



Hayes School Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that 2026 has started positively for you and your families.

A Positive Start to the Term & Our New School Values

It has been a real pleasure to welcome students back this January. They have returned exceptionally well, with a calm, focused and positive attitude to learning. This half term has also seen the launch of our new school values with students: **Be Kind, Show Up, Own It, and Stronger Together**. It has been wonderful to see these values already coming to life in classrooms, corridors and co-curricular activities across the school.

Celebrating Student Experiences

There has been a real buzz around the site, with lots of fantastic events taking place. A particular highlight was for our students who represented the school in football and were fortunate enough to see, and have photographs with, the FA Cup. I later discovered it is valued at around £1 million, so I was relieved it made it back safely!

Mobile Phones – A Reminder

You may be aware that new Department for Education guidance on mobile phones has recently been published, with further updates expected in the coming months. I am watching this closely to understand any implications for schools. In the meantime, I would like to remind families that we operate an *out-of-sight, gate-to-gate* mobile phone policy. While I understand that some parents want their child to be contactable on the journey to and from school, we strongly believe that the school day should be a time for students to learn, connect and enjoy each other's company without distraction, a clear example of *showing up* fully for learning. We do confiscate mobile phones each time they are seen and issue detentions for repeated confiscations.

First Give & Student Leadership

Year 9 students have been producing some outstanding First Give projects, demonstrating creativity, teamwork and social responsibility. I particularly enjoyed the "Splat the Teacher" event — even if it did involve me being hit in the face with a wet sponge! Today brings "Beat the Keeper", and I am fully expecting a degree of humiliation. These moments not only really capture what it means to *be kind and stronger together* as a community but also raise money for charity.

This year we are supporting the following charities through the

First Give project; Bromley Y, Bromley Brighter Beginnings, Porchlight, Show Racism the Red Card, Rays of Sunshine, Bromley Mencap and The Ella Dawson Foundation.

Sporting Success

Sport continues to be a real strength of the school. We have had some stunning results recently, including a fantastic rugby victory against Whitgift by our U18B side – 31-24. Our Year 12 footballers also beat Bishop Justus a resounding 5-0. Congratulations to all students and staff involved for the commitment and pride they show in representing the school.

Working in Partnership with Parents

We were delighted with the success of the recent Year 10 Parents' Evening. Feedback across all year groups this year has been extremely positive, with over 92% of parents saying they would recommend the school to another parent. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Trips, Enrichment & Sixth Form Mentoring

There have been lots of fabulous trips taking place including to Berlin, The Play That Goes Wrong and Starlight Express, enriching students' learning and broadening their cultural experiences. It has also been brilliant to see our Sixth Form students mentoring Year 11 students in Modern Foreign Languages during morning sessions — a fantastic example of students *owning it* and supporting one another to succeed.

Exam Focus: Years 11 and 13

Our Year 13 students are working incredibly hard during their mock examinations, and it has been impressive to see their focus and resilience. In addition, our new Year 11 revision programme has now gone live, with every student having access to multiple revision sessions and subject masterclasses. This reflects our belief that we are always *stronger together* when we work collaboratively to support success.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and I hope to see some of you at Dancefest next week. It is a privilege to work with such a committed school community, and I look forward to sharing more positive news with you as the term continues.



Psychology

In the Spotlight



On Tuesday the 16th of December Year 13 Psychology students visited Bethlem Royal Hospital to find out about the hospital's history and approach to treating mental health conditions. It was interesting to grasp what living in a mental institution was like through different time periods, specifically what an individual might experience living in Bethlem itself.



We learnt about how the hospital moved from Liverpool Street to Moorfields and then to its present site in Beckenham and the reasons for these moves (primarily due to the recognition that greener spaces are good for our mental health). As well as this, we considered how diagnosis has changed over time. In the 1500's, you could only be admitted to Bethlem for being in either a 'Raving' or 'Melancholy' state, but in the present day, there are nearly 300 recognised mental illnesses in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. Those two diagnoses from the 1500s are represented through two huge statues, which have stayed with the hospital as it has moved location until today. In addition, we analysed the artwork 'The Maze' produced by William Kurelek, a patient of the hospital who became a well-known artist. We interpreted the conflicts he may have been experiencing through the images he presented in the painting and learnt a lot about his life experiences from this in-depth look into his work. Finally, we also had chance to look around the museum, listening to transcripts of people talking about what mental illness means to them, viewing artwork that patients have created, and seeing historical artifacts such as restraints and treatment machines.



Modern Foreign Languages

In the Spotlight



From the 7th to the 10th of January, Hayes A-Level German students along with three students from one of Trust schools, Langley Park Girls, went to Germany's capital city of Berlin. Although it was very cold with snow on the ground, reaching lows of minus 10 degrees, students found themselves enjoying all aspects of the trip, leaving no room for boredom!

We arrived in Berlin at about 19:00, with plenty of people tired from the flight, and bought ourselves dinner from a nearby restaurant, as an easy start to the busy trip ahead of us. We were warmly welcomed into the hotel "MEININGER Hotel Berlin Alexanderplatz" and settled into our rooms.

On Thursday, we ventured upon a walking tour around the city. The excursion with our guide, Chris, was well-received, and everyone learnt something historical about the post-Nazi era of Germany, such as the famous escape plans from East Berlin into West Berlin. We finished the tour at Checkpoint Charlie and grabbed a bite to eat. After some time in the KulturKaufhaus exploring all sorts of books, instruments and records, we headed to a chocolate workshop at Rittersport. This also involved a few facts about the chocolate making process, and how the company of Rittersport came to be, along with two bars of hand made chocolate per person! Afterwards, we visited the Reichstag, in which we read about the historical context around the building and parliament itself. We enjoyed an incredible Italian meal at a local spot; the day was then finished with interactive games — everyone was so competitive!

After a later start on Friday at 09:00, which was well-needed, we visited the former Stasi prison - Hohenschönhausen. During the Cold War, this was one of the many places where the Stasi would send their political enemies. As censorship was prominent, opposing the regime was seen as a crime, which meant many innocent people were interrogated and held behind those prison walls. In the afternoon, we then looked around the DDR (German Democratic Republic) museum, gaining an insight into the lives of those living in the country up until 1989. Our day came to an end, as we ate in a famous German restaurant—Lemke Hackescher Markt – and watched the film 'Rental Family' in a little arthouse cinema. An interesting mash up of German, Japanese and English!

After a bonus trip up the TV tower at Alexanderplatz on Saturday morning for fantastic views in the crisp morning, we set out in groups around the Berlin Mall to explore and buy any wanted items. Even more exciting, it had a huge slide in the middle! We enjoyed our free time, allowing us to be able to shop & eat lunch without worry. With nearly all euros spent, we returned

back to the hotel, to take our suitcases and fly back to England.

By Daniel D





Our second MusicFest of the year is coming up - an unmissable opportunity to hear our students performing a fabulous mixture of music, from rock and pop to musical theatre, classical and more. Solos, duets, and small groups from students in all year groups are invited to perform - those that would like to need to sign up using the form on our blog www.hayesmusic.blog. Tickets are £2 and can be bought online via our ticket shop <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hayes-school-music/t-mjoagex> or on the door.

Music Success

Congratulations to the following students, who have passed graded music exams:

- Alice V 11JWH: grade 5 piano
- Lucy B 11AHM: grade 4 piano (merit)
- Robert S 10JKE: grade 4 jazz piano
- Jude F 10 FZA: grade 1 piano
- Helena G 9MSK: grade 1 piano (merit)
- Thomas P 10TJA: grade 3 acoustic guitar (distinction)
- Cyan K 9DDG: initial grade drum kit (merit)
- Jacob T 11KAN: grade 2 drum kit (merit)
- Sophie V 11ASP: grade 6 singing (merit)
- Alyssa M 10LWF: grade 4 singing (merit)
- Norah M 8VSB: grade 3 musical theatre singing (merit)
- Katie C 6AMT: grade 6 flute (merit)



YEAR 11 THEATRE TRIP: THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG AT THE DUCHESS THEATRE

On Tuesday evening, our Year 11 GCSE students had the chance to see *The Play That Goes Wrong* at the Duchess Theatre in London as part of their upcoming written exam – an evening filled with laughter, surprises, and plenty of falling scenery!

The production follows the fictional 'Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society' as they attempt to stage a murder mystery. Unfortunately for them (and fortunately for the audience), absolutely everything that can go wrong...does. From missing props to collapsing set pieces, it's a brilliantly staged disaster that keeps the audience laughing throughout.

The students thoroughly enjoyed this immersive show which was full of slapstick humour and fast-paced silliness. Credit must be given to the students who behaved impeccably and who were a credit to the school.



Year 8 Students Inspired by Guest Speaker



On Tuesday, Year 8 students had the privilege of hearing from an inspiring guest speaker, Emma Flaxman, who shared her fascinating career journey in media, marketing and advertising. Emma worked as a Brand Marketer for Channel 4 and gave students an engaging insight into how she arrived at her role.

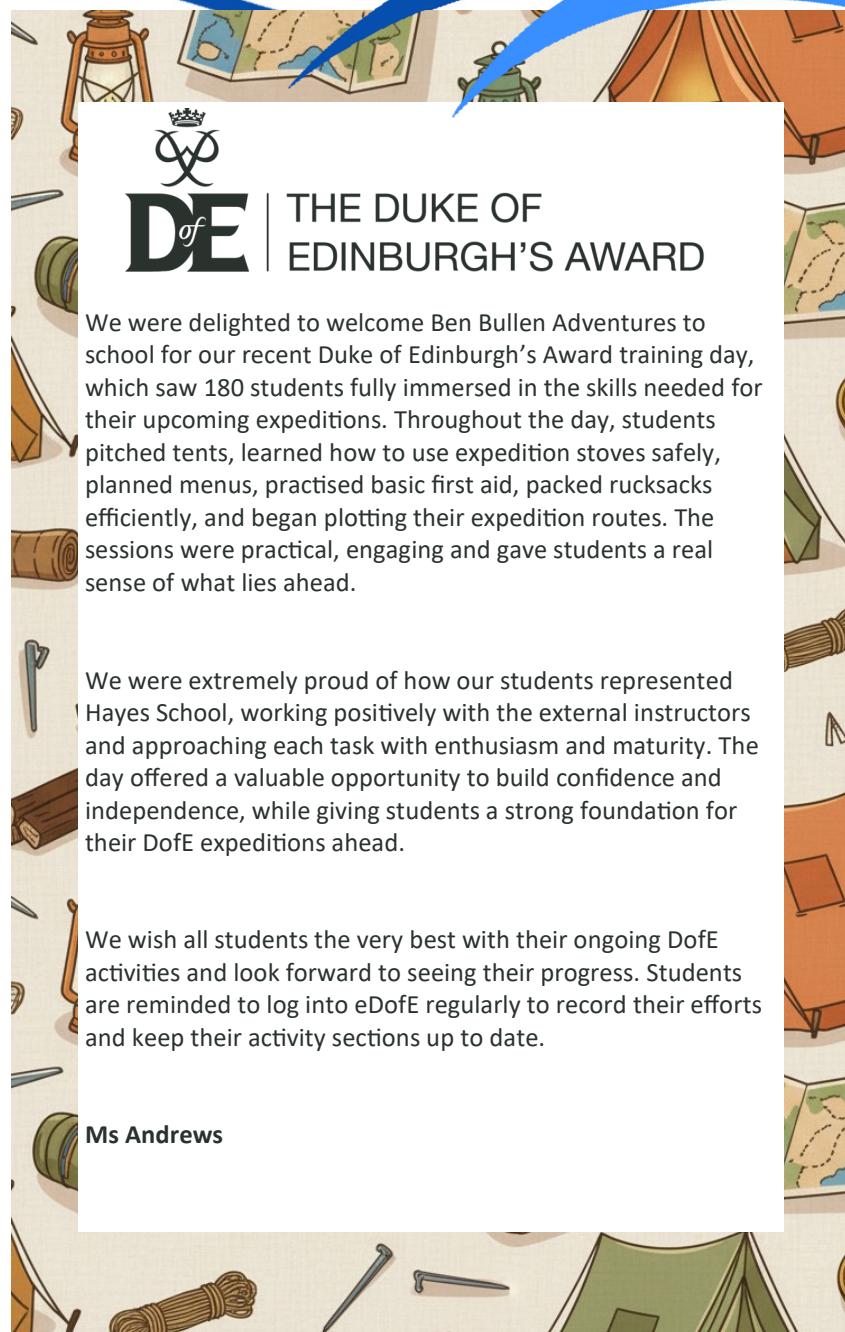
Emma spoke about the variety of pathways available within the industry, including apprenticeship schemes within organisations, and the differences between working in-house for a brand and working at an agency. She explained how agency roles can offer opportunities to try a wide range of areas such as planning, finance, design and technology. As brands move in and out of agencies, employees gain experience working on different styles and projects, helping them to build a broad skill set.

Students also learned about the essential skills needed to succeed in the media and marketing world. Emma highlighted problem solving, teamwork, working under pressure and the ability to multitask "like a robot" as key strengths. However, she emphasised that the most important skill of all is curiosity. As Emma explained, careers do not start with a job title – they start with curiosity.

Her final message was particularly reassuring for students: at Year 8, there is no need to have everything figured out. Emma encouraged students to embrace their "accidental career paths", reminding them that even jobs they may not enjoy can be valuable, as they help reveal what they do not want in the future.

The talk was both motivating and thought-provoking, leaving students inspired to stay curious and open-minded about their futures.





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

We were delighted to welcome Ben Bullen Adventures to school for our recent Duke of Edinburgh's Award training day, which saw 180 students fully immersed in the skills needed for their upcoming expeditions. Throughout the day, students pitched tents, learned how to use expedition stoves safely, planned menus, practised basic first aid, packed rucksacks efficiently, and began plotting their expedition routes. The sessions were practical, engaging and gave students a real sense of what lies ahead.

We were extremely proud of how our students represented Hayes School, working positively with the external instructors and approaching each task with enthusiasm and maturity. The day offered a valuable opportunity to build confidence and independence, while giving students a strong foundation for their DofE expeditions ahead.

We wish all students the very best with their ongoing DofE activities and look forward to seeing their progress. Students are reminded to log into eDofE regularly to record their efforts and keep their activity sections up to date.

Ms Andrews



2026 SPRING

Please click [here](#) for the latest edition of the Friends of Hayes School newsletter

MOPAC

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

Youth Survey 2025-26

The Mayor of London and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) are running a survey to help them understand the experiences of young people aged 11 to 16 in London.

The survey asks for your views on crime and policing, including whether you have ever been a victim of crime and what you think about the police.

The results are intended to help them understand more about what is important to young people in London and help to tell them how to keep young Londoners safe.

If you would like your child to complete the survey, please click [here](#).

NHS

South London Children and Young People's Community Immunisation Service

Join our webinar on

teenage vaccines

Join our upcoming information session to learn more about the vaccines that are offered to your child in year 8 and 9.

Thursday 29 January
16:00 – 17:00

Scan the QR code to join the call!



January 2026



Having a New Year clear-out? We'd love your pre-loved children's books!

Following on from last year's hugely successful book donation day, we are pleased to announce that we are once again working with ABC Book Club to help collect and redistribute pre-loved children's books to local primary schools and organisations.

We now have a permanent book donation drop off box for all members of our school community to use.

Find out about the work of ABC Book Club at <https://www.abcbookclub.co.uk/>



Please drop off any good quality, pre-loved books suitable for ages 5-11 in the drop off box located in Gadsden's main reception area.



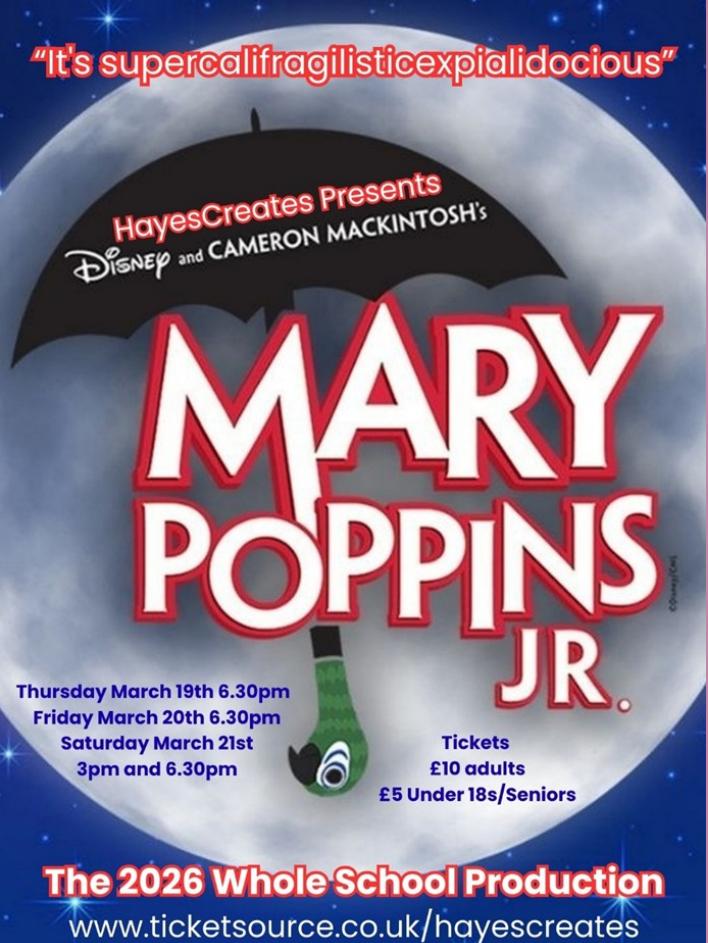
Tickets for this year's HayesCreates Whole School Production – Mary Poppins Jnr – go on sale at 9am on Monday 26th January!

A huge cast of students from Years 7-13 have been working tirelessly with Mr Brett, Miss Werry, Mr Edwards, Mrs Elford and Mrs Duggan since September on the terrific adaptation of the ever-popular Disney classic Mary Poppins.

Performances will be in the Main Hall from Thursday March 19th to Saturday March 21st, with evening performances on all three days and an extra matinee on the Saturday afternoon.

Tickets are available online only, from our Box-Office at www.ticketsource.co.uk/hayescreates

Prices are £10 for Adults and £5 for Under 18s and Seniors. This is going to be a tremendous show and we expect it to sell out, so don't miss out!



DANCE FEST

Tickets - [Tickets](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hayes-dance-fest-tickets-29100000000)

Students: FREE **28th January 2026**
Adults: £3 **6pm @ Hayes School**

All performers and students attending will receive achievement points!
 Friends and family are welcome!

HAYES DANCE

FRIENDS OF HAYES SCHOOL

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

Next Opening Date

Friday 27th February 2026

We are now located on Lower Street (past the main hall and down the steps)

We prefer card payments.
 We will be accepting uniform donations.

Attendance

Top Attendance W/C 5th January 2026		
Year	Tutor group	Percentage
7	7CAP	100.00%
8	8VSB	97.35%
9	9MJE	97.84%
10	10TJA	95.70%
11	11JWH	99.61%
12	6LEE	100.00%
13	6SGR	95.83%

Top Attendance W/C 12 th January 2026		
Year	Tutor group	Percentage
7	7S2B	98.12%
8	8VSB	96.97%
9	9EEG	96.06%
10	10TJA	96.25%
11	11JWH	97.50%
12	6DDD 6LEE	96.67%
13	6MMM	98.4%