6 November 2026

Huish Episcopi Academy Parent Newsletter

House Update

Competition remains fierce as we begin this new half term!

The current standings for the houses are as follows:

Bailbrook
10242

Chelston
8898

Merchant
8484

Pennard
8152

Lambrook
7765

An Update From Mrs Boyes

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all our students, families and staff as we begin the second half of the Autumn Term. It has been wonderful to see students return with such focus, enthusiasm and determination, setting a positive tone for the weeks ahead. A particular congratulations must go to our Year 11 students, who have completed the first week of their mock examinations. They have approached this important milestone with maturity and commitment, and it has been especially encouraging to see so many students taking advantage of the morning revision breakfast sessions. Their dedication and positive attitude towards their studies have been excellent to see.

During the half-term break, a group of students returned from our China visit. This was a fantastic opportunity, providing invaluable cultural experiences and allowing students to strengthen the links we continue to build with our partner secondary schools in China. We look forward to sharing more information and celebrating the successes of the trip in the coming weeks.

We are also moving into the annual United Learning survey period. Further information can be found within this newsletter. Feedback from our families is incredibly important in helping us understand what is working well and how we can continue to improve the experience we provide for all students. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views and support this important process.

As always, there is a great deal happening across the academy this term. Please take a look at the calendar of upcoming events at the end of the newsletter, and we hope to see many of you at the activities, performances and celebrations taking place over the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Warm regards,

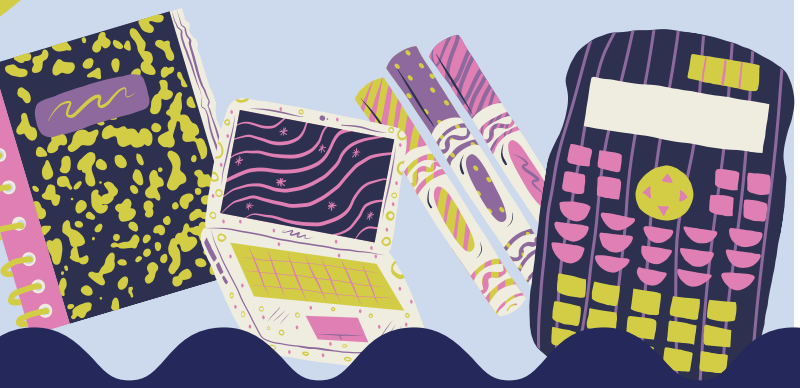
Mrs Boyes
Principal

Homework Club!

Monday - Thursday

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Student Support Base

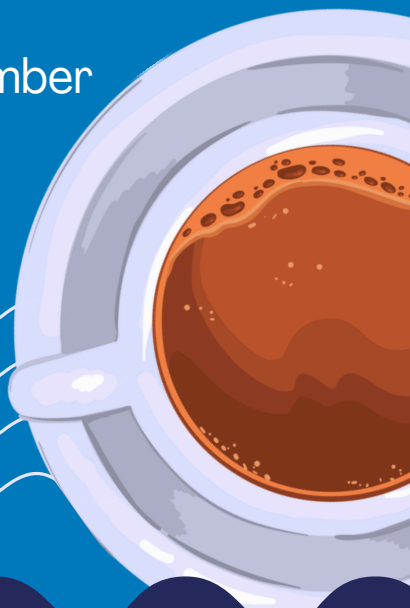


SEND COFFEE MORNING

Monday 9 November

9 - 11 am

All are welcome



Odd Socks Day

As part of Anti-Bullying Week (16 - 20 November), students and staff will be participating in Odd Socks Day on Monday 16 November to celebrate what makes us all unique. Students will also have assemblies throughout the week to reinforce the anti-bullying message, focusing on the theme of 'Break the Silence'.



Trip Report: China

Recently, some of our students went on the trip of a lifetime to China! It was an unforgettable adventure, filled with cultural discoveries, new friendships, and experiences that will stay with our students for many years to come.

Beginning in Beijing, students enjoyed beautiful autumn sunshine as they explored some of China's most famous landmarks. Highlights included climbing the Great Wall of China, visiting the stunning Summer Palace, exploring Tiananmen Square, and wandering around the Forbidden City. Our students explored some of the world's most historical sites.



Students also took part in a traditional tea ceremony, learned about the cultural importance of jade, and were amazed by a spectacular acrobatics performance. Inspired, many of our students practiced their own gymnastics poses outside Beijing's iconic Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium!

A particularly memorable day was spend at a local Chinese school, where students joined lessons and had the opportunity to work with advanced robotics equipment, including the same robots that had recently competed in the Robot Olympics. It offered fascinating insight into education in China and encouraged valuable cultural exchange.

The second stage of the trip took the group to Xi'an via an overnight sleeper train where they explored the world-famous Terracotta Army, learning about its discovery and the ongoing restoration work. They also experienced Chinese calligraphy, visited the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, and completed a bike ride around the ancient Xi'an City Wall, showing tremendous determination and resilience.

The final leg of the journey brought the group to Shanghai and our partner school, Yew Wah International School, where our brilliant students were praised as "amazing - true ambassadors," for Huish.

Visits included a silk mueum in Suzhou, the Jade Buddha Temple, local markets, and Shanghai's iconic Bund, where students enjoyed spectacular views of the city's skyline by day and night.

Throughout the trip, students demonstrated exceptional curiosity and respect to these new cultures and environments. Whether embracing new foods, navigating busy cities, or engaging with a language unfamiliar to their own native tongue, they reflected on their place in the world and what it means to be British in this day and age. We are incredibly proud of them and know that the memories and friendships made on this remarkable journey will last a lifetime.



The Power of Being on Time: Starting the Day Right



Being punctual is about much more than simply arriving at school before the register closes. It is about giving young people the best possible start to their day and ensuring they are ready to learn from the very first lesson.

Arriving late can mean missing important instructions, explanations and learning activities. It can also disrupt the learning of others and leave pupils feeling unsettled as they join a lesson that is already underway.

We encourage parents and carers to establish positive morning routines that help their children arrive at school on time, prepared and ready for the day ahead. Simple steps, such as preparing school bags and equipment the evening before, can make a real difference.

Punctuality is an important life skill. By developing good habits now, we are helping young people build the responsibility and self-discipline that will benefit them well beyond school.

Parent Survey

It is that time of year again when we ask our whole school community - students, staff, parents, and carers - to share their views with us.

We want to hear what you love about Huish, what makes you proud, what we are doing well, and what you would like us to continue doing. Just as importantly, we want to hear your ideas and thoughts on where we can improve. Your feedback genuinely helps shape the future of our school.

In previous years, your responses have led to some significant changes, including improvements to our SEND provision, updates to our behaviour policy, adjustments to homework expectations, refinements to lesson structures, and ongoing enhancements to our school environment. Many of these developments started with feedback from our community, so your voice really does make a difference.

The survey will open on Monday 9 November, when we will send all parents and carers a unique access code along with instructions on how to complete it.

We encourage everyone to take part. Whether you'd like to celebrate something we're doing well, suggest an improvement, or simply share your experience, we'd love to hear from you. Honest feedback helps us to continue to grow, improve and provide the very best education and support for our young people.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views. Together, we can make Huish even better.

Reminder from the Art Department

If your child was in Year 11 **last academic year**, their work from Art is available for collection!

Please do encourage them to email the Art Department to let them know when they would like to collect their work. Please give the Art Department a few days' notice, and they will have it ready for your child to collect from Reception.



Thank you!

Congratulations, Isaac!

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of Huish Sixth student Isaac, who recently attended the Royal Aeronautical Society's Air League Scholarship Awards Reception in London.

Over the Summer, Isaac successfully completed a Gliding to Solo Scholarship. To gain the award, he undertook a very competitive selection process over a four-month period. He was granted one of the just nine places on the scholarship. This outstanding accomplishment is a significant milestone on his journey of flying professionally in the future. Congratulations, Isaac!



Flu Vaccinations

A reminder to all parents and carers who have not yet replied to the Flu Vaccination Consent form to please do so as soon as possible.

Even if you do not consent to the vaccinations, we require your response.

The vaccination days will be taking place on **24** and **25 November**.

Should you have any questions, please contact: **AmandaMitchell@hea.ac.uk**

Decision form:
https://www.somersetsaint.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=SM136294

Unique School Code: **SM136294**

Replacement Bus Passes

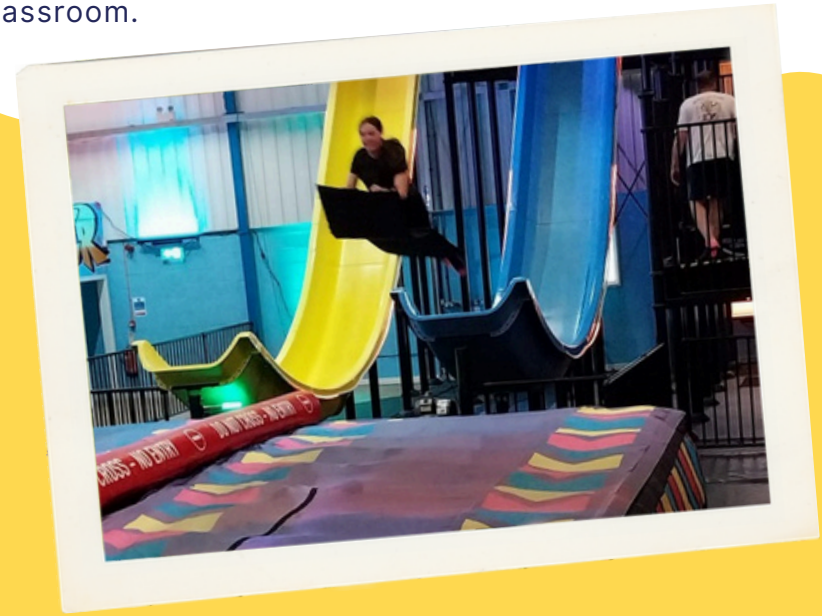
If your child travels on a bus operated by Somerset Transport and their bus pass has been lost, please order a replacement by completing the online form here: **Request a replacement bus pass**

If your child travels on a bus not operated by Somerset County Transport, you will need to contact the bus company direct to request a replacement. Whilst your child awaits the arrival of their replacement bus pass, please remind them to see Ms Neale at lunchtimes outside of ML1 to collect a temporary bus pass.



Character Education Update

This term has been an exciting and successful one for Character Education, with students embracing opportunities to demonstrate our school values of Respect, Ambition and Resilience both inside and outside the classroom.



One of the highlights of the term was our Golden Ticket Rewards Trip to AirHop! Students earned their place on the trip through consistently demonstrating our core values and being positive role models within our school community. It was fantastic to celebrate their achievements with an afternoon of fun and reward for their commitment and effort throughout the term!



Just before half term, some of our students had the opportunity to take part in a brilliant bike workshop with On Your Bike! Students brought their bikes into school to learn essential maintenance and servicing skills.

The programme helped our students to develop practical knowledge, build confidence, and gain valuable independence, while also promoting sustainable travel. A huge thank you to On Your Bike for such a fantastic workshop!

The competitive spirit was on full display during our Big Quiz House Competition. Throughout the term, students represented their houses in a range of quiz challenges, culminating in a series of live events during the final week of term.

Congratulations to Bailbrook House, who were crowned overall champions. The final standings were:

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
Bailbrook	Chelston	Merchant	Pennard	Lambrook

A huge thank you to all students who participated and supported their houses throughout the competition!

Character Education: Looking Ahead

We have an exciting programme of Character Education events and opportunities planned for the term ahead!

Christmas Card Competition

Students will be invited to design Christmas cards and write messages to local organisations and charities, helping to spread kindness and goodwill within our community. If you work for, or know of, a charity or organisation that would appreciate receiving a Christmas card from our students, please contact **BenWood@hea.ac.uk**



Christmas Food Bank Collection

We will also be running a school-wide food bank collection to support local families and charities during the festive season. Students can donate any of the following items:

Toilet roll (multipacks)
Kitchen roll (multipacks)
Shower gel
Shampoo and conditioner
Washing powder, gel or tablets
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit



Students will have the opportunity to help deliver donations to local food banks in the build-up to Chirstmas, demonstrating compassion and service to others.

Reindeer Colour Run!

Following the tremendous success of last year's event, our Reindeer Colour Run will return in support of St Margaret's Hospice.

The event date will be confirmed shortly, so please keep an eye out for further information on how to sign up and get involved.

Christmas Rewards Trip

To finish the term in style, we will be running our Christmas Ice Skating Rewards Trip on either 30 November or 2 December (final date to be confirmed). Students will be invited to attend if they meet the following criteria:

- 97% or higher attendance for the term
- 40+ house points
- No removals from lessons
- Minimal behaviour points

We are looking forward to celebrating the achievements of our students and rewarding those who consistently demonstrate the high standards and values we expect.



BBC Bitesize Careers at Huish

At the end of last half term, our Year 7 - 10 students had a fantastic opportunity to take part in the BBC Bitesize Careers Tour, hosted by Luke Davies.

Students heard from an inspiring panel of professionals, including Amy Radford from Natural England, Chris Lockyer from BBC News, and Idman Abdullahi Mohamed from Bristol Medical School.

It was a brilliant chance to discover different career pathways, learn about qualifications and employability skills, and hear first-hand about experiences in the workplace. Students also had the opportunity to take part in an interactive Q&A session.

A big thank you to everyone involved for inspiring our students to think about the exciting opportunities available to them, both locally and beyond!





Congratulations, Amy!



A huge congratulations to Huish student Amy, who recently represented the South West at the Army Cadets National Rugby Tournament near Liverpool.

Amy and her Junior Girls team put in a fantastic performance, winning every game and becoming National Champions. What a fantastic achievement! We are delighted to celebrate Amy's success and are incredibly proud of her.

BBC BITESIZE

Bitesize Careers Tour

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You may be aware that we visited your child's school as part of our BBC Bitesize Careers Tour in partnership with Technicians: We Make the Difference, which hopefully they enjoyed. The Bitesize Careers Tour aims to visit 110,000 secondary school students across the UK in a bid to inspire young people about their future job prospects and forms part of a wider remit of the BBC to inform, educate and entertain.

As part of the event, your child will have been introduced to three panellists from a variety of job sectors in your local area, which has hopefully sparked their imagination with regards to what might be achievable for them in the future. In addition, one of our well-known BBC presenters will have led the session and offered their own input into their career journey.



Please do ask your child about the event and whether or not they managed to catch our infamous rugby ball!

How can Bitesize Careers help?

Schools are often a starting point for your child to think about their future, but BBC Bitesize is also here for them every step of the way. You may be familiar with the wide range of educational content on offer via BBC Bitesize, but there's also a huge amount of content available to them with regards to careers.

Please do explore our site when you get a moment, as it might help spark a conversation with your child about their future career.

It's never too early to start thinking about this!

How can Technicians: We Make The Difference help?

Throughout our schools tour, we've been working closely with our partners at Technicians: We Make the Difference. At the event, your child was introduced to a variety of technician roles – and may have even met a technician too!

Technicians make a difference across society, with exciting and interesting jobs in almost every industry – from making medicines to creating blockbuster movies. With hundreds of technician roles to choose from, there's something to suit everyone. And your child won't need a degree to get started. It's well worth exploring the possibilities together.

Find out more at bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers and technicians.org.uk/parents/

BBC BITESIZE CAREERS

bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers

Technicians
We make the difference

technicians.org.uk

Supporting Your Child with Sparx Maths

Last year, our students answered over a million Maths questions on Sparx Maths!

A few Sparx-specific tips for parents and carers:

Encourage independence: Sparx includes support vidoes and examples linked to each question. These should be your child's first source of help if they get stuck.

Avoid giving answers: Instead of showing your child how to do a question, ask them to explain what they already know or encourage them to watch the support clip and try again.

Be cautious with AI tools and online answer sites: If students use AI to complete tasks or copy answers without understanding them, Sparx will assume they have mastered a topic. This can lead to future homework being set at a level that is too challenging, causing frustration and reducing confidence.

Mistakes are valuable: Sparx uses students' responses to identify gaps in understanding and provide appropriate practice. Getting a question wrong and then learning from it is an important part of the process.

Develop a routine: Completing Sparx regularly throughout the week is much more manageable than trying to finish it all in one evening.

Sparx has a new Flashcards feature: Flashcards provide studnts with short, regular retrieval practice to help strengthen their recall of key mathematical facts and methods. Just a few minutes of daily practice can improve confidence and make it easier to tackle new topics in lessons and homework.

Years 7, and 8 9 students should aim to spend 30 minutes on Sparx Maths per week or reach 100% of tasks completed (whichever comes first).

Key Stage 4 students should aim to spend 60 minutes per week or reach 100% of tasks completed (whichever comes first).

The aim of Sparx Maths is not just to complete homework, but to build long-term confidence and mathematical understanding.

By encouraging your child to engage honestly with the work and make full use of the support built into the platform, you will help ensure that the homework they receive is at the right level for them and supports the best possible progress.

If you have any questions regarding Sparx Maths, please contact your child's Maths teacher.





Sports: Match Reports

Year 8 Hockey

The Year 8 Hockey team, again with multiple player rotations, demonstrated a consistently strong performance! New goalkeeper Paige stepped in to transfer her footballing skills to hockey. With a valiant defensive performance and scoring opportunities taken, the girls finish the league with a 1 - 1 draw and await confirmation on whether they have secured a place in the finals. A huge well done, girls! Brilliant work!

Year 11 Hockey

A huge congratulations to the girls who played in the Year 11 Hockey Tournament earlie this week! The girls played a phenomenal game and showed fantastic teamwork throughout. Thanks to their brilliant skill and fluent collaboration, they were victorious across all matches, conceding only one goal across the whole tournament!

This was an amazing performance from the team and a wonderful way for them to end their hockey experience at Huish. A huge well done, Year 11!



Year 7 Hockey: Huish vs. Bucklers Mead

The Year 7 Hockey team recently travelled to Bucklers Mead for their final league game! To ensure participation for all who have attended hockey club so far this year, a new rotation of players made the journey to Yeovil for the match. The girls demonstrated excellent use of free space and linked up nicely to score several goals. A special mention goes to Callie, who stepped in to play goal and was selected as player of the match by the opposition - some great saves and confidence on display, well done!

The Year 7s came away triumphant with an 8 - 3 win! We now await the results of the other schools to confirm whether we have reached the finals. This is a huge achievement for our Year 7s, as this is their first experience of hockey at Huish. Well done, Year 7!



Reminder

Hockey clubs change over to girls football clubs as of next week!

Dates for your diary for this Half Term

- **7 - 10 November** – Geography Residential Trip: Iceland
- **9 November** – SEND Coffee Morning (9 - 11am)
- **10 November** – A Level English Literature Trip: EMC Conference
- **23 November – INSET Day**
- **24 - 25 November** – Flu Vaccinations (whole school excluding Sixth Form)
- **24 November** – Golden Ticket Trip: Harry Potter Studio Tour
- **25 November** – Year 11 Drama Trip: Bristol Old Vic
- **29 November - 3 December** – History Residential Trip: Berlin
- **3 December** – Year 11 Parents' Evening
- **4 December** – Year 11 Winter Formal
- **8 December** – SLT Coffee Morning (9 - 10am)
- **8 December** – Year 13 Parents' Evening
- **9 December** – Music: Christmas Concert (6pm)
- **11 - 18 December** – Ski Residential Trip: Italy
- **14 December** – Year 7 Music Trip: Pantomime
- **17 December** – Music: Carol Service (7pm)

18 December – Term Ends: School Finishes at 12:30pm

Respect
Ambition
Resilience



HinkleyPointC
EDF CGN

EDF - HINKLEY POINT C

Apprenticeship Information Evening

Thursday 26th November 2026 | 17:30 - 19:00

HPC Induction Centre, Bridgwater, TA6 4FJ

Meet Programme Leads from EDF Early Careers and learn about the following exciting apprenticeship opportunities:

- **Chemistry**
  Level 3 Apprenticeship
  (must be **aged 18 or above** when the apprenticeship starts)
- **Engineering Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship (EMTA)**
  Level 3 Apprenticeship
  (must be **aged 16 or above** when the apprenticeship starts)
- **Health Physics**
  Level 2 Apprenticeship
  (must be **aged 18 or above** when the apprenticeship starts)
- **Nuclear Engineering**
  Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship









You can also meet **current apprentices** to hear about their day-to-day activities and ask any questions you may have.

Applications will open on **26th January** for a **September 2027** start.

Scan the QR code to book your place today...

YOUNG HPC

Apprenticeships

EARLY CAREERS
#edfearlycareers