



HORNCHURCH

HIGH SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

17th December 2024

Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we conclude the autumn term at Hornchurch High School, it has been an exceptionally rewarding period marked by significant academic progress, enriching extracurricular activities, and a strong sense of community. Our new Year 7 cohort has made a positive start to secondary school, and I am proud of the dedication and hard work demonstrated by both our students and staff. We have lots to celebrate this academic year already, and signifies the beginning of our journey this year to further enhance student outcomes. Our vision is to be the best secondary school in Havering with a student body who are well-rounded, culturally aware, and responsible students, preparing them for success in education and the competitive global job market. I would like to extend my gratitude to all parents, carers, and the local community for their continued, unwavering support.

Department for Education Performance Tables

Hornchurch High School achieved an excellent **Progress 8 score of +0.32** and is **above average** in comparison to other schools in England. On average, all students in all subjects have improved by three quarters of a grade. This makes **Hornchurch High the fastest improving school in Havering and the best results the school has ever seen**. We continue to build on this success and we are excited for the next phase.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools®ion=311&geographic=la&for=secondary>

Challenge Partners

A few weeks ago we had our second Challenge Partners Quality Assurance Review. A review team of 5 experienced headteachers and senior leaders conducted a peer evaluation over the course of 3 days. The team noted that the school is led “with ambition and a drive for excellence in every area.” They evaluated behaviour and attitudes and commented that “there is an exceptionally calm atmosphere around the school site”. As a school we are determined to develop student learning that goes beyond the classroom and students are “encouraged to see links between their learning and the wider world”, to help them become more well-rounded individuals. We had an Area of Excellence accredited ‘Climate for learning – enabling routines’ which means we will be sharing best practice with other schools nationally regarding consistent and effective daily routines that enhance the school’s strong climate for learning and positively impacts outcomes for young people. The full report can be found on our website.

<https://www.hornchurchhighschool.com/home/information/challenge-partners/>



Partnership Learning

01708 691441 admin@hornchurchhigh.com www.hornchurchhigh.com
Hornchurch High School, Broadstone Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4AJ

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Home to Hylands Tennis Club



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Student Leadership Elections



At Hornchurch High School, every student actively participated in a democratic election process to choose their head students. Through a rigorous interview process where students had to present to their peers in assembly and attend a formal interview with a panel, including school governors, the students showcased their dedication to representing the entire student body. I am proud to introduce that our Head Students for 2024-25 are Freda and Neve, and our Deputy Head Students are Ashleigh and Vinnie. The head students will

ensure student voices are heard in key school decisions, serving as ambassadors and role models while reporting to the senior team and governors. To further empower students, we are pleased to introduce new student leadership roles such as Form and Key Stage Representatives, Anti-bullying Ambassadors and Well-being Ambassadors, allowing students to lead initiatives and influence areas that matter most to them.

House, Sports, Trips and Competitions

We are pleased to share the developing success of our House System, promoting community and teamwork amongst students. Recently, a range of house competitions, including rugby, basketball, cross-country, and maths, have provided students with the chance to demonstrate their resilience skills and collaborate as a team to earn house points. All students now wear a house badge as part of their uniform, which they wear with pride. Additionally, students are awarded house points for our three learning behaviours: thinking, resilience and collaboration as well as word of the week, reading, random acts of kindness and attending extra-curricular clubs – these all contribute to their house's overall achievement. A huge congratulations to Kilimanjaro who are currently in the lead with 13,924 points!

Our Year 10 basketball team continues to lead the way, with their latest victory 34-30 against Emerson Park. A huge well done, they continue to build on their success to follow in last year's year 11 footsteps as Havering Champions.



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The recent geography trip to Sicily provided students with a hands-on learning experience. They explored the Cyclops Coast, studied volcanic landforms, and took an off-road tour of Mount Etna to understand tectonic processes. Students also examined challenges of an aging population in ancient villages and explored the impact of tourism in Taormina. The trip enriched their study of both physical and human geography, bringing textbook concepts to life.



A group of Year 7 students visited the Houses of Parliament to gain insights into the political process, while others participated in the Ford Kids I.T. Day, exploring the world of technology. Key Stage 4 Art students visited the National Portrait Gallery for creative inspiration, and the Debate Mate programme commenced with a launch trip aimed at enhancing debating and public speaking skills. Additionally, all Year 10 students attended the What Careers Live event at London Olympia, where they had the opportunity to explore diverse career options and learn about pathways available after Year 11.

Last month we launched non-stop November. Over 450 students had 100% attendance over this period. The winning year group was year 7. Attendance at school is crucial to prepare young people for successful transition to adulthood. Evidence shows that students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school make the most progress, which opens up so many doors for them in the future.



Memory Tree

We are also grateful to Noble Residential for their donation of a Christmas tree, which has been transformed into a Memory Tree by our student leaders. This thoughtful addition offers students a space to reflect on cherished moments.

Parent/Carer Feedback

Your feedback as parents/carers is invaluable and as we reach the end of term, your voice is important for us and our live school improvement plan. Please complete the following survey with your child: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AutumnTerm2024>





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Progress Reports and Parents' Evenings

Students are assessed three times a year, and teachers provide a predicted grade based on assessments, classwork, and contributions. The Autumn Progress Report for years 7-10 have been sent out today, accompanied by a letter explaining the reporting system. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's Head of Year. Year 11s will physically receive theirs on Thursday 19th during their mock results day.

Please find below the Parents' Evening dates for your son/daughter. These dates have been scheduled following a data drop, providing you with an opportune time to engage in meaningful discussions about your child's progress.

| Parents' Evenings 4-6.30pm | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Year 11 – Parents' Evening | Tuesday 7 th January 2025 |
| Year 9 – Options Presentation & Year 9 Parents' Evening | Tuesday 14 th January 2025 |
| Year 7 – Parents' Evening | Tuesday 28 th January 2025 |
| Year 10 – Parents' Evening | Tuesday 22 nd April 2025 |
| Year 8 – Parents' Evening | Tuesday 29 th April 2025 |

End of Term Arrangement and Spring Term Start 2025


The final day of this autumn term is **Thursday 19th December, when students will be dismissed by 12.00 noon** for staff to attend an end of term review meeting. The final day is business as usual in terms of lessons periods 1 and 2. Students may wear non-uniform and donate £1 however, all dress must be appropriate for a professional learning environment.

The term dates for 2024/25 are published on our website should you wish to plan future holidays. In addition, we have published our term dates for 2025/26. They are both attached to this letter.

The first day of spring term will start on Monday 6th January 2025 with students arriving at 8:15 for a prompt 8:30 start, our breakfast club starts at 8am.

From all of us at Hornchurch High, for those celebrating, I wish you and your family a joyful Christmas, and a Happy New Year to all.

Yours sincerely,


Ms S Madhvani
Headteacher





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Term Dates 2024-2025 | This Academic Year

Hornchurch High School

School Term and Holiday Dates 2024 - 2025



| September 2024 | | | | | | |
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| October 2024 | | | | | | |
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| April 2025 | | | | | | |
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| June 2025 | | | | | | |
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| | School Holidays |
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| | Staff PD Days non-pupil days |
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| Autumn Term | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Tuesday 3rd September | Start of Term (Y7) |
| Wednesday 4th September | Start of Term (ALL) |
| Friday 25th October to Friday 1st November | Half Term |
| Thursday 19th December | Last Day of Term |

| Spring Term | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday 6th January | Start of Term |
| Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February | Half Term |
| Friday 4th April | Last Day of Term |

| Summer Term | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Tuesday 22nd April | Start of Term |
| Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May | Half Term |
| Friday 18th July | Last Day of Term |



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Term Dates 2025-2026 | Next Academic Year

Hornchurch High School

School Term and Holiday Dates 2025 - 2026



| September 2025 | | | | | | |
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| November 2025 | | | | | | |
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| December 2025 | | | | | | |
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| January 2026 | | | | | | |
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| February 2026 | | | | | | |
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| May 2026 | | | | | | |
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| June 2026 | | | | | | |
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| July 2026 | | | | | | |
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| | School Holidays |
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| | Staff PD Days non-pupil days |
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| Autumn Term | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Tuesday 2nd September | Start of Term (Y7) |
| Wednesday 3rd September | Start of Term (ALL) |
| Friday 24th October to Friday 31st October | Half Term |
| Friday 19th December | Last Day of Term |

| Spring Term | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday 5th January | Start of Term |
| Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February | Half Term |
| Friday 27th March | Last Day of Term |

| Summer Term | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday 13th April | Start of Term |
| Tuesday 26th May to Friday 29th May | Half Term |
| Thursday 16th July | Last Day of Term |



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