

# HAILEYBURY

# NEWS

23 January 2026



## From the Master

The Government is considering preventing access to social media for anyone under the age of 16. Australia have led the way in enacting this legislation and France have stated that they wish to only allow young people to access social media after they have turned 15. Spain and Norway have indicated that they also intend to go down this route.

We used to allow people to smoke in cinemas and on aeroplanes. We used to use asbestos when building homes and schools. There was a time when wearing seatbelts was not a legal requirement and car seats for babies and toddlers have only become mandatory relatively recently. History shows us that standards of safety and ensuing legislation change when we become aware of risks and danger.

School toilets and bathrooms were often where bullying took place and scores were settled 'behind the bicycle shed'. Those days are almost entirely behind us.

Now we see bullying and unkindness taking place online and social media enables it. Algorithms and anonymity adds to the toxic cocktail which young people are expected to cope with. As has happened in the past, changes need to be made to reduce danger and risk of harm.

Let's have no more talk or hand wringing on this matter. The sooner governments and wider society demonstrate an unwavering commitment to protecting our young people from the harms of social media the better. As a community, we believe keeping young people safe must be our highest priority. Action, informed by evidence and guided by care, will help ensure that our pupils are supported to grow up safely in an increasingly digital world.

With my best wishes to you all,

Eugene du Toit

## The Power of Data in a Networked World



This week's **Haileybury Lecture** welcomed **Professor Viktor Mayer-Schönberger**, Professor of Internet Governance and Regulation at the University of Oxford and an internationally recognised authority on **Big Data and technology**.

Professor Mayer-Schönberger delivered a thought-provoking and engaging lecture drawn from his pioneering research into the role of information in the networked economy. He explored how data is reshaping decision-making, driving innovation and influencing the way societies, organisations and individuals navigate an increasingly connected world.

We are most grateful to Professor Mayer-Schönberger for generously sharing his time, insights and expertise with the Haileybury community.

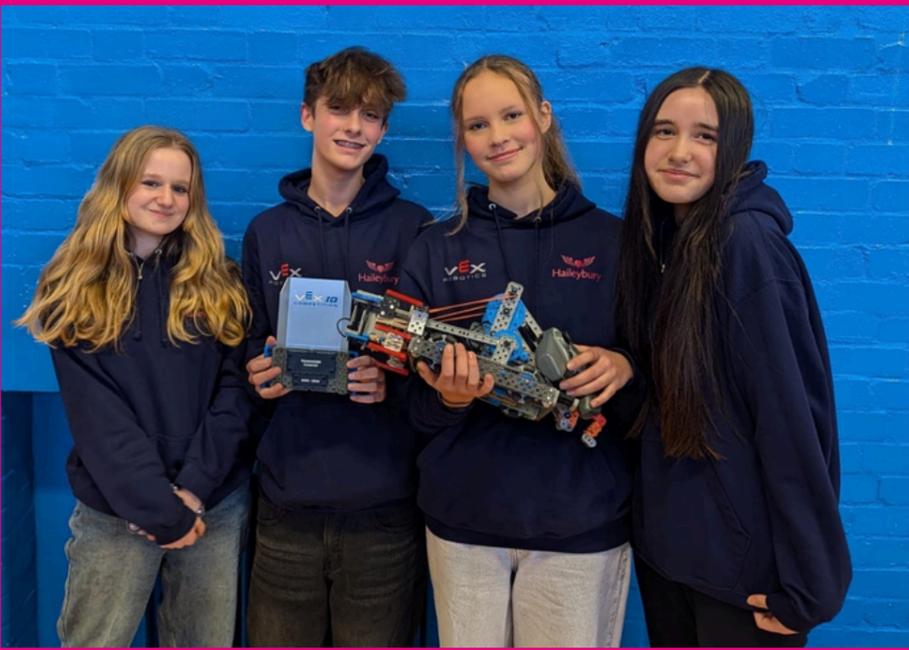
## A Majestic Evening of Music: Handel's *Messiah*



Last night our Chapel rang out to the magnificent melodies of Handel's legendary oratorio, the *Messiah*. Sung by the combined strength of the Schola Cantorum and Haileybury Chorus, the choirs were in fine voice as they performed to a packed audience in the splendid surrounds of Chapel, accompanied by our staff-led professional orchestra. The choir sang with power and passion, clearly enjoying themselves as they sang the famous *Hallelujah Chorus* and *Worthy is the Lamb*.

Several of our pupils from the Schola Cantorum sang solo arias. This was a rare opportunity for pupils to sing mature repertoire with a professional orchestra, a particular strength of the cultural life at Haileybury. Soloists from the pupil body included Giselle (L6), Millie (L6), Sophie (L6), Matilda (Removes), Ben (L6), Charlie (Middles), Josh (U6) and Theo (Fifths).

Haileybury Chorus has enjoyed a long history under its original name Haileybury Choral Society. Membership consists of current and past staff members, parents, grandparents, and friends of the school. New members are always welcome. If you would like to find out more about joining future projects, please contact [music@haileybury.com](mailto:music@haileybury.com).



It was a fantastic day for our **VEX Robotics teams** on Friday, with pupils competing at two regional events. Our **Metals** teams headed to Stowe School, while two **Plastics** teams travelled to Colchester to take on strong opposition.

The two teams at Stowe dominated much of the day, remaining unbeaten through numerous rounds. Both progressed to the elimination stages with the Middles boys, Demitrios, Poyraz, James, Jasper, Seb and Freddy, delivering an exceptional performance to reach the final, narrowly losing to the top-ranked side. Their consistent progress suggests that it is only a matter of time before they secure their first tournament win.



Meanwhile in Colchester, the teams showcased their newly upgraded designs. Despite a few early challenges, the Removes team, Xander, Cariana, Grace and Tori, delivered an outstanding performance, remaining unbeaten to win the regional competition and qualify for the National Championships in March. A brilliant achievement and hopefully the first of many teams to reach this prestigious stage.

## VEX Teams Excel at Regional Competitions

## Edmonstone: A Week of Achievement and Celebration



## Haileybury Welcomes International Visitors

As part of our recognition as an **Apple Distinguished School**, we were delighted to welcome 87 visitors from Apple, **Goodnotes** and leading educational institutions in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The visit began with a warm welcome from the Master, followed by a presentation on **Haileybury's digital strategy and approach**. Our guests were then treated to a guided tour of the campus led by our pupils, who **showcased how digital technology enhances learning across the School**.

The group later met with staff in SciTech and attended a second presentation on our collaboration with Goodnotes, highlighting our innovative use of digital tools in the classroom.

This exciting visit reflected Haileybury's strong and growing reputation for excellence in educational technology and our commitment to sharing best practice and building meaningful partnerships worldwide.

This week was a particularly busy and varied one in House, filled with moments of kindness, camaraderie and celebration.

We began the week by awarding a shared **Man of the Week** to Gary and Aara, in recognition of the exceptional kindness and support they have shown in helping our new Remove, Karl-Theodor, settle into House life so smoothly.



Thursday's House Night took a slightly different and very welcome turn, with a **focus on wellbeing**. Pupils enjoyed a healthy and relaxing evening featuring pilates, fruit smoothies and face masks with congratulations going to Richard, who emerged as the clear winner of the ab challenge.

Friday marked the end of the Upper Sixth IB trial examinations, an achievement that was fittingly celebrated with a delicious (if slightly less healthy!) Turkish takeaway. The celebrations continued later that evening as the boys proudly donned their House colours and went on to secure hard-fought victories in both the junior and senior **House basketball competitions**.

The week concluded in style on Saturday evening, with all the boys looking exceptionally smart as they attended the Winter Ball.

It was a fabulous week in House and we now look forward to a well-earned exeat weekend.



# A Magical Evening at the Winter Ball

What a truly magical evening the Winter Ball proved to be on Saturday night ✨

Middles, Removes and Sixth Form pupils exchanged their school uniforms for elegant black-tie attire and came together to enjoy a memorable celebration. The evening began with a beautifully presented formal dinner, setting the tone for a night filled with laughter, music and dancing.

Among the many highlights were the impressive skills on display at the snowboard simulator, which proved a great source of excitement, and the ever-popular chocolate fountain, adding a deliciously fun touch to the festivities.

The Winter Ball was a wonderful celebration of friendship, togetherness and the vibrant spirit of the Haileybury community. An evening that will be fondly remembered by all who attended.



# Haileybury Delegates Excel at Wycombe Abbey MUN

Fifteen Haileybury delegates recently took part in the **Wycombe Abbey Model United Nations Conference**, representing China, Greece, Belarus, Japan and Uganda. The two-day event featured lively debate, collaboration, and a highlight of the weekend - a diplomatic ball and ceilidh on Friday evening.

Haileybury's own MUN Secretary General, Lucy (U6, Alban's), was invited to chair the Disarmament and International Security Committee, where she did a fantastic job and received special recognition during the closing ceremony.

It was also a weekend of personal triumphs for our delegates. Crystal (Removes, Colvin - Greece, Security Council) successfully lobbied and passed her resolution in committee, an impressive achievement at her very first conference with Haileybury. Charlie (Middles, Trevelyan - China, Disarmament Committee) was awarded Highly Commended Delegate out of 70 participants, continuing Haileybury's remarkable 100% award record at this event.

Overall, it was an outstanding and inspiring weekend of diplomacy, debate, and teamwork. Many of our delegates are already looking ahead and preparing for the Haileybury MUN Conference in March.



## Prep and Primary Choral Competition Fills the Chapel with Song

Our annual **Prep and Primary Choral Competition** was a wonderful celebration of young musical talent, bringing together enthusiastic singers from local prep schools and filling Haileybury's Chapel with joyful sound.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in engaging vocal workshops, learning a new song and developing their confidence, technique and ensemble skills. The afternoon culminated in performances in the inspiring setting of the Chapel, where each school took to the stage to present an individual piece to an appreciative audience of parents and teachers.

Our **Lower School Choir** also took part in the concert. Following performances by the visiting prep schools, our pupils took the stage and delivered a beautiful rendition of *Slipping Through My Fingers* by ABBA, under the direction of Mrs Apley.

The event concluded with all the pupils coming together to perform three songs from Sir John Rutter's *The Sprig of Thyme*, learnt during the course of the day, creating a memorable moment of shared music-making. Our adjudicator, **Claudia Grinnell, Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral** warmly praised the high standard of singing and musicianship on display. After careful deliberation, Duncombe were awarded the winning trophy, with St Hilda's named as runners-up.

We hope all our young singers enjoyed their day at Haileybury and we very much look forward to welcoming them back again in the future.



## Coming Up

Friday 23 - Sunday 25 January  
• Long Exeat Weekend

Monday 26 - Friday 30 January  
• The Hague International MUN Conference, The Netherlands

Friday 30 January  
• Spotlight Recital, 5.30 pm, Chapel