

Executive Principal's Reflection



As we reach the final days of the academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared as a school community.

First and foremost, I want to say a massive well done to our Year 11 and Year 13 students. They approached their GCSE, A-Level, and vocational examinations with outstanding focus, maturity, and resilience. Having watched them dedicate themselves to their studies over the final terms, I know just how much hard work went on behind the scenes. They have been fantastic role models for our younger students, and we wish them the absolute best of luck as they await their results this August.

The final weeks of term are always a joyful time as we pause to recognise the diverse talents of our student body. It has been absolutely wonderful to celebrate our students' dedication, kindness, and academic progress during our recent Awards Assemblies. Seeing so many proud faces—and sharing those moments with many of you—reminds us of what makes our school so special. Alongside academic achievements, our Rewards Days provided a fantastic opportunity for students to relax, have fun, and celebrate their positive contributions to school life throughout the year.

Of course, no summer term is complete without the energy and friendly rivalry of Sports Day! It was spectacular to see our community come together in the sunshine. Whether students were competing on the track, field, or cheering passionately from the sidelines, the team spirit, sportsmanship, and determination on display were truly inspiring. Thank you to the PE department and all the staff who made the day run so seamlessly.

As we look ahead, we must say goodbye to some of our valued staff members who are moving on to new chapters. While we wish all of our departing colleagues the very best, I must make a special, heartfelt mention of Mrs Kelleway, who is leaving us after an extraordinary 28 years of dedicated service to our school.

Throughout nearly three decades, Mrs Kelleway has been a pillar of our community. Whether in her role as Head of Humanities, bringing the past to life as a passionate Teacher of History, or guiding our oldest students toward their futures as Head of Year 13, her impact has been immeasurable. Generations of students have benefited from her wisdom, warmth, and unwavering belief in their potential. It is rare to find such lifelong dedication to a single school community, and she leaves behind a legacy that will not be forgotten. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts and wish her every happiness in her well-deserved next chapter.

We also extend our warmest thanks and best wishes to all other departing staff for the care and energy they have poured into our school. On behalf of the entire school community, I want to thank them for their service and wish them the very best in their next chapters.

Finally, I want to thank you—our families—for your unwavering support, partnership, and communication this year. Education is a collaborative effort, and our achievements are a reflection of the strong bond between home and school.

I wish you all a safe, restful, and happy summer break. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September, refreshed and ready for another brilliant year.

Warmest regards

Mrs Watts

Our Year 11 Prom, held at Wensum Valley Golf Club, was a wonderful evening celebrating the end of an important chapter for our students.

The event began in style with an impressive array of vehicles arriving at the venue, before everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet. The evening continued with a short awards ceremony, where staff and students voted for their Prom King, Prom Queen, Prom Prince, Prom Princess, Best Dressed, and a selection of fun awards.

Once the awards had been presented, the dance floor quickly filled as students danced the night away to favourites including *Wonderwall*, the conga, and a host of party classics.

It was a fantastic evening enjoyed by both students and staff, and we hope it provided a memorable celebration of all the hard work, achievements, and friendships that have made their time at school so special. We wish all of our Year 11 students every success and happiness as they begin the next exciting chapter of their journey.



To see all the photos go to our Facebook page and website!

Sports Day

We held our annual Sports Day on 16 July. This year the day consisted of Football, Rounders, Dodgeball, Tug of War, Basketball Shots and Obstacle Courses. Here are some photos of incredible athletes.....



Go to our Facebook page and Website to see all the amazing photos

Student Spotlights

We are so proud of George and Hugo for their fantastic results in the golf competitions they have been participating in over the past few months. George (who has been playing since he was 6) won the whole competition, with Hugo coming in 27th meaning both of them have qualified for the National Tournament. They were up against 44 boys from Norfolk. George also played in a mens competition the day before and came 2nd!

George had an amazing 2 days at Woodhill Spa. He came 2nd individual in England, Hugo came 14th In England. They came 3rd as a school team. Well done to you both! What fantastic achievements!



A huge congratulations to Harrison, who recently completed his very first motocross race and came away with a trophy! 🏆 🏍️

Taking part in a competitive race for the first time is an incredible achievement in itself, but to finish with a trophy makes it even more special. Harrison's hard work, determination and commitment to his sport have certainly paid off.

We're super proud to celebrate his success and can't wait to see what he achieves next on the track - Well done, Harrison!



Celebrating Our Budding Gardeners! 🌻

On Wednesday, 1 July, our school grounds were filled with smiles, laughter, and a lot of cake for our **EAL Garden Party!**

The event was a wonderful way to celebrate the incredible hard work our English as an Additional Language (EAL) students have put into creating their beautiful school garden. Parents, carers, students, and staff all came together to enjoy some well-deserved hot and cold drinks, plenty of delicious sweet treats, and a tour of the garden.

We have some absolutely fantastic news to share! The students' green thumbs have earned them some major recognition recently:

- **Royal Norfolk Show:** The team won a brilliant **Silver award** in the School Garden Competition!
- **Hellesdon Horticultural Society's Garden Show:** Our students won first place for their class! They will be officially presented with a special trophy and shield at an awards ceremony this October.

"We are incredibly proud of our EAL student gardeners. They have worked so hard as a team, learned new skills, and created a space we can all enjoy."

Thank you so much to all the families who came out to support the party and celebrate with us. We can't wait to

See what our amazing gardeners grow next! 🌻 🏆





As we approach the end of another incredible academic year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the outstanding achievements of our Key Stage 4 students. Both Year 10 and Year 11 have shown immense dedication, resilience, and character over the last few months. Here are some of the highlights from a spectacular year..

Year 11: A Phenomenal Finale

Our Year 11 pupils have officially crossed the finish line! Throughout their final year of school, their work ethic and focus have been nothing short of exemplary.

- **Exam Excellence:** They approached their GCSE examinations with maturity and determination, putting in countless hours of revision. We could not be prouder of how they conducted themselves during this high-pressure period.
- **Celebration Assembly:** Lots of students attended our celebration assembly, with plenty of pupils deservedly winning awards, as well as prizes from the Study Space draw.
- **A Night to Remember:** To celebrate the end of an era, Year 11 scrubbed up well and danced the night away at their Prom. It was a spectacular evening filled with laughter, style, and well-deserved celebration.

A message to Year 11: You have left a lasting legacy at our school. Thank you for your hard work, and we wish you the absolute best of luck as you await your results and take your next steps into the future! We look forward to seeing you on [RESULTS DAY](#) on **Thursday, 20 August**.

Year 10: Stepping Up to the Challenge

While Year 11 prepares to leave, Year 10 has been proving that they are ready to step into the role of senior pupils. They have had an incredibly busy and successful term.

Pre-Public Exams (PPEs)

Year 10 recently completed their first major round of PPEs (mock exams). The maturity and focus they demonstrated in the exam hall was fantastic. These results will provide an excellent baseline as they head into their final year.

Beyond the Classroom: 'Futures Day'

It hasn't just been about exams! Year 10 threw themselves into our extra-curricular programme, most notably taking part in **Futures Day**. This dedicated event focused on preparing students for life beyond school, with a heavy emphasis on:

- **Effective Communication:** Pitching ideas and presenting with confidence.
- **Team building:** Working collaboratively to solve complex, fast-paced challenges.

The energy and leadership skills on display throughout the day were truly inspiring.





As we come to the end of another school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some of the things that have made me proud of our KS3 students.

One of the biggest successes this year has been the improvement in home learning submission rates across KS3. Students have shown real commitment to their learning and should be proud of the progress they have made. I have also been impressed by the consistently high standards of Ready, Respectful and Safe behaviour around school. Our students represent Hellesdon High School brilliantly every day and contribute to making our school a positive place to learn.

A particular highlight for me this term was seeing our Year 8 Transition Volunteers support our incoming Year 6 students. They were welcoming, helpful and excellent ambassadors for our school, helping our future Year 7s feel excited about joining us in September. I am also proud of the many students who have taken part in opportunities beyond the classroom this year, including the Garden Project, performances at The Brickmakers and sports events. Their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved has been fantastic to see.

It has been lovely to end the year celebrating with students at our rewards events, from enjoying the rewards cinema to tackling the inflatables. It was a well-deserved way to recognise the hard work and positive contributions of so many students throughout the year.

Thank you to our students and families for all of your support this year. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer break and I look forward to seeing what our students achieve next year.



This year has seen continued development of careers education at Hellesdon High School, with students across all year groups benefiting from a wide range of experiences designed to broaden horizons, raise aspirations and help them make informed decisions about their future.

A key development this year has been becoming a University of East Anglia (UEA) Partnership School for Key Stages 3 and 4, building on our existing Key Stage 5 partnership. As part of this, students completed careers surveys to help us better understand their aspirations and ensure our careers programme continues to meet their needs.

Throughout the year, students have taken part in a variety of activities to develop their employability skills and explore different career pathways. A particular highlight was our Year 8 Enterprise Day, where students worked in teams to tackle a real-world business challenge, developing key skills such as communication, creativity, problem-solving and teamwork. The standard of work was exceptionally high, with the winning team earning the opportunity to represent Hellesdon High School in the National Careers Competition. National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week provided further opportunities for every tutor group to learn about the wide range of pathways available after school, including apprenticeships, technical qualifications and higher education.

Students also heard first-hand from professionals through our Careers Spotlight programme, welcoming a social worker, a nurse, and an orthopaedic and trauma surgeon to share their career journeys and provide valuable insight into their professions.

Our annual Careers Fair continued to grow, with 22 employers, education providers and organisations representing an even wider range of sectors. Students from Years 7–13 were able to speak directly with employers and education providers, helping them to explore future pathways and consider their next steps. We are already planning next year's event and are pleased to invite parents to attend alongside students. Please save the date: Tuesday, 6 October 2026.

Supporting students as they prepare for their next steps has remained a priority. Year 10 and Year 11 students attended assemblies and lunchtime drop-in sessions focused on apprenticeships and technical education. Year 11 students also completed a survey to identify any questions or concerns about post-16 options, enabling us to create tailored tutor resources that addressed the issues most important to them.



Students have also benefited from a range of aspiration-raising opportunities beyond the classroom. Year 10 Futures Day, delivered in partnership with Hellesdon Sixth Form, the UEA, UEA MedSoc and the Pathways to Work team, encouraged students to think about future education and career opportunities. Students also attended the Norfolk Future Careers Expo, while Year 7 took part in workshops focused on aspirations and challenging common career myths. Our involvement in the UEA Future Stars programme has continued to provide additional opportunities for students to explore higher education.

Behind the scenes, we have continued to strengthen our careers provision. Our careers website has been updated, new displays and resources have been introduced around the school, and careers guidance records have been fully updated on Unifrog. The platform will be launched with all year groups in the autumn term, giving students and parents access to a valuable tool for recording careers activities, researching opportunities and planning for the future.

We have also continued to strengthen links with local employers. New partnerships with SaxonAir and Smith of Honingham will provide exciting opportunities for projects, employer engagement and worksite visits in the coming year, helping students make meaningful connections between their learning and the world of work.

We look forward to building on this year's successes and continuing to provide every student with the knowledge, experiences and confidence they need to make informed decisions about their future and their next steps.