

# HENDON NEWS

## Culture Day 2026 - A Celebration of Identity, Heritage and Community

On Friday 6th February, Hendon school proudly celebrated its third annual Culture Day - an event that has now become a much-anticipated fixture in our school calendar. Once again, the day was a huge success and a true reflection of the diversity, pride and sense of community within our school.

In the lead-up to the day, students produced a large number of posters that were displayed on the cultural boards. These were completed to an exceptionally high standard and demonstrated not only creativity but also deep passion and understanding of their culture and heritage. A huge amount of credit must go to our Student Leadership Team, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the day was a success. They took responsibility for advertising the event, planning activities, creating cultural quizzes for mentoring and cultural tasks that were delivered in lessons across the school.

On the day itself, there was an incredible buzz around the building. Students made a terrific effort by coming to school dressed in cultural clothing, showcasing a wide range of traditions, identities and heritage. The vibrancy of the outfits created a fantastic atmosphere across the school and highlighted the pride our students have in who they are and where they come from.

Over the student lunchtimes, a dedicated team of student henna artists worked to complete over 300 henna designs.



A team of cultural volunteers shared their heritage through stalls, sharing knowledge and offering tasters of traditional foods.



The photo booth proved extremely popular, capturing memorable moments throughout the day, while music from a range of cultures filled the school, with students singing and dancing together in celebration.



The day ended with an amazing fashion show, where students from all cultures came together to showcase their traditional clothing and dances on the main stage in front of both staff and students. Guided by excellent student narrators, the audience learnt about the meaning and significance behind each outfit while enjoying what felt like a truly professional catwalk experience on the student stage. Photos from this event will be shared soon.

Culture Day continues to be a powerful reminder of the importance of inclusivity, respect and the celebration of diversity within our school community. We are incredibly proud of the effort, leadership and enthusiasm shown by our students and look forward to seeing this event continue to grow in the years to come.

**Ms Downing - Assistant Headteacher**

## Jack Petchey SpeakOut Barnet Regional Final at Hendon School

On Wednesday 4th February, Hendon School was proud to host the Jack Petchey SpeakOut Barnet Regional Final. The event brought together 22 schools from across Barnet, with one outstanding finalist representing each school.

A Regional Final is a public celebration of young people's voices, confidence and ideas, and Wednesday evening was no exception. The audience was treated to an inspiring showcase of powerful speeches, thoughtful reflections and courageous storytelling. It was a privilege to hear such a wide range of topics delivered with passion, confidence and authenticity. Congratulations to all of the speakers for sharing their ideas and personal stories so eloquently.



We were extremely fortunate to have not just one, but two Year 10 students representing Hendon School at the Regional Final. Well done to Adam and Alexandra, who both delivered excellent speeches on the evening, showcasing confidence, humour and real personality on stage. They represented the school brilliantly and should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

The evening was further enhanced by excellent performances from Mikhaela in Year 12 and Natalia in Year 11, who provided wonderful entertainment with a piano performance and singing. Their talent and stage presence truly wowed the audience and added something special to an already memorable celebration of youth voice.



**Miss Downing - Assistant Headteacher**

## Year 11 Students visit Tate Britain and Tate Modern

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February our Year 11 students enjoyed a visit to both the Tate Britain and the Tate Modern which hold extensive collections of contemporary art. The purpose of the visit was to introduce them to some of London's incredible art galleries. Students were asked to go through the collections and select ideas that both inspire them and are linked to their current GCSE exam preparation questions. On the journey between galleries, students were also able to take photographs that pertained to their chosen theme.



**Mr Keller - Head of Art**



## Creative Arts Christmas Showcase

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Hendon Creative Arts Department put on its annual Christmas Showcase. Music students from Year 7 to 12 performed a variety of songs to an impressive crowd of parents, teachers, students and friends.

The evening was the culmination of many hours of rehearsals and practice, and a celebration of the students' talent and hard work. Thank you to all those who attended, we trust you enjoyed the evening!



**Mr Rienecker - Head of Music**

## Geography Department Careers Spotlight: Exploring the World of Town Planning

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 8.2 students were treated to an inspiring and eye-opening careers session with a very special guest: Mahsa Ige, Founder of Urbanist on a Mission, a practising town planner. Her enthusiasm for shaping the places we live in was truly infectious. From the moment she began speaking, it became clear just how vital planners are in creating the towns, cities, villages and even farming landscapes that we rely on every day.



Mahsa helped us understand that the built world doesn't just "happen"—it is carefully designed, assessed and improved by planners who balance community needs, environmental concerns, and long term sustainability. Whether deciding where new housing should go, improving transport links, or protecting green spaces, planners play a key role in making places safe, functional and enjoyable.



One of the most exciting messages Mahsa shared was that planning is a career closely linked to geography, making it a fantastic pathway for anyone who enjoys the subject at school. Students can pursue planning through university courses or directly through apprenticeships, opening the door for a wide range of learners.

However, Mahsa's own journey showed that there is no single route into the profession. She didn't study A level Geography and instead completed business and languages at university—proof that passion and a desire to make a difference are just as important as subject choices. Her story reminded students that planning is a welcoming, flexible career for anyone with curiosity about how places work and the drive to improve the world around us.

Our students left feeling inspired, informed, and excited about the possibilities geography—and planning—can offer.

**Dr Lawy, Head of Geography**

# Art & Photography News

## Year 7 - Still Life

Year 7 students have been studying the formal elements - the building blocks of Art, which help them to draw and paint with different materials; form, tone, texture, colour etc. Last term they made a painting of a simple still life which brought together everything they had learned.



This term as part of our 'Formal elements of art' Scheme of work, Year 7 students were taught how to more effectively use coloured pencils and have produced these exciting insect studies.



## Year 8 - Pop Art

Last term Year 8 students studied Pop Art, learning about the ideas behind the movement, the artists, as well as how to draw more complex forms using the subject matter of brightly coloured sweets. In these final pieces, they were asked to create their own ideas and layout, using both actual sweets and printouts, with guidelines for composition, tone, and support with materials.

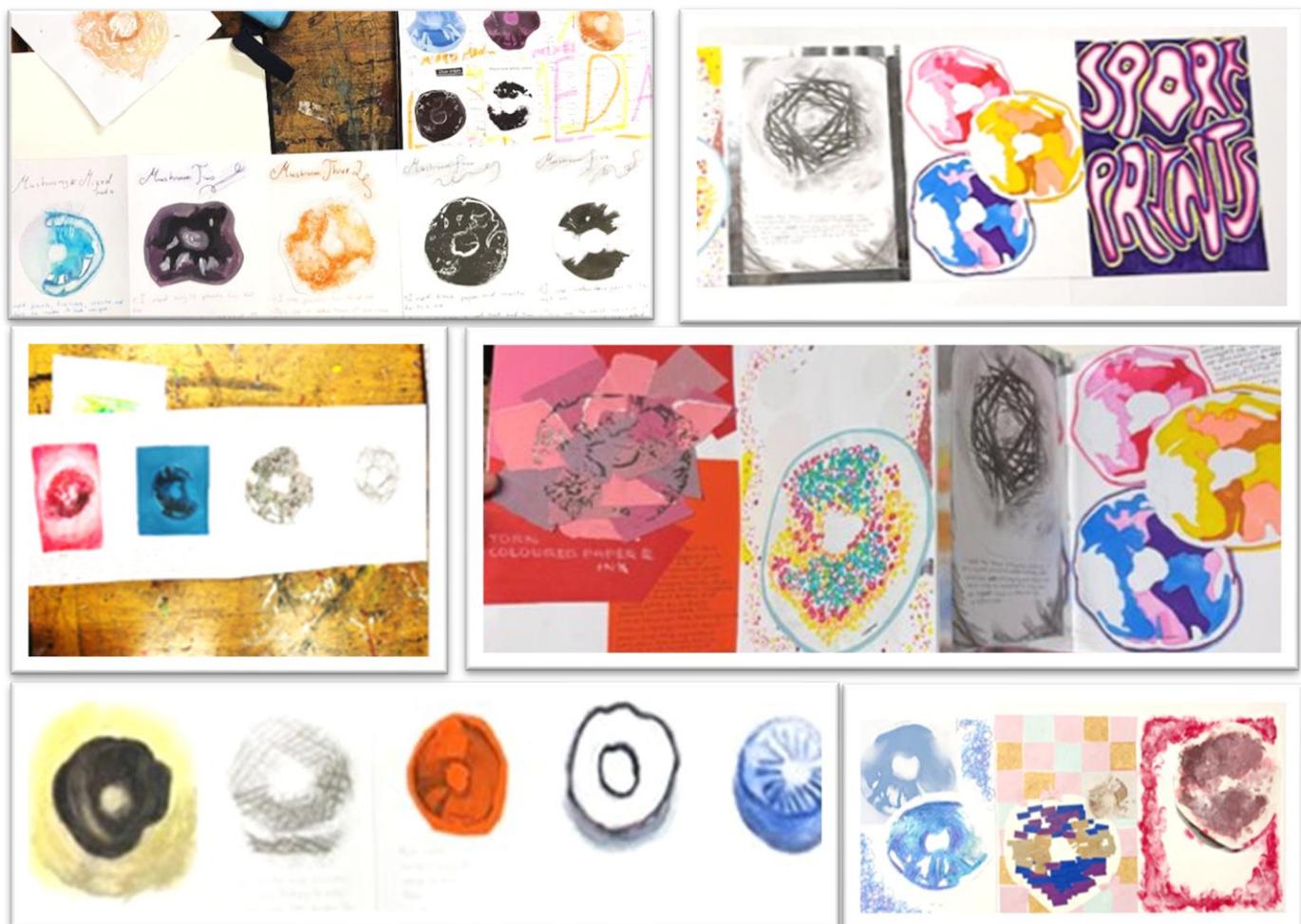


This term Year 8 students continued looking at Pop Art and have been responding to the art work of Sarah Graham. Some of their response have been these bold and colourful studies of sweets.



## Year 10 GCSE Art - Markmaking Project From Mushroom Spore Prints

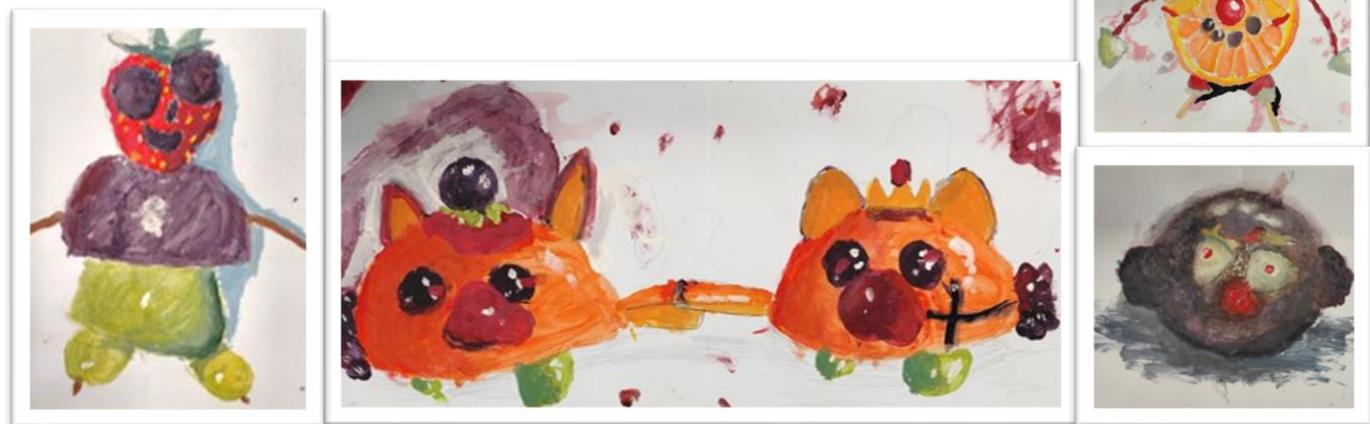
Year 10 students have been exploring different materials for their GCSE AO2 requirements, using mixed media in response to photographs of mushroom spore prints. The mushroom spore prints were created by leaving mushrooms upside down on paper for a week, after which the spores left interesting marks and textures on the paper. Students used photographs of these and edited them using different filters to change the colours and marks. These were then used as inspiration to explore different mixed media art materials. For their final piece, students presented their different ideas on a paper concertina with 6 sides and a page documenting their processes, choices and ideas. Final pieces looked personal and contemporary.



## Year 7 Fruit Monster paintings

These Arcimboldo inspired fruit monster paintings are the final outcomes of a project in which students learned how to draw in proportions, mix to match colour tones and paint tonal shades to create realistic 3D effects.

Special congratulations to Arish, Adam, Diya and Niyya!



### 8.1 & 8.3 self portrait paintings-inspired by Chris Ofili, African masks and cultural patterns



### Year 9 Art soldier/skull sculptures

Year 9 art classes investigated the theme of empathy or horror by studying war artists and creating their own interpretation of an injured soldier's head. They were inspired by Mexican Day of the Dead skulls and Otto Dix's images of WW1 soldiers.



### Year 10 Photography self portrait collages

Students responded to Rankin's Destroy series and Shirin Neshat's photographic work. They used a range of art media and collage techniques to modify and "destroy" their own portraits. These will be digitally incorporated in their final animation project

**Mr Keller, Ms Cowles & Ms Schmid**



## Year 12 RE students attend special educational event at Chelsea Football Club

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Year 12 RE students had the exciting opportunity to attend a special educational event at Chelsea Football Club, dedicated to exploring antisemitism, racial discrimination and the role football can play in promoting social justice. Accompanied by Mr Pollack and Ms Sooknanan, Year 12 RE students represented the school with maturity and confidence as they delivered a carefully researched presentation on the club's history and its long-standing commitment to tackling prejudice both on and off the pitch.

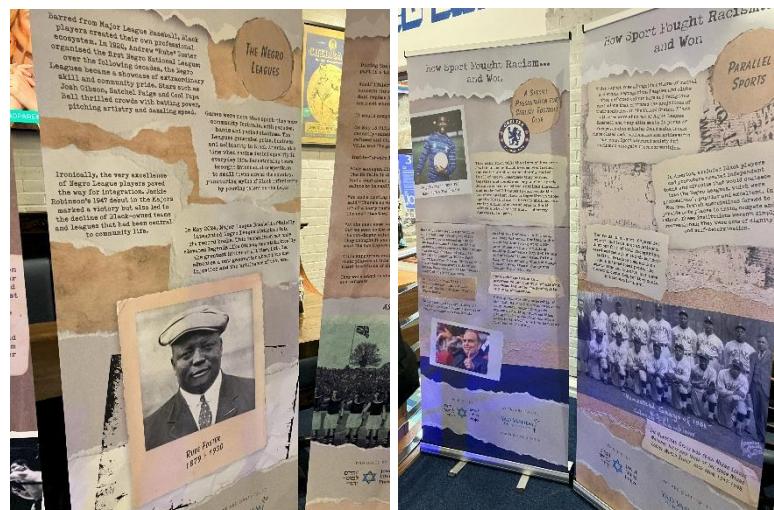


Their presentation captured the attention of attendees from across the community. Members of the public commented on how articulate, poised and knowledgeable the students were, praising their ability to communicate complex themes with empathy, clarity and integrity. The group not only demonstrated strong academic understanding but also modelled the values of respect and inclusion that the event aimed to promote.

The visit offered students a powerful real-world insight into how sport—particularly a global institution like Chelsea FC—can serve as a platform for challenging discrimination in all its forms. By engaging directly with initiatives designed to combat antisemitism, students deepened their awareness of the importance of allyship, education and responsibility within wider society. It was an inspiring day that left a lasting impact on both the students and those who had the pleasure of hearing them speak.

[Holocaust Memorial Day exhibition highlights sport fighting racism | News | Official Site | Chelsea Football Club](#)

**Ms Sooknanan - Deputy Headteacher**



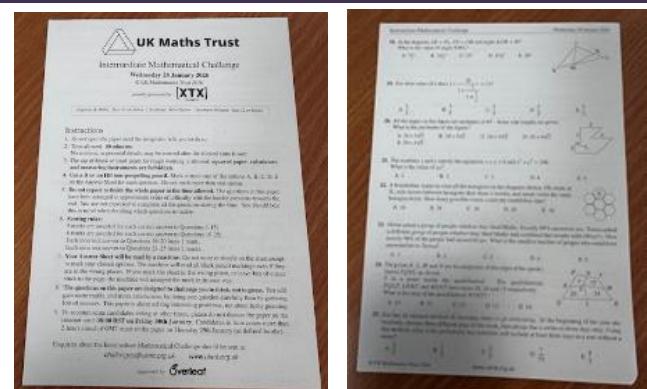
## UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 40 of our top mathematicians in year 9, 10 and 11 participated in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge in the canteen. The students were selected by their maths' teachers based on their aptitude in maths lessons so far this year.

The students answered 25 multiple choice questions which were designed to stimulate problem solving skills and to be very challenging for even our elite mathematicians. The results will be published in the next couple of weeks and prizes will be awarded to the Best in Year, Best in School as well as Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates for those who reach those thresholds.

Good luck to all our participants!

**Mr Roman - Assistant Headteacher**



## Year 11 Business Cadbury's World Adventure

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, our Year 11 Business students enjoyed a fantastic trip to **Cadbury's World**, packed with creativity, learning, and plenty of chocolate! Students explored the history of the iconic brand, took part in an engaging business workshop, and even had the chance to get hands-on by decorating marble tables with melted chocolate—an unforgettable highlight of the day.

A memorable trip full of teamwork, creativity, and chocolate-fuelled fun!

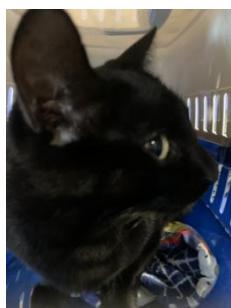
**Ms Kweik (Student Services Lead) & Mr Ammar (Head of Business & Economics)**



## Hendon School students help a lost cat to return home

Several months ago, the black cat who constantly wandered around the school grounds was finally reunited with her family after being lost for six months. That's right; this cat, who was recognised by students and teachers, was thought to be a stray and spent what felt like a year, visiting the back of the school every morning, in search for food and attention. But luckily, there were students (including me) who wanted to help her, by feeding her, which I did every single day.

After months of seeing her in the same state, (hungry, desperate and with an eye infection), I knew I had to do something. At first, we all thought she was either homeless, or her owners didn't take care of her properly, so with the help and support of many wonderful people, I worked hard to save her, so that nothing else bad would happen. We got in touch with adoption agencies and other cat experts who were willing to collaborate with us to achieve some sort of miracle for our furry friend.



One day, I managed to bring in a microchip scanner, which I used to detect some sort of microchip, which could perhaps give us a chance to contact the owners. I tried scanning several times, but unfortunately, I couldn't find anything. However, some weeks later, I tried scanning again, and after many attempts, I found some evidence, to prove that maybe, she did have a home after all. We sent the code to someone, who deciphered it and managed to get in touch with the owners, who had apparently moved from Hendon two years ago. One day, while out on a walk, she had got lost and couldn't find her way back home, so walked all the way back to Hendon, in search for her old house. This is how she ended up at Hendon School.

Upon hearing about the news of their pet being found, the owners were hugely relieved. They had thought they would never see her again. Luckily, the cat was still in the same spot the day the owners came to collect her and so with the help of several students and teachers, she was helped into the carrier and was finally reunited with her family.

Thanks to everyone who did everything to help this cat.

**Sasha - 13.4**

## Year 12 GSK Trip

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, a group of Year 12 STEM students visited the GSK headquarters on Tottenham Court Road. They were welcomed by staff and given a tour of the building, gaining an insight into the different departments that support GSK's work in science and healthcare.

Students then attended a presentation about career pathways at GSK and the variety of specialist roles available. Afterwards, they took part in a group task designing a budget-friendly clinical trial for an asthma treatment, an activity that strengthened their teamwork and problem-solving skills.



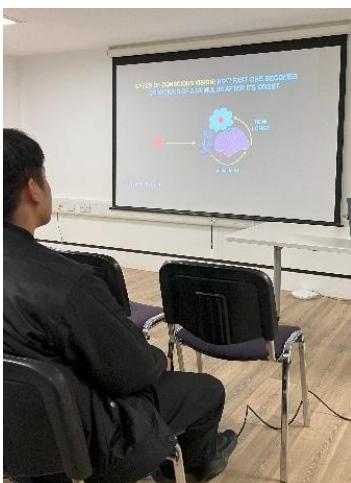
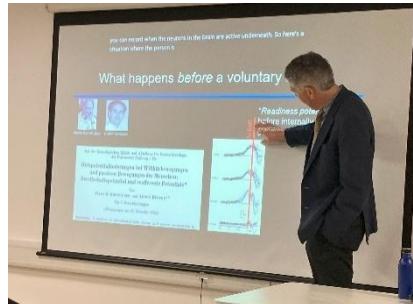
Following lunch, the group met current and former GSK apprentices, who shared their experiences and explained how they began their careers with the company. To finish the day, students were invited to register their interest in summer work-experience opportunities.

Overall, the visit was inspiring and informative, and students left with a clearer understanding of future possibilities within the STEM field.

*Irisa - 12.3*

## Year 12 & 13 Trip to UCL

On Wednesday 4th February we had the opportunity to go on a trip to UCL, which was very interesting. Many individuals shared information about their careers and shared their different experiences. Most of the speakers worked in niche and fascinating fields. We hadn't expected to find out about a career in the research of laughter, yet one person talking to us mentioned how she travels across the world to analyse different cultural groups of people and how they laugh (for example in Africa).



There was also other interesting topics like the research of autism and how people with autism perceive the world and different scenarios. We also learnt about the research on human sadness and empathy. We found out that UCL conducts their own tests on other people. RE students were able to gain deeper insight into the soul and dualism when one of the lecturers shared his research on this topic. We listened to about 7 or 8 people talk about their roles and careers in UCL. After a lengthy lunch time, our group went to the office of Antony Julius who is a very high-profile individual who worked as a lawyer for Princess Diana. He talked about his involvement in the notorious holocaust denial libel case which was filmed as a documentary.



Overall, the trip was extremely valuable as it gave us a sense of diverse opportunities and careers available to us.

*Adis - 12.7*

## Pyjama Day

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February was pyjama day at Hendon School! The Sixth Form did this to raise money for Year 13 homecoming (prom) and to date, the team has raised more than £100. The day was lots of fun and full of excitement as the students were able to show up in onesies, bonnets, robes or just whatever they find comfortable to wear when they go to sleep. According to some students this was a very enjoyable experience because they were able to work together as a team for a common cause. This reinstates our school value "Belong" as everyone from Year 12s to Year 13s (wearing pyjamas or not) decided to donate to the homecoming fund-raising.



We were also delighted to see that some members of staff like Mr. Harper, Ms. Tuac and Mrs. Qyqalla also showed up in pyjamas to share this spirit with us. A lot of pictures were taken inside the common room, whole of the Sixth Form Centre and in classes, and these pictures will be used in our yearbook so we can forever re-live this moment in the future. Some of our students said, "It's great that we can have a day that we can just come in wearing unformal clothes", while others stated that they decided to buy pyjamas just to participate in this event. A huge shout out for the team for being able to pull this off so well; to the Year 12s and people who weren't wearing pyjamas for donating to the Year 13 prom.

**Wesley - 13.1**

Diary Dates	
❖ Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term Break
❖ Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 7-10 & 12 Academic Review Day Year 11 & 13 School open as normal
❖ Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 13 Mock Results Day
❖ Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February - Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 Mock Exams
❖ Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
❖ Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Community Iftar (5.15 pm - 7.30 pm)
❖ Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10 Student Progress Evening
❖ Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	House Rewards Week
❖ Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of Spring Term - Students finish at 12.15 pm
❖ Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March - Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday

**DAVID PINTO-DUSCHINSKY MP**

Member of Parliament for

BURNT OAK | COLINDALE | HENDON | EDGWARE | MILL HILL | WEST HENDON

I hold numerous surgeries and respond to thousands of emails and letters every month. If you need help, please get in touch. It would be such a pleasure to hear from you. I will always do my best to assist.

NEWSLETTER [EMAIL](#)

DAVID.PINTODUSCHINSKY.MP@PARLIAMENT.UK

## Library News

This half term, the Library has been buzzing with activities, events, and new projects. We're excited to share a few highlights:

### **National Year of Reading 2026: "Go All In"**

This year's theme, "Go All In", encourages everyone to embrace their interests: *"If you're into it, read into it."* We're looking forward to running our usual programmes alongside new initiatives from the National Literacy Trust - an exciting year to be in a school library!



### **Year 9 Young City Poets: Exciting Update!**

We've now received all the entries for the National Literacy Trust's *Young City Poets* programme! It has been an absolute joy to discover our young people's inner worlds through their writing. Five students have been selected for publication by the NLT. Three students will be performing live at Saint Paul's Cathedral on March 19th and four students will attend this event as audience members. Selecting winners was incredibly tough, as every poem was fantastic. For this reason, we are so proud to share that, in addition to their certificates and achievement points, we will be publishing an anthology compiling all their pieces! We hope this makes all participants feel extra special and gives them a nice memory of the experience to hold on to.



### **2026 Holocaust Remembrance Day: "Bridging Generations"**

On Tuesday 27th January, a group of Year 7 students joined us in the Library for a live conversation between Holocaust survivor Ruth Barnett and author Tom Palmer. It was a meaningful opportunity for our younger pupils to learn history from a person who's lived it first-hand, and reflect on the importance of remembrance.



### **Year 7 STEM Reading Challenge: Launch**



Our Year 7 STEM Reading Challenge is now underway. Students are tasked with designing an eco-friendly green community space (realistic or imaginative) while building their early research skills. Submissions are now open and we can't wait to see what they create.

To stay up to date with our events and projects, please keep an eye on our [monthly Library newsletter](#). Wishing all students, families and staff a happy and restful half-term break.

### **The Library Team: Mrs Indran & Miss Ledeme**

#### **Absence Reporting**

If your child is going to be late or absent, please contact 020 8202 9004 and select option 1 then option 1 or email [attendance@hendonschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance@hendonschool.co.uk)

When reporting an absence please include your child's name, form group, the reason for absence and the anticipated day of return. We ask that you also leave your name and your relationship to the child whose absence you are reporting.

## Trampolining Success at the Regional Schools Competition

This half term, our trampolining squad took students from Years 7-11 to compete in the annual Regional Schools Trampolining Competition.

After weeks of dedicated training to perfect the competition routine, it was fantastic to see our students perform with such confidence, focus, and determination. They represented the school brilliantly, showing real resilience and teamwork throughout the day. Most importantly, a lot of fun was had alongside some excellent results.

### Our results included:

- Year 7 & 8 Girls - Silver
- Year 9 Girls - Bronze
- Year 9 Boys - Gold
- Rayan - Individual Silver



A huge well done to all students involved – your hard work truly paid off, and we are incredibly proud of you.



Training will continue next term to build on this success:

- Mondays (Lunchtime): Years 7-9
- Tuesdays (Lunchtime): Years 10-11

For students who would like to continue their trampolining journey beyond school, beginner and intermediate trampolining courses are also available at **Hendon Leisure Centre**. Further details and bookings can be found via the following link:

<https://betterflow.courseprogress.co.uk/onlinejoining/classes-results?filter=%7B%22showFullCourses%22:false,%22centre%22:28,%22courseGroupCategory%22:%5B15%5D%7D>

## Year 8 Boys Crowned Rugby Cup Champions

This half term marked the conclusion of a fantastic four-week rugby cup competition for our Year 8 boys, delivered in partnership with the Saracens Foundation.

Throughout the competition, the commitment and attitude of this group has been exceptional. The team showed outstanding dedication and organisation, ensuring they had a full squad available every week. Their communication and teamwork, both on and off the field, were a real strength, alongside their determination, resilience and effort during matches.

What makes this achievement even more impressive is that many of the boys are relatively new to rugby, having developed their skills primarily through PE lessons at school. Despite this, they finished top of the competition, winning out of 10 teams.



Following on from this success, we have already seen the Year 7 boys begin their own campaign very strongly, showing great promise and enthusiasm for rugby. This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the hard work and willingness to learn shown across the year groups. Congratulations to our Year 8 Rugby Cup Champions 2026 – a performance to be extremely proud of.

We have some fantastic budding rugby players at Hendon, and we would like to recommend Finchley Rugby Club for both boys and girls who are keen to develop their skills further.

The club's youth section benefits from excellent coaching and a well-established set-up that **supports** youth players of all ability levels. The inclusive and supportive nature of the club provides a **positive** environment for young people to continue their rugby journey outside of school, helping them to progress, build confidence, and develop their understanding of the game.

Further information can be found on the Finchley Rugby Club website: <https://www.finchleyrugby.com>. The website also provides contact details for the relevant age-group coaches.

## *Girls' Basketball Success for the Hendon Huskies*

The female Hendon Huskies have made an excellent start to their winter training programme, already putting their preparation into action by competing in three Barnet competitions this half term. The team entered the Year 11, Year 10, and Year 9 tournaments, with a number of Year 9 students competing across all three age groups, demonstrating outstanding commitment, resilience and versatility.

Led by Mr Harper, it has been a highly successful campaign. The Huskies began with a bronze medal in the Year 11 competition, followed by another bronze in the Year 10 tournament, before finishing the half term on a high by securing

gold in the Year 9 competition.



These results reflect the hard work, teamwork and determination shown by the players and coaching staff, and provide a fantastic foundation for the rest of the season. Congratulations to all involved.

## *Girls' Football: Year 7 & 8 Team Progress*

The Year 7 & 8 combined girls' football team have gone from strength to strength this season, developing excellent team spirit and improving week by week. Despite having just two Year 8 players in the squad and regularly competing against physically larger teams, the girls have shown real resilience and determination, producing some fantastic team performances and earning a number of well-deserved wins.



This half term, the team entered the English Schools' Football Association Cup, progressing through the first round with an impressive 4-2 home victory against an independent school from West London. The second round saw the team travel to North Hertfordshire to face a well-organised and physically strong side. After a disciplined first half that saw the score remain 0-0 at half time, a couple of excellent second-half strikes from the opposition brought the cup run to an end.



Despite the cup exit, the season remains in full swing, with several friendly fixtures planned to maintain momentum and prepare the team for the start of next season, as well as the upcoming International Women's Day Competition.

The progress shown so far has been extremely encouraging, and the future looks bright for this group. We strongly encourage all players who are interested in developing their football further to attend Barnet Panthers Football Club, which takes place every Monday in Colindale. This provides a great opportunity for students to continue their football journey in a supportive club environment. Further information can be found at: <https://barnetpanthers.com/>

## *Keep Up to Date with PE at Hendon*

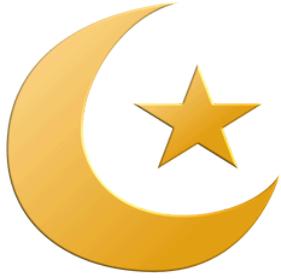
To stay up to date with all the latest PE news, fixtures, results, and extracurricular opportunities, we encourage students and families to follow our PE department on Instagram.

Follow us at @hendon\_school\_pe for regular updates and highlights from across the department.

Simply scan the QR code or search for hendon\_school\_pe on Instagram.



HENDON SCHOOL PE



You Are Invited To

# Hendon School Community Iftar

We are delighted to invite you to join us for an Iftar gathering as we break our fast together during this blessed month of Ramadan.

START AT 5:15  
- 7:30 PM

MAGHRIB PRAYER-  
6:10 PM

10<sup>th</sup>  
March



[CLICK HERE FOR TICKET LINK](#)

A FREE TICKET MUST BE  
BOOKED FOR EACH  
PERSON ATTENDING