

HAILEYBURY NEWS

30 January 2026



From the Master

I wrote a little while ago about the Academic Review which is currently underway, in which we are considering how Haileybury's academic provision might evolve in years to come. We are giving careful thought to 'what our pupils learn' (curriculum), 'how our pupils learn' (pedagogy), 'how we assess pupils' learning' (assessment) and 'how we use feedback to support pupils' learning' (reporting).

Inevitably, we are asking a lot of questions. For example, and in relation to 'reporting', our discussions covered many lines of enquiry. Why do we write reports and send home grade sheets? Who are we speaking to when we send them? Are we updating parents solely or do we expect pupils to read what is written? What should we report on? Academic achievement alone? Progress up to the point of writing? Attitude?

Or should we broaden the scope of our reports? If we are serious about the importance of developing certain skills and dispositions, then should we not find a way to more explicitly offer feedback to both pupils and parents on their development?

We are proud of Haileybury's academic provision and have demonstrated our ability to support able and ambitious pupils. We will always work to the highest of standards and we will not be drawn by gimmicks or fads. However, we must have the courage and confidence to make those changes which are necessary to ensure that every Haileyburian leaves school with the values, skills and credentials they need to thrive in an increasingly complex and competitive world.

With my best wishes,

Giovanna Strikes Gold in Fencing Success



Congratulations to **Giovanna (Middles, Allenby)**, who achieved an outstanding **gold medal in the U16 Girls' Foil at the Eastern District Region competition**. She led strongly throughout the final, securing victory with a close 14-13 finish.

This remarkable result has **qualified Giovanna for the British Youth Fencing Championships**, which will take place in Sheffield from 2-4 May. Before then, she will compete at the Public Schools' Fencing Championships from 17-19 March and we wish her every success as she continues her fantastic season.

Inside Government

Pupils and staff were delighted to welcome **Old Haileyburian Susan Fuller** back to Haileybury this week for a fascinating lecture.

Susan, an Occupational Health professional and Senior Policy Adviser at the Cabinet Office, shared insights from her varied career at the heart of UK government, including time in the Cabinet Office, 10 Downing Street and her current work on UK-US foreign policy and the UK's relationship with President Trump. She spoke about serving under different Prime Ministers, from Boris Johnson to Keir Starmer, offering engaging "behind the scenes" anecdotes and a clear explanation of how government actually functions.

Pupils were especially interested in how her Geography degree from Oxford helped shape her path, asking many thoughtful questions. Susan's talk also tied into the Society's forthcoming debate, "*Are democracies ineffective and outdated?*", grounding this big question in real-world policy-making.



1st XI Girls' Hockey Team On Remarkable Run

The 1st XI girls' hockey team have carried their fantastic pre-Christmas form into January. Having won the national indoor silver medal in December, the girls now sit **top of the outdoor England Hockey Tier 1 league with one game remaining**, having won all their matches so far.

They continued their winning streak today with a **5-0 away victory** against St John's, Leatherhead. Player of the match, centre back Scarlett (Vths, Alban's), was outstanding and showed maturity beyond her years.

Laura (U6, Hailey) continued her scoring streak with a brace, Florrie (Vths, Colvin) also scored twice, and captain Freya (U6, Allenby) added another.

The team boasts an impressive goal difference of 27, having scored 33 goals in 6 games and conceding only 6. Previous wins against Framlingham, St George's Weybridge, Ipswich and Sevenoaks put them in a strong position, and we hope this will lead to a home tie in the last eight of the national knock-out stages.



Legally Blonde Rehearsals in Full Swing!

Rehearsals for this year's whole school production of **Legally Blonde** are going fabulously well and excitement is building as we count down to **opening night at the BEAM Theatre next week**.

Throughout the rehearsal process, pupils have been working with a full creative team, including a musical director, choreographer, assistant director and director, to tackle the show's many challenges of movement, mime, dance, singing and acting. Together, they have brought energy, commitment and flair to every rehearsal.

Beyond performance skills, the cast have been supporting and inspiring one another as they bring the story of Elle Woods to life.



What's happened this week with the Haileybury Association

Following the launch of the Haileybury Association earlier this month, we warmly invite you to [visit the website](#) and discover how you can get involved. From the latest news and event information to opportunities to connect, mentor and support the School, the Association is the ideal way to stay engaged with the Haileybury community - both during your child's time here and in the years to come.



An Inspiring Evening of Connection at the Leaders Mentoring Reception

To launch the 2026 cohort of the Haileybury Leaders Mentoring Programme, mentors and mentees from past and present cohorts gathered at the Oriental Club in London for an evening of connection, insight and inspiration.

The evening featured a lively fireside chat hosted by the Master, with the impressive panel of Botazhan Makhambetova (Colvin, 2013), Penny Markson (current parent) and Pummy Seehra (current parent). Exploring the theme of The Power of Connection, the panel shared personal stories illustrating how mentors and networks have shaped their professional journeys - offering practical advice, genuine inspiration and powerful reflections on the value of meaningful relationships.

Guests were encouraged to put that advice into action during the networking reception that followed, as conversations flowed, contact details were exchanged and new professional connections began to form.

Our sincere thanks to the panel for an engaging and thought-provoking discussion. We look forward to following the progress of this year's cohort and the connections they continue to build throughout 2026.

Find out more about Haileybury Leaders Mentoring and our other career and mentoring programmes [here](#).

Alumni news this week:

- It was great to welcome back Susie Fuller (Allenby, 2015) who delivered an inspiring talk to pupils and staff about her experience working in various roles within the Civil Service.
- OH Jon Sheridan (Hailey, 2001) returned to the school for a personal tour, highlighting that *"It certainly brought back some great memories, and it was wonderful to see how the School continues to thrive while preserving its strong sense of tradition and community."*
- Jess Iszat (Hailey, 2010) recently hosted the 40th edition of ESNS and announced her upcoming DJ set at Boardmasters 2026.
- Congratulations to Federico Benazzo (Thomason, 2018) who received the AIAA Jefferson Goblet Student Paper Award at the AIAA SciTech Conference in Orlando.



Life in Hailey House

There has been a wonderfully warm and lively atmosphere in **Hailey** recently, with plenty of moments for the girls to connect, celebrate and enjoy House life together. From the buzz of **inter-house swimming** to an impressive **first-round win in indoor house cricket**, energy and team spirit have been running high.



Just as special, however, are the quieter highlights that bring everyone together. Catching up over **Matron Kirsty's much-loved baking on Tuesdays and Thursdays**, sharing the **House breakfast before Exeat** and getting ready together for the **Winter Ball** (a true highlight of the term) have all added to a strong sense of belonging.

Social events continue to strengthen the Hailey community, from the recent **portrait and pizza night with Colvin** to the eagerly anticipated **Galentine's celebration with Allenby and Alban's**. The girls are also very much looking forward to the **family quiz** currently being created by Jemima, Bethany and Annabel, which promises to be great fun.

It has been lovely to see the girls take time to pause, laugh and enjoy one another's company, even amidst their busy schedules. Hailey is very much in great spirits and the sense of community continues to flourish.



Duke Of Edinburgh Awards



Congratulations to the 41 Middles pupils who received their **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award** this morning, celebrating the successful completion of a year-long challenge. Since last year, pupils have taken part in a wide range of activities across the four sections of the Award – Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Expedition. From gardening, litter picking, cooking and helping with Lower School sport to house chores, countless sports and plenty of music, they have shown real commitment and energy.

Their qualifying expedition took place in the Summer term, when pupils navigated routes in small groups, carrying all their kit, camping overnight at local campsites and setting off again the next day. Along the way, they have developed independence, learnt new skills, worked in teams and had a lot of fun. This Bronze Award is the first step in the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme, and we are delighted that some have already gone on to start their Silver.



Coming Up

Friday 30 January

- **Spotlight Recital, 5.30 pm, Chapel**

Saturday 31 January - Sunday 1 February

- **Lower School Boarding Taster Weekend**

Tuesday 3 February

- **Haileybury Lecture - 7.30 pm, Attlee Room**
Professor David Runciman, Honorary Professor of Politics at Cambridge, writer and podcaster.

Tuesday 5 - Saturday 7 February

- **Whole School Drama Production: Legally Blonde, BEAM, Hertford**