

Family
Newsletter

Autumn
Term

FRIDAY
17/10/2025



HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL



Birmingham music festival performance

What a fantastic first half of the term it has been! All sections of the school have been busy showcasing our core values.

Working Together for Success

Former pupil, Malikah inspired Year 11 by speaking about effective study habits.



www.hydesville.com



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A Welcome from the Headteacher

What a fantastic first half of the term it has been! All sections of the school have been busy showcasing our core values.



Phonics and Reading Workshop

Parents of Year 1 were invited to take part in a phonics workshop with their children.

SPORT



U13 Football

U11 Football

Year 9 House
Football Competition

The House Cross
country championships

Prep School ISA
Regional Swimming
Championships

Sports Profile

WELCOME

Upcoming Events



A WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

What a fantastic first half of the term it has been! All sections of the school have been busy showcasing our core values through their learning, creativity, and teamwork.

This week, our Prep pupils have been demonstrating their scientific curiosity and innovation during our STEM days. Mrs Chand has shared how impressed she was with the range of imaginative and well-designed projects produced by the children – a real celebration of their talent and enthusiasm.

Our Year 11 pupils are now turning their focus towards their mock exams. I encourage them to use the upcoming break wisely to consolidate their learning and ensure they have strong foundations in place for the months ahead.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Senior Leadership Team and all members of staff for their continued hard work and commitment in making this first half term such a successful one for our pupils.

Finally, I would like to wish all those celebrating Diwali on Monday a very happy and joyful celebration, and to all our families, a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Warm regards,

Mrs Samra

**Monday 20th October -
Friday 31st October**

Half term

Monday 3rd November

Nursery Parents'
Consultations

**Wednesday 5th
November**

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 6th November

Senior Information
Evening

Monday 10th November

Odd Socks Day
Prep School Anti-Bullying
Workshop

**Wednesday 12th
November**

Prep Parents' Evening

Nursery

EXPLORING SENSES

This week, our curious 2-year-olds have been diving into a variety of sensory experiences — from squishy cold custard and smooth chocolate to slippery jelly, textured pumpkin, and magical potion-making with water, food colouring, glitter, and bubbly washing-up liquid!

These activities might look like messy fun — and they are! — but they also play a vital role in early learning and development.



★ Why is Sensory Play So Important?

🧠 Brain Development

Sensory play helps build strong brain connections, encouraging problem-solving, exploration, and early scientific thinking.

🗣️ Communication & Language

Describing textures, colours, and sensations boosts vocabulary and confidence in expressing ideas.

✋ Physical Development

Pouring, mixing, and squashing help strengthen fine motor skills, building the muscles needed for writing and self-care tasks.

💖 Social & Emotional Growth

Working together to make potions or explore materials supports turn-taking, cooperation, and emotional regulation. Sensory play can also be soothing and help children manage big feelings.

🎨 Creativity & Imagination

From pretending to be wizards making potions to cooking up jelly treats, sensory play fuels imagination and creative expression.

🌍 Understanding the World

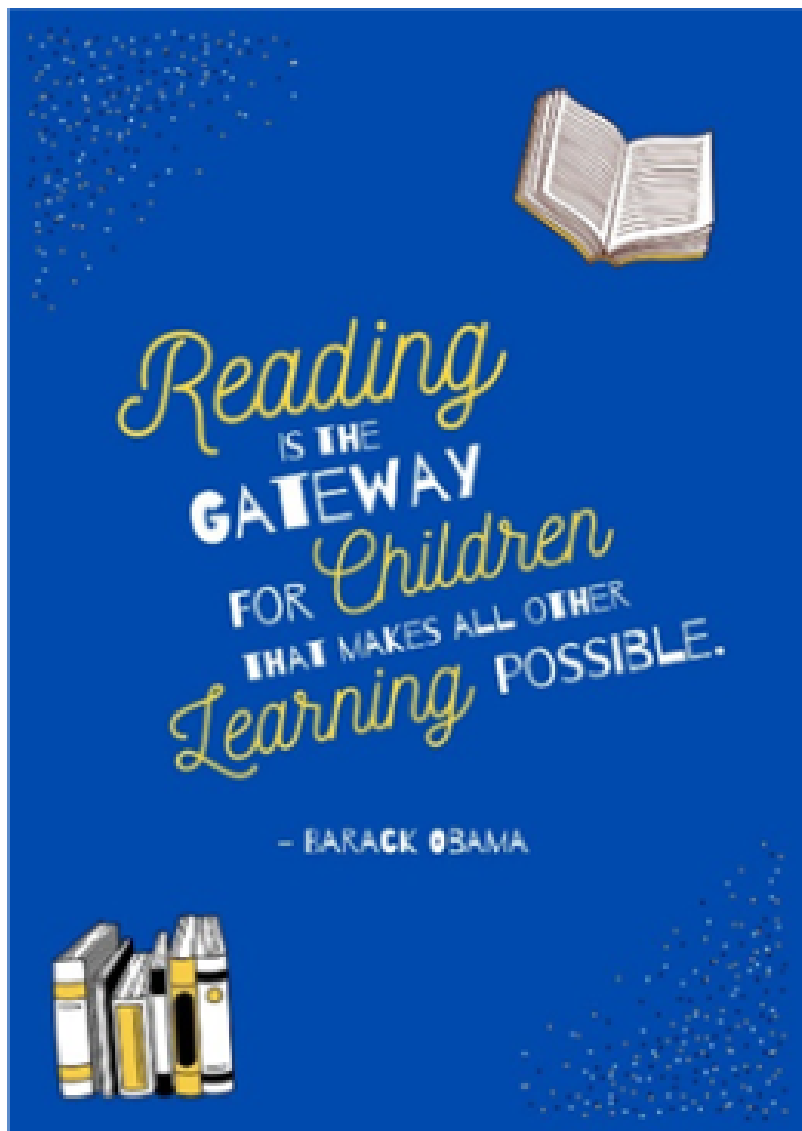
Children observe how things feel, smell, move, and change — a hands-on way to learn about the world around them!



Prep

BOOK DRIVE

Thank you to all our wonderful Hydesville families who donated to our Book Drive. It was a fantastic success. Our book club, eco committee and pupil voice team all volunteered their time to help organise and lead on the event and what an amazing job they did! We were so pleased to receive such a wide range of genres across all ages, and we feel confident these books will spark curiosity and a love of reading for their next reader. It is wonderful to know that these books have not gone to waste but instead will be reused and repurposed to bring joy to someone else, thank you!



Prep

PHONICS AND READING WORKSHOP

On Tuesday morning parents of Year 1 were invited to take part in a phonics workshop with their children. This was an opportunity to learn about the teaching of phonics in lower prep and to talk about the importance of reading.

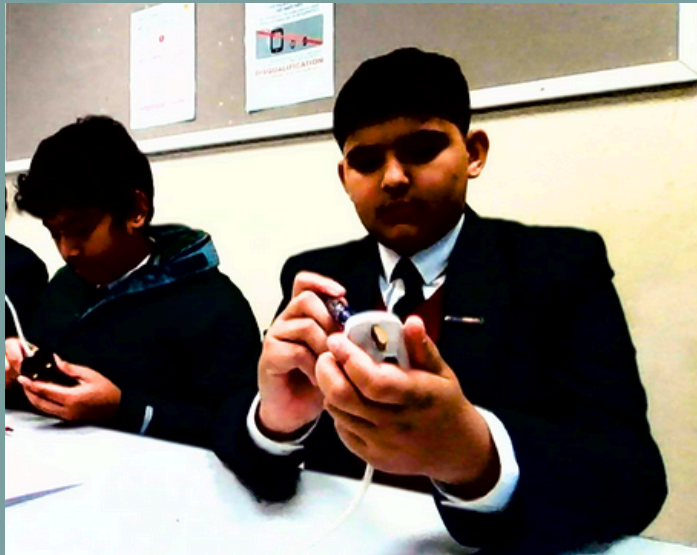
Fun was had by both children and parents as they participated in various phonics activities, including phonics snakes and ladders and making up their own alien words. It was wonderful to see the children and parents engaging and having fun together. Thank you to those parents who were able to make it.



Senior

YEAR 7 AND 8 LIFE SKILLS

In Life Skills this week, Year 7 and 8 pupils have been learning valuable practical skills, including how to safely change a fuse in a plug. They also explored the importance of electrical safety and how to use household appliances responsibly.



Senior

GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK WEEK

Over the last week Year 7 have been introduced to the concept of Geography investigations. They have enthusiastically been conducting surveys and analysing the gathered results.

The first enquiry was "Is there more traffic on the street where I live than in front of school?" This involved counting the different types of traffic passing both places for a period of 15 minutes. The results were varied, with some living on much busier roads than Broadway North and others only having one vehicle passing their house during the survey time.

The second investigation was conducted in the Arboretum and involved finding out whether the facilities there were aimed at local people or tourists. Both classes enjoyed their walk around the Arboretum noting the facilities on offer and discussing who they were aimed at. It turned out that although most of the facilities could be used by tourists and locals alike, that the Arboretum is mainly for the use of the local community.

It was an enjoyable week of lessons where the pupils threw themselves into this new element of learning outside the classroom and investigating the world they live in.



Senior

BIRMINGHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE

Kieran delivered an outstanding performance at the Birmingham Music Festival, held at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre.

Competing in the 11–13 year age group, Kieran was one of 12 talented contestants, each performing pieces ranging from Grade 4 to Grade 8. His skill, musicality, and composure shone through, earning him well-deserved recognition for his impressive piano playing.

This achievement is a testament to Kieran's dedication, hard work, and passion for music. Performing at such a high level in a competitive setting is no small feat, and we couldn't be prouder of his success.

Well done, Kieran — what a fantastic accomplishment!



**Birmingham
Music Festival
2025**

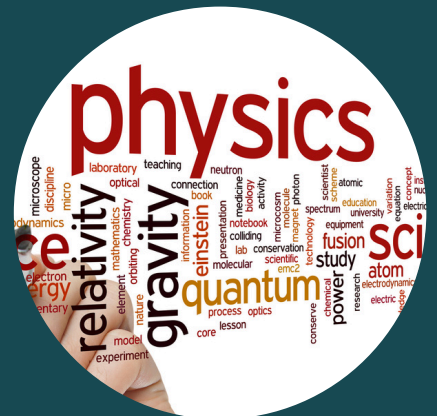
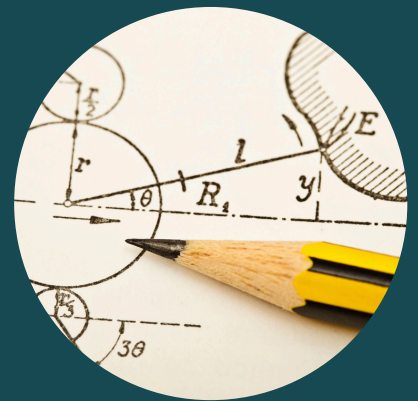


Senior

PHYSICS TRIP

Our Key Stage 4 pupils enjoyed an exciting educational visit to Alton Towers as part of their Physics studies. In their lessons, pupils have been learning about energy and forces, and this trip provided the perfect opportunity to see these concepts in action through the mechanics of the rollercoasters.

It was a fantastic day out, with pupils confidently navigating the UK's largest theme park in groups and embracing the thrilling atmosphere of Scarefest. The trip was a wonderful blend of learning and fun, helping students make real-world connections to their classroom learning.



Senior

ACTIVE READING AT HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL

Thank you to all of the families who attended the Year 7-11 English Skills workshop last week. It was an opportunity to encourage and equip parents to support their child's reading at home, emphasising reading for pleasure, vocabulary development and comprehension.

We talked about the strategies we use in school, as well as how to create a reading culture at home and we engaged in a short shared reading activity between parents and their children.



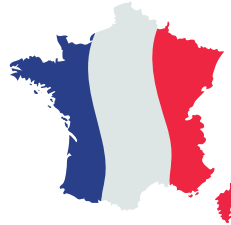
Active reading at Hydesville Tower School!

Active readers develop these good habits:

1. **Skimming the text to gain an overview of the topic. Can you summarise what you have learned at the end of each page?**
2. **Scanning the text, looking for specific information.**
3. **Read with a ruler supports fluency.**
4. **Circle or underline unfamiliar vocabulary – then check meanings in a dictionary!**
5. **Pay attention to the punctuation as you read.**



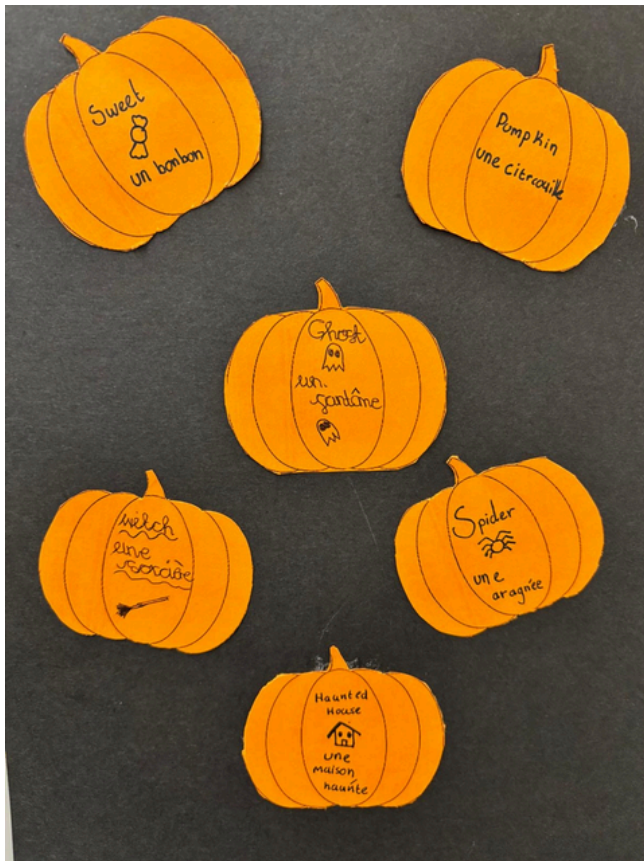
Senior



LANGUAGE LEADERS AT HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL

Our Y8 language leaders have been getting spooktacular! They have enjoyed researching about Halloween in France and have produced some exciting information for our prep school pupils.

Happy Halloween



Working Together for Success

FORMER PUPIL INSPIRES YEAR 11

We were delighted to welcome back former Year 11 pupil Malikah, who returned to speak with our current Year 11s about how she prepared for her GCSEs and achieved outstanding results — performing on average two grades above her baseline.

Malikah's success was the result of her determination and the strong support she received from her teachers, academic clinics, and the flexible timetable and pastoral guidance provided by the Head of Year, Deputy Head, and SENDCo.

We are incredibly proud of her achievements and the positive example she continues to set.

During her talk, Malikah shared practical revision tips that helped her succeed:

For Maths: video walkthroughs, Corbett 5-a-day, past paper questions, Hannah Kettle Maths, GCSE Maths Tutor, and Maths Genie.

For Science: online flashcards such as Gizmo, Cognito, Free Science Lessons, Physics and Maths Tutor, and First Class Maths.

She also recommended MyEdSpace sessions the night before exams for English, Maths, and Science.



Working Together for Success

FORMER PUPIL INSPIRES YEAR 11

Malikah spoke about effective study habits, including blurting and retrieval practice, making her own flashcards with questions and answers, and teaching someone else to reinforce understanding. She emphasised staying organised with physical folders for past papers and an online folder for knowledge organisers.

Her key messages to our Year 11s were simple but powerful:

- Believe in yourself and keep a **positive mindset**.
- Make time to **relax** — she found the gym helped her unwind.
- Prioritise **sleep** and use calming strategies to manage stress.
- During October half term, she studied around four hours a day, and after mock exams, she maintained a steady routine of one hour of homework and one hour of revision, always finishing by 9pm.

Malikah's visit was inspiring and timely as our current Year 11s prepare for their mock examinations after half term. We are so proud of her journey and grateful that she took the time to share her experience and advice.



Sixth Form Information Evenings –

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

We would like to share details of several upcoming Sixth Form Information Evenings. These events are an excellent opportunity for pupils to explore post-16 pathways, including A Levels, vocational courses, enrichment activities, university preparation, and career guidance.

Attending will help pupils gain a clearer understanding of their options and begin planning for the future with confidence.

Please remember that applications for post-16 study are not restricted to schools within your local catchment area. Pupils are welcome to apply to a range of providers. However, grammar schools do have specific entry requirements, which usually include achieving certain GCSE grades in order to access their courses.

Forthcoming Events:

- MPW Birmingham (Independent) – **Friday 7th November**
- Queen Mary's – **Wednesday 5th November, 5.00–7.00pm**
- Queen Mary's Grammar School (Grammar) – **Thursday 20th November, 5.30pm**
- St Francis of Assisi Catholic (State) – **Thursday 20th November, 6.00–8.00pm**
- Barr Beacon (State) – **Thursday 27th November, 6.00–8.30pm**
- Blue Coat Academy (State) – **Thursday 11th December**

We strongly encourage pupils and parents to attend any events that may be of interest, as these evenings will provide valuable insights to support informed decisions about the next steps beyond GCSEs.



IMPORTANT!

SPORT

U11 Football vs Mayfield Prep

Our first U11 home fixture of the term saw two boys' teams and a girls' team take on Mayfield Prep in an exciting afternoon of football.

The U11A team showed great determination, coming from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 in a well-matched and hard-fought contest. The U11B and Girls' teams battled bravely but were unable to find their best form on the day.

Despite mixed results, it was a fantastic afternoon of sport, full of teamwork, effort, and some outstanding individual performances.

Results: Drew, Lost, Lost

Players of the Match:

- Jacob – for superb goalkeeping
- Arvind – for quality tackling
- Charlotte – for great resilience



SPORT

U13 FOOTBALL VS HIGHCLARE

The U13 pupils opened their sports season with a challenging set of fixtures against Highclare. The opposition showed real depth, fielding four football sides, while the Hydesville Year 8 boys' team was strengthened by some talented Year 7 additions.

Across four matches, our boys recorded one win, two draws, and one loss—a strong start to the season that reflected both effort and teamwork. Every game was played in excellent spirit, and the boys should be proud of their performances.

Results: Won, Drew, Drew, Lost

PLAYERS OF THE DAY:

- Mahaan – for superb all-round play
- Karam – for determination and effort throughout

The Year 8 girls also faced a tough challenge against a skilful and well-drilled Highclare side. Despite conceding several early goals, the team showed real resilience and commitment, working hard until the final whistle.

Results: Lost

Player of the Day:

- Avaani – for outstanding goalkeeping and perseverance



SPORT

Year 9 House Football Competition

The Year 9 house football competition was fiercely competitive, with a number of goals scored by the teams. Hatherton were the runaway victors, with Dilke narrowly pipping Bradford into third.

1st Hatherton

2nd Dilke

3rd Bradford



SPORT

THE HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The house cross country championships got underway this Thursday with Year 8 leading the way. The spectacular Autumn weather made for excellent running conditions. The years showed commendable resilience.

The Boys winner was Armaan in 13minutes 54seconds.
The Girls winner was Hawa in 20minutes 44seconds.

The house competition is calculated by the average points score per pupil. Which means that the current standings, after round 1 are:

- 1st Dilke
- 2nd Bradford
- 3rd Hatherton



Armaan 13minutes 54 seconds



Hawa in 20minutes 44seconds

SPORT

PREP SCHOOL ISA REGIONAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

A group of Hydesville's keenest prep school swimmers competed this week in the ISA Regional Swimming Championships. There were nearly 600 competitors from 34 schools. The standards were incredibly high, with many participants members of clubs that swim 10-12 hours a week. Given the strength of competition our brave swimmers performed really well.

Dylan – Backstroke 5th

Dhian – Breaststroke 5th

Jayden – Freestyle 5th

Brianna – Freestyle 5th

Charlotte – Backstroke 5th and Breaststroke 6th

Avaani – Backstroke 6th

Saranya – Backstroke 4th and Breaststroke 5th

Kuvan – Freestyle 6th

Zaydan – Freestyle 6th and Breaststroke 5th



SPORT

SPORTS PROFILE

Name: Mr Berry

Favourite sport(s): Snowboarding, Horse riding, Surfing, Cycling... Pretty much everything!

Best performances: Silver Medal in UK student Powerlifting, England Students Rugby League, Javelin British League, 14th in UK.

Achievements: Swam to Isle of White (twice), Cycled the South Downs Way in 11 hours. Cycled from Geneva to Marseille.

Sporting ambitions: Complete the Nice Iron Man triathlon, Run the 34mile Avon Valley Path. Cycle 'The Old Chalk Way' 500 mile off road route. Snowboard every resort in the world! 😊

Favourite sporting moment: Tom Simpson was a British professional cyclist, one of Britain's most successful of all time. At the time of the 1967 Tour de France, he was the undisputed leader of the British team and forecast to be the first Britain to win the tour. In the 13th stage of that race, 2000 metres up, near the summit of Mount Venteux, he collapsed off his bike. He was helped back on by the crowd. 200 metres later he collapsed again and died. His dying words were "Put me back on the bike..."

Motivational Music Choices:
Old school rock or Hard Trance
Favourite fuel: Mars bar, coke and pizza (post event 😊)!



AWARDS

STAR OF THE WEEK



Jovan is this week's Star of the Week for always giving 100% effort in everything he does. His hard work and positive attitude brighten our classroom every day - what a wonderful example to others! Well done, Jovan!



Hoorain is this week's Star of the Week for working hard and for her super progress in reading.



Congratulations!



AWARDS

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATION



VEERAN



SAHIB



ARJUN



BETHANY



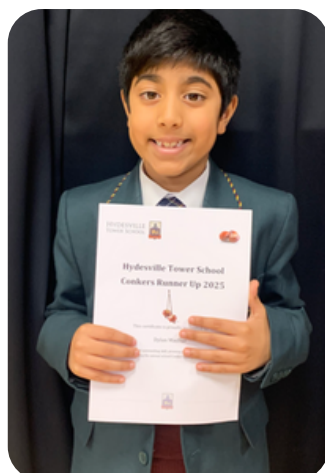
ROSHAN



JARED

CONGRATULATIONS

EXTERNAL CERTIFICATES



Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS HOUSE POINTS



50

EZE
SOHAN, RUMBI, AVRAAJ ,
NAVAN , ARJUN , MAYA
ZIKORA, DYLAN M, DYLAN C,
JAACHI, JORAH, BETHANY
NOOR, CATALEYA, IDREES,
AVAANI, GLORY, ZAYDAN,
SARANYA, LILIANNE,
NUSAYBAH, KUVAN ANAYA ,
KARAMVEER, CHARLOTTE,
DHIAN, PRAVEEN, ARVIND,
ALISHA, JAYDEN

100

ARJUN , MAYA
ROSHAN, MUIZZ,
KARTAR, SOPHIA,
ALIYAN, SNEHA



Congratulations!

SENIOR AWARDS



SCHOOL VALUES



SENIOR AWARDS



Amreen Year 9 has been named artist of the week, for her excellent recreation of Sophie Ryder's work.



Sam has been making great use of his lunchtimes by attending composition sessions and creating some wonderful original music.



Armaan is sports person of the week for exceptional performance in the first round of the house cross country.



HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL

Open to all
Nursery,
Preschool,
Reception,
Year 1 and
Year 2 children

9am - 4pm
(collection no later
than 4pm)
Please bring a
healthy packed
lunch - NO Nuts

£30 a day
- Payment via
ParentPay
Limited spaces
any questions
please speak to
Mrs Willis

Autumn Spooky Fun Club

Monday 27th - Friday
31st October 2025

Fun and Games,
Arts and Crafts,
Face painting
Halloween Party
and much more





HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

*Happy Diwali
&
Bandi Chhor
Divas*



To those in the Hydesville family who are celebrating this cultural event



HAPPY HALF TERM HOLIDAY!



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL