

HAILEYBURY

NEWS

6 February 2026



From the Master

People make a school great. Historic buildings, world-class facilities, open spaces and woodlands are wonderful but, without great people, a school will never reach the highest of notes. We are a proudly British school, but we are as proud to welcome staff from around the world who, as well as giving their all on a daily basis, have talents we sometimes do not see.

Pupils are taught by former authors, musicians, actors, members of the armed forces and financiers. Our Grounds Manager was the Head Groundsman of Birmingham City and our Estate Director was the Project Manager for one of the largest banking groups in the UK. Our sportsmen and women are coached by former sports professionals in rugby, hockey, netball and cricket.

In addition to a brilliant team of staff, we are fortunate to have a Council made up of Governors who have achieved the highest levels of success in their respective fields and who freely volunteer their time and considerable expertise. A supportive parent body, accomplished alumni and collaborative partners all add immeasurably to the life of our school.

Our collective pursuit of excellence ensures the richness of our pupils' education and provides the foundation for Haileybury's future success.

With my best wishes

Honour for Director of Music

We are delighted to congratulate **Richard Brain**, our Director of Music, who has been conferred with **Associateship of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM)**. Richard studied Choral Conducting as a postgraduate at the Academy from 2011–2013, and this honour recognises his significant contribution to the musical landscape as an alumnus.



Each year, the Royal Academy of Music confers Associate Honours on former students whose careers span a wide range of musical fields, from solo, orchestral and chamber performance to opera, jazz, composition, music education, musical theatre and artistic leadership. The 2025/2026 cohort of Associates and Honorary Associates reflects this breadth, celebrating both alumni and distinguished professionals who have played an important role in supporting the Academy's work.

Pupils Shine at The Hague International Model United Nations

Last week, a team of 16 pupils travelled to the Netherlands to take part in **The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN)**, one of the world's most prestigious youth diplomacy conferences. After weeks of preparation, each pupil arrived with a carefully crafted resolution, ready to take the floor and debate with peers from across the globe.

Several pupils achieved particular success: Eve (U6), Julius (L6) and Laurina (L6) successfully had their resolutions pass through lobbying, while Lujza (L6), Milla (L6) and Diane (L6) also saw their amendments approved. Beyond the debating chambers, the group enjoyed the chance to visit the International Criminal Court and the Peace Palace, as well as to connect with delegates from countries as far-reaching as Venezuela, South Korea and the United States.

A highlight of the trip was a joint dinner with the Cleveland Schools delegation, representing Ukraine. The week was full of memorable experiences and meaningful discussions, leaving our delegates inspired for Haileybury's **MUN conference in March**.



Guten Appetit!

Friday evening's **German Café** was another fantastic celebration of language and culture. The Grubber was once again transformed into a lively German restaurant, as our Removes welcomed parents and friends with impressive confidence, taking orders, introducing dishes and chatting entirely in German.

Handy phrase sheets encouraged everyone to join in, making the evening both fun and educational. All the café's visitors loved the authentic atmosphere and delicious dishes, while pupils demonstrated just how engaging language learning can be when brought off the page and into real life.

It was also a wonderful chance to see how our pupils' German skills have been going from strength to strength!



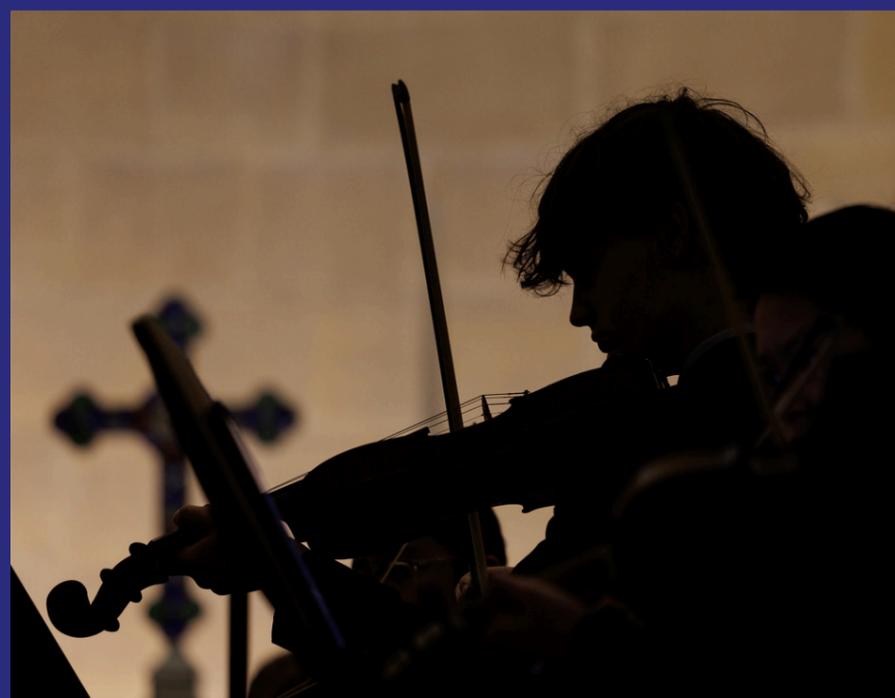
Professor David Runciman delivers this year's Attlee Lecture



We were delighted to welcome Professor David Runciman to deliver this year's **Attlee Lecture** on Tuesday. Professor Runciman, a leading academic from the University of Cambridge's Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS), is widely recognised for his insightful podcasts *Past Present Future* and *Talking Politics*, which make complex political ideas accessible to a broad audience.

In his lecture, titled "**Labour's 1945 Landslide: Separating Myth From Reality**," Professor Runciman explored the context surrounding Clement Attlee's historic election victory. Drawing on historical evidence and political analysis, he challenged some of the common misconceptions about this transformative moment in British politics.

We are most grateful to Professor Runciman for taking the time to visit Haileybury and speak to our pupils, an opportunity that was much appreciated by all.



Strings by Candlelight

The **Spotlight Strings by Candlelight** concert was a beautiful and atmospheric way to round off the week, set within the stunning surroundings of Haileybury Chapel illuminated by candlelight.

The **Haileybury String Ensemble** captivated the audience with three powerful works by Hans Zimmer from *Top Gun*, *Interstellar* and *The Lion King*, while the **Baroque Ensemble** delivered a stylish performance of Leclair's *Sonata in D minor*. The **Brady Trio** showcased Louise Farrenc's *Clarinet Trio* and the evening also featured a moving rendition of John Williams' *Theme from Schindler's List* performed by Head of Strings, Mrs Groom, and Head of Keyboard, Mr Ali.

With its rich variety of ensembles and repertoire, the concert was a wonderful celebration of the talent and dedication within the String Department (and their musical friends).

Celebrating Pioneers in Science



On Tuesday, our pupils had the chance to explore the lives and achievements of scientific pioneers whose work has transformed their fields. The event was both engaging and educational, providing insight into the determination, creativity and resilience of these remarkable individuals.

In recognition of LGBTQ+ History Month, we also reflected on the social prejudices these innovators faced and continue to admire their courage and contributions to science today.

A special thank you to Kyrah, Zahira, and Carolyn for their inspiring speeches commemorating Lynn Conway, Alan L. Hart and Alan Turing, respectively. We look forward to future **Soap Box Science** events and the continued celebration of scientific discovery and diversity.



Celebrating Chinese New Year



On Wednesday evening, Grubber was alive with colour, culture and celebration as pupils hosted a wonderful Chinese New Year event. The pupils embraced the spirit of the festival, sharing delicious food and sampling a range of traditional flavours.

They also had the opportunity to try their hand at Chinese calligraphy, carefully practising traditional writing and learning more about the artistry behind each character. It was a joyful evening that celebrated creativity, curiosity and cultural understanding.

Kipling Night: A Celebration for All

Kipling Night provided a fantastic highlight to the House's week, as we welcomed over 130 guests - pupils, parents, siblings and staff - for one of the most anticipated evenings of the year in Grubber.

The Catering team treated us to a delicious Mexican meal, with many enjoying the spacious Dining Hall to accommodate our large numbers. True to tradition, parents contributed an array of mouth-watering desserts and a special celebration marked **Trin's 18th birthday** with four magnificent cakes and dozens of samosas to enjoy over the weekend.

The boys of Removes took to the floor to sell raffle tickets, prizes were won, and cheers rang out across the House. The evening culminated with a lively performance of their House song from the November House Music competition, entertaining all in attendance.

Once final accounting is complete, we expect **Kipling Night to have raised well over £2,000 for HYT**. A tremendous success and a testament to the spirit of our community.

Harry Baxendale, House Master



The Association's **Spring Bulletin** has arrived in inboxes this week! This termly update is packed with community stories, School news, career insights, mentoring opportunities and much more.

If you haven't received a copy, you can read it [here](#).

Alumni news this week:



- Congratulations to Chengzhi Xu (Thomason, 2020), who recently took part as a presenter at the annual [The New York Times](#) debate, part of the Youth and Leaders Summit hosted by the [Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po](#).



- Monica Hsueh (Allenby, 2004) has had her comedy show "How to be a Strong Woman in One Hour" renewed for 2026. For more information see [here](#) on the Association website.

Upcoming events:

- **10 February, 7.30 pm:** [Careers Webinar- Exploring Tech Careers: from coding to cybersecurity](#) **Last chance to sign up**
- **12 February, 7.00 pm:** [Cambridge drinks reception with the Master and Mr Head](#) **Last chance to sign up**



Haileybury
Association

A Flying Start to the Season for the Rugby Sevens

The Rugby Sevens squad has enjoyed an exciting and highly successful half term, highlighted by the launch of the new **Easter 7s Series**. This series, hosted between Bedford, Haileybury and Northampton School for Boys, featured a set of triangular tournaments across the first half of term.

Haileybury's boys remained unbeaten throughout the series, providing excellent momentum as they now look ahead to the **county cup** and the **Rosslyn Park tournament** later in the term. Sam (U6) and Christian (L6) were the leading try scorers, while the squad as a whole showcased plenty of free-flowing, entertaining rugby.

This newly established approach to the opening phase of the Sevens season has already proven to be extremely positive, offering valuable match experience and setting strong foundations for the challenges ahead.





Boarding Taster Weekend Adventure

Last weekend, many of our Lower School 1 offer holders enjoyed a Highfield boarding taster weekend, experiencing a true flavour of life at Haileybury. From Saturday late afternoon to Sunday lunchtime, the children embraced a full programme of fun, friendship and adventure.

Saturday evening began with a riddles treasure hunt in the dark, with torches lighting the way, before everyone headed indoors to bake and decorate cupcakes. Supper in our magnificent Dining Hall was followed by a cosy movie night and quiz, and the pupils then settled into Highfield for a night of boarding together.

On Sunday morning, the fun continued with adventure skills in the Hailey Camp outdoor education area in the woods. The children took part in den building, wood crafts and team-building games, rounding off the experience with lunch in the woods and plenty of happy memories of their weekend at Haileybury.



Schoolblazer Uniform Spring Sale

SPRING SALE

Schoolblazer will be running a spring sale from **Monday 9 to Friday 13 February 2026.**

There will be a third off selected in-stock items online at schoolblazer.com during the sale period, while stocks last.

Coming Up

Friday 6 and Saturday 7 February

- **Whole School Drama Production: Legally Blonde, 7.30 pm, BEAM, Hertford**

Wednesday 11 February

- **Parent Online Webinar - Brendan Pavey *Surviving and Thriving: Parenting adolescents through mental health challenges* 1.00 pm & 6.00 pm**

Thursday 12 February

- **Sixth Form and Vths Art Exhibition, 6.00 pm, Science Atrium**

Friday 13 February

- **Half Term starts, 1.30 pm**

Friday 13 - Monday 16 February

- **St Andrews International MUN Conference**

Friday 13 - Sunday 22 February

- **U14 & U15 Boys Cricket Tour to South Africa**

Saturday 14 - Tuesday 17 February

- **Spanish Department Trip to Madrid**