



13 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a short half term but one with a full calendar of events. As we reach this half way stage in the academic year, we are finally beginning to see more daylight both at the start and the end of the day, a real sign that Spring is on its way. It is to be hoped that it will be a drier spell than the relentless rain we have endured so far! I know the students are ready to be able to play outside and leave Winter behind.

I am very pleased to say that we are launching a House system. Students have been buzzing with excitement keen to know which House they have been allocated. The Houses are named after the Royal Parks in London, Hyde Park, Green Park, Regent's Park and St James's Park. A Sixth Form student Leadership team has been appointed for each House, and each tutor group will elect their own House Captain. The system will provide many new opportunities for students to take part in inter-house competitions throughout the rest of the academic year. I would recommend the weekly student bulletin for further updates in due course.

Events

We were very pleased to see so many of you attend our production of Matilda. It was the culmination of months of hard work from both staff and students. It was two joyous evenings; the students' performances were spell binding and their enthusiasm and real enjoyment of performing shone. We were delighted to host pupils attending local primary schools for the dress rehearsals, their appreciation of the performances helped boost the confidence of our students. Thank you for supporting getting students to and from rehearsals and helping them at home with practicing some quite challenging pieces!

Our commitment to providing our students with learning opportunities outside the classroom continued this half term with our Year 11 Art students visiting The National Gallery for inspiration and our Photography students visited Tate Britain to explore the work of Lee Miller. The trips supported students with their own projects and introduced them to new techniques and styles.

Our students studying German had the opportunity to be immersed in the language by attending a performance of 'Das Gruselhaus'. The students enjoyed the opportunity to experience the language in an engaging and authentic setting.

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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**CHALLENGE
PARTNERS**



This school has an
Apprenticeships
Apprenticeship Champion

The Harrow School has a long history, founded in 1572 under a Royal Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth the first. Our A level Sociology students took the opportunity to tour the site and find out about its long history gaining firsthand insight into topics from the AQA A-level Sociology curriculum, such as social stratification, education, and cultural capital. Observing the school's environment and traditions illustrated how social class and privilege can shape opportunities. Students found the visit was most informative and enjoyable.

Our Music Department has included the opportunity for our students to attend evening performances of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall. Recently, students from Year 8 to Year 11 enjoyed a programme that included revolutionary pieces by Beethoven and Shostakovich. Students tell me that these opportunities bring music alive for them and that they can emotionally connect with it, it then inspires them to work harder at practicing their instruments and in some cases to consider learning to play one for the first time.

In addition, our students have run their own music workshops for the pupils in Kenmore Junior School, leading them in both composing and performing activities. Four of our GCSE students have been part of a project with the Nonesuch Orchestra learning to compose music. I was very proud of Katlin who learned how to conduct the orchestra as they played her composition. The Orchestra performs a concert in March, and we look forward to our students compositions being showcased.

There are several events and activities in place to mark the National Year of Reading. The first of these was our very successful Book Tasting event. Students and staff were invited to lunchtime in the library where they could spend 5 minutes discussing their favourite book with one person before moving on to discuss it with another. Some students said 5 minutes wasn't long enough to talk about their favourite book as they could talk about it for hours!

Holocaust Memorial Day was marked with assemblies for all year groups. The theme this year was 'Bridging Generations' focussing on passing remembrance from survivors to future generations. We were very pleased to host Hilliary Hodsman, a Next Generation Holocaust Speaker who shared her parents' story of escaping Nazi persecution in Germany. They were both children on the Kindertransport.

Our Year 8 students who participate in the Brilliant Club had their graduation at Oriel College, Oxford on the 4th of February and thoroughly enjoyed the experience with some keen to consider Oxford as a possible place to study in the future. In addition, congratulations to one of our Year 13 students, Clarissa, who has had her assignment on the future of renewable technologies published in 'The Scholar' the annual journal for the Brilliant Club. Assignments nominated to be published are first reviewed by an expert panel of PhD researchers and only the highest scoring are included.

Sporting Events

Our students have competed in a number of sporting events since January from indoor athletics through Basketball, Table Tennis, Netball and Badminton. As is becoming the norm for our teams (although we are never complacent) they have made themselves and us proud by bringing home a range of successes. Our Year 7 girls' indoor athletics team delivered a fantastic performance to be crowned borough champions, their energy and support of one another set a brilliant example of what teamwork looks like. In table tennis our U16 open age girls competed with confidence and focus to secure the borough title and hot off the press...the U16 open age girls volleyball shone in the finals proudly adding another borough title to the list. The success continued in badminton, where our U16 girls showed consistency and determination throughout the competition and to emerge as champions. The U13 and U14 basketball team followed suit with an equally impressive achievement.



A testament not only of talent of our students but also to the support of staff and coaches who continue to encourage participation and excellence in school sport. There is plenty more to come, I am certain and we can't wait to see what happens next.

Careers Information Advice and Guidance

National Apprenticeship Week was marked by sharing information about apprenticeships with all year groups. Presentations linked subjects to the opportunities available in range of Businesses and Industries. It is a pathway open to both 16 and 18-year-olds to consider and is becoming increasingly popular as a way to study, gain experience, a qualification, and earn a salary.

Policies

A quick reference to our school policies can be found here: [Policies](#). These policies are available on our school website too.

Student Wellbeing During the Half Term Break

We understand that young people may need to access some support for their wellbeing and there are a number of organisations signposted on our school website [here](#). In particular we would like to draw your attention to [Kooth](#), which is a free, safe, and anonymous online mental health service commissioned across the UK by the NHS, Local Authorities and Charities to provide free online mental health support. If you are worried about your child and would like further support, please contact your Pastoral Team when we return to school.

School reopens for all students on Monday 23rd February 2026.

I wish you and your family a peaceful and restful half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Colette O'Dwyer
Headteacher

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