

# HOULTON SPRING NEWS 2026



HOULTON  
SCHOOL



## Welcome from the Executive Principal

As we reach the end of what has been a short but incredibly busy half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that has been achieved across our Houlton School community.

Although the weeks have flown by, there has certainly been no shortage of activity. Our students have embraced a wide range of exciting learning opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom. From engaging lessons and enrichment activities to trips, workshops and wider curriculum experiences, it has been wonderful to see so many of our young people taking part with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Every day, our students make me proud. Their hard work, positive attitudes and determination to succeed are a credit to themselves, their families and our school community. It is a privilege to see them grow in confidence and capability as they take advantage of the many opportunities available to them.

I would particularly like to acknowledge our Year 11 students, who have been working exceptionally hard in the lead up to their GCSE exams. This is an important and demanding time for them, and I have been so impressed by their focus, resilience and

commitment to achieving their very best. They have approached this period with maturity and determination, and they should be really proud of the effort they continue to show.

On behalf of all the team here at Houlton, I'd also like to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support, which makes such a positive difference to our school community.

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Parents Forum, your time, engagement, and contributions are greatly valued. We are committed to working in partnership with our families and want you to have a voice in our school, helping us to continue to grow, reflect, and move forward together.

**Paul Brockwell**  
**Executive Principal**



# Message from the Head of School

I can't quite believe that we're already in February, marking the halfway point of the academic year. So, this is a timely and valuable opportunity to pause and reflect on both progress and wellbeing.

The winter months can feel demanding, particularly as expectations increase and routines become more intense. During this time, resilience is not just about pushing forward, but also about knowing when to rest, reflect, and seek support.

This has been especially true for our Year 11 students, who are now entering a crucial stage of their exam preparation. It has been a pleasure to welcome Year 11 parents into school for our first face-to-face parents' evening, as well as to host a study skills evening to support students in developing effective revision strategies.

Their commitment, determination, and maturity have been clear to see, and maintaining a healthy balance between hard work and wellbeing will be vital in the months ahead.

Across the wider school, Year 10 students have completed their assessment week, providing the chance to reflect on progress and next steps.

We have also welcomed all year groups to Rail Line Safety talks, reinforcing key messages around safety and responsibility.

In addition, we were pleased to host our second Sixth Form Information Evening, supporting students and families as they consider their next steps.

You can read more about classroom learning and highlights in this edition of the newsletter.

This term has also offered a range of enriching experiences beyond the classroom, including trips to a Careers in Dance event, the Velodrome, Butlers Mews Care Home, and the Shakespeare Festival.

These opportunities play an important role in broadening horizons and bringing learning to life.

Looking ahead to next half term, the first two weeks back will see our Year 11 students sitting their mock examinations.

These mocks provide another valuable opportunity to assess where students are in their learning journey and to ensure the right support is in place as they continue to prepare for their final exams.

Alongside this, we will be hosting the Year 10 Parents' Evening, a Kenilworth Castle trip, TLET's Got Talent, Duke of Edinburgh training, the Science Fair, World Book Week, and Comic Relief. It promises to be another busy and exciting half term for our school community.

I hope the break provides time to rest and recharge, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the opportunities ahead.

**Lorna Pountney**  
**Head of School**



## An update from TLET's CEO

I am pleased to share an update with you regarding leadership arrangements at Houlton School.

As you will know, Paul Brockwell and Lorna Pountney have been leading the school as Interim Executive Principal and Interim Head of School (respectively) over recent months.

It is safe to say that Mr Brockwell and Mrs Pountney have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the Houlton School community and our wonderful students and their families during that time.

Using their combined years of experience and expertise, they have already been making a real difference and closer collaboration with Ashlawn School has also been proving to have many benefits for the education on offer here at Houlton.

I am, therefore, delighted to confirm that we have asked Mr Brockwell and Mrs Pountney to continue in these roles on a permanent basis.

This reflects the significant impact that they have both been having and formalises these new arrangements, giving Houlton the ability to continue the very positive journey that it's on.

I am also pleased to confirm that we recently welcomed Mr Gyan-Bediako as interim Vice Principal and he will be remaining at Houlton for the foreseeable future.

Over the coming months, you may also see some other new faces at Houlton as we are currently in the process of recruiting for two TLET Vice Principals, who will work across our secondaries to lead on various areas of our provision.

We certainly have lots to look forward to over the coming months. Not only is there a packed calendar of curriculum and enrichment activities planned for our current students, but we will also be opening Houlton's brand-new primary provision and offering Post-16 courses for the Houlton community for the very first time!

Thank you for your continued support.

**Helen Stevenson**  
**TLET CEO**

**TL** Transforming Lives  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST



# Coming Soon: Little Shop of Horrors

Our talented students are preparing to bring the acclaimed musical 'Little Shop of Horrors' to the stage, with performances taking place on 24th, 25th

and 26th March. Rehearsals are well underway and the cast and crew have been working incredibly hard to create a show packed with energy, humour, music, and a touch of the unexpected.

With unforgettable songs, bold characters and show-stopping performances, this production will be a fantastic showcase of our students' creativity. Their dedication behind the scenes and on stage has been so inspiring to watch and they're excited to share the final result with a live audience.

Tickets will be available soon on Eventbrite. You won't want to miss this fantastic production!

**Miss Frankie Connolly**  
Head of Dance



## Year 7 Achievement

We are incredibly proud to celebrate one of our talented Year 7 students, Chimdalu, who has achieved something truly remarkable — he is now a published author with a series of books to his name.

Chimdalu's dedication, imagination and perseverance have led him to write and publish multiple books, showcasing not only his creativity but also his commitment to developing his craft. Writing a single book is an achievement in itself; producing a series demonstrates real passion, discipline and ambition.

At Houlton School, we are committed to nurturing creativity and encouraging our students to pursue their talents beyond the classroom. Chimdalu is a fantastic example of what can be achieved through hard work, self-belief and determination.

We look forward to seeing where his writing journey takes him next and are excited to continue supporting his success. Well done, Chimdalu — we are all extremely proud of you!

**Lorna Pountney**  
Head of School



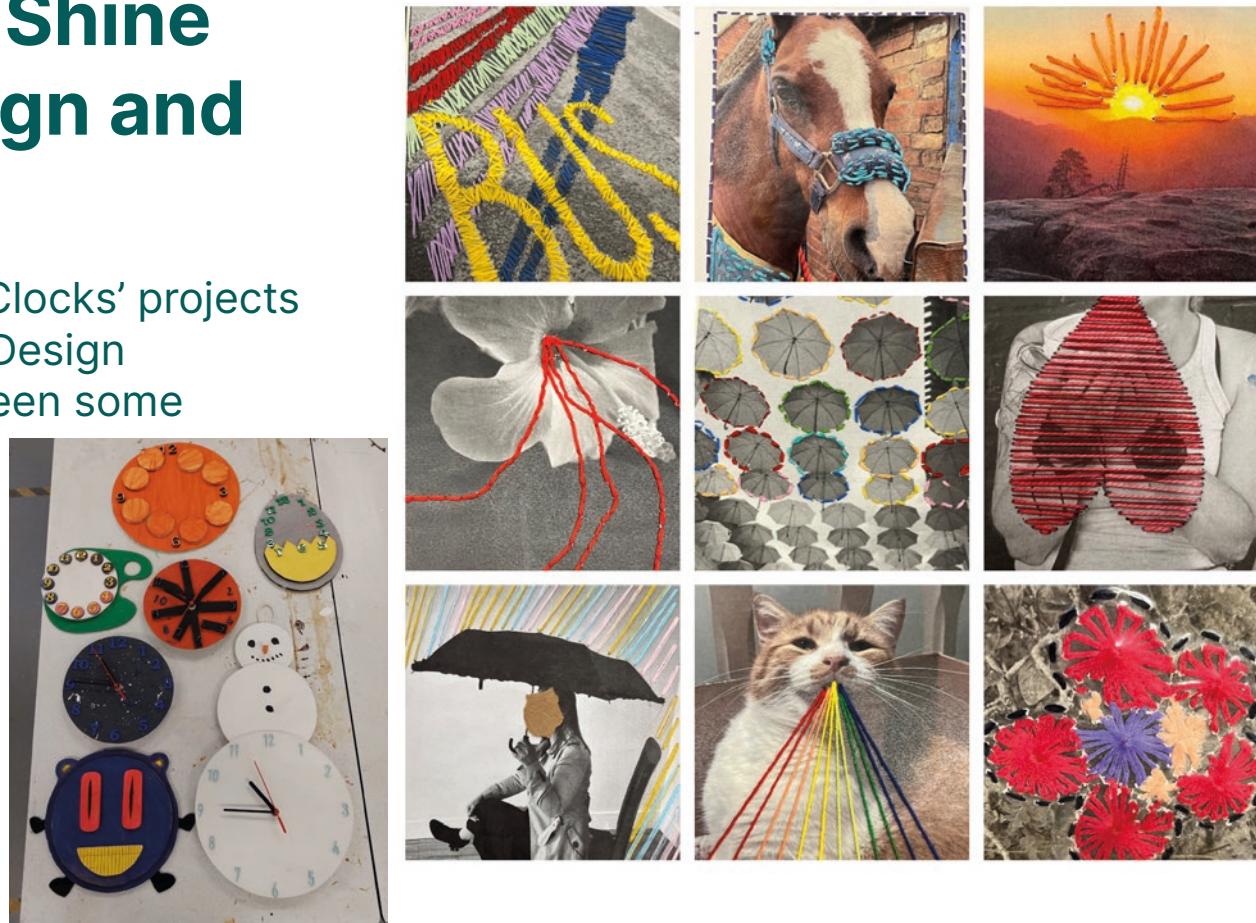
Nnadi, Chimdalu Nnadi is an emerging young author from Nigeria, currently a secondary school student with a remarkable passion for storytelling. At just 11 years old, Chimdalu has already written ten books, demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to creative writing and literary expression. His work spans a variety of genres, often exploring themes of adventure, imagination, and resilience. Chimdalu's writing is inspired by his surroundings, his culture, and a deep curiosity about the world. Beyond writing, Chimdalu is an avid reader and a dedicated student. His goal is to inspire other young minds to pursue their dreams fearlessly and to show that age is no barrier to achievement. With a strong foundation and a clear vision, Chimdalu Nnadi is a name to watch in the future of African literature.

# Creative Skills Shine in Year 10 Design and Photography

Year 10 Design students' 'Clocks' projects are nearing completion in Design Technology! There have been some eye-catching designs and clear development of skills in the workshop.

Year 10 Photographers have also been combining creative techniques to explore how stitching into photographs can change the way we read images - unlocking new skills and thinking outside the box when it comes to communicating ideas in the arts.

**Ms Ruth Woodcraft**  
Head of Art and Photography



## Business Studies

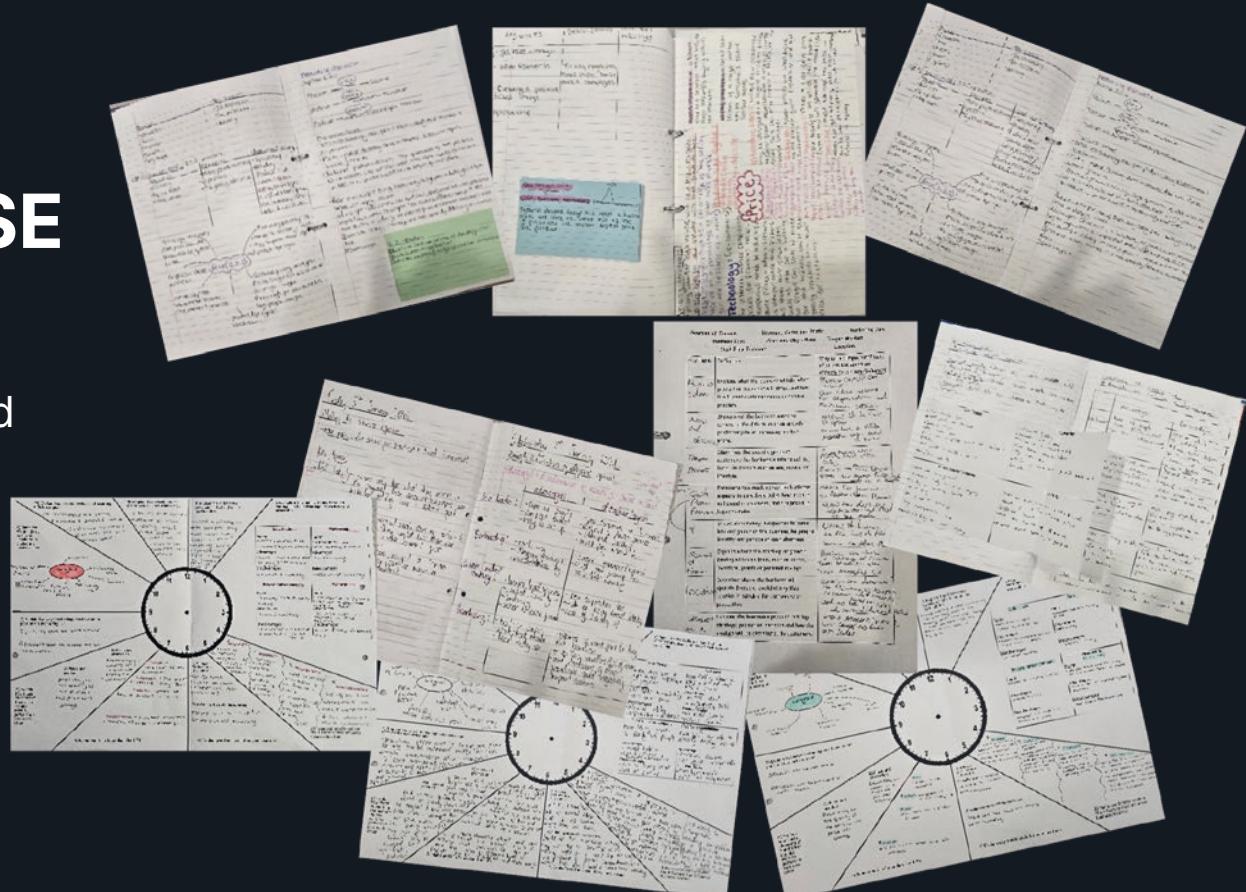
# Preparing for Success in GCSE Business

Year 11 have now completed the full GCSE Business content, finishing with the final topic on motivation just after Christmas. With the course content secured, lessons are now firmly centred on exam technique and purposeful revision.

Students began this by exploring "How do I revise best?", helping them identify revision strategies that suit their individual learning styles.

Alongside this, they have been tackling challenging 9 - 12 mark exam questions, not only refining their exam technique but also developing valuable skills in self- and peer-assessment to deepen their understanding of what examiners are looking for.

This term, Year 10 have successfully completed their fourth topic, Making the Business Effective. Students have explored key areas



such as types of business ownership, location, the marketing mix and business plans through a variety of engaging activities, including carousel tasks, match-ups, worksheets and grids.

As always, the topic was brought to a close with a strong focus on revision, using memory retrieval activities, revision clocks and a mini assessment to consolidate learning and build confidence moving forward.

**Ms Emily Strutt**  
Head of Business Studies

# Building Digital Skills

The new year has started with students developing their understanding of computers, practicing Python or getting ready for their mock exams.

Next term will allow us to ensure this knowledge is secure and ready for our students to develop these concepts and skills even further.

Year 7 have completed their work on understanding computers and have enjoyed realising that numbers can work in different ways and exploring how images are put together through binary code.

Next term we start looking at app development and control systems with a focus on creating flowcharts. One of my favourite aspects of this unit is asking students to think about how they do day-to-day tasks such as making a sandwich. We will also be watching an episode of 'Bluey' called Robo Bingo to help illustrate how computers require clear and direct instructions in order to function properly.

We, as humans, already know how to brush our teeth but a robot or computer system

(in this case a small red heeler dog, invested in her imagination) has no idea about the individual commands needed to complete this task so require step by step instructions.

Python coding has been the topic of choice for both Year 8 and 9 this term, with Year 9 reviewing their previous skills (creating inputs, variables and outputting answers) and adding some new ones including importing a random module and while loops.

Next, we delve into the world of artificial intelligence, the production cycles of electronic devices and the impact this has on the world around us. Year 8 will be using skills from this term to turn their games from script to live code. They have learnt the basics of Python as well as 'IF' statements and subroutines. After this topic we will be moving on to revisit data representation in the form of sound and data manipulation using Excel.

Year 10 have continued to work hard, with units focusing on data representation, networks, ethics and impacts. I can honestly say that ethics and impacts is one of my favourite units to teach as it really encourages conversation, debate and thought from students. The group have also completed their first full mock paper which will be used to help guide their revision and work as we head into Year 11.

Year 11 students have continued work on developing their Python skills ready for paper 2 as well as revisiting their previous units. We will continue to run mock papers with the group as well as a full paper 1 and 2 mock exam over the coming months to prepare them for their exams in May.

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

## Dance

# Careers in Dance Event

Some of our BTEC Dance students attended the Black Country Dance Hub (BCDH) Careers in Dance event in January.

They took part in workshops, a Q&A with industry professional Marcia Edwards, and explored opportunities with dance companies, colleges and universities.

They represented Houlton School brilliantly and were articulate, creative, confident and independent – well done everyone!

**Miss Frankie Connolly**  
**Head of Dance**



# Poetry, Shakespeare and GCSE Mocks Take Centre Stage

## Key Stage 3

Year 7 have been immersed in the world of poetry from different cultures.

Alongside reading some amazing poetry, they have been learning key skills such as annotation and analysis of language. The assessed piece of work this term is to write a letter to someone from a different country in a plea to learn more about their myths and legends and seek to preserve their culture.

Year 8 have moved along our literary timeline to land in both Ancient Rome and Shakespearean London for their study of Julius Caesar. Year 9 are investigating the tragic landscape of World War One in their study of RC Sherriff's play, Journey's End.

English Faculty Student of the Term this time is Maya-Rose for an incredible start to this term and always being helpful, engaged and enthusiastic.

Other students nominated by their class teachers were: Jordan O 9W, Eva S 9W, Emma E 7O, Benjamin G 7A, Lottie T 7A, Georgia H 11W, Bilva R 9W, Aidan G 9M.

## GCSE

In Year 11, students are moving towards their March mock exams. These exams will play a vital role in ensuring that all students have covered the content for their Summer GCSEs and have experience of what these papers look like. All Year 11 will complete a GCSE Language Paper 1 and a GCSE Literature Paper 1 focusing on: Macbeth and A Christmas Carol.

Please support your child with their revision in the lead up to these mocks. Re-reading both texts over the half term break would be an excellent use of time.

There are literally thousands of websites that can provide revision support. We have filled Google Classroom and Edulink with

After the half term break we will be covering:

- **Y7** - Writing different forms of poetry
- **Y8** - Julius Caesar
- **Y9** - Journey's End
- **Y10** - An Inspector Calls
- **Y11** - Mock Exams and Revision

Keep on reading!

resources but if you wish to access more, these are some of the best:

**GCSE English Language (AQA) Paper**

[www.aqaenglishrevision.com/lang-paper-1](http://www.aqaenglishrevision.com/lang-paper-1)

**GCSE English Literature (AQA) Paper**

[www.physicsandmathstutor.com/english-revision/gcse-aqa](http://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/english-revision/gcse-aqa)

[www.aqaenglishrevision.com](http://www.aqaenglishrevision.com)

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



# Students Showcase Growing Culinary Skills

Year 10 students have been busy acquiring the skills for pasta making, along with sauce making techniques. They have really had to focus on time management within the lessons to get all aspects completed. Look at their fabulous outcomes!



Year 9 students have also been putting their recall of chopping techniques to the test while making sweet and sour chicken noodles.

**Mrs Baldeep Devgun**  
Head of Food Preparation and Nutrition

## History

# Castles and Power: Year 7 explores the Norman Conquest

In Year 7 history we are exploring the Norman Conquest - when William of Normandy stormed England and became King William I after a fierce battle with Harold Godwinson.

William I used Motte and Bailey castles as a way to solidify his power and keep control of England and his people.

Students in Year 7 were given a set of instructions from King William I describing what these castles should look like and what features they should have. They were then set the challenge of creating their very own castle drawing.

In the picture, you can see some of our Year 7 students with their interpretations, next to what an actual Motte and Bailey castle looks like.

This is a great way for students to think about how castles were used, why they were used, and helps address misconceptions about the typical "fairy-tale" castles we are used to seeing.

**Mr I Roy & Mr A Taylor-Concannon**  
Teachers of History



# French

Our Year 11 French students have done us incredibly proud this term. Their commitment, resilience and determination continue to shine through, and it has been a pleasure to see just how much effort so many students are putting into their learning. As we move forward, we are now fully embedding Educake as our platform for French homework.

Students are expected to engage with Educake on a weekly basis, as set via Edulink, to consolidate classroom learning and build confidence across all skills. Regular, consistent engagement with this platform will play a vital role in helping students achieve the very best of which they are capable, and we strongly encourage families to support students in developing this routine.

In addition to this, our GCSE students should be making regular use of our dedicated French VLE, which brings together key revision materials, guidance and support for all aspects of the course. This resource is designed to complement classroom learning and independent revision and can be accessed at <https://sites.google.com/houlton.tlet.org.uk/gcsefrench/home>

Using this alongside Educake and class resources will help students feel confident, prepared and well supported as they progress through this crucial stage of their studies.

We have been hugely impressed with the vast majority of our students, who have approached this challenge with maturity and ambition. Many students have been revising thoroughly, practising key language independently and making excellent use of the dedicated revision session, which saw fantastic levels of attendance and engagement. The confidence students showed when speaking French was truly rewarding to witness, and it is clear that their hard work is paying off.

Looking ahead, we are genuinely excited for the next term. It promises to be the most demanding yet, but also one of the most

# Spanish

Students across all year groups in the Spanish Department have been engaging with big questions that encourage them to use the language meaningfully while developing cultural awareness, confidence, and key GCSE skills.

**Year 7** have been exploring the question *¿Dónde vivo yo?*

They have learned how to describe the area where they live, talking about their town, local facilities, and what they like and dislike about their surroundings. This has helped them build strong foundations in describing places and expressing opinions in Spanish.

**Year 8** have been focusing on the big question *¿Cómo llevar una vida sana?*

Students have learned how to describe a healthy lifestyle, including diet, exercise, and daily habits. Lessons also encouraged wider thinking, with discussions around obesity and health issues affecting different countries around the world, helping students make meaningful real-world connections.

**Year 9** have been introduced to the past tense through the question *¿Cuánto he cambiado?*

They reflected on how they have changed over time, comparing their past and present lives. As part of this unit, students experienced a GCSE-style speaking task, including photo

rewarding. This is the point in the year where perseverance really matters, and our students have already shown that they are more than capable of rising to the challenge. The satisfaction that comes from seeing progress, confidence and success grow is what makes this period so special. It is hard work, but it is good work – how rewarding, how satisfying, how great it is to see students pushing themselves and recognising just how much they can achieve.

Our enthusiasm for languages does not stop at Key Stage 4. At Key Stage 3, planning is now fully underway for our much-anticipated trip, Escape to the Château. This exciting experience will take place this summer with our Year 8 students. The trip promises to be a memorable opportunity for students to immerse themselves in French language and culture beyond the classroom. Activities will include visits to local markets, cooking experiences, cultural visits and much more, all designed to bring language learning to life in a fun, engaging and meaningful way.

Across all year groups, it has been inspiring to see such enthusiasm for French and such a strong work ethic. Whether it is Year 11 students preparing for their final assessments or younger learners beginning to explore the language and culture, the commitment shown by our students continues to impress. As we move into the next term, we do so with confidence, pride and genuine excitement for what lies ahead.

**Mr Matthieu Raffy**  
**Head of Modern Languages**

description, giving them an early and valuable insight into GCSE expectations.

**Year 10** have explored *¿Quién está en mi entorno?*

This unit focused on relationships with family and friends, allowing students to express opinions, describe relationships in detail, and begin to develop more complex answers in preparation for GCSE speaking and writing tasks.

**Year 11** tackled the forward-looking question *¿Quién seré cuando sea mayor?*

They have been discussing future aspirations, careers, and ambitions, using the future tense with increasing confidence as they prepare for their final GCSE assessments.

We are extremely proud of the effort and progress students have made across all year groups and look forward to continuing to develop their linguistic skills and cultural understanding throughout the year.

**Ms Roca Casanovas**  
**Head of Spanish**

# Rewarding Effort and Building Exam Confidence

We are delighted to share that Years 7–10 are currently taking part in an exciting homework reward initiative through the Sparx Maths platform.

Students earn XP for their effort and progress, and we have been thrilled to see a significant increase in engagement, with many students logging on more regularly and completing extra work.

At the end of the Spring Term, rewards will be presented to the students with the highest XP totals across the academic year, recognising their commitment, resilience, and dedication to learning. We encourage all students to keep up the fantastic momentum, continue challenging themselves, and push towards these prizes. Your support at home makes a huge difference, and together we can help our students develop strong, independent study habits.

Year 11 students have been showing real commitment as many have been attending after-school revision sessions and completing past papers in preparation for their upcoming mock exams later this month. The sessions have been well attended, with students using the extra time to review key topics, practice exam techniques, and build confidence in a focused, supportive environment.

With final exams in just a few short weeks, this early preparation is helping students develop strong revision habits and identify areas to improve well ahead of time. Teachers have praised the positive attitude and determination on display.

This proactive approach is a great example of the hard work and resilience of our Year 11s as they take important steps towards success in both their mock and final exams.

**Mr S Cairns**  
Head of Mathematics

# A Standout Half Term for PE and School Sport

It has been a busy and highly successful half term in the PE Department, with students across all year groups showing excellent commitment, enthusiasm and progress both in lessons and competitions.

Curriculum learning has been varied and engaging.

- **Year 7** have been developing their racket skills and tactical understanding through Badminton.
- **Year 8** have focused on Volleyball, building teamwork, communication and consistency.
- **Year 9** have taken part in team-building and fitness activities, challenging themselves physically while developing leadership and cooperation.
- **Year 10** students have been working on Table Tennis and Handball, refining skills and applying strategies in competitive situations.
- **Year 11** have continued with a mixture of sports, maintaining high standards of performance.

We are incredibly proud of several shout-out moments this half term. A huge congratulations to Isaac in Year 9 who finished 7th overall in the English County Cross Country Championships and has now been selected for the English Schools team - an outstanding achievement and thoroughly deserved.

Our U16 girls' and boys' county football teams have also enjoyed success, progressing into the next round of the County Cup. The boys put in a fantastic performance but narrowly lost 2–1 to Stratford, last year's finalists. Our girls have received a bye into the next round and we are very much looking forward to seeing them in action next half term.

This half term also saw the final practical mock moderation for our Year 11 GCSE PE cohort. Students approached this with maturity and focus, applying themselves excellently in preparation for the real moderation taking place in late April and early May.

Finally, it has been fantastic to see our Year 7 girls competing in their very first netball fixtures against Bilton, Avon Valley, Rugby High and Rugby Free. They improved game by game, showed great enthusiasm, and represented the school superbly. We look forward to welcoming them back in Year 8 to build on the valuable experience they have gained.

Overall, we are extremely proud of all our PE students. Their dedication to lessons, co-curricular clubs and school teams continues to be outstanding. Well done to everyone involved - keep up the fantastic work!

**Miss Abbie Hartfield**  
Head of PE



# Building Healthy Relationships

In PHRSE, all year groups are focusing on the theme of Relationships, helping students develop the knowledge, skills and values they need to build positive, respectful relationships now and in the future.

In Year 7, students are exploring friendships, with a strong focus on empathy, kindness and understanding the impact our behaviour can have on others. This lays the foundation for positive relationships across school life.

Year 8 students are learning about diversity and the positive role that communities play in society. They are also developing their understanding of equality, fairness and the Equality Act, helping them recognise and challenge discrimination.

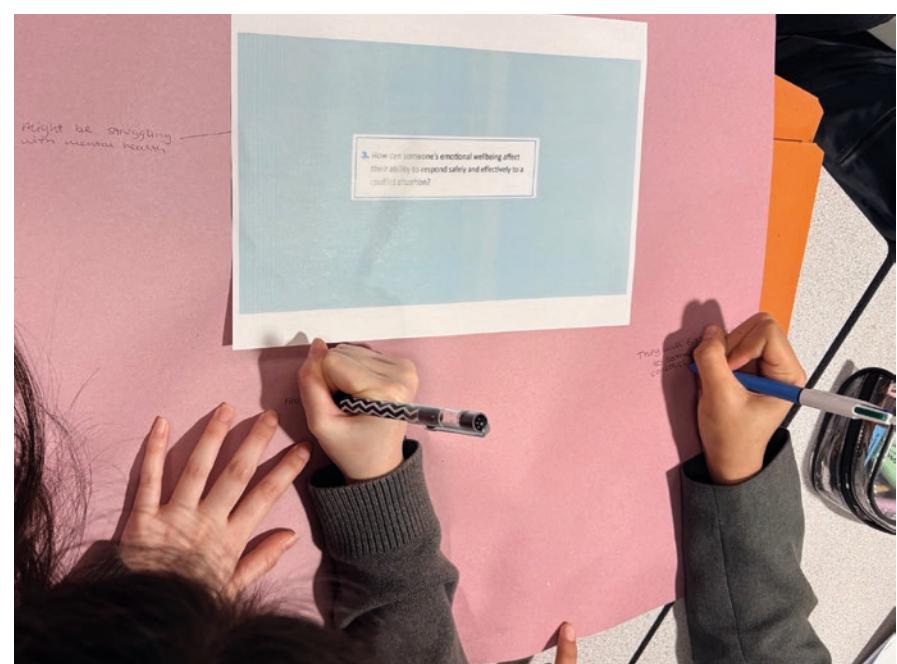
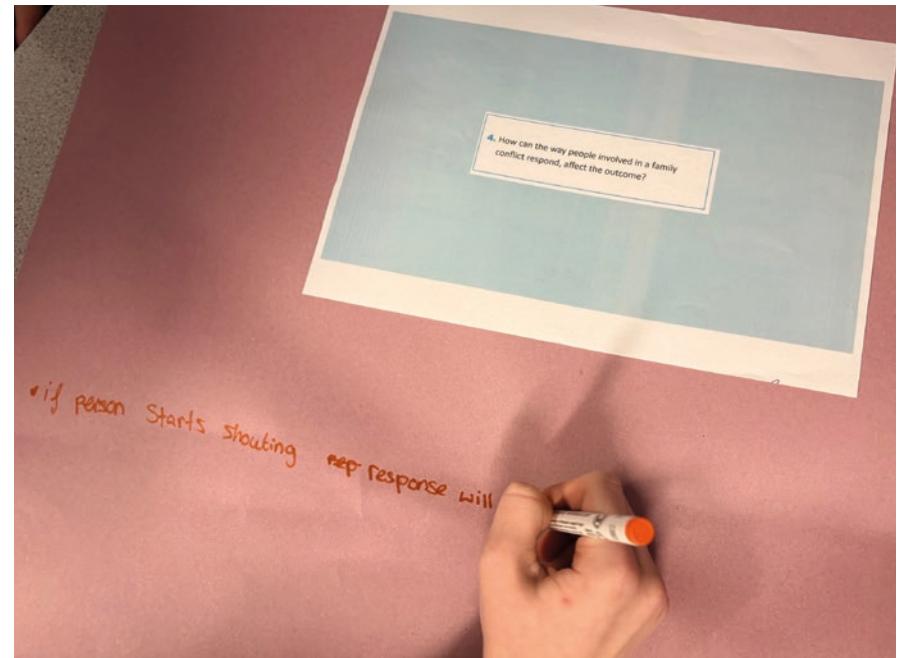
In Year 9, the focus moves to different types of families and how relationships can vary. Students are also learning about constructive disagreement, developing skills to manage conflict respectfully and communicate effectively.

Year 10 students are covering the topic of intimate relationships, including the importance of healthy boundaries, respect and consent, ensuring they understand what safe and positive relationships look like.

Finally, Year 11 students have been focusing on preparation for adulthood, including long-term relationships, marriage and civil partnerships, supporting them as they prepare for life beyond school.

Through PHRSE, we aim to equip all students with the confidence, understanding and values needed to build healthy relationships and thrive as responsible members of society.

**Mrs Becky Cooper**  
Head of PHRSE



Today's Title: **How can you manage conflict in relationships?**

## Carousel: conflict questions

What does effective conflict management look like in different types of relationships (e.g. family, friends, partners)?

Why might someone manage a conflict situation in a less healthy way?

How can someone's emotional wellbeing affect their ability to respond safely and effectively to a conflict situation?

How can the way people involved in a family conflict respond, affect the outcome?

What indicators might there be that the way someone manages relationship conflict has become unsafe and further support is needed?

06:24

BQ: How might my beliefs and values guide my choices about relationships and family life?

# Exploring Faiths and Beliefs Across the School

This term has been a busy and exciting one in Religious Studies, with students across the school engaging thoughtfully with a range of faiths, beliefs and traditions from around the world.

Year 7 students have been exploring Christianity, learning about its core beliefs, practices, and traditions. Many have enjoyed discovering stories about Jesus and understanding why Christianity is important to millions of people today.

Year 8 have focused on Islam, learning about the Five Pillars of Islam and the importance of key festivals such as Ramadan and Eid. Students showed great curiosity and respect when exploring how faith shapes daily life for Muslims.

Year 9 students have been studying Hinduism, developing their understanding of concepts such as karma, dharma, and the importance of festivals like Diwali. Lessons encouraged deep thinking about values, choices and the meaning of religious celebrations.

In Key Stage 4, Year 10 students have made a strong start to their GCSE Religious Studies short course, focusing on Christian beliefs and developing the skills needed for exam-style questions. Year 11 students are now completing the course and preparing for their final examination on 20th May, showing determination and focus as they approach this important milestone.

As the term comes to an end, students are preparing for end-of-topic assessments, giving them the opportunity to reflect on how much they have learned. Engagement across year groups has been excellent, and students have shown maturity and enthusiasm in lessons.

"I've enjoyed learning about different religions because it helps me understand people's beliefs and why they do certain things," said one student.

It has been a productive and rewarding term in Religious Studies, and we look forward to seeing students continue to grow in confidence and understanding in the months ahead.

**Mrs Dupinder Ghatora**  
**Head of Religious Studies**

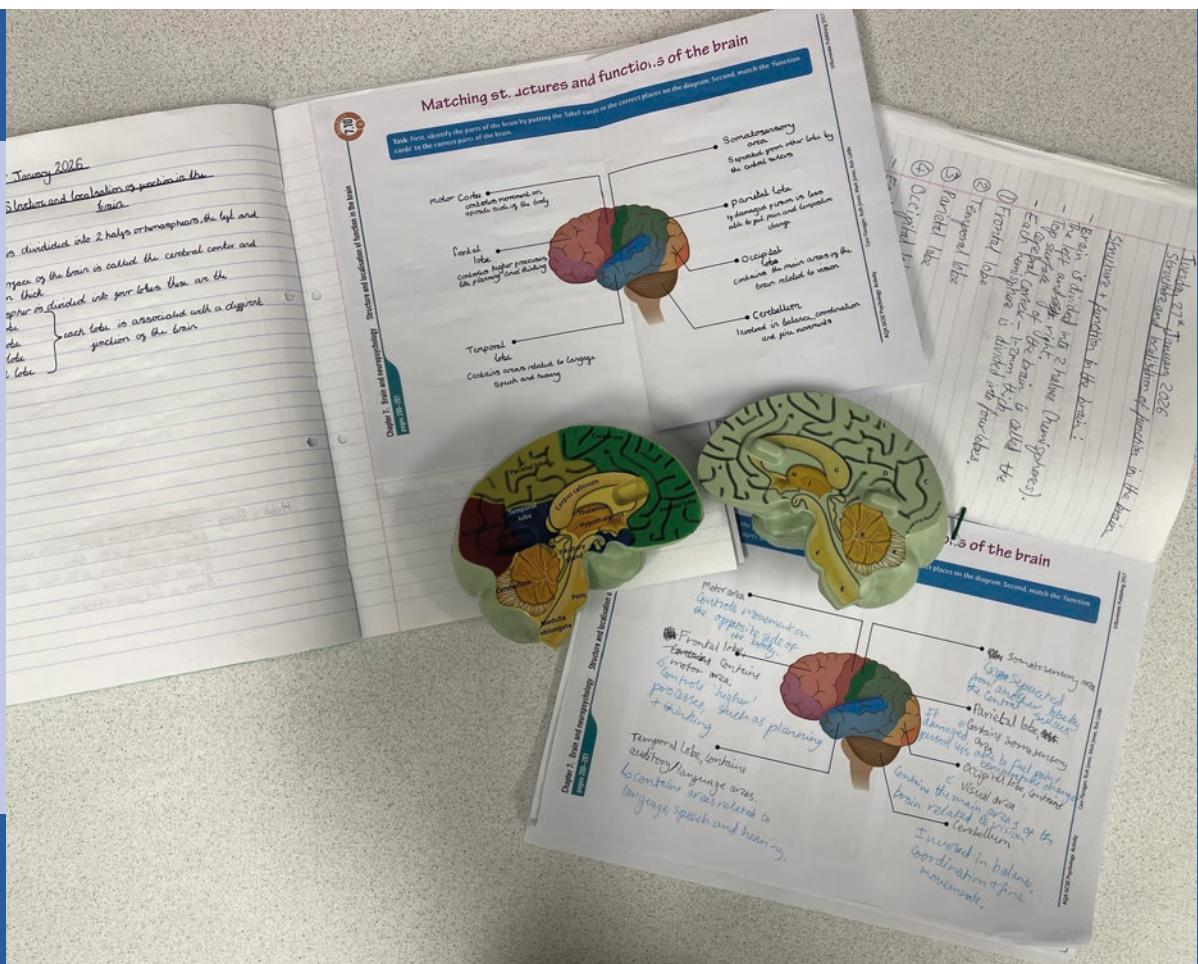
## Social Sciences

It was lovely to meet so many Year 11 parents and carers at parents' evening recently. Thank you for taking the time to come and speak with me. If you would like another copy of the support document that was shared on the evening (or emailed out), please do not hesitate to get in touch.

In Psychology, Year 10 students have begun their study of research methods, an integral part of psychology. To bring this topic to life, we had some very willing volunteers taking part in a ball-throwing experiment which helped to demonstrate different experimental designs in a practical and engaging way.

Year 11 Psychology students have now completed their work on the brain and neuropsychology. This unit has involved exploring the structure of the brain and understanding the functions of different areas, building a strong foundation for exam success. We are extremely grateful to the Friends of Houlton, who very kindly donated brain models to support this learning - these have been a fantastic resource and greatly enhanced students' understanding.

In Sociology, Year 10 students have recently completed their first assessment and we are really proud of both their results and the proactive way they responded to feedback.



Year 11 students have continued to develop their exam technique, with a particular focus on extended writing questions. Alongside this, they have been exploring the factors that influence crime and deviant behaviour, engaging thoughtfully with some challenging and important topics.

In Health and Social Care, Year 10 students have been identifying and discussing barriers to making healthy choices. This has led to some interesting discussions, including debates around the banning of social media for under-16s. Students have also been exploring health promotion campaigns as preparation for their first controlled assessment after half term.

**Ms Emma Clark**  
**Head of Social Sciences**

# Houlton School Primary Provision

We are looking forward to welcoming our very first Reception class to Houlton School's Primary Provision in September 2026.

The new primary building is really starting to take shape, and we can't wait to see all of the detailed plans for the fantastic new learning spaces becoming a reality.

Behind the scenes we're also busy preparing an exciting curriculum for our youngest pupils, organising resources and finalising uniform - getting everything ready for the new academic year.

Over the coming months, we look forward to giving you further updates about this exciting addition to the Houlton family.

**Paul Brockwell**  
**Executive Principal**



## Thinking about Sixth Form?

Thank you to all of the Year 11 students and their parents that were able to join us for our recent Sixth Form Information Evening.

We're delighted to be working in collaboration with Ashlawn School to deliver this new Post-16 provision for our students.

Drawing on the expertise and experience of the Sixth Form Team at Ashlawn, we've been developing a Sixth Form curriculum designed to empower our students to achieve their best academically and develop a lifelong love of learning to pursue their passions.

This includes a tried-and-tested pastoral, careers and enrichment offer that has been shaped to provide a supportive and inspiring environment for our students.

Preparing students for further and higher education as well as the world of work will be at the very heart of this. So, students will benefit from personalised support with UCAS applications, employability skills programmes, information about higher level apprenticeships and so much more.

There will also be lots of opportunities for students to develop their personal character and confidence. Our Pay It Forward programme, student leadership, peer mentoring, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and CCF are just some examples of the opportunities that Sixth Formers will have access to.



After half term, we will be holding our one-to-one consultations with Year 11 students that have applied for a Sixth Form place at Houlton.

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.

**Mr Matthieu Raffy**  
**Houlton School Sixth Form Lead**

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

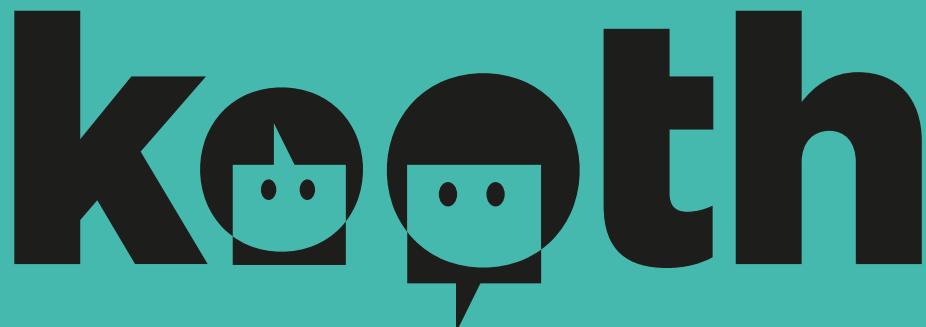
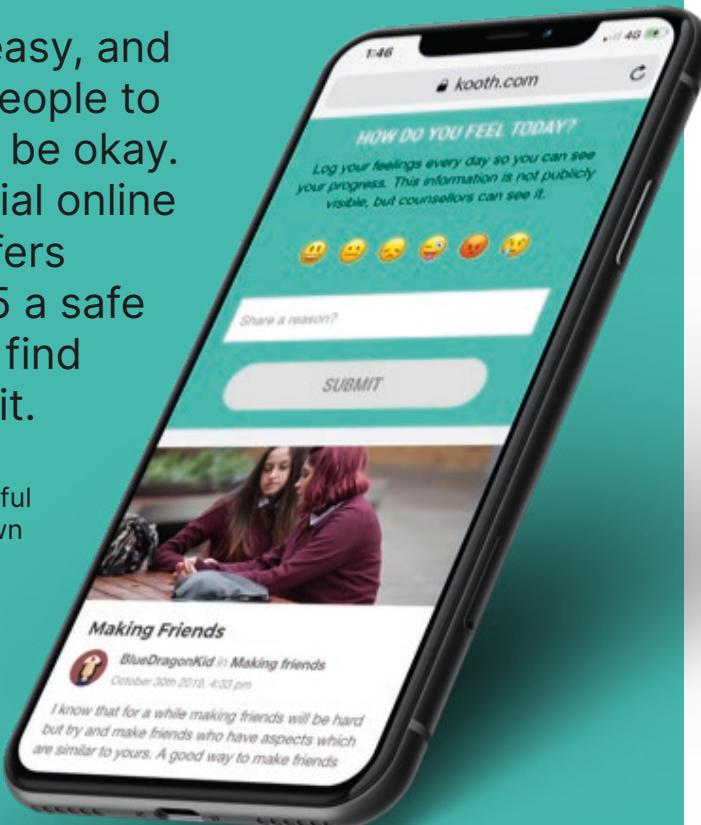
# Kooth – Support When Young People Need It

Growing up isn't always easy, and it's important for young people to know that it's okay not to be okay. Kooth is a free, confidential online wellbeing service that offers young people aged 10–25 a safe space to talk, reflect and find support when they need it.

Kooth allows young people to access professional mental health support, helpful resources and wellbeing tools in their own time, without pressure and without the need for a referral. Many young people find it reassuring to know support is available online, especially if they find it difficult to talk face-to-face.

The service is available all year round and is carefully moderated to ensure it remains a safe and age-appropriate environment. Kooth works alongside families, schools and local services to support young people's emotional wellbeing. Our school's safeguarding team is also always available to support students and can help signpost to services such as Kooth if needed.

Parents and carers can find out more, and young people can access the service here  
<https://connect.kooth.com/young-people>



# Key Dates For The Diary

Here are some key dates for the next coming term

## 23rd February - 6th March

- Year 11 Mocks

## 23rd February

- Sixth Form interviews

## 5th March

- Year 10 Parents Evening

## 10th March

- TLET Science Fair

## 11th March

- DofE Celebration Event

## 12th March

- TLET's Got Talent

## 13th March

- Ele Fountain Author Visit (Nominated Students)
- GCSE Food Practical
- Year group photos
- DofE Training Day

## 17th March

- Great Dance Off

## 23rd March

- GCSE Food Practical

## 24th - 26th March

- School Show

## 26th March

- Y11 Kenilworth Castle

## 27th March

- School Closes at 1:10pm

# College Points



Armstrong  
21,151



Dorsey  
20,575



Obama  
23,966



Shakespeare  
25,208



Winton  
22,553



Morse  
21,699



# HOULTON

SCHOOL

Houlton School  
Signal Drive, Houlton, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 1ED

Telephone: 01788 593 300  
Email: [hello@houlton.tlet.org.uk](mailto:hello@houlton.tlet.org.uk)  
[www.houltonschool.org.uk](http://www.houltonschool.org.uk)

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