Hellesdon High School
NEWSLETTER
October 2026

HELLESDON HIGH SCHOOL

Message from Mrs Watts, Executive Principal



As we reach the end of our first half term of the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic and productive few weeks across the school.

First and foremost, I want to praise all of our students for the wonderful way they have returned to school. They have settled into their daily routines with focus, maturity, and enthusiasm. Walking through the corridors and visiting classrooms, it has been wonderful to see such a calm, purposeful environment where learning is taking centre stage every single day.

A special mention must go to our new Year 7 cohort. Making the transition from primary to secondary school is a significant milestone, but our Year 7s have handled it brilliantly. They have navigated their new timetables, adapted to different classrooms, and embraced secondary school life with confidence and big smiles. We are already so proud of how well they have integrated into our school community.

At the other end of the school, our Year 11 and KS5 students have hit the ground running. Their dedication to their studies and their proactive approach to revision early in the year has been exceptional. They are setting a standard of hard work and commitment that serves as a fantastic model for the rest of the school, and their efforts will certainly pay off as the year progresses.

I am thrilled to share that during this half term, we welcomed Ofsted inspectors to our school. We are absolutely delighted that the hard work, dedication, and passion of our staff and students were recognised during the visit. It is a fantastic validation of our ongoing commitment to providing an outstanding experience for every young person in our care, and I look forward to sharing more details once the final report is published.

As we settle into the term, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of attendance and punctuality. Arriving at school on time, every day, and ready to learn is essential for success. Every lesson matters, and regular attendance allows students to build confidence, make progress and fully participate in school life. We also expect all students to arrive in full school uniform, looking smart and prepared for the day ahead.

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With the colder months approaching, please ensure that students come to school prepared for changing weather conditions. A suitable, warm coat is essential, particularly for the journey to and from school and when spending time outdoors. Please help your child to be ready for colder mornings and wet weather so that they can remain comfortable and focused throughout the school day.

I would also like to reassure parents and carers that our staff are committed to supporting every student's academic progress, personal development and emotional wellbeing. If you have any questions, concerns or information you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year. By working together, we can ensure that every student feels supported, valued and encouraged to achieve their very best.

Thank you to all of our families for your continued support, partnership, and encouragement during this busy start to the year. Rest, relax, and recharge over the break—you have all earned it!

We look forward to welcoming everyone back safely for the second half of the autumn term.

Key Dates

- **22 October** - Flu Vaccinations
- **23-30 October** - Half Term
- **3 November** - Y8 British Museum Trip
- **14 November** - Deadline for Shoebox Squad donations
- **15 November** - PTA Christmas Market
- **4 December** - Flu Vaccinations

Attachments

- PTA Christmas Market Poster
- Hellesdon Library Event - Raising Readers Poster
- SENDIASS Drop-in Poster

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General News Stories

The Shoebox Squad win Young Heroes Award!
A huge congratulations to The Shoebox Squad, who have been named winners of the Young Heroes Award at the BBC Make a Difference Awards! See the full story here.





MFL take a trip to Paris! See more of the story on our website here.

Hot Chocolate with the Vice Principal
We've had some fantastic students for hot chocolates this term, visit our news page to see them all!





Year 7 enjoy Eaton Vale Trips!
Our new Year 7 students had a fantastic time on their recent trips to Eaton Vale, taking part in a range of activities designed to challenge, inspire and bring them together. See the story here.

Wensum Trust Launches STEM Scholarship
To learn more, visit our news page.



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Social Media Roundup

Our Facebook and Instagram pages are always buzzing with activity! From updates in and around school and student spotlights to important reminders, revision tips and plenty more, there's lots to keep up with. If you don't already follow us, give us a follow to keep up with what's going on at Hellesdon!

Here is a selection of stories we've posted recently...



Student Spotlights!



Wellbeing News!



Sports News!



Year 10 Artwork!

Follow us to keep up with everything going on at school!



Learning Legends!

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Wellbeing

Mental Health Support Team (MHST) – Here to Support You

Sometimes life can feel overwhelming, whether it's exam stress, worries about friendships, low mood, anxiety, or changes happening at home or school. The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is here to help. We work with students in school to support emotional wellbeing and mental health. Our team offers practical strategies and evidence-based support to help you manage challenges, build confidence, and improve your wellbeing.

As well as working directly with young people, we help schools create a positive environment where mental health is talked about openly and support is easy to access. Remember, looking after your mental health is just as important as looking after your physical health. If you're struggling or would like some support, speak to a trusted member of staff to find out more about how MHST can help.

To contact the team, email ccs.mhstbroadland@nhs.net or visit our website.

The Shoebox Squad 2026

We are collecting for the Shoebox Squad again this year! The Shoebox Squad, run by Tilly (Y9) and Sienna, collect donations to create gifts for adults and children in refuges, those supported by domestic violence charities Leeway and Dawn's New Horizon, and local families who need a little extra help.

Once again, we're challenging our tutor groups to see who can collect the most donations. So, whether you can bring in one item or several, every donation counts and could help your tutor group take the top spot and win a prize!

They are looking for donations of:

- Toys and books
- Small cuddly toys
- Toiletries, make-up and gift sets
- Small household decorative items
- Stationery
- Small clothing items, such as hats, scarves and gloves

The last date for donations is 14 November. Thank you in advance for anything you can contribute!