

# HOULTON EASTER NEWS 2026



HOULTON  
SCHOOL



## Welcome from the Executive Principal

**The Spring Term has certainly been full of lots of moments for our Houlton School family to be proud of, there is a real sense of excitement and energy across our school community.**

It has been brilliant to see so much enthusiasm for learning in and outside the classroom.

Some of the highlights have included incredible performances in this year's school production, TLET's Got Talent, and the Great Big Dance Off. We've also had some fantastic in-school events ranging from author visits to sporting tournaments as well as our Brilliant Club Scholars Graduation Ceremony and the start of DoFE training sessions.

The weeks ahead will bring an important milestone, as our Year 11 students begin their GCSE examinations shortly after Easter – the very first Houlton School students to do so.

They have shown great commitment and resilience in preparing for this moment, and I know they will approach the challenge with confidence. We wish them every success and thank their families and our staff for the encouragement and support they provide each day.

I hope you all have an enjoyable (and hopefully sunny) Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 14th April for the start of the Summer Term.

**Paul Brockwell**  
Executive Principal



# Message from the Head of School

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to wish all of our students, parents and carers a very happy and restful Easter break.

This term has been filled with many wonderful moments across the school. From excellent classroom learning and enrichment opportunities to sporting achievements, performances and trips, it has been fantastic to see our students continuing to demonstrate enthusiasm, resilience and pride in everything they do. Our school community thrives because of the positive partnership between staff, students and families, and I would like to thank you for your continued support.

I would also like to take a moment to recognise the incredible commitment of our staff, particularly in the support they have provided to our Year 11 students. Over the past half term, staff have delivered a wide range of targeted interventions, revision sessions and additional support to ensure that students feel confident and well prepared as they approach their examinations. Their dedication to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed is truly appreciated.

Looking ahead to next term, we have a number of important events taking place:

- **Parent Forum** - Tuesday 14th April
- **Year 8 Parents' Evening** - Thursday 16th April
- **Year 7 Parents' Evening** - Thursday 30th April
- **Duke of Edinburgh Celebration Event** - Wednesday 6th May

Next term will also see the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, which are always a fantastic opportunity for students to challenge themselves, build resilience and develop teamwork skills.

In addition, we will see the start of our first set of GCSE examinations. These are a very important milestone for our Year 11 students as they represent their first formal results. The Easter break provides

a valuable opportunity for students to consolidate their learning, and we strongly encourage all Year 11 students to create a clear and manageable revision plan during the holidays. Planning revision time carefully can make a significant difference to confidence and performance when exams begin.

To support students further, we will also be offering a number of additional revision sessions over the Easter break, details of which have already been shared with families. We encourage students to make the most of these opportunities.

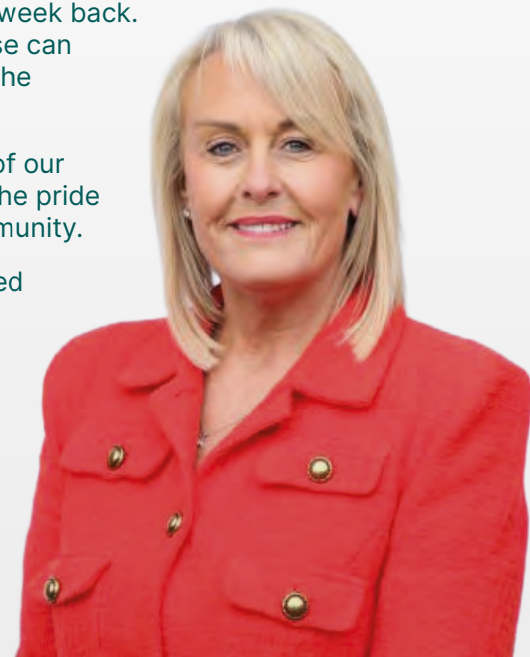
Finally, a reminder regarding school uniform expectations. As we return after the Easter break, we would like to ensure that all students come back ready to learn and representing the school with pride. Please ensure that all students have their school tie and blazer for the first week back. If replacements are required, these can be purchased from Webb Ellis in the town centre.

Our uniform is an important part of our identity as a school and reflects the pride we take in being part of this community.

Thank you again for your continued support. I hope you all enjoy a peaceful and relaxing Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming students back next term for another exciting and successful period of learning.

Happy Easter

**Lorna Pountney**  
Head of School



## TLET's Got Talent – A Showcase of Incredible Talent

First of all, congratulations to the 32 acts who auditioned for TLET's Got Talent.

The range of performances was truly impressive, including dance, music and acting. We had a very difficult task narrowing the field down to just five finalists.

After much discussion, the final acts chosen were:

- Priyakshii – Dance
- Luca – Acting
- Paula – Piano Performance
- India – Singing
- Erin and Katherine (Singing), with Eva and Sophia (Dance)

Every finalist performed with energy, professionalism and talent, making the final an unforgettable showcase of creativity and dedication.

Competing against Ashlawn School and Henry Hinde School, the students showcased outstanding performances. The overall winners were Erin, Katherine, Eva and Sophia with their moving and beautifully presented act, "You Will Be Found."

Their success didn't stop there – their performance impressed the judges so much that they were put straight through to the semi-finals of Rugby's Got Talent, which is a fantastic achievement.

A special mention must also go to Luca, who received the Originality Award for his creative and memorable acting performance.

Congratulations to all the performers who took part. The talent, courage and enthusiasm on display made TLET's Got Talent a truly inspiring event, and we look forward to seeing even more amazing performances next year.

**Miss Frankie Connolly**  
Head of Dance





# County Lines and Staying Safe

We recently welcomed officers from Warwickshire Police into school to speak with our Year 7 and 8 students about County Lines and the importance of staying safe.

Each class took part in a 20-minute session and our students showed great maturity, understanding, and engagement throughout. They listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions, and demonstrated a strong awareness of the issues being discussed.

These sessions are an important part of helping young people understand the risks around exploitation and how to seek help if they ever feel unsafe or concerned.

Warwickshire Police will be returning later this term to continue building on this learning, helping to broaden students' knowledge and awareness so we can keep our children safe and well informed.

A big thank you to the officers for taking the time to support and educate our students.

# Year 9 Students Celebrate Success at Oxford Graduation Event

A group of our Year 9 students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend a prestigious graduation event at Keble College, University of Oxford, marking the successful completion of their Scholars' Programme work with The Brilliant Club.

Accompanied by Assistant Principal and Brilliant Club Lead Teacher Ms Lancini, alongside Miss Smyth, our school librarian, the trip was a memorable and inspiring experience for all involved.

The event brought together students from a range of schools across the West Midlands, creating a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere. It was a proud moment as our students joined their peers in recognising the hard work, commitment and academic curiosity they had demonstrated throughout the programme.

As part of The Brilliant Club, students completed challenging university-style assignments, supported by expert tutors from leading institutions. The STEM group explored a fascinating course titled Invisible Inheritance: Passing on More than Our Genes, guided by their tutor Merissa Hickman from the University of Leicester.



Meanwhile, the Humanities group engaged in thought-provoking work on Skills for Conflict Transformation, led by their tutor Innocent Kasiyano from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Throughout the programme, students developed key academic skills such as critical thinking, independent research and essay writing, all of which will support them in their future studies. The graduation event at Keble College was a fitting celebration of their achievements and a chance to experience life at a world-renowned university.

We were also fortunate to be given a thorough tour of the college campus. Pupils visited the Chapel, where they observed a choir rehearsal in progress, explored the library, and spent some time in the student union building. The group also enjoyed lunch in the grand and impressive dining hall, adding to the authentic university experience.

Throughout the course, students have displayed dedication and resilience, highlighting how they rose to the challenge of university-style learning with enthusiasm and maturity and demonstrated both confidence and intellectual curiosity throughout the programme. All were exemplary ambassadors for Houlton School,



engaging thoughtfully in discussions during the various talks and presentations.

The trip was not only a celebration of success but also an opportunity to inspire future ambitions. For many students, stepping into the historic surroundings of the University of Oxford was a powerful reminder of what they can achieve with hard work and determination.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and graduated on this fantastic accomplishment.



# Year 11 Gravity Trip

Year 11 Business Studies students enjoyed an exciting and informative visit to Gravity, where learning was combined with a well-earned reward. As well as an hour of activities and pizza and chips for lunch, students took part in a valuable business talk delivered by the venue manager.

During the session, students gained first-hand insights into how the business operates, exploring key topics such as business growth, marketing strategies, organisational structure, and employee progression and support. This real-world perspective helped bring classroom learning to life, giving students a deeper understanding of how businesses develop and manage their teams effectively.

**Miss Emily Strutt**  
Head of Business Studies

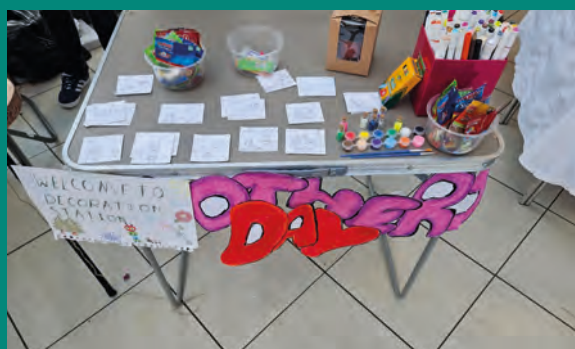


# Young Enterprise Spring Fair Success

The Young Enterprise team, Little Shop of Growers, proudly represented the school at the Spring Fair held at the Royal Priors. The team showcased and sold their 'grow your own plants' products, engaging confidently with customers throughout the day.

Their hard work and collaboration paid off as they were awarded Best Teamwork by the Mystery Shopper, recognising their excellent communication and strong team spirit. In addition to this achievement, the team generated over £100 in sales, marking a highly successful and rewarding experience for all involved.

**Miss Emily Strutt**  
Head of Business Studies



# Houlton School Shines at the Great Big Dance Off

On 17th March, 24 of our dance students represented Houlton School at the Great Big Dance Off, delivering two fantastic performances that showcased their dedication, talent and teamwork.

Our KS3 Dance Scholars have been working incredibly hard since June last year on their competition piece, "I Believe." After months of rehearsals, refinement and determination, they took to the stage with confidence and passion. Their performance demonstrated not only their technical ability but also their commitment to the piece and to one another as a team.

Our KS4 Dance Team also brought energy and excitement with a dynamic Beyoncé medley, complete with a surprise costume reveal on stage. The performance was powerful, polished and full of personality, clearly reflecting the many hours of rehearsals and preparation the students have undertaken to perfect their routine.

Both teams danced brilliantly and represented Houlton School with incredible professionalism. Their behaviour throughout the event was exemplary, and they were a real credit to the school.

We are extremely proud of every dancer who took part. Their hard work, resilience and commitment truly shone through on stage. Congratulations to both teams for such impressive performances at this year's Great Big Dance Off!

**Miss Frankie Connolly**  
Head of Dance



# A Fantastic Evening at the TLET Science Fair

We enjoyed an incredible evening full of celebration and science at this year's annual TLET Science Fair.

Our students worked so hard on their science projects in the run-up to the event and did a fantastic job of talking about their work on the night. I congratulate everyone who entered or helped with judging.

The winner this year was Houlton's very own Forest C, in Year 7 with his project on Spider vs. Asteroid. It truly encapsulated all elements of science.

- **Winner:** Forest C, Houlton: Spider vs Asteroid
- **Honorary winner:** Aksh A, Henry Hinde: Elderly home care safety
- **Runner up:** Richard H, Ashlawn: How clean is high school?
- **Runner up:** Bhargava K, Ashlawn: "Free" energy water wheel

**Mr Kris Docherty**  
Second in Charge: Science



# Stories, Success & Shakespeare

## Key Stage 3:

This term, Year 7 have been lucky enough to have been visited by author Ele Fountain. She shared stories around the writing of her novel, Boy 87, and what life is like as a professional writer. Some Year 7 students took part in a creative writing workshop with Ele and impressed her with their original ideas!

English Faculty Student of the Term this time is Erin F 10W for absolutely smashing the in-class assessments.

Other nominees by their class teacher were – Bilva R, Oliver H, Eshaan J, Georgina G, Nathan L and Hannah P.

The wonderful homework projects still keep flooding in with one of my personal favourites being Georgina G's rewriting of the end of Journey's End:

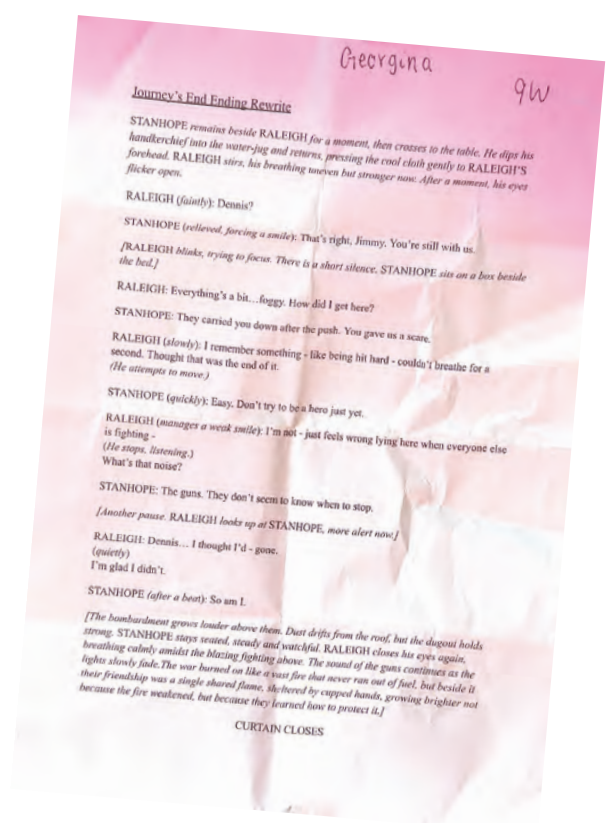


## GCSE

In Year 11, students welcomed K22 Productions into Houlton for a production of Macbeth. The abridged version of this GCSE text was well-received by our students and will hopefully prove vital in the revision process for their GCSE English Literature.

After the Easter break our topics will be:

- Y7 Introduction to Shakespeare and The Merchant of Venice
- Y8 Ruby in the Smoke
- Y9 Jane Eyre
- Y10 Poetry
- Y11 Revision and GCSEs



## World Book Day 2026

For this year's World Book Day, we held a series of events for students to take part in with the short story, The Lottery, being delivered across all lessons.

Throughout the day, KS3 students also had the chance to participate in a reading activity in English where they shared stories that resonated with them. In addition, staff dressed as literary characters (and stayed in role during Year 10 Parents Evening!). Thank you so much for all of the effort that you put in. Keep on reading!

**Mr Ben Coleman**  
Head of English and Literacy



# Project Prevent

Members of Houlton School's community have been working in partnership with Rugby High School and the Young High Sheriff programme to take part in a series of workshops about crime prevention.

With a focus on reducing the risk of assault, grooming and harassment, the workshops provided the opportunity for students to input on a project designed to raise awareness of and reduce the occurrence of these types of crimes among young people.

Project Prevent has been developed with the support of Crime Beat - a youth crime prevention charity

For further information about the project, please visit Rugby High School's information page [www.rugbyhighschool.co.uk/projectprevent](http://www.rugbyhighschool.co.uk/projectprevent)

These are the three main values that the project revolves around:



## PREPARE

(against possible situations of harassment or assault)



## PREVENT

(these situations)



## PROTECT

(against the reoccurrence of possible situations)

# An Incredible School Production: Little Shop of Horrors

This term, our talented students took to the stage for a fantastic production of Little Shop of Horrors. Since October, the cast have been working incredibly hard to bring this full-length musical to life, dedicating many hours to rehearsals and preparation.

Putting on a musical of this scale is no small task. Students have worked so hard to perfect their singing, acting and dancing, developing their skills and confidence throughout the process.

The final performances were polished, professional and full of energy, and the show was incredibly well received by all audiences. It was wonderful to see the students' hard work pay off as they delivered such entertaining and memorable performances on stage.

A huge well done to every student involved in the production. Thanks also go to everyone who bought tickets and came along to support the show—your support made the performances even more special.

Miss Frankie Connolly  
Head of Dance



# Year 9 Explore Day of the Dead Through Art

Year 9 students have been delving into the vibrant traditions of Day of the Dead as part of this term's big question: "Can Art Capture Culture?"

Students studied the symbolism and visual style associated with the celebration, using this as inspiration for their own creative work. Drawing on the approach of artist Carissa Rose, they produced a series of tattoo and ink-inspired designs.

The final pieces showcase impressive technical skill, but also a thoughtful understanding of how art can reflect cultural identity, memory and tradition. The creativity and attention to detail on display have been fantastic, making this a truly engaging and meaningful project for all involved.

**Ms Ruth Woodcraft**  
Head of Creative

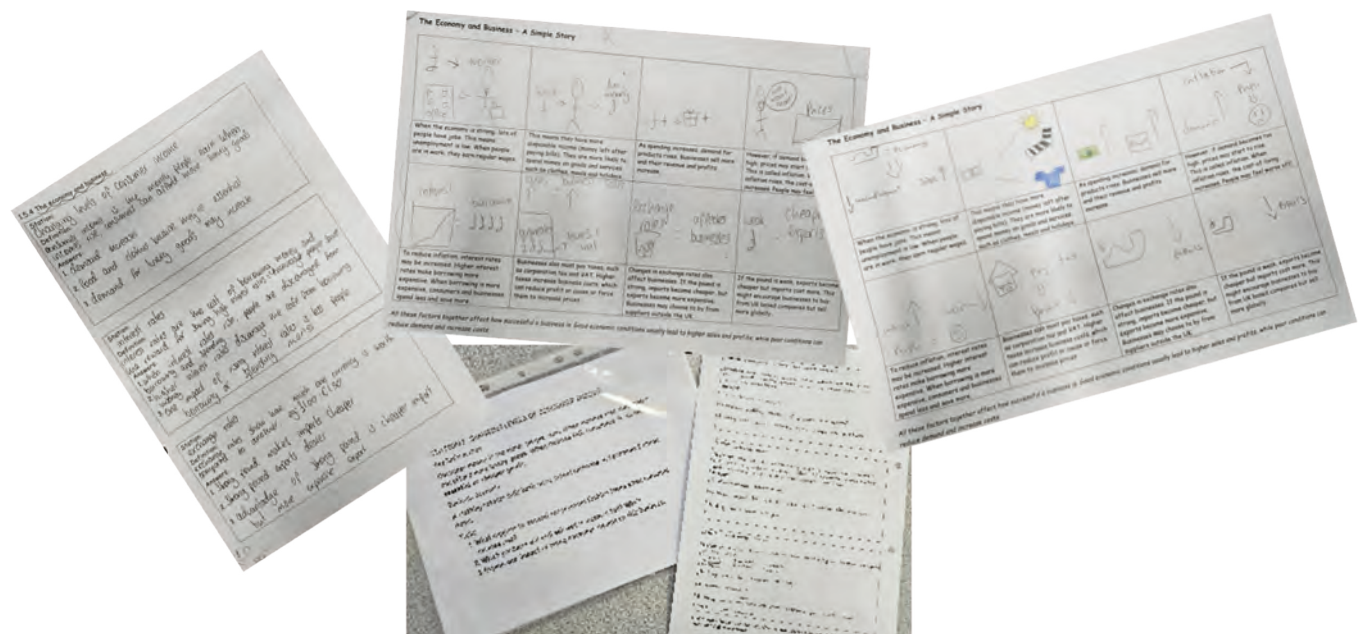


# Building Business Knowledge and Exam Confidence

It has been a focused and productive term for our Year 11 Business students. During the first few weeks, lessons were dedicated to preparing for their mock examinations.

Students demonstrated fantastic dedication to their studies, often revising collaboratively in groups to support one another, test their knowledge, and practise important memory retrieval techniques.

Since completing the mock exams, we have continued to channel this strong work ethic into revising Theme 2 content. One of the revision strategies students have recently



been using is carousel revision. In teams, students begin by writing down everything they can remember about a specific topic. The posters are then circulated around the room, with each group adding new information and ideas until all their knowledge has been exhausted. At this stage, students use their revision guides to check for any gaps in their understanding. Many students have previously used a similar strategy in the form of a "brain dump", and I hope they will continue to use these techniques to support their independent revision at home.

Meanwhile, Year 10 Business students have now completed the content for Theme 1, meaning they are almost ready

to sit a full Paper 1 after some further exam practice and revision. This term they have been exploring the external business environment. Students have investigated the role of technology in business, working in pairs to advise a small business on how technology could improve its operations. They have also examined how legislation can affect businesses and explored economic influences on business success. Through activities such as storyboards, carousel and paired tasks, students have developed a deeper understanding of how external factors can shape the performance and decision-making of businesses.

**Miss Emily Strutt**  
Head of Business Studies

## Computing in Action: From Apps to AI

This term has absolutely flown by, and what a busy time it has been!

Our Year 7's continue to look into app development and rather enjoyed their opportunity to watch Robo bingo, we will continue with this unit after Easter before moving onto computational thinking and Makecode block coding.

Year 8 have finished their Python unit and there have been some fantastic levels of coding.

Students really tried to develop their games and create them within Python, with some brilliant results.

We have started to look at sound manipulation and graphics focusing on how we present images. After their assessment, we will be looking at how we can create presentations to promote their game ideas.

This term Year 9 dived into the world of Artificial Intelligence and other computing impacts, a topic which is becoming increasingly important in daily life. We have discussed how the raw materials for computers are mined and processed and the impacts on the environment, as well as the continuing impact of Artificial Intelligence and how it may change the future.

In addition, we've explored the topic of social media and how it can impact on people's mental health. This included discussing some of its benefits such as how it can promote a cause (e.g. the ALS ice bucket challenge from 2012/13) as well as the potential future ramifications.

We have also started discussing how we can use IT skills in the real world – which is great preparation for their GCSE courses.

The Year 10 cohort continued their work on the impacts of computing, looking at the laws that govern computers as well as Artificial Intelligence and the use of personal data. Next, we will spend time practising exam technique and starting our new unit on coding practice focusing specifically on Python.

Finally, Year 11 are working on their final exam revision; in class we are looking at exam techniques and their Python programming. I wish them the very best of luck with their upcoming exams.

**Mr Matt Cresswell-Peters**  
Head of Computer Science



## Dance

### Thank You to the Friends of Houlton School!

The dance department would like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Houlton School.

Their hard-earned money was used to generously gift some handheld lights to be used in KS3 dance lessons.

So far, the students have really enjoyed learning choreography with them and using them to spark creativity for choreography tasks!

**Miss Frankie Connolly**  
Head of Dance



# DofE Kicks Off with Strong Sign-Ups and Successful Training



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is off to a fantastic start this year, and the enthusiasm from our pupils has been brilliant to see. We're delighted to have 72 students signed up for Bronze and a further 24 taking on the Silver Award - an impressive turnout that promises an exciting year ahead!

All participants have already successfully completed their training day, and it's safe to say it was a great success. They mastered the basics of map reading, learning essential first aid skills and even trying their hand at using outdoor stoves, students embraced every challenge with energy and good humour.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, we're working hard to ensure all students from last year are fully signed off and ready to receive their well-earned awards. It's always a proud moment seeing their efforts recognised, and we're looking forward to celebrating their achievements very soon.

With such a strong start and so much enthusiasm, it's shaping up to be another brilliant year for DofE!

**Mr James Hunter**  
DofE Manager



## Design and Technology

# Designing and Building 'Block-Bots'

Year 9 students have completed their wooden toy 'Block-Bots' in Design and Technology this term, producing some fantastic results.

Using their creativity and practical skills, students designed and made a range of imaginative characters.

The finished toys included everything from zombies and superheroes to animals and even sporting stars, with each design showcasing the students' individuality and craftsmanship.

The project allowed students to develop their design thinking, woodworking and finishing techniques, while bringing their ideas to life in a fun and engaging way.

Well done to Year 9 for their brilliant work!

**Ms Ruth Woodcraft**  
Head of Creative



# Year 11 French Mock Speaking Exams

This term, our Year 11 French students have reached a major milestone as they embark on the final chapter of their GCSE journey: the GCSE Speaking examinations.

Over the past few weeks, students have taken part in their mock speaking exams, and these have been an incredibly valuable experience for everyone involved. The mocks have provided a fantastic opportunity for students to practise under realistic exam conditions, build confidence, and identify exactly where their strengths lie, as well as the areas that still need a little extra attention before the final exams. They have also given staff a clear picture of where we are as a cohort and how best to support students in the final run-in to the summer.

There have been some real successes to celebrate. In particular, one of the standout highlights of the mock exams has been the read aloud task - we were so impressed by the quality of pronunciation across the cohort. Bravo, Year 11! Your hard work and commitment are really beginning to show, and it has been wonderful to hear such confident and accurate delivery.

To support students with their next steps, all mock speaking exams have been recorded and will be shared on Google Classroom. This will be a hugely useful revision tool over the Easter break, allowing students to listen back, reflect on their performance, and focus on improving specific areas ahead of the real thing.

As a cohort, the main area for continued focus is general conversation. This is where students can make a real difference to their final grade by developing fuller, more confident answers and becoming more secure with key themes and spontaneous responses. To help with this, we have produced revision booklets specifically designed to support general conversation preparation. If students would like a copy, they should speak to Mrs Cook or their languages teacher, who will be happy to provide one.

We would also strongly encourage students to make full use of our revision website, where they can find a wide range of support materials, guidance, and resources to help structure their independent revision.

Looking ahead, we will also be running revision sessions over the Easter break to give students even more support in the lead-up to the final exams. Further details will be shared soon, so please do keep an eye out for upcoming communication.

This is such an important stage in the GCSE journey, and we are incredibly proud of the resilience, effort, and positivity our Year 11 students have shown so far. With focused revision and continued practice, we know they can approach the final speaking exams with confidence.

**Mr Matthieu Raffy**  
Head of Modern Languages

## Modern languages

# Year 10 Visit to Keble College

Alongside members of the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme, Year 10 languages students had the incredible opportunity to visit Keble College in Oxford.

They met current university students, toured the beautiful campus, and experienced first-hand what life at Oxford University is really like.

From discussing courses and academic pathways to talking about ambitions and future aspirations, the day was filled with inspiring conversations.

Our students asked thoughtful questions about studying at university, student life, and their own next steps.

The visit also included time at the Pitt Rivers Museum, making it a full and enriching day in Oxford.

**Miss Ines Messaoudi**  
Teacher of Modern Languages



# Busy Half Term in PE with Skills, Fitness and Teamwork Across All Years

It has been another busy and positive half term in the PE department at Houlton. Students across all year groups have been developing their skills, improving their fitness and demonstrating excellent teamwork and attitudes in lessons and extracurricular activities.

## Curriculum Highlights

- **Year 7** students have been focusing on team building activities and developing their gym (floor) skills, learning how to work collaboratively while improving balance, coordination and confidence.
- **Year 8** have been working on fitness and team building, exploring different training methods and learning the importance of communication and cooperation in sport.
- **Year 9** students have been developing their skills and tactical understanding in basketball, focusing on passing, movement and game play.
- **Year 10** have been introduced to lacrosse and stoolball, experiencing new sports while developing striking, fielding and teamwork skills.
- **Year 11** students have been revisiting a range of sports from their PE curriculum throughout their time at Houlton as they continue to navigate through their mocks.

## Sporting Success

This half term we have seen some fantastic achievements in school sport. Our U13 girls' football team played their first game together, narrowly losing 4-3 in a very competitive match. The same team also achieved an excellent result in the indoor futsal tournament hosted at Harris, finishing second overall after a brilliant team performance.

## Clubs and Participation

It has been great to see our extracurricular clubs running again this half term, with strong attendance at:

- Volleyball
- Girls' Football
- Rugby

Thank you to all students who have attended clubs and represented the school so positively.

## Upcoming Fixtures

We have several rugby fixtures scheduled in the coming weeks, which we are really looking forward to. We wish all students involved the best of luck.

We are also incredibly proud that our U16 girls' team are through to the county cup final (we are currently awaiting confirmation of the match date).

## Positive Behaviour and Attitudes in PE

This term we have been recognising students who demonstrate excellent attitudes and behaviours in PE through our new HEART assessment system. Many students have been awarded reward points for showing:

**H**ard work

**E**ffort

**A**ttitude

**R**espect

**T**eamwork

Well done to everyone who has contributed positively to lessons, clubs and fixtures this half term.

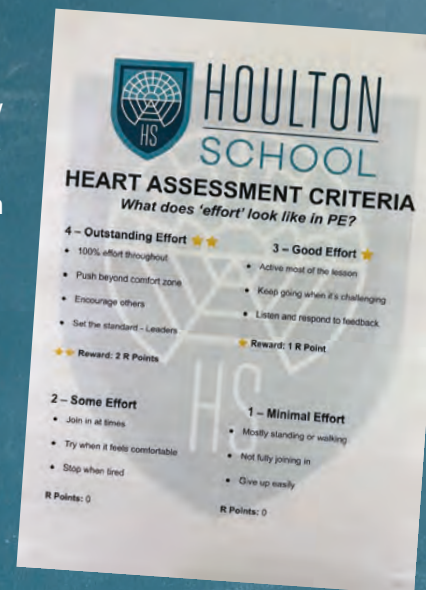
## Looking Ahead

After the Easter break, we are excited to begin our summer sports curriculum. There are also some big events coming up, including:

- District Athletics at Diamond Jubilee Athletics Track for Years 7-10
- The U16 Girls, County Cup Final
- Year 11 GCSE PE Moderation Day (on 22nd April)

Well done to our students for their effort and commitment this term. You have all been brilliant!

**Miss Abbie Hartfield**  
Head of PE



# A Vibrant Term of Faith Learning and Reflection

It has been another exciting and rewarding term for the department. Our students have engaged enthusiastically with a wide range of topics, from exploring moral lessons in biblical parables to understanding the values of Hinduism and preparing for their GCSEs.

With so much activity and discussion happening across all year groups, it's been a vibrant term full of learning, curiosity, and thoughtful reflection.

Year 7 have been focusing on Parables in the Bible, including the Parable of the Prodigal Son and the Parable of the Lost Sheep. It has been interesting to hear students' views and interpretations, and they have engaged really well with the moral lessons these stories offer.

Year 8 have been exploring Ramadan, learning about the practices, significance, and reasons behind the fast for Muslims. Students have gained a good understanding of how Ramadan impacts daily life and the wider faith community, including staff members who have been observing the festival.



Year 9 have been studying Hinduism, looking at the values of the faith and what it means to live as a Hindu in the UK today. Students have been thoughtful in considering how religious values influence daily life and decision-making.

Key Stage 4 students have been preparing for their GCSE RE, making this an intense but rewarding term.

**Mrs Dupinder Gatora**  
Head of Religious Studies

## PHRSE

# Exploring Gender Stereotypes in PHRSE

This term in PHRSE, Year 8 students have been exploring the topic of gender stereotypes and thinking about how these ideas can influence harmful behaviour and expectations in relationships. Students discussed common stereotypes about how boys and girls “should” act, both in everyday life and within friendships and romantic relationships.

Students were fantastic at identifying where these stereotypes come from, such as social media, films, advertising and wider society. More importantly, they showed great maturity in challenging these ideas and considering how stereotypes can sometimes place unfair pressure on people or prevent them from expressing themselves.

The lessons sparked some thoughtful discussions, with many students sharing examples and reflecting on how respectful relationships should be based on honesty, kindness and mutual respect rather than expectations linked to gender.

We were impressed by the way students listened to each other's viewpoints and contributed thoughtfully to class discussions. Students had lots to say on this issue and articulated their views confidently but with respect.

**Mrs Becky Cooper**  
Head of PHRSE

## NETFLIX

### Further Viewing for Parents

Parents who are interested in learning more about some of the online influences young people may encounter may wish to watch the **Louis Theroux: Inside the Manosphere** documentary on Netflix.

This programme explores online communities that promote extreme views about gender and relationships.

Please note that this documentary is recommended for parent viewing only, as it contains themes and discussions intended for an adult audience.



# Health and Social Care

Our Year 10 Health and Social Care students have recently begun work on their first piece of controlled assessment.

As part of this, they are designing and delivering their own health promotion campaigns. Students have been developing their understanding of how to communicate important health messages effectively and creatively to different audiences. To support

them with this project, we were delighted to welcome Joanne Trigwell from Leeds Beckett University, to speak with students about her experience working in health promotion. Joanne shared valuable insights into the process of designing successful campaigns

and offered practical advice on how to engage an audience and communicate key health messages clearly. Students found the session extremely helpful as they begin to plan and develop their own campaigns.



# Psychology and Sociology

Our Year 11 Psychology and Sociology students are now approaching the final stages of their courses as they prepare for their summer examinations.

Sociology students are currently studying social stratification, exploring how factors such as class, gender and ethnicity can influence people's life chances and opportunities in society. Meanwhile, Psychology students are focusing on psychological problems, including depression and addiction, examining different explanations and treatments for these complex issues. It has been encouraging to see students engaging thoughtfully with these important and challenging topics as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

Year 10 students in both subjects have also been making excellent progress. Sociology students have recently completed their unit on research methods, where they explored how sociologists collect and analyse data to study society. This has included looking at

different research techniques and considering the strengths and limitations of each method. Similarly, Year 10 Psychology students have been developing their own research skills and recently carried out observational studies as part of their research methods unit. These practical activities have helped students to gain a better understanding of how psychological research is conducted.

Beyond the classroom, we continue to strengthen our links with the local community. This term, students have been making regular visits to Butler's Mews Care Home, where they have enjoyed spending time with residents over tea, cake and a friendly game of Scrabble. These visits have been a fantastic opportunity for students to develop communication skills while building meaningful connections with members of the community.

We also organised a special tea party at Houlton for residents and carers before they attended the school's production of Little Shop of Horrors. Everyone had a fantastic time and we look forward to continuing to build these valuable community partnerships.

**Ms Emma Clark**  
Head of Social Sciences

# College Points



**Armstrong**  
21,151



**Dorsey**  
20,575



**Obama**  
23,966



**Shakespeare**  
25,208



**Winton**  
22,553



**Morse**  
21,699

# Houlton School Primary Provision

We're delighted that we will be opening the doors to our brand-new primary provision in September 2026.

Shortly, our first cohort of Reception pupils will receive confirmation of their places on Primary School National Offer Day in April. We can't wait to welcome them and their families to our community.

Our team are working hard behind the scenes to develop an exciting curriculum and learning offer for our youngest pupils and we'll be sharing more news about that soon.

The building itself is really taking shape, built using a timber frame that stores carbon rather than produces it, it is designed to be incredibly energy efficient, while complementing our existing Houlton School campus and the surrounding landscape.

Exciting times ahead!

**Paul Brockwell**  
Executive Principal



# Houlton School Sixth Form

September 2026 will also mark the opening of Houlton School's Sixth Form Provision.

In February, following a high level of applications, we held interviews with Houlton's current Year 11 students and other Year 11s from across the local community who wish to study with us next year.

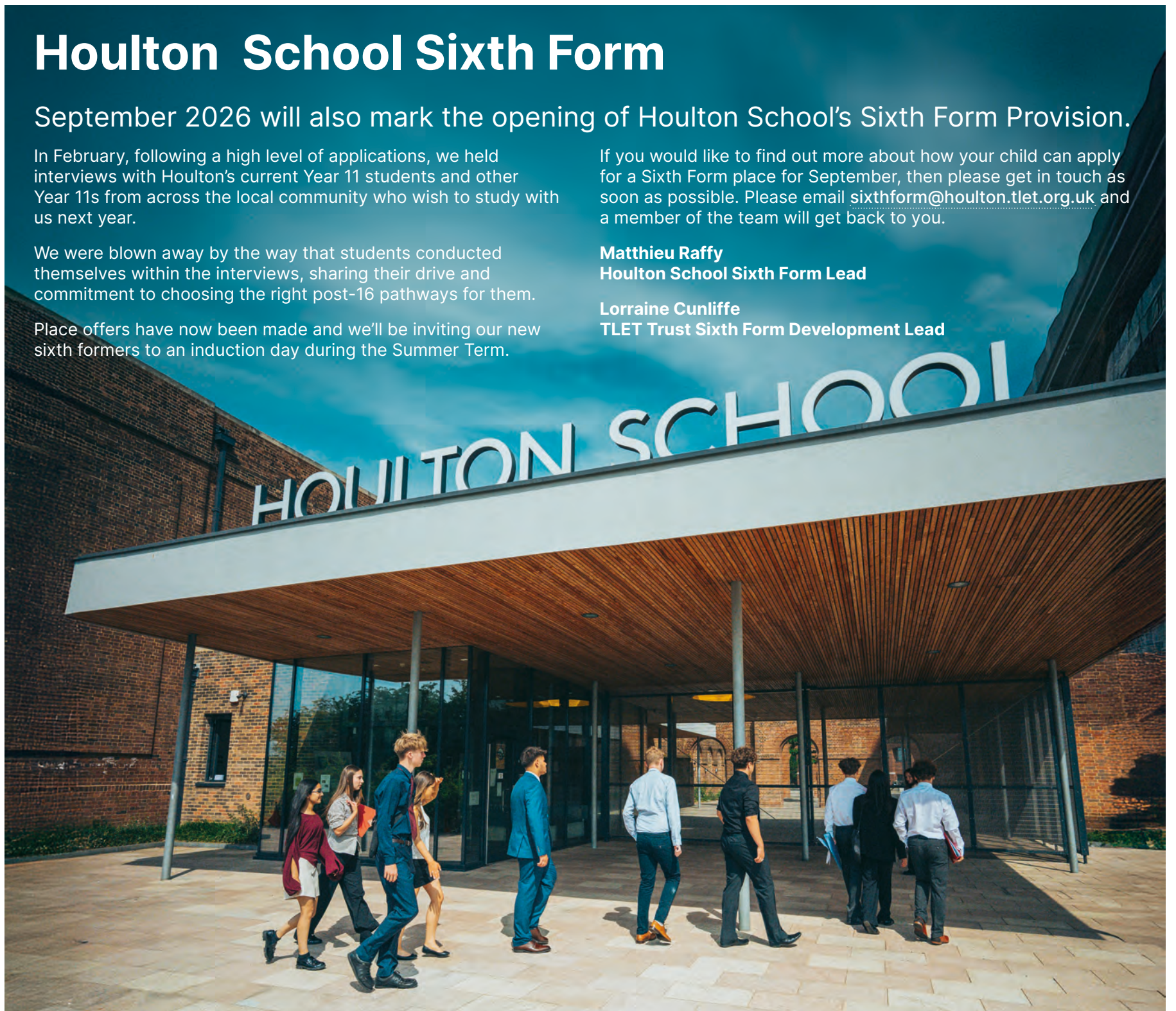
We were blown away by the way that students conducted themselves within the interviews, sharing their drive and commitment to choosing the right post-16 pathways for them.

Place offers have now been made and we'll be inviting our new sixth formers to an induction day during the Summer Term.

If you would like to find out more about how your child can apply for a Sixth Form place for September, then please get in touch as soon as possible. Please email [sixthform@houlton.tlet.org.uk](mailto:sixthform@houlton.tlet.org.uk) and a member of the team will get back to you.

**Mathieu Raffy**  
Houlton School Sixth Form Lead

**Lorraine Cunliffe**  
TLET Trust Sixth Form Development Lead





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