

Family  
Newsletter

Spring  
Term

FRIDAY  
13/02/2026



# HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL



A Day That Counts: Numbers Day 2026  
Raises Funds and Smile



Love and Learning in Red Group

## SPORT

Year 11 GCSE  
PE pupils have  
been reaching  
new  
heights at  
Redpoint  
Climbing  
Centre,  
taking on a  
challenging  
two-day course  
in rock  
climbing and  
mountaineering



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## A WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a vibrant and productive half term, I would like to reflect on what has been an exceptionally rewarding period for our school community. From Nursery through to Year 11, pupils have demonstrated enthusiasm, resilience and a strong commitment to their learning. It has been a pleasure to see the school filled with such positive energy and purposeful activity.

In the Early Years, creativity has flourished. Nursery pupils engaged in hands-on learning linked to Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year, developing early literacy, numeracy and social skills through purposeful play. Their growing confidence and curiosity continue to provide a strong foundation for future learning.

Across the Prep School, learning has been both engaging and meaningful. NSPCC Number Day brought mathematics to life while raising over £300 to support vital services such as Childline. This initiative reflected not only academic endeavour but also compassion and social responsibility.

Safer Internet Day was another key focus. Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI prompted thoughtful discussions about digital citizenship and critical thinking. Through assemblies, quizzes and classroom activities, pupils showed maturity in considering both the opportunities and challenges presented by emerging technologies. My thanks go to Mr Walker and Mrs Majithia for leading safer internet day.

Our Parent-Pupil STEM Challenge Day was a highlight of the term. Families collaborated to design and build marble runs using recycled materials, demonstrating impressive creativity, teamwork and engineering skill while strengthening our home-school partnership.

In the Senior School, academic enrichment has been equally strong. Year 8 pupils explored real-world computing systems, Language Leaders delivered an engaging Chinese New Year project, and Year 10 and 11 pupils brought Macbeth to life through a dynamic stage combat workshop.

This half term has truly captured the spirit of Hydesville: ambition, creativity, leadership and community. Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

*Mrs Samra*



### Upcoming Events

**Wednesday 25th February** - Prep School Parents' Evening

**Wednesday 25th February** - KS3 Math Workshop

**Thursday 26th February** - Years 3 to 6 Micro bits workshop

**Thursday 5th March** World Book Day

**Saturday 7th March** Open Morning

**Tuesday 10th March** Nursery Parents' Consultations

**Wednesday 11th to 13th March** Y3 – Y5 Residential – Frank Chapman

**Friday 13th March** World Sleep Day

**Wednesday 18th March** Y2 Maths Workshop

**Wednesday 18th March** Reception-Y1 Trip to Black Country Living Museum

**Thursday 26th and 27th March** Upper Prep Musical

# NURSERY

## LOVE AND LEARNING IN RED GROUP

There has been a wonderful sense of creativity and excitement in Red Group this week as pupils embraced a range of Valentine's Day-themed activities.

Children delighted in creating their own imaginative "love potions", carefully mixing flowers, petals, glitter and sequins using a variety of tools and utensils. This engaging activity encouraged rich imaginative play, sensory exploration and collaborative discussion. Pupils also designed their own Valentine's Day cards, thoughtfully selecting colours and decorations to express their creativity. It was a pleasure to see the pride and focus with which they shared their finished creations with friends.

### Celebrating Chinese New Year

Red Group also enjoyed exploring traditions linked to Chinese New Year through a variety of hands-on learning experiences. In the role-play area, children shared oriental foods and practised important social skills through cooperative play.

Mark-making skills were developed as pupils practised writing Chinese numerals in sand and glitter, combining sensory learning with early writing development. A particular highlight was using chopsticks to pick up pom poms and match quantities to numerals, supporting hand-eye coordination and early mathematical understanding.

Through purposeful play and exploration, the children demonstrated enthusiasm, curiosity and a growing confidence in their learning.

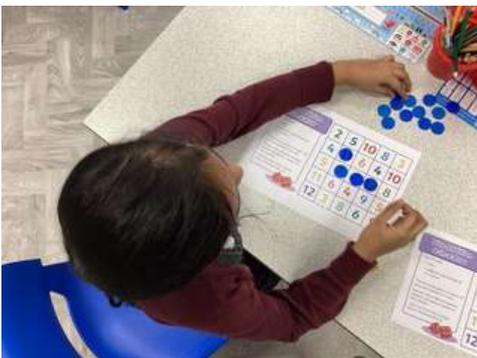


# PREP

## A DAY THAT COUNTS: NUMBERS DAY 2026 RAISES FUNDS AND SMILES

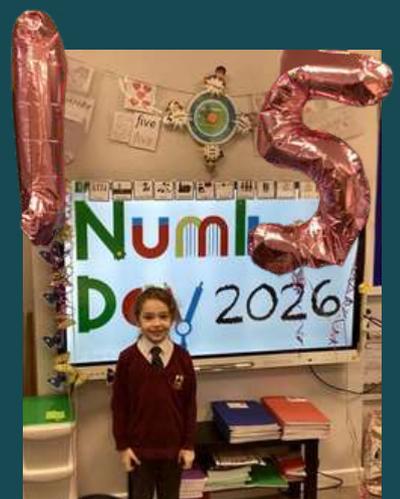
Hydesville Tower School was buzzing with excitement on Friday as pupils and staff marked NSPCC Numbers Day 2026, turning mathematics into a celebration of creativity, community, and charitable giving. From Reception through to the senior years, the school was filled with imaginative, maths-inspired activities that brought numbers to life in a fun and meaningful way.

The day highlighted an important message: mathematics is not just a classroom subject, but a powerful tool that can be used to support others. As a Prep school, Hydesville is committed to ensuring every child enjoys a safe and happy childhood, and all funds raised during Numbers Day will go directly to the NSPCC. These donations will help support vital services such as Childline, a 24/7 lifeline for children in need, and Speak Out, Stay Safe, a programme that helps younger pupils recognise abuse and understand where to seek help.



A raffle organised by senior pupils played a key role in the fundraising efforts, and thanks to the generosity of families, staff, and pupils, the school raised £240. It was a powerful reminder that even small numbers, when added together, can make a significant difference.

The school would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the day. Numbers Day 2026 truly proved that learning, laughter, and kindness all add up – making it a day that really did count.



# PREP

## SMART TECH, SAFE CHOICES: OUR AI ADVENTURE

This week, our school joined thousands across the UK to celebrate Safer Internet Day 2026. The theme, “Smart tech, safe choices: Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI”, highlighted how AI is shaping young people’s lives.

Pupils discussed how AI affects learning, online experiences, and the wider world, including opportunities and risks such as scams or harmful content.



Families were encouraged to continue the conversation at home with questions like:

- What did you enjoy most online?
- Did you use any AI tools?
- Did you have any worries about AI?

The UK Safer Internet Centre offered quizzes and tips for children and parents to explore together.

By working together, school and home helped children make smart, safe choices in a digital world.





## PREP Computing House Competition Y1-6

**THE GOLDEN RULE:**  
Stop, think, check &  
ask a trusted adult.

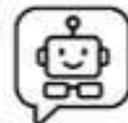


**DISCLAIMER:**  
This is a computer tool, not  
a real person. Information  
may not always be correct.

### Competition Theme: "Smart Tech, Safe Choices"



**The Challenge:** We need a "face" for a new school AI chatbot!  
Your mission is to draw and label an original character  
(it could be a robot, an animal, or a friendly creature)  
that represents a helpful and safe AI tool



your poster must include the following four labels based on  
how real AI is programmed to behave;



#### THE JOB.

You are an expert (e.g. on homework, animals).



THE ALWAYS RULE: What must the bot ALWAYS do?  
(e.g., be kind).

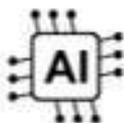


SAFETY FEATURE: How does it respond to unsafe  
requests?



#### THE NEVER RULE.

What must the bot NEVER do? (e.g. ask for addresses).



- **The Golden Rule:** The slogan  
"Stop, think, check & ask a trusted adult" must be clearly visible.
- **The Fact Check:** A small note reminding users that this is a  
computer tool, not a real person, and its information might not  
always be correct

Please use human creativity for this competition rather than  
using AI to generate the entry!

Send your entries in to  
Class 3A or House captains or email  
[anneka.majithia@hydesville.com](mailto:anneka.majithia@hydesville.com)

Closing date for entries: Monday 23rd March 2026

# PREP

## READY, SET, ROLL! FAMILIES RISE TO THE MARBLE RUN STEM CHALLENGE

Our school hall was buzzing with excitement on Thursday, 12th February, as pupils and parents gathered for a thrilling Parent-Pupil STEM Challenge Day. With two lively sessions running from 9.00–10.00am and 2.00–3.00pm, the stage was set for a morning and afternoon of innovation, teamwork and a touch of healthy competition.

The challenge? To design and build the ultimate Marble Run.

There was, however, a twist worthy of the finest engineers: teams could only use recycled materials. Cardboard tubes, cereal boxes and plastic bottles were transformed into gravity-defying tracks and twisting tunnels, as families put their creativity – and eco-credentials – to the test. ♻️

The hall quickly became an engineering hub, filled with concentration, collaboration and the occasional cheer as marbles successfully completed their journey from top to bottom. Beyond the fun, pupils were exploring important scientific principles, learning first-hand about forces, motion and the importance of careful design.

Our judges faced an unenviable task. Each creation was scored on three key criteria:

- Creativity
- Engineering prowess
- The smoothness of the final run

After much deliberation, winners were selected in both sessions:



**Session 1 (Years 1–4):**

**1st:** Arjun B

**2nd:** Klaudia P

**3rd:** Faith H

**Session 2 (Years 5–6):**

**1st:** Idrees K, Noor Z & Aliyan Z

**2nd:** Jacob J & Avi K

**3rd:** Nyran N & Nirvair N

Trophies may have gone to a select few but every team should feel immensely proud.

The standard of innovation and teamwork on display was truly impressive, and the enthusiasm shown by both pupils and parents made the day a resounding success.

A huge well done to all our budding engineers and their families. We look forward to seeing what you will build next!

# PREP SPORT



## HOUSE DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT FEVER SWEEPS YEARS 3-6!

Excitement has been building across the school this week as pupils from Years 3 to 6 have taken to the sports hall for the much-anticipated House Dodgeball Tournaments.

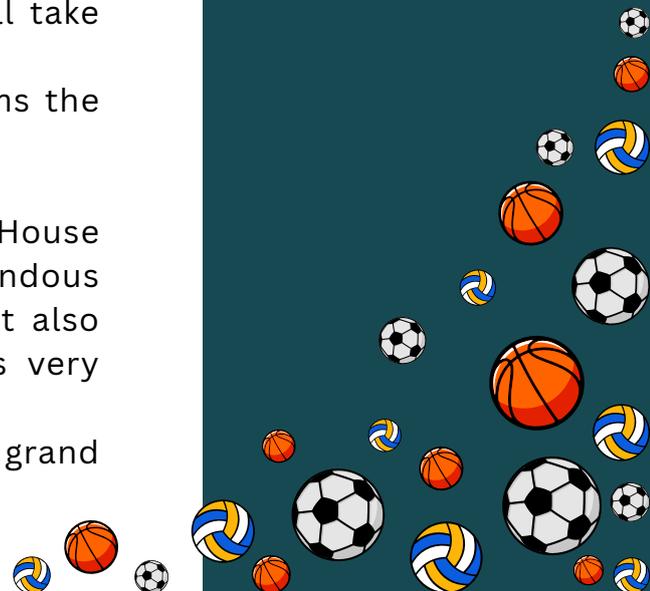
The atmosphere has been electric. With every whistle, the hall has echoed with cheers of encouragement, determined shouts, and the unmistakable thud of a perfectly aimed throw. Pupils have demonstrated outstanding skill, teamwork and resilience throughout the competition. Their catching has been sharp, their throwing powerful and precise, and their elusiveness nothing short of spectacular. Spectators have been treated to thrilling rallies and dramatic turnarounds, proving that dodgeball is as much about strategy as it is about speed.

Each match has been fiercely contested, with Houses battling for every point and refusing to give in. The determination on display has been inspiring, and it has been wonderful to see such excellent sportsmanship alongside competitive spirit.

Now, anticipation is mounting as we look ahead to Friday afternoon, when the decisive matches will take place. The question on everyone's lips is clear: Will it be Dilke, Bradford or Hatherton who claims the title?

Whatever the outcome, one thing is certain – the House Dodgeball Tournament has already been a tremendous success, showcasing not only athletic ability but also teamwork, perseverance and House pride at its very best.

We wish all finalists the very best of luck for the grand finale! 🏆



# AWARDS

## STAR OF THE WEEK



Nigh is growing in confidence, embracing new challenges, and enthusiastically participating in every activity.



Adam-Elahi has made exceptional progress in reading and imaginative contributions in literacy lessons.



# AWARDS

## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATION



# HOUSE POINTS



50

JONAH A  
KIYAN R  
RUTENDO M

100

AMITOK J  
AYAAN B  
ADAM-ELAHI A  
JADEN TM  
JEEVAN M

150

MARYAM A  
EZE M  
KHUSHIE S  
AYVA S

AARIYAN K  
JAACHI M  
ZIKORA N  
DYLAN M

200

JORAH D  
ALISHA B  
AMRIT K

250

JAYDEN B  
DHIAN B



# EXTERNAL CERTIFICATES



*Congratulations*

# SENIOR

## RAISING DIGITAL CITIZENS: HOW FAMILIES CAN USE AI SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY

Artificial intelligence is no longer a future concept – it is woven into everyday life. This Safer Internet Day, Hydesville is opening an important conversation about how families can use AI safely, confidently and responsibly.

The internet offers extraordinary opportunities for learning, creativity and connection. The most effective way to keep children safe is simple: be involved. Spend time online together, talk openly about what you see, and share both the positives and the pitfalls. News stories, apps and games can all spark valuable conversations – and children should always know they can come to you if something doesn't feel right.

AI now powers search engines, voice assistants, photo editing tools and social media feeds. While it can make life easier, it can also collect personal data or present information that is misleading. Helping children recognise where AI is being used – and to question what they see – is a vital digital skill for the modern world.

Responsible technology use is about more than safety; it's about impact. Families are encouraged to reflect on how technology makes them feel, how it affects others, and whether it supports learning, wellbeing and kindness. These small moments of reflection help build healthy habits that last.

Finally, stay informed and know where to turn if things go wrong. Free, trusted resources are available, and many platforms allow harmful or inappropriate AI-generated content to be reported. You don't need all the answers – just a willingness to learn together.



For further guidance and practical advice for parents and carers, visit:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>



# SENIOR

## FROM SUPERMARKET TO SCREEN: YEAR 8 DECODE THE DIGITAL WORLD

Year 8 Computer Science pupils delved into the inner workings of technology, discovering that computers are far closer to everyday life than they might think – even as close as the supermarket checkout.

In an engaging and hands-on lesson, pupils explored the essential building blocks of computer systems, focusing on input, output and storage devices. Far from remaining abstract concepts on a page, these components were brought vividly to life through a familiar real-world example: the self-checkout machine.

With confidence and enthusiasm, pupils identified the barcode scanner and touchscreen as key input devices, explaining how they allow users to communicate with the system. They recognised screens and speakers as output devices, delivering information back to the user. Meanwhile, discussions around storage devices highlighted how data – from scanned items to payment details – is securely recorded and processed.

The lesson was a clear demonstration of learning in action. Pupils showed impressive analytical thinking as they broke down complex systems into understandable parts, making thoughtful connections between classroom theory and the technology they encounter every day.



It was a pleasure to see such curiosity and confidence on display. If Year 8's enthusiasm is anything to go by, the future of computer science is in very capable hands indeed.



# SENIOR

## YEAR 8 LANGUAGE LEADERS BRING CHINESE NEW YEAR TO LIFE

Our Year 8 Language Leaders have taken centre stage this term, delivering a vibrant and educational celebration of Chinese New Year to the school community as they marked the Year of the Horse.

As part of the project, pupils worked collaboratively to produce a high-quality set of resources, including eye-catching posters and thoughtfully designed activities that explored key aspects of Chinese culture. The highlight of the initiative came when the Language Leaders planned and delivered an engaging lesson for Year 7 pupils, confidently sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm in the classroom.

The project concluded with a lively quiz, designed to test what participants had learned and to ensure that the experience was both informative and enjoyable.



Throughout the process, the pupils demonstrated impressive creativity, strong teamwork and growing confidence, showcasing the skills developed through their leadership roles.

This successful project not only deepened cultural understanding across year groups but also highlighted the commitment and talent of our Language Leaders.



Well done to all the pupils who were involved in making this such an inspiring and memorable contribution to school life.



# SENIOR



## NUMBERS WITH PURPOSE: HYDESVILLE RAISES £240 FOR NSPCC

Hydesville Tower School proudly took part in NSPCC Number Day, combining mathematical challenge with meaningful fundraising in support of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Year 7 brought maths to life by constructing impressive geodesic domes using straws and tape. Through this hands-on challenge, pupils explored triangles, symmetry and structural strength – discovering how mathematical principles underpin real-world engineering. Their teamwork and problem-solving skills were outstanding.



YEAR 7 SHOWCASE THEIR CREATIVE GEODESIC DOME STRUCTURES

Meanwhile, our dedicated Year 11 fundraising team – Annaya, Karina and Abdur – organised a successful raffle, offering prizes from chocolate treats to scientific calculators. Their enthusiasm inspired generous support across the school community.

Thanks to the combined efforts of pupils, staff and families, we are delighted to share that over £240 was raised for the NSPCC – a wonderful achievement that reflects Hydesville's strong sense of compassion and community spirit.



OUR PROUD YEAR 11 FUNDRAISING TEAM AND SOME OF OUR LUCKY RAFFLE PRIZE-WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this inspiring day of learning and giving.

# SENIOR

## SWORDS AT THE READY: YEAR 10 AND 11 PUPILS TACKLE MACBETH WITH STAGE COMBAT WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, Year 10 and 11 pupils were given a unique opportunity to explore Shakespeare's Macbeth from a thrilling new perspective. Mark Ruddick of Squire Stage Combat led an engaging workshop in which pupils learned the art of swordplay, practising both attack and parry techniques under expert guidance.

Beyond the physical skills, the session offered a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's language, as pupils discovered how the Bard's fight scenes convey tension, character, and drama. The workshop also highlighted the historical context behind some of the expressions still familiar to us today, bringing the text vividly to life.



**BRINGING MACBETH TO LIFE THROUGH SWORDPLAY AND SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA.**

For those preparing for upcoming literature examinations, this hands-on experience promises to give them an edge, combining practical skill with critical insight. As one participant remarked, the pupils certainly won't be "on the back foot" when it comes to interpreting the play's most dynamic moments.



# SENIOR

## TALKING TECH: YEAR 8 LEAD THE CONVERSATION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Year 8 pupils recently took centre stage to deliver an engaging and thought-provoking assembly for the Senior School, marking this year's Safer Internet Day with confidence and maturity.

Focusing on the 2026 theme of artificial intelligence (AI), pupils explored what AI is, why it matters, and how it is increasingly shaping the lives of young people. Through an interactive and informative presentation, they encouraged their audience to consider not only the exciting opportunities AI presents, but also the responsibilities and challenges that come with rapidly advancing technology.

The assembly highlighted the global significance of Safer Internet Day, which is observed every February in more than 170 countries worldwide. By placing Hydesville Tower School within this international movement, Year 8 demonstrated a strong awareness of the wider digital landscape and the importance of collective action. Importantly, the message extended beyond information alone. Pupils empowered their peers to reflect on their own use of technology, to start meaningful conversations with friends, teachers and family members, and to think critically about how artificial intelligence is influencing education, creativity and communication.

It was an impressive display of leadership, collaboration and digital awareness. With clarity and poise, Year 8 showed that they are not only consumers of technology, but thoughtful contributors to the ongoing conversation about how it should be used – safely, responsibly and positively. Well done Year 8 for your teamwork and presentation skills.



Safer Internet Day 2026



AI or Real?!?!

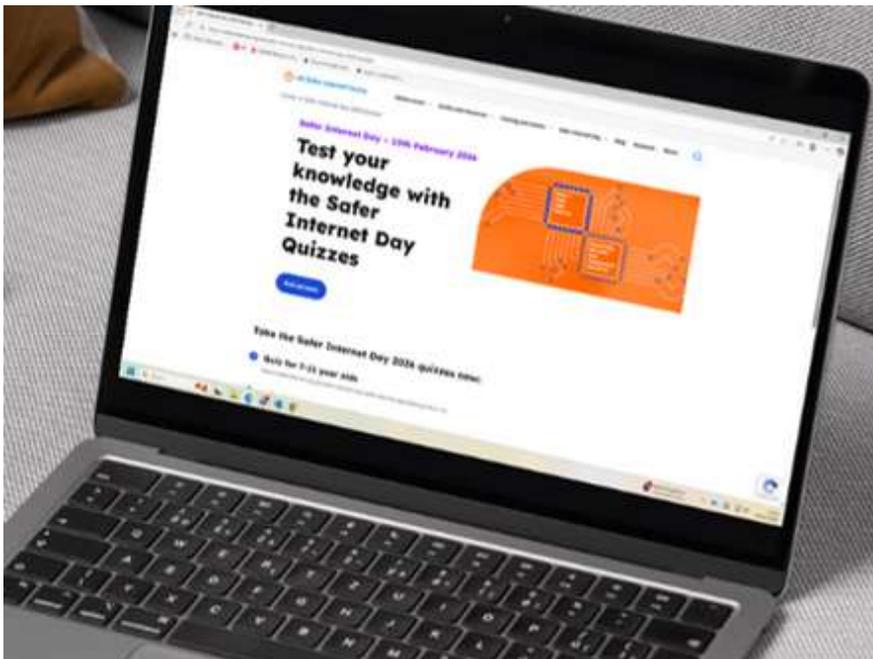


# SENIOR

## SENIOR PUPILS TACKLE ONLINE SAFETY IN SPECIAL SAFER INTERNET DAY QUIZ

This week, senior pupils at Hydesville Tower School took part in a special quiz to mark Safer Internet Day, designed to encourage reflection on safe and responsible technology use.

The activity explored real-life scenarios involving AI, social media, deepfakes, and online rumours, prompting pupils to consider how to behave responsibly online. Discussions included reporting harmful content, respecting consent, and using AI positively to support learning rather than replace it. Pupils were reminded of the importance of checking information, challenging inappropriate content, and seeking help from trusted adults when something feels wrong.



The session strengthened pupils' critical thinking skills and highlighted the need to be safe, respectful, and responsible in digital spaces. Staff praised the students' mature engagement, and families are encouraged to continue these important conversations at home.



# SENIOR

## SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026: HELPING FAMILIES NAVIGATE AI SAFELY

### Talk Together About Online Life

This Safer Internet Day, Hydesville Tower School urged parents to discuss technology with their children. Spend time online together, share experiences, and use news stories as conversation starters. Children should feel confident coming to parents if something online feels wrong.

### Understand Where AI Is Used

AI features are now common in search engines, voice assistants, and apps. While useful, AI can collect personal data or share misleading information. Help your child recognise AI and consider its impact on learning, wellbeing, and online behaviour.

### Promote Safe and Responsible Use

Encourage children to reflect on how technology affects themselves and others. Ask: Does it support learning? Does it encourage kindness? How might it affect me now and in the future? Modelling thoughtful digital behaviour is key.

### Stay Informed and Use Trusted Resources

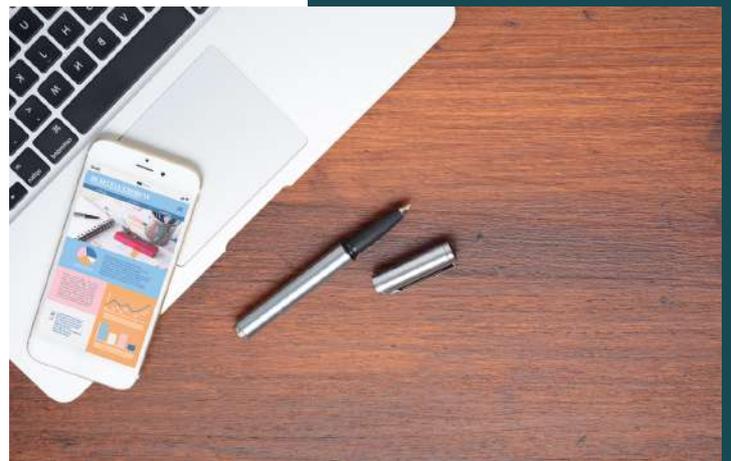
Safer Internet Day provides free guidance on deepfakes, online rumours, and ethical AI use. Explore these together to address concerns and answer questions.

### Know Where to Seek Help

Most platforms allow harmful content to be reported. Illegal material, including AI-generated images, should be reported to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) or the platform. AI-generated explicit images can also be reported via Stop NCII, Report Remove, or Take It Down.



By talking openly, staying informed, and modelling responsible use, families can help children navigate the digital world safely and confidently.



# SENIOR SPORT



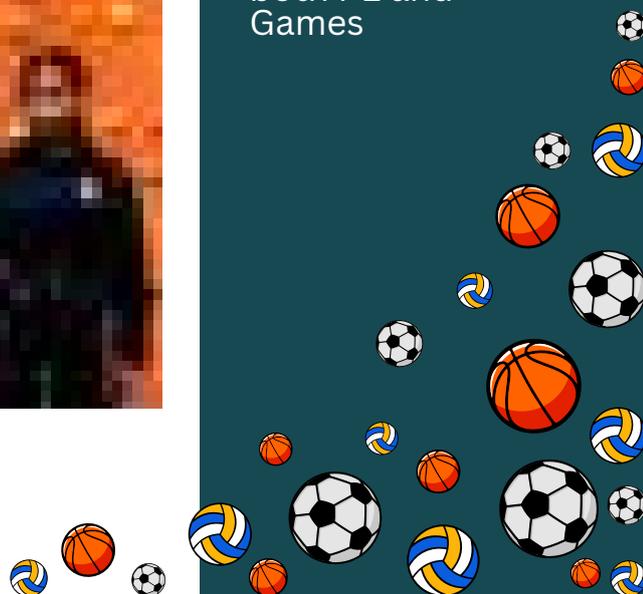
## Reaching New Heights: Year 11 Pupils Scale Success at Redpoint Climbing Centre

Year 11 GCSE PE pupils have been reaching new heights at Redpoint Climbing Centre, taking on a challenging two-day course in rock climbing and mountaineering. From mastering technical skills to tackling a variety of climbing styles – with some pupils conquering impressively demanding grades – the group rose to every challenge with determination and grit.

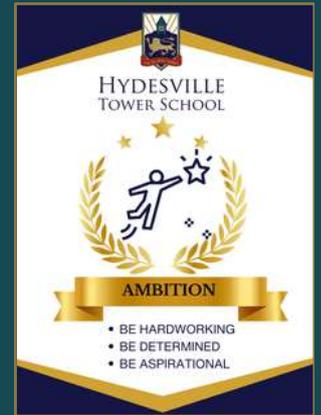
Throughout the course, the pupils were a genuine credit to the school, supporting one another with encouragement and respect, and representing the community superbly at the centre. By the final climb, confidence was soaring, resilience was firmly built, and pride in their achievements was unmistakable. Thanks are also extended to Ms Eynon for her valued support during a highly successful week.



Vian – for demonstrating outstanding effort and enthusiasm in both PE and Games



# SENIOR AWARDS



# SENIOR AWARDS



## ART AWARD

Reuben has made outstanding progress in Art this week. His creativity and keen attention to detail have truly stood out, and he has approached new techniques with growing confidence and enthusiasm. The result is work that is both imaginative and thoughtfully crafted.

## MUSIC AWARD

These pupils have been named Musicians of the Week for their creativity, teamwork and outstanding leadership in choreographing the Upper Prep musical, by bringing energy, confidence and professionalism to the performance.

## SPORT AWARD

Vian demonstrated exceptional effort and enthusiasm in both PE and Games. He gives 100% in every activity, showing great determination, teamwork, and a positive attitude.





# HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL

Open Morning  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

10am - 12noon



We are a leading non-selective independent school for boys and girls aged 2 -16, located in Walsall. Come to our Open Day to find out more.

✉ [admissions@hydesville.com](mailto:admissions@hydesville.com) ☎ 01922 624 374



Inspire, Achieve, Empower