



March 2026
Issue 32

HENLOW HEART

A SEASON OF SUCCESS

Easter is a time of hope and celebration, and looking back at the last few months, there is so much to be hopeful for. Our students continue to inspire us daily with their efforts and achievements. Before we break for the holidays, please join us in celebrating the highlights of a truly fantastic term.

At Henlow, we are committed to ensuring our students are well-equipped and inspired for the futures that await them. This term has been rich with opportunities to learn beyond the classroom—from the Year 8 careers visit to Whipsnade and the Year 9 trip to Silverstone, to our dedicated Careers Day for all students from Year 7 to 11. We were also incredibly grateful to Dr Penny Eaton, Anaesthetist, who delivered a fascinating and insightful talk to our Henlow Scholars, offering them a unique glimpse into the world of medicine.

The generosity of our local community has been truly overwhelming; with a record-breaking number of professionals joining our Careers Fayre, our students were gifted a front-row seat to a world of future possibilities. Our sincere thanks go to Mr Baxter, Dr Eaton, and all our parents and partners for their vital contribution in making this such a transformative experience for our students.

The arts have also shone brightly this month. Led by Mrs McDermott, Miss Maher, and Mrs Fordham, the tireless rehearsals and dedication of our students ensured that Matilda was the West End-quality performance we all hoped for. Across four sell-out shows, our young actors moved audiences to both laughter and tears. We are fortunate to have such a depth of talent that we could feature three Matildas and double-cast several lead roles, setting a magnificent stage for the future. During today's Easter assembly, the excitement was palpable as we announced next year's production: Oliver! Auditions will begin at the end of the summer term.

Beyond the Henlow stage, our musicians have reached incredible new heights. From the magic of Young Voices at the O2 to the Year 9 band at the Beds Band Factory and our Year 10s taking the stage at Esquires for the Beds Band Blastoff, our students have truly hit the high notes. Well done to everyone involved, and thank you to Mrs Fordham for making these opportunities possible.

In the sports arena, we have celebrated a series of remarkable conquests. With Year 5 lifting the trophy at the Bedfordshire football tournament, Year 8 girls securing the County Handball Championship, and significant success in the British Schools Acrobatics Regional competition, it has been an exceptionally busy season. My thanks go to the entire PE team, led by Mrs Lewis, whose dedication makes these fixtures possible. Even as the term ends, the action continues as we head to La Thuile for our biannual ski trip. Please follow our school Facebook page or @henlowacademysport on Instagram for live updates!

Our recent Parents' Evenings have allowed us to celebrate academic success while identifying the next steps for growth. Recognising where we can refine our efforts is a vital part of learning, helping our students remain ambitious in both their dreams and their actions. We look forward to seeing every student continue to flourish, both academically and holistically, as they return for the summer term.

As our Year 11s move into their final term at Henlow, we strongly urge them to prepare themselves as well as they can for their upcoming exams. Critical ingredients for success, alongside a revision schedule, include prioritising sleep, exercise, and good food. Please ensure your time is used wisely over the coming weeks.

Reflecting on the message of Easter, we learn from the scripture that "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). This term has been a living example of that fullness—seen in the courage of our performers, the teamwork of our athletes, and the ambition of our young people. As we enter this holy season, we celebrate the themes of renewal and new beginnings that Easter represents. I wish you all a restful and joyful break, and we look forward to welcoming the students back for another term of growth and discovery.

Miss Chalkley
Head of School

Please be aware that from Monday 27th April we will be moving to our exams timings for the school day. This will run until the end of June.



8:45am - 9:00am	Registration
9:00am - 10:00am	Lesson 1
10:00am - 11:00am	Lesson 2
11:00am - 11:20am	Break
11:20am - 12:20pm	Lesson 3
12:20pm - 12:40pm	Form time/Assemblies
12:40pm - 1:35pm	Lunch
1:35pm - 2:35pm	Lesson 4
2:35pm - 3:35pm	Lesson 5

HONESTY

ENTHUSIASM

NURTURE

LOVE

ORIGINALITY

WISDOM

ROLL OF HONOUR

Oliver M 9CG

Ollie's Cambridge Utd team came 3rd in the Pape Cup. The Pape Cup is the top indoor tournament in Germany, played in front of 5,000 spectators and they finished as the best English side, ahead of Spurs (whom they beat on penalties), Leeds United (beaten 3–2 in the group stage) and Liverpool. Ollie was one of two U14s players, with the rest of the team U15s and U16s.

Rita E 6SG

Rita could not swim/ was terrified of water before Christmas. Following three of our sessions so far she is now able to swim totally unaided and is able to jump into the deep end 1.8m and confidently swim back to the side. The progress she has made and the challenges she has overcome are truly remarkable. Her target is to be able to swim 1 if not 2 lengths by the end of Year 6.

Daniel B 5EK

Daniel shows a constant positive attitude to school and lessons, and always volunteers to help. He's the first in the classroom every morning and always has a smile on his face, and he is friendly to others in the class and around the school. He is a wonderful member of our class and our school community!

Paige W 11GS

Paige is one of the kindest, dedicated and most polite students I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. She goes out of her way to ensure everyone around her is happy, both in class and through friendly conversation in the corridors. Paige truly demonstrates her Henlow values at all times and also frequently represents the school in fixtures.

Hollie W 7KW & Freya H 10DW

Going over and beyond with helping out with designing the set and props for the production of Matilda. They have both been fantastic assets and shown all Henlow values with their support!

Ellie C 5EK

Ellie and her cheerleading team placed 1st out of 52 teams at the European Summit, qualifying for international competitions in Portugal and the USA next year, as well as the Allstar World Championship in Florida at the end of this season.

Sofia A 7KW

Sofia is always thinking of and supporting others, she displays incredible kindness and empathy to her peers and always happy to help members of staff. She is a credit to Henlow.
Teddy M 5EK Teddy always shows up to school with a smile on his face, ready to put in 100% effort, even on days where that isn't easy. His resilience and great attitude to learning make him a fantastic student and classmate!

Amir S 8RB

Amir always shows maturity and dedication in helping around the classroom, and is willing to explain instructions to those who seem confused.

Olive L 5JC

Olive has demonstrated incredible focus and discipline to earn her Yellow Belt in Taekwondo.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Lucas S 10DW

A true ray of sunshine; Lucas is always cheery and volunteers his time every morning to coordinate the Chromebooks for intervention.

Millen D 5JC

Millen has achieved the prestigious Chief Scout Silver Award, completing a marathon of challenging tasks both at scouts and at home. Millen is also officially a speedster, smashing his Karting goals with a personal best lap of under 33 seconds!

Polly D 7KB

After a stellar performance in the regional heats, Polly is headed to the British Schools Gymnastic Finals in the U13 Acro category!

Obi S 7KB

Obi showcased elite navigational and problem-solving skills while representing the school at a regional board game event.

Aria W 7KB

Aria showed incredible kindness by donating 21 inches of hair and raising a phenomenal £700 for the Little Princess Foundation.

Mila R 7KB

Mila demonstrated amazing athleticism in the regional heats to secure her place in the British Schools Gymnastic Finals!

Joshua I 7KB

Joshua pushed his limits to secure a blistering new Personal Best of 26 minutes in a 5K race and displayed brilliant logic and strategy while navigating his way through a board game event.

Archie R 7KB

Archie took on a vital role in the School Action Group, providing insightful contributions while interviewing potential staff members.

Edward N 7KB

Edward showcased lightning reflexes in Karting, clocking a 33.08s PB and securing 2nd place in the league.

Kai G 7KB

Kai utilised expert problem-solving and navigation skills to successfully attend a competitive board game event.

Jamie S 7HS

Jamie and the Sandy Blues fought hard on the pitch to bring home the winner's cup!

ROLL OF HONOUR

Jacob F 7HS

Jacob hit the ground running, making a fantastic debut in his first-ever match for the Shefford Sandy Hockey team.

Aaron B 6PN

Aaron is a model student who embodies our school values, consistently working hard and supporting his classmates.

Sarah C 7HS

Sarah's hard work in the dojo paid off with a well-deserved medal and certificate at her latest Karate competition.

Phoebe W 7HS

Phoebe played a key role in a thrilling win for the Stoffold Turquoise football team.

Logan T 5JC

Logan has reached a major milestone in the water, successfully earning his Stage 6 Swimming Badge.

Zoe S 6PN

A true standout on the field, Zoe has been awarded the 'Best Player' trophy an incredible six times!

Scarlett W 6PN

Scarlett has shown immense natural talent and dedication, mastering the drums in record-breaking time.

Rupert C 6PN

For showing unwavering dedication and fantastic commitment to his football club.

William D 6PN

William showed great endurance by joining the Tornado Scouts and conquering a grueling 9-mile hike.

Leah W 6PN

Leah reached new heights at her trampolining competition, taking home both Gold and Bronze medals

Abbey L, Amy F, Amelie D, Amelie P, Amir S, Arabella M, Archie R, Aria W, Arthur S, Beau B, Blayke T, Chloe B, Elise G, Eliza U, Emily G, Ethan M, Finnley S, Florence A, Freya D, Harper J, Harry H, Isabella P, Isla A, Isla R, Isla S, Jack G, Jake S, Katelyn S, Kennedy R, Leah F, Lexie W, Libby B, Lily J, Linnea M, Logan T, Lois W, Lucy B, Maia T, Maisie O, Martha C, May B, Mia J, Mila R, Owen H, Penny W, Phoebe W, Robynne R, Rue S, Ruth M, Sam A, Sophie B, Tyrell W, William D

Your dedication, artistry and sheer passion culminated in amazing performances. Every one of you displayed a level of talent that left us in awe! We are immensely proud of your hard work, your spirit, and the "miracle" you created on our stage. Bravo!



THE MEERKAT AWARD FOR ALTRUISM

We are thrilled to announce our 2026 Meerkat Award for Altruism winner is Jake S. This award is given to a student who has demonstrated generosity of spirit, caring for our community and embodied our values consistently throughout the year. Many staff nominated Jake for the award with comments including:

Jake consistently goes above and beyond to ensure the needs of others are met before his own. This selfless approach is a hallmark of his character and is visible throughout the entire school community. His dedicated involvement with the production of Matilda has been a true pleasure to witness, demonstrating his commitment to collective success.

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Jake is a student who leads by example, frequently putting the needs of others ahead of his own. He shows genuine care for the school community by regularly checking in on the well-being of staff. His manners are truly impeccable, and his respectful nature sets a high standard for his peers.

Known for his friendly and approachable demeanor, Jake is a welcoming presence to students and teachers alike. Whether he is offering a cheerful word, holding open doors, or supporting younger students, he consistently fosters a sense of belonging. He is a fantastic role model who brings a smile to everyone he encounters



STAFFING UPDATES AND PREPARING FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Over this term we have been busy recruiting staff in preparation for September and many of the school community have been involved in this process. There will be more about the new members of staff starting in September in the summer newsletter. For now, I would like to focus on the colleagues leaving us this Easter: Miss Salzen, Ms Ibo, Mrs Wallace, and Mrs McCoy (one of our Midday Supervisors).

Miss Salzen has been with us since 2023 and has been an integral part of the science team. From just after Easter, Miss Salzen will be taking up a new position at Affinity Water. She'll be taking samples to measure water quality so back to her Science roots!

Many of you will know that Ms Ibo has been with us since Christmas, covering Miss White's maternity leave. After Easter, Mr Carrington will be taking over the French teaching of KS4 and Mr Bandia will be teaching KS3 until Miss White returns from maternity leave in July.

We are very grateful to Mrs Wallace for stepping into the teaching shoes of Mrs Murray. Mrs Wallace is about to resume her travels again this summer, but we are hopeful Mrs Murray may be able to return. In the meantime, we have organised Mr Bandia and Mr Singh to take on her teaching duties between them.

The last colleague leaving our school community is one of our Midday Supervisors, Mrs McCoy. She is found daily in the dining room, either organising the queue, operating the till, or offering first aid.

We would like to extend our thanks to all of these colleagues for their commitment to our school and send our very best wishes for their next endeavours.

After Easter, we are looking forward to Mrs Howkins returning from maternity leave and resuming her teaching duties and pastoral role in Year 8 alongside Mrs Lewis.

HENLOW TERMLY SUBJECT AWARDS

This week, our school community gathered for a series of special year group assemblies to honour the dedication and brilliance shown throughout the Spring Term. These awards represent more than just high marks; they celebrate students who have shown curiosity, resilience and a genuine passion for their subjects. Over the following two pages, you will find the winners selected by each department. To every prize winner: your hard work has not gone unnoticed. Well done on a spectacular term!

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUP	ATTAINMENT	PROGRESS	HONOURABLE STUDENT
ENGLISH	Year 5	Olive L 5JC	Eliza U 5EK	Amarlia B 5JC
	Year 6	Elsie H 6PN	Keira A 6SG	Dean R 6PN
	Year 7	Jennifer H 7HS	Mae A 7HS	Jake S 7KB
	Year 8	James W 8TM	Daniella 8TM	Beau B 8DC
	Year 9	Penny W 9CG	Blake C 9SP	Heather R 9BW
	Year 10	Seren W 10CM	Hamza S 10CM	Alexander H 10DW
	Year 11	Zach M 11GS	Jack G 11BF	Harry S 11LT
MATHS	Year 5	Harry C 5EK	Harper J 5EK	Archie T 5EK
	Year 6	William D 6PN	Rupert C 6PN	Leo A 6SG
	Year 7	Freddie H 7EK	Isla A 7EK	George S 7EK
	Year 8	James W 8TM	Brendan S 8TM	Theo M 8SB
	Year 9	Alice T 9SP	Alara Y 9RL	Jacob C 9RL
	Year 10	Freya H 10DW	Freya W 10JM	Eliza B 10JM
	Year 11	Natalie M 11GS	Ava L 11GS	Carla Y 11GS
SCIENCE	Year 5	Henry W 5EK	Austin F 5JC	Madison C 5JC
	Year 6	Amelia G 6SG	Ellis G 6SG	Alexander R 6SG
	Year 7	Mia C 7NK	Isabella S 7KW	Noah A 7NK
	Year 8	Sam A 8RB		
	Year 9	Joseph R 9CG	Isobel M 9CG	Jude D
	Year 10	Joshua S	Ava W	Kaden M
	Year 11	Paige W	Miley R	Jack G
HISTORY	Year 5	Sarah S 5EK	Rowan W 5JC	Isla P 5EK
	Year 6	Louis H 6SG	Scarlett-Rose W 6PN	Aaron B 6PN
	Year 7	Isabella A 7KW	Arthur S 7HS	Arthur G 7EK
	Year 8	Aiden B 8TM	Poppy-Anne L 8RB	Sam A 8RB
	Year 9	Lewis N 9SP	Alexander G 9BW	Willow C 9SP
	Year 10	Rye-Lee R 10JM	Alexander H 10DW	Rhia V 10MW
	Year 11	Amelia M 11GS	Ben G 11LT	Chloe W 11LT
GEOGRAPHY	Year 5	Emily G 5JC	Myla P 5JC	Emma C 5EK
	Year 6	Flick K 6PN	Rennell M 6PN	Jack M 6SG
	Year 7	Joshua I 7KB	Alek D 7EK	Salina G 7NK
	Year 8	Bradley W 8SB	Harry M 8RR	Luke F 8RR
	Year 9	Lewis H 9CG	Alexander G 9BW	Albany R 9SP
	Year 10	Ryley G 10MW	Max H 10MW	Joshua S 10CM
	Year 11	Paige W 11GS	Benjamin H 11LT	Myleen W 11BF

	YEAR GROUP	ATTAINMENT	PROGRESS	HONOURABLE STUDENT
MFL	Year 5	Hetty A 5JC	Joshua L 5EK	Eliza U 5EK
	Year 6	Rita E 6SG	Alexander R 6SG	Zephan G 6PN
	Year 7	Curtis M 7KW	Phigera C 7KW	Qadiri A 7KB
	Year 8	Boyle I 8RR	Adetunji S 8RB	Beckett B 8TM
	Year 9	Fraczak D 9CD	Matias V 9AB	Revell J 9AB
	Year 10	Georgia G 10A	Bull E 10A	Haines-John P 10A
	Year 11	Chloe P 11A	Singh P 11A	Sydney-Smith E 11A
COMPUTING	Year 5	Austin F 5JC	Jamie M 5EK	5EK 5JC
	Year 6	Cassie E 6SG	Flick K 6PN	George T 6PN
	Year 7	Freddie H 7EK	Jules G 7KW	George C 7EK
	Year 8	Evelyn M 8SB	Noah A 8RR	Noah R 8DC
	Year 9	Alexander M 9RL	Alexander G 9BW	Lewis N 9SP
	Year 10	Joshua S 10CM	Alexander H 10DW	Josh S 10DW
	Year 11	Phoebe K 11GS	Miley R 11BF	Raiyer H 11GS
DT	Year 6	Antigone W 6SG	Phoebe J 6SG	Rosie H 6PN
	Year 7	Chloe P 7KW	George S 7EK	Nethuli G 7EK
	Year 8	Lillian D 8RB	Leo F 8SB	Hudson B 8RB
	Year 9	Matas P 9CG	Noah H 9CG	Lewis H 9CG
	Year 10	Iris G 10JM	Omari B 10JM	Jack D 10MW
	Year 11	Scarlet A 11BF	Adom A 11LT	Marco C 11BF
FOOD	Year 5	Myla P 5JC	Rowan W 5JC	Teddy M 5EK
	Year 7	George L 7NK	Kamile P 7KB	James E 7KW
	Year 8	Lily W 8RR	Lara F 8RB	Isla S 8DC
	Year 9	Joe R 9CG	Thomas S 9BW	Kyren F 9RL
	Year 10	Georgia G 10CM	Rye-Lee R 10JM	Harry S 10JM
	Year 11	Mia R 11GS	Lewis S 11BF	Rhys J 11GS
ART	Year 5	Jamie M 5EK	Amelie B 5EK	Evie P 5JC
	Year 6	Scarlett C 6SG	Rita E 6SG	Rennell M 6PN
	Year 7	Mia C 7NK	Mila R 7KB	George L 7NK
	Year 8	Arisha C 8SB	Isla C 8TM	Riley A 8RB
	Year 9	Thomas S 9BW	Chloe B 9CG	Tyler B 9BW
	Year 10	Melody G 10CM	Max D 10CM	JJ O 10CM
	Year 11	Hayley V 11BF	Sean A 11LT	Katie P 11BF
MUSIC	Year 5	Millen D 5JC	Noah R 5JC	Myla P 5JC
	Year 6	Darcie-Grace E 6PN	Aaron B 6PN	Antigone W 6SG
	Year 7	Jake S 7KB	Liam H 7EK	Mya C 7KW
	Year 8	Arian G 8TM	Maisie O 8SB	Izzy W 8DC
	Year 9	Lewis H 9CG	Matas P 9CG	Austin K 9CG
	Year 10	Jack D 10CM	Dominik K 10MW	Alexander H 10DW
	Year 11	Sydney R 11LT	Eris C 11BF	Ben G 11LT

$E=MC^2$



SUBJECT	YEAR GROUP	ATTAINMENT	PROGRESS	HONOURABLE STUDENT
PE	Year 5	Amelie B 5 EK	Martha C 5EK	Isaac O 5EK
	Year 6	Penny F 6SG	Shamma H 6PN	Khloe E 6PN
	Year 7	Maya C 7KW	Freddie W 7NK	George C 7EK
	Year 8	Izzy W 8DC	George M 8RB	Poppy L 8RB
	Year 9	Charlie W 9CG	Fizaan H 9RL	Matas P 9CG
	Year 10	Cece W 10JM	Hayden S 10MW	Alfie A 10CM
	Year 11	Lois F 11GS	Charlie C 11BF	Marco S 11GS
RE	Year 5	Logan T 5JC	Max P 5JC	Isaac O 5EK
	Year 6	Scarlett-Rose W 6PN	Rebecca T 6SG	Elsie H 6PN
	Year 7	Freddie H 7EK	Libby L 7HS	Zachary J 7EK
	Year 8	Maddy M 8SB	Noah A 8RR	Owen H 8TM
	Year 9	Amy F 9CG	Fizaan H 9RL	Summer M 9SP
	Year 10	Cece W 10JM	Grace R 10JM	Josh S 10DW
	Year 11	Mia R 11LT	Ben H 11LT	Paige W 11GS
BUSINESS	Year 10	Melody G 10CM	Jacob B 10CM	Josh S 10DW
	Year 11	Natalie M 11GS	Aayan R 11BF	Marco S 11GS
PSYCHOLOGY	Year 10	Georgia G 10CM	Evie B 10DW	Jude S 10MW
	Year 11	Paige W 11GS	Flora C 11BF	Izzy M 11LT
SOCIOLOGY	Year 10	Beth M 10DW	Grace R 10JM	Ruby A 10DW
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	Year 10	Ellie N 10CM	Hollie M 10MW	Alexander H 10DW
	Year 11	Amelia M 11GS	Katie P 11BF	Evalynn C 11GS
DRAMA	Year 7	Amelia F 7HS	Arthur S 7HS	Sammy J 7KW
	Year 8	Ethan M 8DC	Noah R 8DC	Isaac M 8TM
	Year 9	Chloe B 9CG	Kyren F 9RL	Amy F 9CG
	Year 10	Freya H 10DW	Ayla-Kiara C 10CM	Rosie G 10MW
	Year 11	Isla J 11GS	Aayan R 11BF	Hayley V 11BF



HENLOW ACADEMY PRESENTS



MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Earlier this month, the curtains rose on what can only be described as a theatrical triumph. After months of tireless rehearsals, intricate choreography, and vocal coaching, our students finally shared their rendition of *Matilda the Musical* with the community.

Across four spectacular sell-out performances, the stage at Henlow was transformed into Crunchem Hall. The dedication of the cast and crew was evident in every note and every scene, resulting in a show that was truly phenomenal.

We were incredibly fortunate to showcase the depth of talent within our school by featuring three different *Matildas*, allowing multiple students to lead this demanding production. From the lead roles to the ensemble and the backstage crew, every student played a vital part in bringing Roald Dahl's beloved story to life. Our young actors displayed remarkable range, moving audiences to both laughter and tears throughout the run.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs McDermott, Miss Maher, and Mrs Fordham for their vision and leadership, and to the parents who supported with costumes, lines, and transport. The bar has been set incredibly high for the future!

"The energy in the hall was electric—it felt less like a school play and more like a West End production."

Looking Ahead: Please Sir, I Want Some More!

If you enjoyed the magic of *Matilda*, you won't want to miss our next venture. We are thrilled to announce that next year's production will be *Oliver!* Auditions will be held at the end of the summer term—we can't wait to see who will be joining the gang



MATILDA THE MUSICAL



Careers @

Henlow



The majority of our Year 8 cohort recently enjoyed a fantastic careers-focused excursion to Whipsnade Zoo, where education and exploration went hand-in-hand. All students participated in an engaging one-hour session led by the zoo's educational team, specifically focused on the complexities of designing chimp habitats. Our students gained unique insights as their tour guide shared his personal career journey and the various pathways that led him to working at the zoo.

Beyond animal care, the students were introduced to the sheer variety of professional roles required to run such a massive operation—from veterinarians and hospitality staff to the media and graphic design teams. The afternoon allowed everyone to explore the vast grounds while participating in a competitive scavenger hunt. It was truly an enjoyable and eye-opening day for everyone involved! #Year8AreGreat



CAREERS FAIR



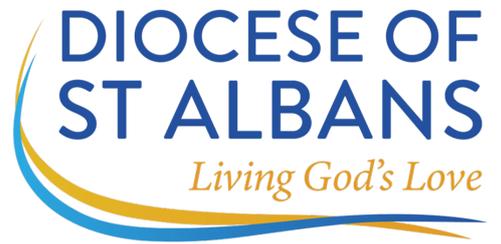
Our annual Careers Fair on Friday 7th March, was a resounding success, bringing 42 volunteers from a range of career paths directly to our students. From local businesses to national organisations, the Sports Hall was filled with insightful conversations and first-hand learning.

While the exhibitors brought the expertise, our students brought the "wow" factor. Our visitors were incredibly complimentary, praising the impeccable behaviour and engagement of every year group. Hearing that our event is the highlight of their calendar is a testament to the fantastic young people we have here at Henlow!

A HUGE thank you to the individuals, businesses and organisations who volunteered their time at our 2026 careers fair



Claire Bailey
Regulatory
Consultancy
Limited



Principle Defence



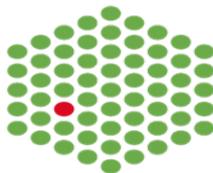
Bedfordshire
**Employment &
Skills Academy**



LJ - Ross
Performing Arts



EMBL-EBI



Mind Matters
Rachel Green





The Spring term may have been short, but it was nothing less than a whirlwind of sporting excellence and high-energy competition! Our extracurricular program has been booming, with lunchtimes transformed by packed sessions for trampolining, handball, table tennis, darts, and dance. After school, the dedication continued as students hit the courts and fields for rugby, sports hall athletics, badminton, and netball training.

Our fixture calendar was bursting at the seams as we wrapped up the football and netball seasons. A special shout-out goes to our Year 7 and 8 rugby squads; it has been a joy to watch these teams grow in both size and skill game-by-game throughout the District leagues. We are already buzzing to see what they achieve next year!

When it came to stand-alone competitions, Henlow truly showed its class with some outstanding results:

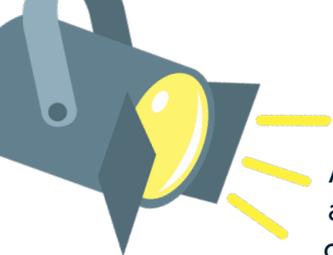
- **Gymnastics:** Regional Acrobatic Team and Pairs Champions (An incredible clean sweep with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the U13 pairs—National finals, here we come!).
- **Handball:** U13 Girls crowned Champions.
- **Athletics:** Year 8 Boys secured County Bronze in Sports Hall Athletics.
- **Badminton:** U16 Girls reached the County Finals.
- **Trampolining:** Proud Regional Finalists.
- **Key Stage 3 County Dance Champions.**

Get ready for a sun-soaked (we hope!) Summer term packed with rounders, cricket, athletics, dance, and gymnastics. Keep your eyes peeled for the updated extracurricular timetable to see how you can get involved. And, of course, the countdown to Sports Day officially begins now!

#LetsGoHenlow #SmallButMighty







SPORTING SPOTLIGHT

At Henlow, we take immense pride in watching our students flourish, but every so often, an athlete comes along whose dedication and trajectory are truly exceptional. This month, our Sporting Spotlight shines brightly on Year 9 talent, Oliver M.

Ollie has been a fixture of the Henlow sporting community since Year 5. While many know him as a specialist between the sticks, he is a true "all-rounder," having represented the school with distinction in athletics, basketball, handball, cricket, and rugby. However, it is on the football pitch where Ollie is truly making waves.

Command from the Back

Currently a key part of the U14 Cambridge United Academy, Ollie's growth as a goalkeeper has been exponential. He has seamlessly translated his academy experience into a leadership role within our school teams.

More than just a shot-stopper, Ollie has become a leader commanding his area and acting as a grounded role model for his peers. His ability to stay composed under pressure is a testament to his character and work ethic.



Taking on Europe: The Pape Cup



Ollie recently returned from Germany after being part of the squad competing in the prestigious Pape Cup with Cambridge United. To say the competition was fierce would be an understatement.

- The Atmosphere: Played in front of a staggering 5,000 spectators.
- The Result: Cambridge United secured an incredible 3rd place finish.
- Top of the Class: They finished as the highest-ranking English side, outperforming heavyweights like Liverpool, Leeds United (whom they beat 3-2), and Tottenham Hotspur (whom they defeated in a tense penalty shootout).

Perhaps most impressively, Ollie was one of only two U14 players in a squad otherwise comprised of U15 and U16 athletes.

The Three Lions Calling

Ollie's hard work has not gone unnoticed by the national scouts. Last half term, he was invited to St George's Park—the home of English football—for an England U15 Talent ID camp.

Ollie described the experience as "amazing," getting a taste of the elite environment where the country's best young talents are forged. Taking part in an England camp is a massive milestone, and we are incredibly proud to see a Henlow student reaching such heights.



The Future is Bright

Whether he's representing Henlow in a local fixture or pulling on the Cambridge colors in a packed German arena, Ollie carries himself with humility and a relentless drive to improve.

We cannot wait to see where his talent and tenacity take him next.

OLLIE M

MUSIC @ HENLOW



HENLOW HUB



We hope that students continue to read over the Easter Holidays. They will be able to borrow library books over the holiday period and also have access to eplatform where they can borrow an eBook or audiobook.

<https://henlowacademy.eplatform.co>

A 'Reading action' group was formed so that students had the opportunity to come up with some ideas for the library. The group had some wonderful ideas which will be put into place, not just for celebrating National year of reading but suggestions for the library in general. We have decided to keep the group running which will be at least once a term.

BOOK CLUB

Miss Moss has been running a book club in the library on Tuesday lunchtimes. The group are currently reading the book 'Cogheart' by Peter Bunzel. Students from Years 5- 8 are welcome and invited students from Years 9-11.

CURRENT LOANS

Students may borrow books over the Easter holidays. Please can I ask that overdue books are returned before we break up. Reminders will be sent out again, please check your emails and also your 'spam' as these sometimes go there!

BOOK DONATIONS

A huge thank you for all books that have recently been donated. We really do appreciate this. Please keep sending them in. We are always grateful for good quality books suitable for children aged 9 to 16.

Part of the
National Year of Reading 2026

**GO
ALL
IN.**

Our school is fully embracing National year of reading. All students are encouraged to read at the beginning or end of every lesson. In addition, the library is also planning to hold a variety of fun activities which we hope will also championing reading and writing. These will take place in the library Wednesday lunchtimes over the next few weeks.

MEPPERLOW



After a lovely Christmas break which felt long enough for all our pupils to truly relax and spend time with family, KS2 came back to school in January ready to work hard!

One of the most exciting trips that takes place every year is the trip to the O2 Arena for the Young Voices concert. It marks the culmination of many months of singing and rehearsing; schools from across the country meet up to sing together and enjoy lots of other performances. It is a long day out but that has never stopped our pupils from enjoying this very special trip.



January saw the year 5 cohort walk across to St Mary's Church, for our annual Christingle Service. This is something that brings the pupils a lot of joy; learning about what the Christingle represents, making their own Christingle and of course, eating the Christingle!

It is a lovely moment for reflection when all of the pupils' Christingle candles are alight and we sing our hymns together.



KS2 have been getting creative too: year 6 designed and built playgrounds in design technology; year 5 made crudite creatures in food technology; and in textiles the pupils made fabric books and teddy bears.

Outside of the classroom our pupils have been taking part in lots of sports clubs and fixtures, including indoor athletics, county dance competition, trampolining, football, rugby and table tennis fixtures.



Henlow Academy put on our first musical performance of Matilda the Musical and we were super proud that the cast included lots of children from across years 5 and 6! Our budding thespians are very lucky to have the opportunity to rehearse and perform with specialist staff and in a top notch auditorium.



We celebrated our love of reading during World Book Day. KS2 classrooms were full of characters who had stepped out of our favourite stories and books.

We are here for the business of learning, so we squeezed some into our busy term too! Year 6 pupils are in the final weeks before the formal SATs tests in May. They have been busy working hard in class building confidence and stamina. Our year 6 teachers are super proud of the progress pupils have made and their positive attitude to all the prep they are completing.

KS2 pupils have crammed in so much into this Spring term and they all deserve a well-earned rest. Staff have worked hard to ensure pupils are getting the best learning experiences and having fun in lessons and with all the extra curricular activities we have here. We wish all our families a safe and peaceful Easter.

Home Grown

@ Henlow

News and
Updates from
the Beds!

GROW YOUR OWN

News from the Garden

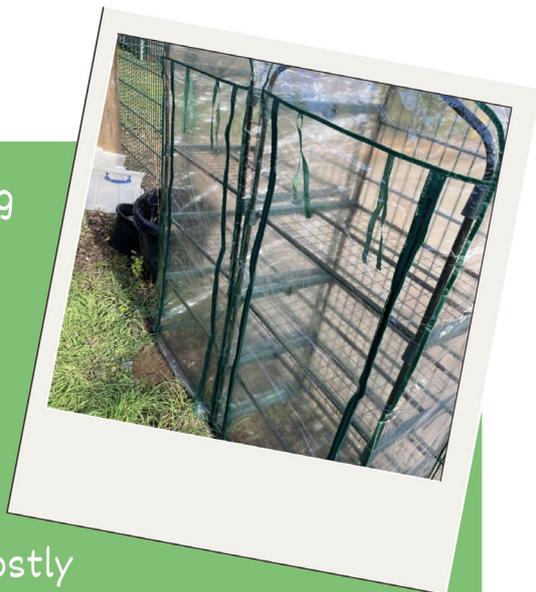
Spring is almost sprung and it's an exciting time in the garden. New growth, new ideas, lots to do, plant and learn. The bulb garden is looking beautiful, the snowdrops are making way for crocus, tulips and Narcissus, and nestled under the soil are a host of bulbs which will hopefully bloom taking us through summer, although that's jumping ahead a bit. The giant Buddleia will be getting a much needed pruning, but don't worry, they will be quick enough to grow back and show some colour later in the year ready to feed butterflies. I'll be working my way around all the flowerbeds over spring and bringing plenty of colour with me hopefully.

Over on the other side of the fence are some new additions, 2 mini greenhouses where you can watch seedlings start and tomatoes grow. In the beds will be new fruits and vegetables plus a salad garden (if the slugs don't get it first). I have been reading up on vertical growing as a way to expand the growing area, I am very excited to give that a go. With all the digging and planting it is going to be a very busy spring.



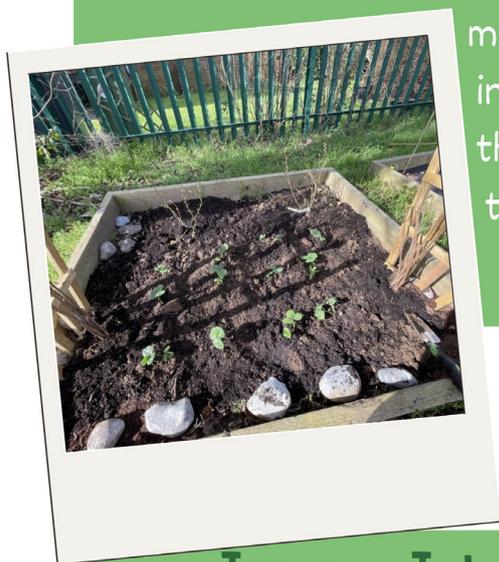
Let's Talk Weather!

'There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothing, so get yourself a raincoat and live a little'
Billy Connolly.



He's got a point, to a point. You will find me in the garden, at school or home in all kinds of weather if there is a job to be done. Luckily over winter, if all the prep work has been completed in advance, you can mostly stay cozy with a nice cup of hot chocolate and winter in with the semi bare beds. But spring is coming. If, like me, you run on the astronomical timings, it arrives on the 20th March and with it I'm sure it will bring a whole variety of weather, March frosts, April showers, beautiful sunshine and everything in between. As much as it's a bit of a pain for us having to keep changing clothes and plans, for the gardens it is fantastic. The sun warms the soil, helps germination, and the rain keeps everything watered and growing, in fact, its an important part of our growing cycle in this country and we are in great danger of losing it due to climate change. Hotter dryer springs are making crop growth difficult. So as

much as changeable weather is not my favourite to be out in, I think I'll take Billy's advice, don the raincoat and be thankful for the beauty in all weathers that help us grow these amazing plants and appreciate that we live in a seasonal zone.



January Jobs



Start sowing seeds.
Plant strawberries.
Establish soft fruits like raspberries



Prune plants like Buddleia.
Weeding.
Rake over beds ready for planting.

If you would like to know more, have a question or a suggestion please feel free to contact Mrs. Evans who will pass your messages on.
Thank you. - Mrs Swindle



BEE BLOG

SPRING UPDATE: THE BUZZ IS BACK!

As the winter chill finally lifts and the Henlow Academy campus begins to burst into life, there is an unmistakable hum in the air. Our Bee Project is officially waking up for the new season! Spring is arguably the most critical and industrious time of year for a honey bee colony. After months of huddling together in a "winter cluster" to stay warm, our bees are now venturing out to take advantage of the early blossoms.

WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE THE HIVE?

Throughout the winter, the Queen Bee stops laying eggs to conserve the colony's honey stores. However, as the days lengthen and the first sources of nectar appear, she begins her marathon performance once again. She can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day during this peak season! This rapid expansion is essential to build a "foraging force" large enough to collect the nectar needed for the year ahead.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HENLOW'S BEES PLEASE CONTACT MRS EVANS





SPOTLIGHT ON THE "POLLEN PANTS"

If you take a close look at our latest photos from the Henlow hives, you'll see something incredible. Our bees are returning with bulging, bright yellow baskets on their hind legs. In the beekeeping world, we affectionately call these "pollen pants." These aren't just for show! Pollen is the colony's primary source of protein and fats, which is vital for feeding the developing larvae (the "brood"). The different shades of yellow and orange you see tell us exactly which flowers the bees have been visiting around the Academy grounds.

SPRING ESSENTIALS: WHAT THE BEES ARE UP TO

- **House Cleaning:** The first warm days are spent on "cleansing flights." The bees remove any debris or bees that didn't survive the winter to keep the hive hygienic.
- **Water Collection:** You might see bees around damp patches of soil or pond edges. They need water to dilute their stored honey and to help regulate the temperature inside the hive.
- **Nectar Foraging:** The hunt is on for early-season stars like crocuses, dandelions, and fruit tree blossoms. This nectar is the "rocket fuel" that powers the colony's growth.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The early spring can be a "gap" period where food is scarce. You can support our Henlow bees at home by:

1. **Leaving the Dandelions:** They are one of the most important early food sources for pollinators!
2. **Planting Spring Bulbs:** Crocuses and snowdrops provide a vital early-season snack.
3. **Providing Water:** A shallow dish with stones (so the bees have a place to land without drowning) is a huge help.

We are so excited to see the colony thriving as we move toward the summer. Stay tuned for more updates as we begin our first hive inspections of the year!



A HUGE THANK YOU TO
ELECTRASSURE WHO HAVE BEEN
INCREDIBLE WITH SUPPORTING
HENLOW ACADEMY WITH
SPONSORING OUR PRODUCTION OF
MATILDA THE MUSICAL, DONATING
AMPS TO THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT
AND SUPPORTING OUR CAREERS FAIR!
THEIR SUPPORT MEANS SO
MUCH TO US!



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CONTACT US FOR YOUR CONSULATION



NOT MY CHILD

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO:

- * EXPLOITATION
- * KNIFE CRIME
- * COUNTY LINES

CALLING ALL PARENTS & CARERS!

JOIN US FOR AN EVENT AIMED AT RAISING AWARENESS AND EQUIPPING YOU WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM EXPLOITATION, KNIFE CRIME, & COUNTY LINES.

WHY ATTEND?

- **HEAR REAL STORIES:** Hear lived experiences from parents whose children have sadly fallen victim to such crimes
- **RECOGNISE THE SIGNS:** Learn how to spot the early warning signs that your child is being exploited
- **EXPERT ADVICE:** Get practical advice on what to do if you have concerns about your child's safety
- **SUPPORT NETWORKS:** Connect with organisations that can offer further support and guidance

ANY YOUNG PERSON CAN BE A VICTIM OF THESE CRIMES. IT'S CRUCIAL THAT PARENTS AND CARERS HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO IDENTIFY THE SIGNS AND KNOW WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP.

6:00PM - 9:15PM
WEDS 15 APRIL 2026
LEALANDS HIGH SCHOOL
SUNDON PARK - LUTON



Bedfordshire Police
Compassionate | Courageous | Inclusive | Professional | Proud





educating the parents

A series of interactive online discussions aimed at informing the parents of young persons at risk of exploitation and the violence associated with it.

We will discuss:

- The current education system;
- Supporting our children at home;
- Online safety;
- Signs of grooming and coercion;
- Understanding the pressures of childhood in this day and age;
- The challenges of parenthood

Every Monday from 11am to 12pm via Teams (online)

Please email gemma.hoddle@beds.police.uk
for the link



13th April to 04th May '26

PUPIL PREMIUM

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

If you think you are eligible please contact Central Bedfordshire on the number below. As well as receiving the option to have Free School Meals you may also be entitled to a variety of initiatives at school. These may include free access to Before School Club, support with the cost of Food Tech, help towards uniform, subsidised music lessons, help towards the cost of school trips as well as other initiatives throughout the year.

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children in Year 3 and over are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

The school will then be informed and you will receive further information. If you would like to find out more about how the school uses the funding to support pupils in the school, you can find more information on the school's Pupil Premium Strategy on the school's website <https://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/pupil-premium/643783> or contact Mrs Gregory (jgregory@henlowacademy

For more information on how to apply for Free School Meals, please contact Central Bedfordshire Council directly on 0300 300 8306.

STUDENT EQUIPMENT LIST

Please can you ensure that your child(ren) have a fully stocked pencil case when they return to school. All students must come equipped to all lessons with a fully stocked pencil case, as required by the Henlow Academy Home School Agreement. Student require the following stationery:



2 Black Pens
(cartridge, biro, Frixion or handwriting)



30cm Ruler



2 HB Pencils



Green Pen
(biro or Frixion)



2 Dry Wipe Markers



Rubber



Pencil Sharpener
(which collects the shavings)



Glue Stick



3 Highlighters
(different colours)



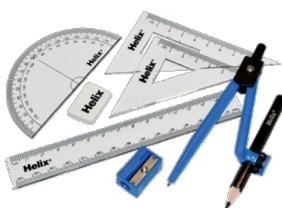
Colour Pencils



Scissors



Scientific Calculator



Geometry Set



Pencil Case
(a clear pencil case is needed when sitting exams)



Headphones
(suitable to plugged into any tablet/keyboard)

REMINDERS



All students need a NAMED water bottle with them everyday



Please make sure all uniform and PE kit is clearly named and haven't worn off



Please make sure your child has money on their ParentMail account if they have school dinners or snack



Students are not permitted to carry medication on them. Please complete a medication form and hand to the front office



Students must not be on school site before 8:30am unless they are in breakfast club



Homework Club is available to all students from 3:45pm -5:00pm daily



The front office is not able to call home if your child forgets something. Please make sure your child comes to school with everything they need for the day



Breakfast Club is available daily from 8:00am to 8:30am. The cost is £2.50 per day. Please email jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk to book a place



We are a nut free school due to some of our students having severe allergies. Please make sure snacks and packed lunches contain no nuts or nut products.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Additional Information
Monday 13th April	First Day Back	
Monday 27th April - Friday 1st May	Year 10 GCSE Mocks	Please see changes to school day timings on page 2
Friday 1st May	Year 11 Celebration Church Service	During the school day
Monday 4th May	May Bank Holiday	School closed
Tuesday 5th May - Wednesday 17th June	Year 11 GCSE Exam Period	
Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATS	
Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th May	Year 7 Harry Potter World Careers Trip	
Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th May	Year 9 Take Your Child to Work Days	For students who completed the forms. All other Year 9's should be in school
Tuesday 5th May - Friday 22nd May	GL Testing	Testing takes place during normal lessons - Year 5, 7, 8 & 9
Friday 22nd May	Year 11's Last Day Before Exam Leave	Church service, Leavers Assembly and more!
Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May	May Half Term	School closed