Head's Newsletter

Friday 27 November 2026

'Excellence in a Caring Community'

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope all is well with you and your families.

Premier League Football and Training Sessions During Successful Manchester Trip

Last weekend, twenty students in Years 8 and 9 had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a football tour to Manchester.



Friday morning was an early start, and despite arrival in the school car park at 6.15am, students were excited for the weekend ahead. After a long journey to Manchester, students were treated to an excellent training session run by high level UEFA B qualified coaches. The players wore Manchester City training kit, and had a great opportunity to see the Manchester City training set up, including facilities used by the first team. After a quick change we headed into Manchester City Centre for an afternoon at the National Football Museum, where the students were able to see over 40,000 historical items, including the 1966 World Cup ball, Sir Geoff Hurst's World Cup shirt, and the only replica World Cup. Students also had the chance to play on some of the interactive football challenges.

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Following a quick hotel check in/dinner, we headed off to The University of Manchester sports centre, for our evening fixture. A Friday night fixture under the lights against Salford Junior Football Club, saw all players putting up a hard fought battle against a strong team. Hobart had a number of chances and our keeper made some brilliant saves. Salford came away with the win, but Hobart did themselves proud against a well organised team.



The next day, students had a chance to fill up on a big breakfast before heading off to the Etihad Stadium for Manchester City vs Fulham. We had brilliant seats near the pitch at the goal end, and were lucky enough to be able to watch the Man City players warm up right in front of us. Our students were even able to shout and get a wave back from their favourite players. It was great for those there to see the likes of Haaland, Foden, Anderson and Doku work though their pre match routines. Students had great view of the Anderson goal, and seemed to enjoy and soak up the atmosphere.

Following the game and a quick walk back over to the training centre, students had a quick change ready for their second training session. They were brilliantly engaged in the coaching activities and were asking questions about drills and careers in the football world. After a long and busy two days, we had an early dinner at the Manchester City training centre folowed by a return to the hotel, where students were treated to some Mr Stone and Miss Vickers quiz questions and a paper airplane competition!

Sunday saw an early start for the final training session of the weekend. Students were lucky to have the same coaches all weekend, so were able to develop skills and drills. We then had an Etihad Stadium tour, including the changing rooms, the

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tunnel, first team gym, directors boxes and the dug outs. Students got a chance to welcome 'Coach Stone' into the tunnel and walked the player's routes down the tunnel onto pitch side. The last part of the tour was a visit to the media centre including a 'visit' from a well known player.



A quick late lunch and we headed on our way back to school. We would like to thank InspireSport who supported us on the tour and Paul Colbeck who attended the trip as our InspireSport rep.

Thank you to all the students who made the trip such a successful 3 days. We hope they have taken a lot away from the experience and we look forward to start planning for football tour for 2027. And lastly, thanks to the staff who took part and gave up their weekend.

Article by Miss Vickers

Play Area Consultation

Loddon Town Council is currently running a public consultation on the proposed refurbishment of Kittens Lane Play Area. They would be really grateful for any feedback from parents/carers and students – please access the survey below if you wish to have your voice heard:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/viPUZ2YwrK

The consultation will run until 1 December 2026.

They are aiming to ensure that the refurbished facilities meet the needs of the local community, with particular consideration given to older children and more inclusive play opportunities.

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Subject Stars of the Week - Drama



Alice Aitkin (Year 9) - excellent attitude to Peter Pan rehearsals, preparation and focus.

Ernest Scott (Year 9) - dedication to Peter Pan rehearsals, creative approach with excellent ideas.

Computer Science Stars of the Week

Alexander Goff and Lathujan Mathavan – Year 10.

Both Alexander and Lathujan have made a great start to their Computer Science GCSE. Lathujan has been practising coding at lunchtime in ICT02, and Alex regularly attends 'Coding Club' - after school Tuesday and Thursday. Both are making rapid progress in their journey to master the programming language Python, reaching L4 in the Mission Encodable challenges. This week, they used the turtle library to draw snowflakes; making use of iteration, procedures, random function and a scaling variable. Well-done to Alex and Lathujan for the excellent work they have produced and their commitment to improving!

Mr Innes - Teacher of Computer Science



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Design and Technology Latest - Year 9
Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture
Plant Pot Stand

The plant pot stand project is now complete, and the work is soon to go on display in the D&T 'window of wonder'. There have been some outstanding pieces of work both in terms of creativity and accuracy - well done to those leading the way! This project offers the students some conventional technical skills while at the same time the opportunity to laser cut additions, embedding CAD/CAM skills at KS3. For example, if a family member wants features added to the legs of their plant pot stand, this can be achieved. This approach is embedded within our students in KS4 when designing and making their final GCSE project, with a focus on who is the product for?

Shown below are examples of work completed by Lucy, Oscar, Toby, Max, Laila, Olive and Bella. Well done Year 9!







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Upcoming End of Term Maths Exam for Year 10

On **Wednesday 2nd December**, Y10 pupils will sit their End of Term Mathematics examination.

To help prepare pupils for the future, this assessment will take place in the Sports Hall. For many, this will be their very first experience of what formal public examinations look and feel like. External invigilators, rather than class teachers, will be supervising the hall, and pupils will be seated according to their candidate numbers. Experiencing this environment early on is a fantastic way to build confidence and familiarity ahead of future national exams.

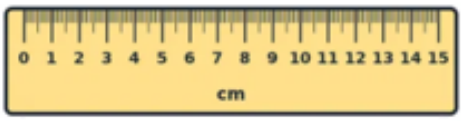
Pupils with access arrangements in place will be accommodated, and spoken to by their class teacher prior to the exam.

Essential Equipment Checklist

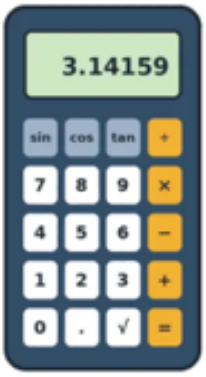
- **Black pen** (plus a spare)
- **Pencil**
- **Rubber**
- **Ruler**
- **Pair of compasses**
- **Scientific calculator**



Compass



Ruler



Calculator

Only transparent pencil cases are permitted, if this is not something you have a clear plastic food bag is allowed. Water bottles are allowed, but labels must be removed.

Mobile phones and watches are strictly forbidden.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our pupils arrive prepared, calm, and ready to do their best. If you, or your child has any questions regarding the exam please contact their class teacher.

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Christmas Food Donations

As we do each year, we are collecting items for the Chet Valley Community Appeal to help and support those in need within our community. A poster detailing items that have been requested features within this newsletter. We would be grateful for any donations so we can contribute to the appeal as a school.

Online Safety Key Information Video

Christmas can be a time when young people are gifted electronic devices or have time away from chool where they might be accessing their devices more. There is a short useful video that can be watched using the link here - this provides good tips on how to set devices up for safe use and other advice on gaming and apps.

LIBRARY CLOSURE DATES

Monday 23rd November to Friday 4th December

for Year 11 Mock exams - closed for 2 weeks.

***Arranged** respite will be in an alternative space – mostly in E1, M5, M6 & T4 – please check posters in the school*

Lunch time library will be in M5

Quip of the Week

A student was in conversation about the geography lessons they had in Year 7. When recalling the staff member they had for some lessons, they said: 'You can tell how much Mr Li-Rocchi loves rocks – look at his name!'

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Surlingham Winter Fayre - Wednesday 9 December

The event above takes place at 4.00pm at Coldham Hall Tavern, and will feature a lovely selection of food, including a discounted children's menu. They will also be holding a raffle, with all money raised being donated to Surlingham Church, so it is a lovely opportunity to bring the local community together and support a good cause.

Forthcoming Dates

- Wednesday 2 December – Flu vaccinations
- Friday 4 December – deadline for Chet Valley Larder collection
- Thursday 10 December – Science lecture (7.00pm)
- Tuesday 15 December – Christmas concert (7.00pm)
- Wednesday 16 December – Christmas lunch/Christmas jumper day
- Friday 18 December – last day of term (departure 12.55pm – 1.00pm)

Take care and have a great weekend.

Ross Li-Rocchi
Head of Schoool

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STUDENT LEADER

Christmas Food Donations

We are supporting the Chet Valley Community Christmas Bag appeal again this year and are looking for donations of the following items:

Tins of:- Potatoes, Vegetables, Soups, Fish, Meat, Fruit, Desserts

Gravy and Stuffing Mixes

UHT Milk (including non-dairy)

Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate

Cheese Crackers, Savoury Crackers

Jams, Preserves, Condiments

Pet Food, cat and dog treats

Treats such as:

Biscuits, Tins of Biscuits, Sweets, Tubs of Sweets, Chocolates, Crisps

Christmas Puddings, Desserts, Cakes, Custard.

We would appreciate donations with a long shelf date.

Other Items:

Christmas crackers, napkins, any unused Christmas decorations.

Please can donations be brought in by Friday 4 December either to the form tutors or into reception.





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Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

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Communications List

Topic/Query	Who to Contact
Attendance/Absence	Mrs P McLoughlin, Attendance Officer pmcloughlin@hobart.org.uk
Pastoral Issues, Wellbeing, etc.	Form Tutor
Significant Pastoral Concerns	Mrs Johnson, Head of Year 7 – rjohnson@hobart.org.uk Mrs Burkert, Head of Year 8 – tburkert@hobart.org.uk Mr Setchell, Head of Year 9 – msetchell@hobart.org.uk Miss Field, Head of Year 10 – sfield@hobart.org.uk Dr Wharton, Head of Year 11 – nwharton@hobart.org.uk
Safeguarding	Miss Barker, Assistant Headteacher – abarker@hobart.org.uk
Learning/Progress	Class Teacher/Head of Department
SEN	Mrs Ellison, SENCO – kellison@hobart.org.uk
Exams	Exams Officer, Mrs Bromley – cbromley@hobart.org.uk
Medical	Miss Barker, Assistant Headteacher – abarker@hobart.org.uk

Individual staff email addresses can be found on the website via this link