first practical session, and what a start!

They got stuck into learning how to use a vice safely and correctly, including how to bend aluminium rod with precision and care.

This group also had their first go with the pillar drill, gaining confidence in how to drill through timber accurately while understanding the importance of setup, safety, and technique.

It's been brilliant to see their enthusiasm and focus as they begin their DT journey. We're proud of how quickly they've picked up these essential workshop skills—and we can't wait to see what they create next!



September

Art Interventions

We have had some lovely art interventions at the start of the academic year, our students fully immersing themselves in creative exploration. Our pottery sessions have been a particular highlight, giving everyone the chance to get a little messy while developing their skills on the wheel. Students have enjoyed experimenting with throwing small-scale pots, which has encouraged them to discover their senses, build confidence through tactile play, and practice patience and focus. It's been wonderful to see their creativity flourish and their appreciation for the artistic process grow with each session.



September

KS3 Food Tech is cooking up a storm!

Our students had been learning essential knife skills — mastering the bridge and claw techniques while preparing colourful fruit salads.

They were also working through their Food Practical Skill Passports, using Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food resources to peer assess and build confidence in the kitchen.

Worksheets and hands-on activities helped embed their knowledge, making learning both fun and practical!

In enrichment, we baked up treats, students took them home.

Don't forget to share your home bakes with us—we would love to see your creations!



September

A huge THANK YOU to all our amazing parents & carers, staff, and students for supporting our Macmillan Coffee Morning at Hope High School!

Together we raised an incredible £219.00 to help Macmillan Cancer Support continue their vital work.

We're so proud of the kindness and generosity shown by our school community – every cake baked, every cuppa poured, and every donation made a difference.



September

Our students dived into two tasty new dishes: Dip & Dippers and the ever popular Croque Monsieur! These recipes help build confidence with layering, grilling, and flavour pairing—and they're already proving a hit in the classroom.

Friday's enrichment session, Goopy Chocolate Cookies —a rich, indulgent treat that's simple enough to recreate at home were baked!

After assessing our Year 7's, a few have been specially invited to join this session and show off their budding kitchen skills with the other students.

We're so proud of their progress!

Some students have already asked for a copy of the recipe—if you'd like one too, just let us know and we'll make sure you get a copy to take home.



October

Year 10 Construction – Building Skills & Bug Hotels! What a fantastic start to the course! Our Year 10 students kicked off with an exciting introductory project: creating Bug Hotels using recycled materials and offcuts of wood—a brilliant way to combine sustainability with practical skills.

The focus has been on accurate measuring and cutting, reinforcing safe use of key equipment and tools. Students have also been researching existing products to support their learning outcomes and inspire their own designs.

We've just started building the roofs, learning how to strengthen this area first to ensure a solid structure. It's been great to see their creativity and teamwork in action!

Watch this space to see how these amazing projects evolve—we can't wait to showcase the final pieces!



October

More DT Fun with Our Year 7s!

Both classes have now had a go at using the spirit level properly, tried out different hammers, and a few have even moved on to using the handheld drill—building on what they learned with the pillar drill last week.

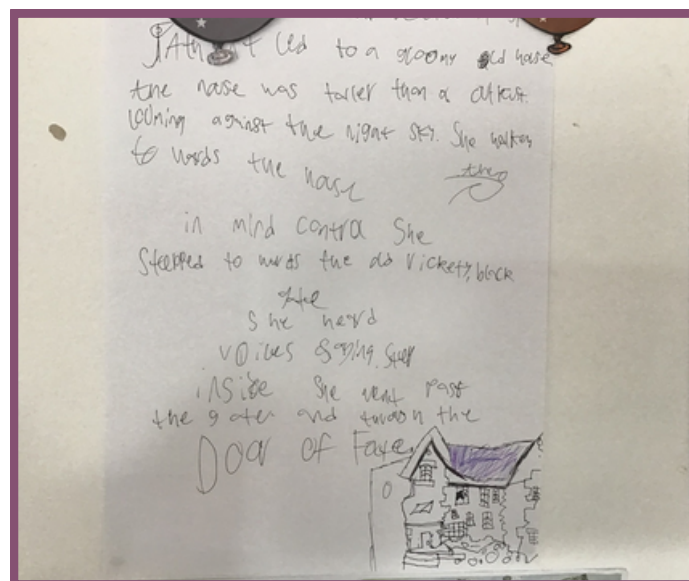
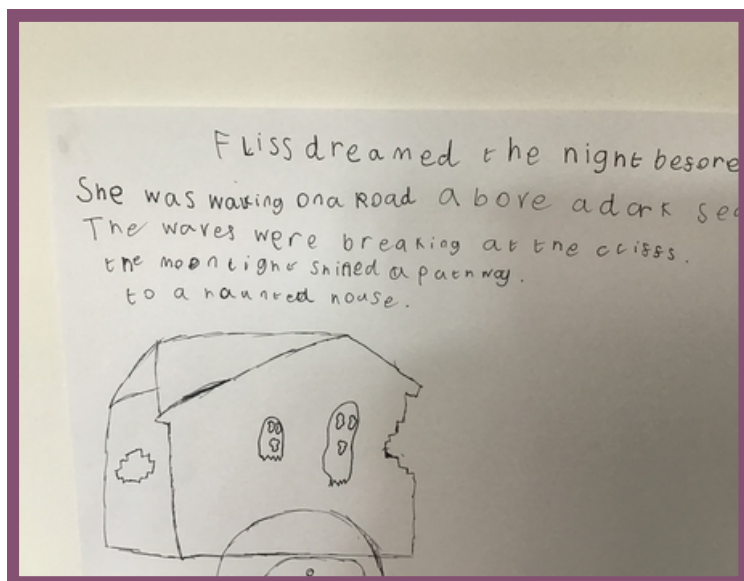
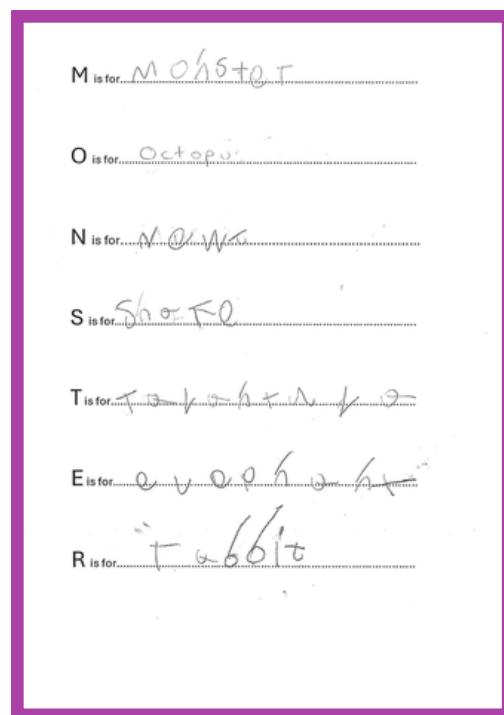
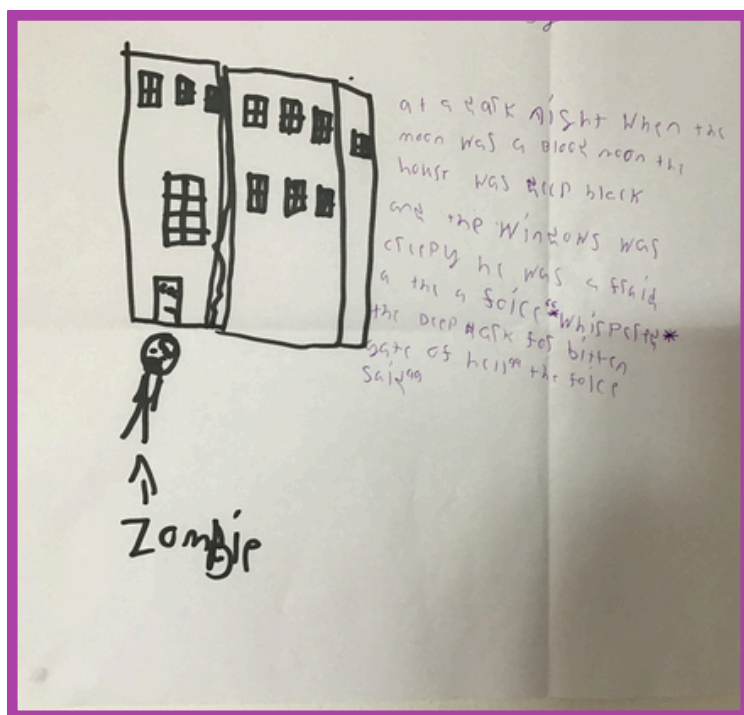
It's amazing how quickly they've picked things up. In just a short time, they've shown brilliant listening and focus, which has helped them get stuck into these practical skills safely and confidently.

We're really proud of how they're growing already—and we can't wait to see what they tackle next!



October

To celebrate World Poetry Day, pupils here at Hope High School showcased their creativity by writing their very own poems – and they were truly fabulous! Students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the activity, drawing inspiration from a selection of poems that were read and discussed in class.



October

On Friday 3rd of October, Hope High held a cross-curricular music and literacy day. We welcomed Lancashire Music Service's exciting music bus and KS3 pupils had a wonderful time learning about and playing classical instruments such as violin, saxophone, clarinet and trumpet. Meanwhile in class, pupils learned about how music can influence our mood and emotions whilst also developing emotional literacy, and also how music is used in sport and film. Year 7 pupils created amazing designs for music inspired t-shirts; and in Art, pupils designed their own album covers. Throughout the day, pupils have developed their vocabulary and oracy skills; sharing and listening to each others' opinions and ideas.

Enrichment was also music themed: we welcomed a live student band from TMP college, set up instruments to play in the Year 11 room and some pupils even watched a musical recorded live on stage. Overall we had a memorable day and we are so proud of our pupils for trying something new, being open to new experiences and for playing musical instruments with enthusiasm!



October

Food Spotlight: Pasta-Making with Our Pathway Students!

Last week, our Hospitality & Catering students, took on a brand-new culinary challenge — making fresh pasta from scratch! From mixing and kneading the dough to rolling and shaping their own tagliatelle, they embraced every step with focus, creativity, and independence.

It was incredible to see their confidence grow as they worked through the process, problem-solved, and supported one another. The classroom was filled with determination (and a little flour!) as each student produced their own delicious batch of pasta.

We're so proud of how well they worked independently and how enthusiastically they engaged with this new skill. Our Food department continues to be a brilliant space for building life skills, resilience, and self-belief — and this pasta-making session was a perfect example.



October

DT was buzzing with Music Day inspiration

They designed their own music-inspired T-shirts — full of colour, creativity, and personality — and we laminated them to keep those designs looking fresh. Some even had a go at using a tenon saw to cut a line in wood, so they could use it as a stand for their T-shirt — a skill they've been learning over the past few lessons. Safe to say, they smashed it!

Such a great mix of imagination and hands-on learning. Well done, Year 7!

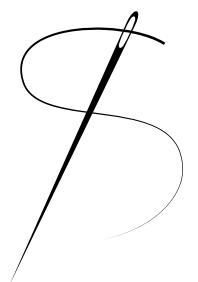


October

Inspired by the amazing felt artists Lucy Sparrow and Holly Levell, our Aspire class have been busy bringing their sweet-themed cushion designs to life!

We're currently in the thick of tracing, marking, and cutting out shapes for their sweet wrapper-inspired cushions — and they're looking fantastic already. Our pupil has even finished stitching the Cornflakes section of his cushion, and it's beautifully done!

The class has spent time learning a variety of stitches (and how to stitch their names with a back stitch!) before diving into their masterpieces. Can't wait to see the final results — they're going to be brilliant!



October

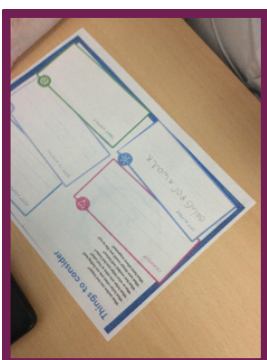
♥ Hope High School Celebrates Mental Health Awareness Day ♥

Today, Hope High School is proud to join communities around the world in recognising Mental Health Awareness Day — a time to promote understanding, compassion, and open conversations about mental well-being. 🌱

Students and staff are taking part in a variety of uplifting activities throughout the day.

Together, we're learning that taking care of our mental health is just as important as taking care of our physical health.

Let's continue to support one another, break the stigma, and remind everyone that it's okay to ask for help. ♥



October

DT Pathway Update: Bread-Making Success!

Our Pathway students continued building their practical skills in Design Technology by making fresh bread from scratch. From measuring ingredients to kneading and shaping their dough, each student worked independently and showed great focus throughout the process.

The classroom was full of energy (and the smell of freshly baked bread!) as students followed each step with care and confidence. It was fantastic to see them take ownership of their work and produce such brilliant results.

Well done to everyone involved — these sessions are a great way to build independence, life skills, and pride in their achievements.



October



Another inspiring careers session — this time with ESPFA Academy!

A huge thank you to Mark for coming in and sharing his insights with year 10 and 11 — your presence made a real impact! Discussing future pathways, personal goals, and the skills that will shape their journeys beyond school.

Big thanks to ESPFA for the opportunity to connect with these young minds. Watching them explore their potential and ask the right questions about their futures is exactly why we do this.

Here's to building confidence, sparking ambition, and opening door.





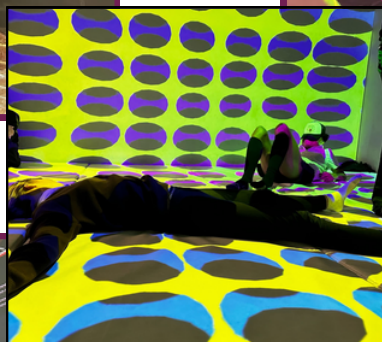
October

This term, a group of students went on an exciting trip to West Lanc's High School to visit their Immersive Room.

The visit allowed us to step into a world where technology and imagination come together in a whole new way. Using projection, surround sound, and interactive lighting, the room transformed into different environments — from the depths of the ocean to outer space, and even back in time to board the Titanic!

Students found that the Immersive Room was a place where they could engage with the interactive elements, as well as fully relax and be mindful.

At the end of the visit, we had a chance to reflect on what we'd experienced and share our favourite moments. Students described the room as "relaxing," "astonishing," and "really cool!"



November



REMEMBRANCE DAY REFLECTIONS

On 11th November, we visited local memorial sites to honor the brave men and women who served and sacrificed for our freedom. Surrounded by wreaths and poppies, we paused in silence to reflect on their courage and the enduring legacy they left behind.

Throughout the day, students engaged in meaningful class activities and created wonderful pieces of art to commemorate this important occasion. It was a heartfelt tribute and a reminder to ensure their memory lives on. In Year 8, a Remembrance Christmas tree was erected decorated with hand crafted ornaments of poppies and a soldier.



November

Cooking Spotlight: Veggie Creations!

KS3 students have been blending up Vegetable Chowder, Minestrone, and Tomato Soup — building confidence and mastering safe kitchen skills.

KS4 have taken things further with their own soups, hearty root veg traybakes, and fresh bread to match.

Over the past few weeks, students have shown fantastic progress, mastering practical skills and growing in confidence. These sessions are not only about cooking but also about building life skills, resilience, and pride in their achievements.

Fantastic progress all round, with enrichment cooking gaining momentum as we head towards festive coloured candy cane biscuits in December.

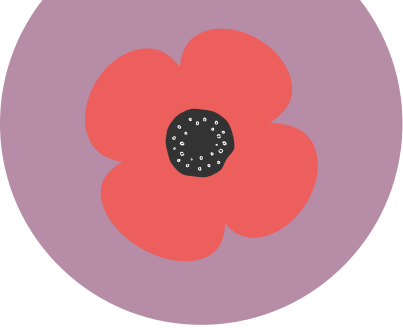


November



'During 'Anti Bullying Week' students took part each day in sessions focusing on healthy friendships, teamwork, social skills, and Kindness'. The theme this year was 'Power for Good'. Students engaged in scavenger hunts, board games, and sports challenges.



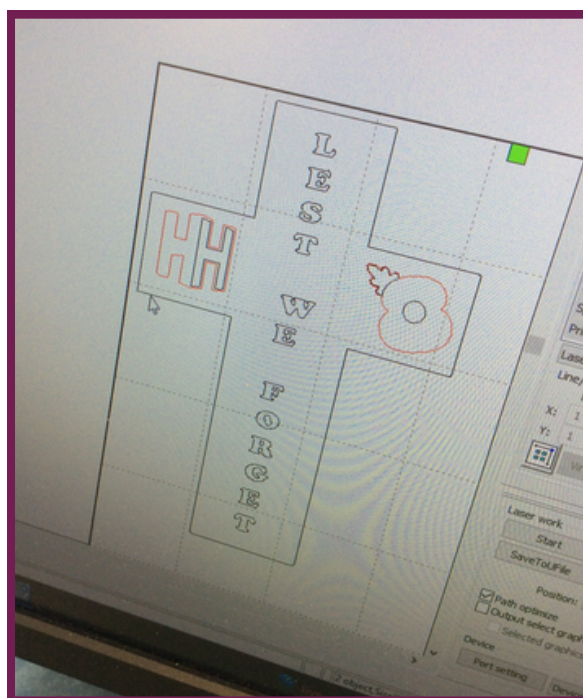


November

DT Pathway Spotlight: Remembrance Projects

Our DT students put their workshop skills into practice by using recycled wood to create unique memorial pieces. They used hand drills to form poppy plants and coloured a variety of shapes, which came together as a striking sea of remembrance.

Two creative outcomes were placed at the memorial during the visit, while one remains proudly in our school foyer for visitors to see. Students also took home their one-off pieces — a meaningful way to showcase skill, creativity, and respect.



November



The Art pathways class were able to enjoy beautiful blue skies and plenty of sunshine at Yorkshire Sculpture Park last week. There were plenty of pieces to inspire the creative minds of our students.



November

'Courtesy of 'into film' students at Hope high school had the opportunity to watch 'Ocean' by David Attenborough in Crosby Plaza Cinema. Crosby Plaza Cinema was built in 1939 and still had original features. The setting made to move even more thought provoking and beautiful.

One student quote ' I felt sad to think that's what we are doing to our oceans'.

INTO
FILM



INTO
FILM



INTO
FILM





November

Our trip to TMP in Wigan was such a fun experience! Students got stuck into creating images with gaming software, tried out loads of different music equipment, and had a great laugh especially when our pupil treated us all to "Baby Shark" on the keyboard.

It was a brilliant day full of creativity and smiles, and we're excited to go back with students who are keen to explore more in gaming and music.

Another pupil produced his own hand drawn "Godzilla" character, which the Games Designer then transformed into a unique Dino gaming character based on his idea. We saw some fantastic creations—both hand drawn and digital—using the Blender app on game design computers and iPads. Look out for the Boom-Wackers we have purchased for our students.



November

A huge thank you to the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Team for visiting our students!

They came in to work with Year 10 & 11, but after getting involved in the hands-on activities, they kindly stayed on so Year 7, 8 & Aspire could also join in and chat with them.

Well done to some of our pupils for trying on the firefighter uniform—and lots of our students had a go at wearing one of the safety helmets too. It was a brilliant experience all round.

Partway through the visit, the crew were called away to attend a car accident and had to use some of the very equipment they had just been showing our students. This really highlighted the importance of their work and gave our young people a real sense of how vital those skills and tools are in everyday emergencies.

The team told us how much they enjoyed the visit and thanked us for inviting them. We're hoping to welcome them back again soon—hopefully at our Christmas Fayre!





thank
★ you ★

Hope High School staff and students would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to The Brick, The Storehouse Project, and The Birchwood Centre Food Bank for their incredible kindness and generosity over the past few years. Your continued donations, support, and commitment to our school community have made a truly meaningful difference in the lives of our young people.

Your contributions have not only supported our students' well-being, but have also shown them the power of compassion, community, and working together for a brighter future. We are deeply appreciative of everything you have done—and continue to do—for us.

Thank you, sincerely, and a million times over! ♥





D e c e m b e r

Hope High School Christmas Fayre – 16th December

Our DT workshop has been buzzing with creativity in the run-up to the Fayre! Students have been busy producing some incredible laser-cut pieces that will be available to buy, including: Unique gonks, beautiful baubles on stands, Football team designs and “67” one-off designs.

To showcase these masterpieces, our students have also helped build two Christmas trees, which will proudly display the creations during the event.

Come along, support our talented students, and maybe take home a handmade festive treasure!





D e c e m b e r

🍴🌟 Food Technology at the Christmas Fayre & Autumn Term 🌟🍴

Our KS4 students have been busy in the kitchen creating delicious treats for the Fayre — including chilli jam and pickled cabbage that smell absolutely divine! Be quick... these jars won't last long!

Some of the amazing Candy Cane, marble style biscuits Mrs Bourke kindly made for sensory time last week , which our enrichment group will be baking again this Friday in our final food lesson of 2025. What a fantastic way to round off the year, celebrating the confidence and skills our students have developed across a wide variety of dishes.

👩🍳 This term KS3 students have mastered:

Fruit Fusion & Dip and Dipper; Croque Monsieur & Pizza Toast; Tropical Granola Bars & Fruit Flapjacks; Vegetable Chowder & Minestrone Soup; Spicy Tomato Soup & Great Green Soup; Fresh Coleslaw & Festive Biscuits;

👩🍳 Friday Enrichment favourites include:

Jam Buns & Lemon Drizzle Mini Muffins; Gooey Chocolate Cookies & Gingerbread Cake; Banana Muffins & Orange Shortbread; Jam Tarts & No-Bake Cheesecake; Puff Apple Tarts & Spiced Coloured Christmas Biscuits





December

Year 9 DT Project Success!

This week our Year 9 students proudly completed their phone/headphone stations — a fantastic project that has seen them master their CAD CAM skills using 2D Design, while also developing their ability to access Teams correctly in preparation for the world of work.

The project combined both wood and metalwork, with students learning how to bend aluminium rod to precise 90° angles using heat they generated themselves. Each base has been personalised with unique designs, carefully positioned to attach their wooden rests and bent aluminium rods.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and delighted that they can now take these creations home to celebrate their hard work.

Looking ahead, we're excited to start the new year project, where students will explore how different materials perform in the workshop — another step in their journey of creativity and skill-building.





December

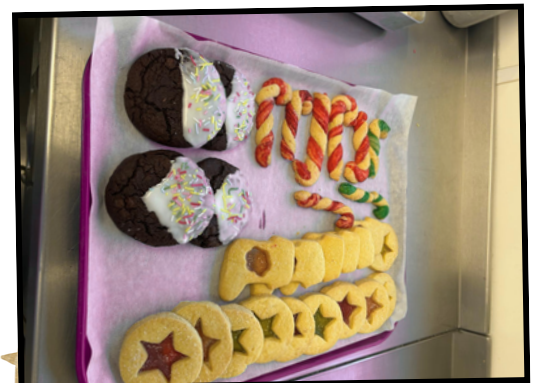
Food Technology- & Autumn Term and the Christmas Fayre

Our KS4 students have been busy in the kitchen creating delicious treats for the Fayre — including chilli jam and pickled cabbage that smell absolutely divine! Be quick... these jars won't last long!

Mrs Bourke has delighted us this week with Glazed Sweet Biscuits, Pudding-designed Biscuits, and finally Candy Cane Biscuits — which our enrichment group will be baking again this Friday in our final food lesson of 2025. What a fantastic way to round off the year, celebrating the confidence and skills our students have developed across a wide variety of dishes.

This term KS3 students have mastered:

- -Fruit Fusion & Dip and Dipper
- -Croque Monsieur & Pizza Toast
- -Tropical Granola Bars & Fruit Flapjacks
- -Vegetable Chowder & Minestrone Soup
- -Spicy Tomato Soup & Great Green Soup
- -Fresh Coleslaw & Festive Biscuits
- Friday Enrichment favourites include:
- -Jam Buns & Lemon Drizzle Mini Muffins
- -Goopy Chocolate Cookies & Gingerbread Cake
- -Banana Muffins & Orange Shortbread
- -Jam Tarts & No-Bake Cheesecake
- -Puff Apple Tarts & Spiced Coloured Christmas Biscuits





D e c e m b e r

Hope High School – KS4 Taster Day at Southport College

Our Year 10 and 11 students had a fantastic opportunity this week to step into the shoes of college learners during a full day of practical taster sessions at Southport College. Students signed up to explore one of four exciting pathways:

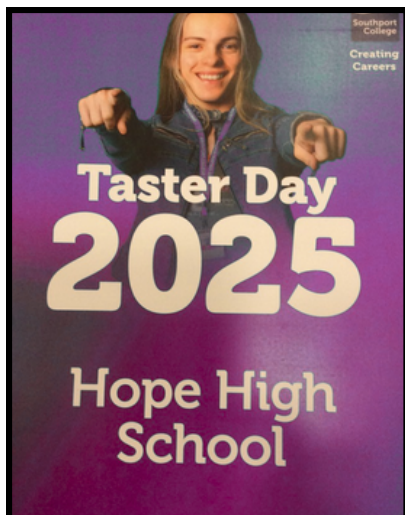
- Art & Design
- Engineering
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Painting & Decorating

Every single student threw themselves into the challenge, embracing new skills and producing some brilliant outcomes – from creative artwork and wooden joints to stamped metal pieces wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

At Hope High, we are always looking for ways to broaden horizons and prepare our young people for their next steps. This visit gave our KS4 learners a real taste of college life, including a lively round of Music Bingo after lunch – a regular feature at Southport College. Our students were quick to join in, with some even singing along to tunes from across the decades!

We're already planning more enrichment trips in the new year.

Well done to all our students for representing Hope High so brilliantly – we're proud of the way you embraced the day and made the most of every opportunity.





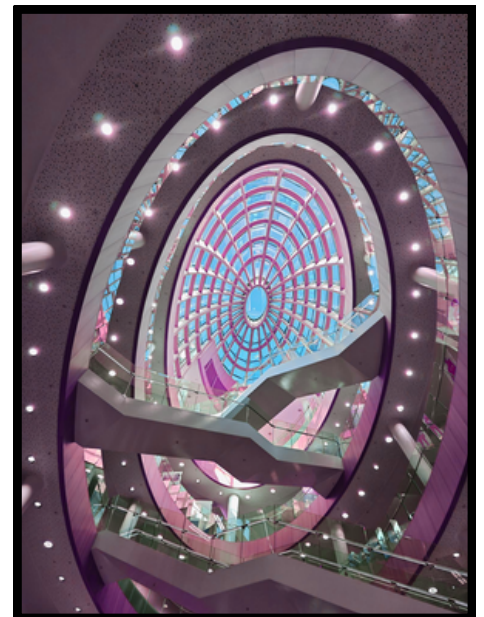
D e c e m b e r

KS3 & Aspire English Trip – Liverpool Adventure

Our KS3 and Aspire students enjoyed a fantastic English trip to Liverpool Central Library followed by a festive wander through the Christmas Market.

At the library, students explored the interactive digital displays, and inspiring exhibitions. Afterwards, the group headed to the Liverpool Christmas Market, where they enjoyed spending some money on festive treats and gifts. The highlight? Meeting the legendary “Spud Man” — a true character who made the experience even more memorable!

What a wonderful day of learning, laughter, and festive fun. Trips like these celebrate the confidence, independence, and cultural experiences on offer for our students.





D e c e m b e r

KS4 West Lancs College Insight Talk with Lauren

Lauren delivered an inspiring presentation to our KS4 students, giving them an insight into college life and explaining the wide variety of courses available.

Our students showed particular interest in:

- Art & Design
- Engineering
- Construction & Carpentry
- Motor Vehicle Studies
- Uniformed Services

We are excited to share that a follow-up visit for our Year 11 students is being organised in January, giving them the chance to explore the fantastic facilities first-hand and see what's on offer!





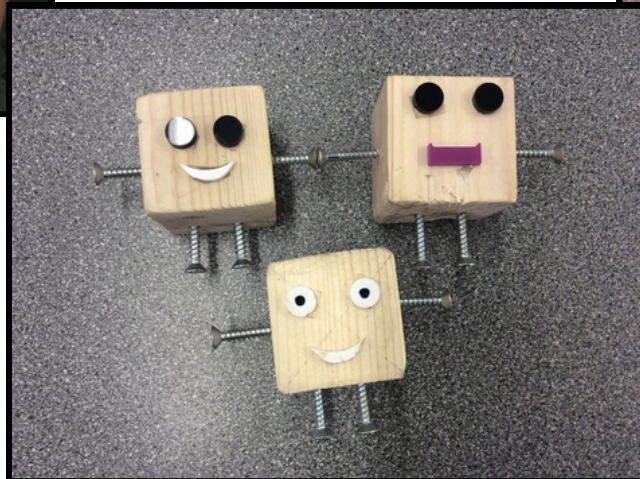
D e c e m b e r

🎄🤖 Year 7 BlockBots 🤖🎄

Our incredible Year 7 students have been hard at work in the DT workshop this term, and we're thrilled to share that they've completed their Blockbots just in time to take home for Christmas!

From careful measuring and cutting to assembling and finishing, the students have shown fantastic creativity and determination. Each Blockbot has been given its own unique personality with names like Rebecca, Suzie, Bob, and Little Jimmy – proof that our Year 7s don't just build, they bring their projects to life!

We're so proud of their achievements and can't wait to see what they'll create next. Well done Year 7 – you've truly earned your festive break!





December

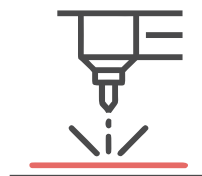
🎄🖋️ Year 8 Creations 🖋️🎄

One of our brilliant Year 8 classes has been busy in DT, completing their personalised picture frames using CAD/CAM technology. This is now their second project working with 2D Design and the laser cutter, and the results are fantastic!

One student went the extra mile by spray painting his frame and turning them into heartfelt gifts for loved ones. Others pushed their creativity further, designing and producing Christmas baubles – keep an eye out, you might spot some of these at the Christmas Fayre!

And if that wasn't enough festive spirit, last week the class also baked and decorated some spiced Christmas biscuits. Their designs were as impressive as they were delicious – a perfect way to round off the term!

We're so proud of their innovation, teamwork, and festive flair. Well done Year 8!





GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE

ONLINE SHOPPING FRAUD WARNING

A MESSAGE FROM GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

In the run up to Christmas we know that some of you may be turning to online shopping to purchase presents.

WARNING – We are aware that fraudsters are targeting this area and want to ensure our community is protected. We are working hard to bring to justice those responsible. Please see our tips for staying safe online.

Have you been offered a highly discounted or considerably cheaper product compared to the original items worth?

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

The website you are purchasing from was only launched day / weeks ago?

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

You're asked to pay by bank transfer instead of using the online platform's secure payment options.

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

A sense of urgency is placed on ordering the product or service so that you don't miss the price / deal.

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

You receive a fake email receipt / invoice that appears to be from the website you've purchased from or the payment service used to make your purchase. The email address domain doesn't match that of the genuine senders.

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

Action Fraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime

actionfraud.police.uk



TO STOP FRAUD™

Up and Coming...

JANUARY

5th January 2026 - Return to School
16th January 2026 - Literacy Day
27th January 2026 - Holocaust Day

FEBRUARY

6th February 2026 - Safer Internet Day
16-20th February 2026 - Half Term

MARCH

5th March 2026 - World Book Day
20th March 2026 - Comic Relief

30th March - 10th April 2026 - Easter Holidays

APRIL

13th April 2026 - Return to School

breakfast

ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE
BREAKFAST/EAST SNACK WHEN
THEY ARRIVE AT SCHOOL AND
THROUGHOUT THE MORNING.

snack



Scan here to explore PADLET Mental Health Resources.



A REMINDER FOR PARENTS/CARERS TO PLEASE ENSURE THAT UNIFORM IS LABELLED. WE ARE REGULARLY BEING ASKED ABOUT LOST UNIFORM BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO FIND.



Useful Numbers and Contacts

Lancashire Children's Social Care: 0300 123 6720

Police: Emergency 999

Non-Emergency 101

Prevent team (Police) : For advice on preventing radicalisation or reporting concerns. Lancashire Police Prevent Officers can be contacted by: telephone: 01282 472329/ 01282 472324.

Lancashire Children and Family Well-being Service:

West Lancashire: 01696 651350

Chorley: 01257 516466

Preston: 01772 539420

Mental Health Services:

NHS-Our Mental Health Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 0800 953 0110

Samaritans: call on freephone 116 123. They're always open and are there to listen.

Mind: Mental Health Service- 03001233393- text - 86463

You can text shout to Crisis- You can text SHOUT to 85258

For free, anonymous mental health support/advice : Kooth.com

Lancashire CAMHS Services:

CAMHS West Lancs Helpline: 01695 684 262

CAMHS Leyland: 01772 644 644

CAMHS Preston: 01772 777 344

CAMHS East Lancashire: 01282 425 071

Other Useful Safeguarding Sites:

Child Action North West: <https://canw.org.uk/>

NEST Lancashire: <https://nestlancashire.org/>

NSPCC: 0808 8005 000

For any medical concerns please contact your GP