

13th July 2026

Headteacher's Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I am delighted to reflect on what has been a positive year for our Hornchurch High School community. Building on the strong foundations and achievements of previous years, our students and staff have continued to demonstrate deep **thinking, collaboration and resilience** in all that they do.

This year has been marked by several memorable milestones. From our first-ever school musical *Matilda*, which showcased the exceptional level of commitment and professionalism of students from across the school who stepped out of their comfort zones, to our inaugural community event, which proved a resounding success - there has been much to celebrate! We firmly believe that a school should sit at the heart of its community, and it has been wonderful to see our students, families and staff come together to strengthen that ethos.

As you know Hornchurch High School was shortlisted for Teacher Development Initiative of the Year in the Tes School Awards 2026. This prestigious recognition reflects our unwavering commitment to the professional development of our staff, ensuring the highest quality of teaching and learning for our students. Staff continually strive to refine their practice and support one another in achieving *Excellence for All*.

None of these successes would be possible without the collective efforts of our entire school community. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our teachers, support staff, parents and carers for their hard work, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. Most importantly, I would like to thank our wonderful young people, whose resilience and positive attitudes have made us immensely proud, even during the recent spell of exceptionally warm weather, they have continued to demonstrate excellence character and maturity, embracing every opportunity and embodying the values that make Hornchurch High School such a special place to work and learn.

At the end of this letter, you will find our newsletter celebrating the many achievements and successes of our students. Please do take the time to read through to the very end. I hope you enjoy celebrating the many achievements, experiences and highlights that have made this year such a success.

As part of our end of year review process, I would greatly appreciate it if you could sit down with your child and answer the following two-minute survey together. The survey can be accessed below:

[Summer Term Parent and Child Survey 2026](#)

Yr11 GCSE Results Day | Thursday 20th August

Year 11 can collect their results on Thursday 20th August between 08:30am and 10:30am.

We are also delighted to announce another year of our Aim High Scholarship and Bursary. We want all our students to aim high at Hornchurch High. The 5 highest performing students will be guaranteed a place at the oversubscribed sixth form within our Trust, Riverside Sixth Form. Upon confirming their place at Riverside Sixth Form, they will also receive a £300 bursary to help support their studies.

Progress Reports Years 7-9 | Monday 13th July 2026

Throughout the academic year, students engage in three tracking assessments: autumn, spring, and summer. Following each assessment, teachers generate a predicted grade, a triangulation of their performance in assessments, classwork, and contributions to lessons. In their reports, you'll find a target grade - a grade derived from their KS2 scaled scores - and a predicted grade. The predicted grade reflects what they could achieve at the end of year 11 if they maintain their current level of dedication and effort over the next few years. This holistic approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of each student's academic progress and potential.

Please contact your child's Head of Year if you have any concerns via our [webform](#).

Yr10 Mock GCSE Results Evening – Students and Parents | Tuesday 14th July 2026 | 5pm

Following feedback from parents and carers, we are changing how mock results are shared. This year, students will receive their summer mock results as part of a dedicated Parent Information Evening designed to help families better support learning at home.

Please note, results will not be shared with students during the school day and will instead be issued during the evening event, where staff will be available to provide guidance and support.

Alongside results, parents will gain valuable insight into their child's progress, learn how to support effective revision, and understand the key steps needed to prepare for success in Year 11. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend this important event and work with us to ensure every student fulfils their potential.

Uniform Standards Reminder

A reminder regarding uniform expectations for the new academic year:

- Black school shoes
- Black ankle socks or black tights – no white socks

- Modest navy skirt length, we are in a professional learning environment – if you are replacing skirts, there is a new skirt style in Havering Schoolwear which was phased in from September 2025 with our current year 7 - navy buttoned pleated skirt, length 24 inch, or 26 inch
- Tailored black school trousers
- No make-up (students will be asked to remove it with make-up wipes)
- No false nails (please arrange removal prior to the start of term)
- No nail varnish
- No false eyelashes or eyelash/eyebrow laminations
- No jewellery (it is not advised to have a new piercing towards the end of the summer holidays – students will be asked to remove it, irrespective of the healing process).

Uniform Swap Shop

Facing the current cost of living crisis, we invite you to support our school community. If you have any school uniforms in good condition, please drop them off in the boxes located in the school reception area. Your generosity will help ensure all students have the uniform they need. Thank you for supporting Hornchurch High students and families, and a special thanks to Year 11 and their generous donations on their last day.

Additionally, the council has launched a new 'Cost of Living Online Hub' to support Havering residents. Find resources and assistance at: ['Cost of Living Online Hub'](#).

Havering Holiday Activity and Food Summer Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme supports children and families during school holidays, especially those eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals or considered vulnerable. It aims to reduce holiday pressures by offering access to enriching activities, physical exercise, and nutritious meals, helping to combat social isolation and unhealthy routines. The programme runs during the summer holidays and encourages healthier lifestyles, wellbeing, and engagement with education. Havering can also extend the offer to other families in need under specific criteria.

For more information, please visit: [Havering HAF Programme](#).

Free School Meals – Important Update

The Government has recently changed the processes and eligibility checking system for Free School Meals (FSM). As a result, schools and local authorities now require all families to complete a new eligibility check, including those who are already receiving Free School Meals.

An electronic copy of the form has already been sent to all families. In addition, every student will receive a paper copy on their first day back at school in September. We ask that all families complete and return the form as soon as possible.

We strongly encourage everyone to complete the eligibility check, even if you believe you will not qualify for Free School Meals. With the recent changes to the system, eligibility criteria may have changed, and some families who were previously not entitled may now be eligible for support. Completing the form only takes a few minutes and helps ensure that no family misses out on any assistance they may be entitled to receive.

New School Year 2026-2027 | Autumn Term

We have a staggered start to autumn term to allow year 7's induction on the first day.

- Year 7 ONLY: Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- ALL Students: Thursday 3rd September 2026

The first day of autumn term will start with students arriving at 8:15am. The student gates will be open from 8:00am for breakfast club. The student gate can be found on the corner of Hartland and Broadstone Road, please do not enter via the car park/reception. The school day starts promptly at 8:30am.

The final day of this summer term is Thursday 16th July 2026, when students will be dismissed after break 1 for staff to attend an end of term review meeting. The day will follow the usual timetable, with lessons taking place as normal and students should continue to wear their school PE kit. However, if England win the semi-final against Argentina on Wednesday, students will have the option of wearing their England shirt on Thursday instead of their school PE top. Students choosing this option must still wear their school PE shorts or school PE joggers. Students who do not wish to wear an England shirt should wear their usual school PE top.

Term dates for 2026/2027 are published on our website and are attached to this letter, should you wish to plan future holidays.

From all of us here at Hornchurch High may I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer break and thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ms S Madhvani
Headteacher



HORNCHURCH

HIGH SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Term Dates 2026_2027

Hornchurch High School

School Term and Holiday Dates 2026 - 2027



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

September 2026						
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April 2027						
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June 2027						
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July 2027						
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August 2027						
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	School Holidays
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	Bank Holidays
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	Staff PD Days non-pupil days
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Autumn Term	
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	Start of Term (Y7)
Thursday 3rd September 2026	Start of Term (ALL)
Friday 23rd October - Friday 30th October 2026	Half Term
Friday 18th December 2026	Last Day of Term

Spring Term	
Monday 4th January 2027	Start of Term
Monday 15th February 2027 - Friday 19th February 2027	Half Term
Thursday 25th March 2027	Last Day of Term

Summer Term	
Monday 12th April 2027	Start of Term
Monday 31st May 2027 - Friday 4th June 2027	Half Term
Friday 16th July 2027	Last Day of Term



Partnership Learning

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Home to Hylands Tennis Club

HORNCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another successful term, I am proud to reflect on the many opportunities, achievements and memorable experiences our students have enjoyed. A particular highlight was our inaugural Family Fun Day, which welcomed more than 700 family members and friends. While this newsletter captures some of our successes, there have been many more than we can feature. Thank you to our entire learning community for your continued support, and I wish you all a wonderful and restful summer break.

Ms. S. Madhvani | Headteacher



International Visitors

Last week, Hornchurch High warmly welcomed 21 students and two teachers from across China as part of a four-day immersive exchange programme across different year groups and bands. Our guests joined lessons and took part in a wide range of activities alongside their Hornchurch High 'buddies', including baking shortbread biscuits, designing House crests, creating music and learning to play rounders.

Throughout the visit, our students embodied our school values brilliantly. They practised their Mandarin, learned a traditional game called jianzi and supported our visitors every step of the way. One Hornchurch High student reflected, "I had an amazing time getting involved in this fantastic opportunity and improving my Chinese. The Chinese visitors helped me learn how to use chopsticks, improve my Mandarin pronunciation and taught me new words that I really loved learning." The exchange provided our guests with an authentic experience of British school life.

In a message to the school, the visiting teachers and students expressed their sincere gratitude, describing Hornchurch High as a warm, professional and inclusive community.

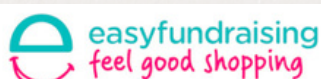
They praised the innovative teaching methods they experienced in lessons and highlighted how the diverse programme of activities broadened students' international outlook and cultural understanding.

Particular appreciation was given to our staff, whose enthusiasm, patience and dedication helped make the visit both enriching and memorable. The visitors noted that every activity and lesson provided opportunities for meaningful interaction, learning and friendship, creating what they described as "a solid bridge of friendship between the students of the two countries."

Perhaps most importantly, the exchange enabled students from both cultures to build lasting connections, learn from one another and gain experiences that will remain with them long after the visit has ended. The visiting practitioners expressed their hope that the partnership between our schools will continue to grow, allowing even more young people to benefit from future international exchange opportunities.

It was truly inspiring to see how kind, compassionate and welcoming our students were throughout the week.

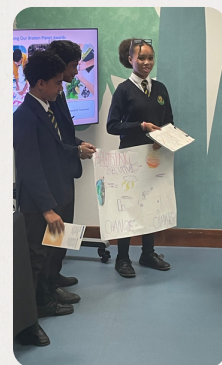
RAISE MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL THROUGH YOUR USUAL PURCHASES



Remember to sign-up to Easyfundraising - a quick way to raise money for the school through your everyday online shopping.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our Student Leaders have strengthened links with Harrow Lodge Primary School by visiting Year 5 pupils, sharing their experiences of secondary school life and supporting activities including running library sessions, reading with younger students and assisting with trampolining sessions. A highlight of the term was delivering a highly successful Year 5 Engagement Day, giving pupils the opportunity to experience life at secondary school first-hand.



Fixing our Broken Planet

In April, our Year 8 students visited the Natural History Museum. They explored the extensive research featured in the Fixing Our Broken Planet Gallery and developed solutions to address the climate crisis. Students investigated a range of topics, including the carbon impact of pets, the relationship between climate change and species extinction, and the effects of microplastics on human health. They then stepped into the roles of business leaders, animal conservationists, social media influencers, and others to present their findings in creative and engaging ways tailored to different audiences. The students also visited other fascinating galleries, including Dinosaurs and Volcanoes and Earthquakes, which they found incredibly interesting.

Did you know...?

What are microplastics?

Microplastics are tiny plastic fragments less than 5mm in size. Scientists have found them everywhere - from ocean trenches to the human brain, heart, and lungs.

How are they entering our bodies?

Exposure largely comes from food packaging, synthetic clothing, and airborne dust.

What can we do to reduce it?

You can reduce exposure by swapping plastic containers for glass, and eating whole foods.

In addition, to mark Earth Day, students explored climate change, pollution and sustainability, learning how small everyday actions can help protect the environment.

WORD OF THE WEEK WINNERS

Congratulations to our Term 3 Word of the Week Wizards. These students have shown exceptional dedication to expanding their vocabulary, earning the most House points in their year groups. They will receive a special edition novel to reward their linguistic brilliance:

Year 10: Sharon Year 9: Ajmeet
Year 8: Zara Year 7: Ellie

Junior UKMT Maths Challenge

This term 60 Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in the Junior UKMT Maths Challenge, a national competition designed to stretch problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning. We are delighted to share that our students achieved an impressive set of results: 17 Bronze, 13 Silver, and 1 Gold certificates. Well done to all who took part.

A huge congratulations goes to Robert (9A) and Luyi (10A), who qualified for the second round of the intermediate challenge, reserved for the highest scoring students nationwide. Robert achieved a Silver award and Luyi a Gold award a truly outstanding accomplishment.



"The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics"

KEW GARDENS



Students recently enjoyed an educational visit to Kew Gardens, where they explored one of the world's most important botanical gardens and discovered the vital role plants play in supporting life on Earth. They explored a wide variety of plant species and impressive glasshouses, while developing a deeper understanding of biodiversity, conservation and environmental sustainability. The trip brought classroom learning to life and inspired students to appreciate the importance of protecting the natural world.

ART

Year 8 students explored lino and foam printing through expressive portraits inspired by German Expressionism before moving on to Surrealism, where they created imaginative landscapes that demonstrated their growing understanding of perspective, depth and scale.



Year 9 students have embraced an experimental GCSE-style project focused on the human figure, studying artists including Leonardo Da Vinci and Anthony Gormley while exploring proportion, movement, symbolism and a range of drawing techniques, culminating in an introduction to Futurism and figures in motion.



As part of our ongoing commitment to careers education, students recently had the opportunity to hear from a range of professionals working across diverse and exciting industries. These inspiring talks helped students gain a deeper understanding of the many career pathways available to them and the skills needed to succeed in the world of work.

Years 7 and 8 welcomed Martin Prendergast, Senior Leader in the Creative Industries and Director of Communications at the National Theatre. Martin shared valuable insights into careers in the arts, media and communications, highlighting the wide variety of roles available behind the scenes in one of the UK's leading cultural organisations.

Year 9 students enjoyed an engaging series of talks from professionals working in journalism, media and the emergency services. Richard Murrell, BBC Newsroom Director, spoke about careers in journalism and broadcasting, offering a behind-the-scenes look at how news stories are produced and

Civics Curriculum

the importance of accuracy in the industry.

Students also heard from Paul McClenaghan, Borough Commander for Havering at the London Fire Brigade, who shared his experiences of leadership within the emergency services. His talk highlighted the rewarding opportunities available in public service and the importance of problem-solving skills.

Completing the programme was Louisa Benotmane, Social Media Producer at CBS Sports, who provided a fascinating insight into the fast-paced world of sports media and digital content creation. Students learned about the growing influence of social media in sport and the exciting career opportunities available within the digital and creative sectors.

These encounters with industry professionals play a vital role in helping students broaden their horizons, challenge stereotypes and make informed decisions about their future aspirations. We are extremely grateful to all our guest speakers for sharing their expertise and inspiring the next generation.



HOUSE SYSTEM

This term, students have shown fantastic enthusiasm for House Competitions, earning points through challenges run by Art, DT, Drama and Music. The Art competition has attracted over 700 views on the school Instagram account, while the Music competition has highlighted some exceptional talent that will soon be shared on social media. The race for the House Cup remains incredibly close, with every House earning more than 46,000 points so far, and the winners will be revealed at the end of Sports Day alongside the House Shield award. House Break Activities have also been hugely popular, with over 300 students taking part in recent competitions and students now looking forward to earning final House points through Capture the Flag and Dodgeball before the end of the year.

The competition for the House Cup remains incredibly close, and this term has brought a major shake-up to the leaderboard. The current standings are:

1st Place - Matterhorn: 47,818

2nd Place - Everest: 47,305

3rd Place - Fuji: 46,322

4th Place - Kilimanjaro: 45,814

Extra-curricular



Our extra curricular programme has continued to thrive this term, with students enthusiastically taking part in a wide range of clubs and activities. Eco Club members have championed sustainability across the school, while Science Club and Debate Club have inspired curiosity and developed critical thinking through engaging projects and discussions.



Music and sports clubs have remained highly popular, providing students with valuable opportunities to develop their talents, build friendships and represent the school with pride. Meanwhile, students in Performing Arts have shown exceptional stamina, rehearsal commitment and teamwork as they prepare for the eagerly anticipated end-of-year production of Matilda, contributing to another hugely successful term of enrichment.

Jack Petchey



Congratulations to our Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners, who were recognised at a special ceremony at the Queen's Theatre this term. The awards celebrate students who have made a positive contribution to school life through their hard work, commitment and attitude. We are delighted to see their efforts recognised and congratulate all of this term's deserving winners.

Exploring AI

This term, students took part in an exciting exploration of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Following an assembly to year groups 7-10 on the opportunities and challenges of AI, Year 7 and Year 9 students completed a dedicated unit in their computing lessons, focused on understanding this rapidly developing technology.

Throughout the unit, students learned what AI is, how it is used in everyday life, and how it is shaping the future. They also discussed the importance of using AI safely, responsibly, and ethically, considering issues such as privacy, misinformation, and the need to think critically about AI-generated content.

Students engaged thoughtfully with this important topic and developed the knowledge and skills needed to be responsible users of AI in the digital world.



The Sports Edition

Athletics

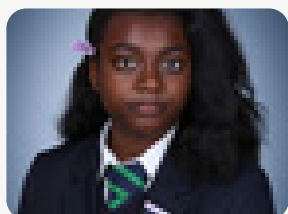


Olivia (8P) has enjoyed an exceptional athletics season, becoming Essex Champion in the 100m with a personal best of 12.80 seconds before improving further to 12.76 seconds. Her achievements have earned her 3rd place at the London Youth Games and a place among the top 20 athletes in the UK, marking her out as one of the country's most promising young talents.



Congratulations to James (7A), who won the 1500m in 5:13, Victoria (7S), who threw 7.10m in the Shot Put, Jamila (7A), who claimed 1st place in the 100m with a personal best of 14.30 seconds, and Fife (7A), who achieved a personal best of 8.85m to win the Shot Put, earning all four athletes selection to represent Havering at the Essex Championships.

Netball



Congratulations to Year 10 student Zipporah on her selection for Manor Met Netball Club's Under 16 Regional Team, an outstanding achievement that reflects her talent and rapid progress. Despite only joining the club a few months ago, Zipporah has already reached regional level, demonstrating exceptional commitment and potential in netball.

Cricket



The Year 8 Cricket Team has enjoyed an outstanding unbeaten season, winning every match and establishing themselves as a dominant force in the competition. Their hard work, teamwork and dedication have earned them a place in the Havering Finals on 3rd September, where they will aim to complete their remarkable season with silverware.

Cricket continued...

The Year 7 Cricket Team has enjoyed a highly successful season, achieving an impressive 80% win rate through their determination, teamwork and steadily developing skills. Their excellent performances have placed them in a strong position for future success, and the school looks forward to seeing them continue to grow and excel in cricket.



A huge congratulations to all who represent the school - we are incredibly proud of you!

