

HAILEYBURY NEWS

5 December 2025



From the Master

Giving Week has seen pupils showing impressive initiative and creativity in organising a variety of fundraising activities. Whether 'swimming the Channel', selling burgers, sweet treats and hot chocolate or completing 5km runs, each House is playing its part in supporting our selected charities.

We are grateful for the support of two generous donors (who wish to remain anonymous) who will match all funds raised for Hearts and Wings and the Haileybury Youth Trust. Pupils are also raising funds for Hearts for Herts.

'Service' is one of Haileybury's core values and it is excellent to see our pupils doing what they can for communities near and far.

We look forward to our wonderful carol services next week; it would be lovely to see you in Chapel if you are able to join us.

With my best wishes,

Proud to Receive the Gold AI Quality Mark

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that **Haileybury has been awarded the Gold AI Quality Mark** by the Good Future Foundation. This national accreditation recognises excellence in the thoughtful, responsible and impactful use of AI in schools and we are extremely proud to be among its recipients.



During the assessment process, the Foundation commended Haileybury for our research-driven and forward-thinking strategy. They highlighted the clarity of our vision for why AI matters in education and how it connects to our curriculum, our teaching and learning practices, our approach to digital wellbeing and literacy, and the skills young people will need for the future world of work.

We were particularly pleased that the assessors recognised the strength of our governance and review processes, as well as our commitment to adapting and refining our approach as this fast-moving field develops. At Haileybury, AI is not treated as an isolated tool but is thoughtfully integrated into wider digital innovation and subject planning, always with the aim of enhancing pupils' learning and supporting staff.

Achieving the Gold AI Quality Mark is a significant milestone for the School, and we look forward to sharing our learning and best practice with the broader education community. As AI continues to evolve, we remain committed to ensuring it brings real, tangible benefits to teaching and learning at Haileybury.

We are incredibly proud of this recognition and grateful to everyone who has contributed to this achievement.

A Festive Celebration of Music and Joy

Haileybury's **Christmas Concert** brought the season's spirit to life this week with a joyful evening of music. Pupils from across the School performed a glittering mix of festive favourites and modern classics, from *Gaudete* and *Deck the Halls* to *Jingle Bell Rock* and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.



The Big Band, Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, Choirs and smaller ensembles all shone, filling Big School with warmth, energy and festive cheer. The evening ended on a high with the Symphony Orchestra's triumphant finale, including Judith Bailey's *Noel*, *A Fantasy on Christmas Carols* and Prokofiev's *Troika*.



Our Events and Catering teams also created a truly magical Christmas experience for our community. During the interval, families and guests were invited to step into a beautifully arranged Christmas grotto, where they enjoyed an array of festive treats and seasonal refreshments. The Attlee Room had been transformed for the occasion and was warmly lit with sparkling Christmas lights and adorned with trees, ribbons and baubles, which provided a wonderful backdrop for the celebrations.

It was a wonderful celebration of musical talent, festive atmosphere and community spirit - the perfect way to start the holiday season!





Haileybury Giving Week is in Full Swing

This week, we proudly launched our annual **Giving Week Campaign**. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of two anonymous donors, **every pound given between 2-9 December will be matched** - doubling the impact of each donation.

Every contribution, large or small, will help our Community Outreach Projects, Haileybury Youth Trust and Hearts & Wings Holidays, continue their vital work and support the lives they transform.

Alongside the online giving campaign, every pupil House has enthusiastically embraced the spirit of Giving Week with creative fundraising activities, from cupcake and candy cane sales to running challenges and a non-uniform day.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated or taken part so far. There's still time to contribute - click here to learn more about the campaign and make a donation.



National Indoor Hockey Championships



Huge congratulations to the **Girls' U18 Hockey squad**, who finished runners-up in the **National Indoor Championships** yesterday - an outstanding achievement at the highest level of school competition.

The team topped their pool after a strong start to the day, including a 1-1 draw against Repton, before producing a superb 4-1 win over Clifton in the semi-final. In a hard-fought final rematch against Repton, the girls gave their all but were narrowly beaten.

Their teamwork, determination and skill throughout the tournament were exceptional - what a commendable end to their indoor season!

Men's Health Awareness Month at Haileybury



This November, Haileybury embraced **Men's Health Awareness Month** with a focus on the importance of mental wellbeing and the power of positive role models. A highlight of the events was an inspiring lecture delivered by Mr Pollard on the theme '**Changing Perceptions of Mental Health in Sport**', which challenged stereotypes and encouraged pupils to speak openly about mental health challenges in athletics and beyond.

Pupils also took part in a meaningful letter-writing initiative, where they wrote personal **letters to positive male role models** in their lives. These letters will be sent to the relevant addresses or hand-delivered in school, strengthening connections and recognising the vital role these individuals play in fostering open conversations about men's health.



A Heart-Warming Allenby Thanksgiving

Allenby kicked off the festive season with joyful energy as we celebrated our much-loved **Thanksgiving tradition**, now in its fifth fabulous year! Started by a former pupil, this cherished event once again brought our Lower Sixth together in true festive style. The Galpin Room was transformed into a cosy autumn retreat, glowing with fairy lights, colourful leaves and all the warm tones of the season. Our catering team treated the girls to a delicious feast of classic Thanksgiving favourites, which was enjoyed by all.

The evening wrapped up with an uplifting and entertaining speech from our Head of House, who looked back on her (almost) five years in Allenby with humour, gratitude and plenty of fond memories. The girls then shared their own moments of thankfulness, from friendships and family to the many opportunities they enjoy.

It was a truly special night filled with laughter, good food and a lovely sense of togetherness. It was wonderful to see all of the girls enjoying these house celebrations.

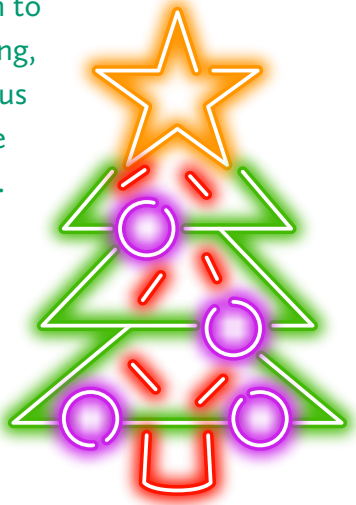


Rolling into the Holidays

Last Friday, our **Highfield weekly and flexi boarders** wrapped up the term in true celebratory style with a fantastic **House Outing to Roller City** in Welwyn Garden City. The rink was buzzing with excitement as the whole House came together for an evening of roller skating, music and plenty of laughter.

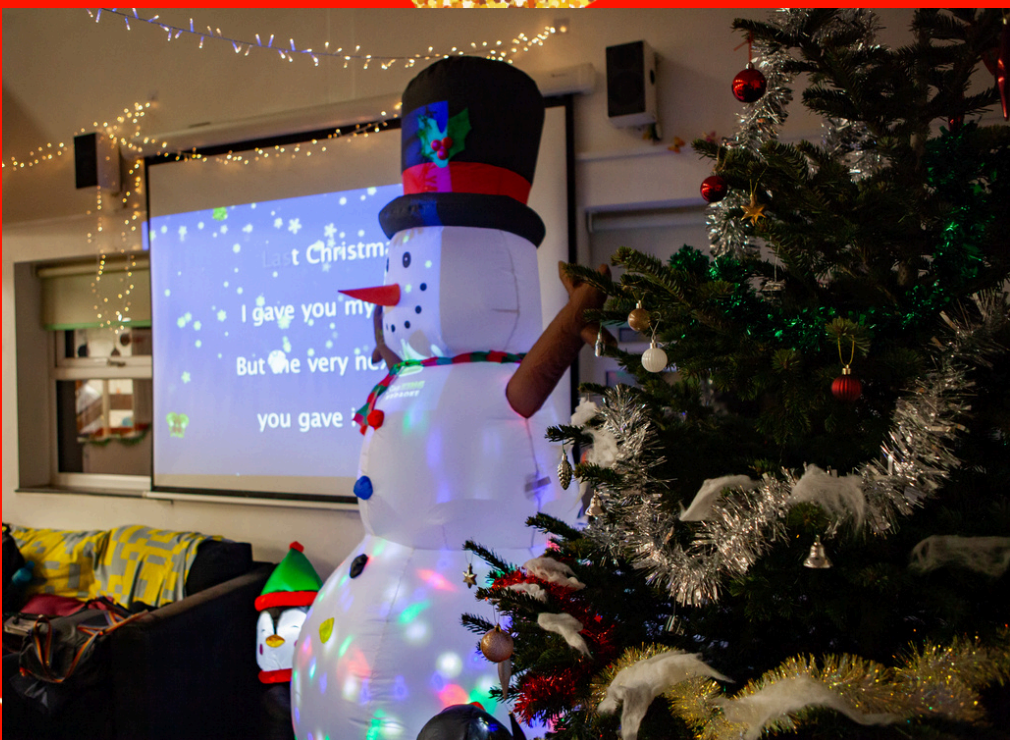
From those taking their very first steps on skates to our more confident gliders, every pupil embraced the fun with enthusiasm. The atmosphere was made even more memorable when the Highfield tutors joined in on wheels, much to the delight of the pupils! With music playing, friends cheering each other on and delicious food to enjoy together, the outing was the perfect blend of activity and togetherness.

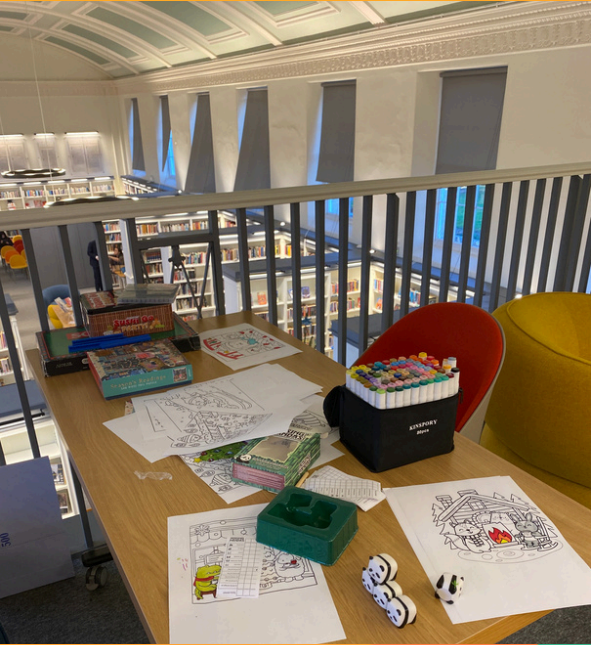
It was a wonderful way to celebrate a successful first term in Highfield, full of teamwork, courage and smiles. Here's to many more shared adventures in the new year!



Lower School Magic

Lower School has been brimming with festive spirit this week as pupils have been busily decorating their form rooms and common areas, creating colourful paper garlands and handmade presents. Their hard work and creativity paid off when a very special visitor arrived with a jolly "Ho Ho Ho!" to spread Christmas cheer and deliver treats to everyone. It was a wonderful way to begin the festive season, and the pupils' excitement set a joyful tone across the School.





Festive Fun in the Library

The Library is brimming with seasonal cheer, with daily surprises and cosy activities for everyone.

What's on:

- **Elf on the Shelf:** Our mischievous Library Elf is hiding in a new spot every day.
- **Balcony jigsaw:** Pupils can head upstairs to the balcony to help complete our Christmas jigsaw by adding a few pieces between lessons.
- **Snowflake papercutting:** This relaxing, hands-on snowflake activity also takes place on the balcony, and all creations are added to our wintry display.
- **Winter reading picks:** Our wonderful librarians curated a selection of beautiful, wintry reads, perfect for fireside afternoons and quiet evenings.
- **Christmas tree glow-up:** The beautiful book-themed tree sparkles and provides a magical background to snuggle up in a comfy chair and read a good book.
- **Borrow a book for the holidays:** Any book borrowed now can be kept over the holiday period, ideal for travel, downtime and New Year reading goals.



Quick tip: The Library team are always happy to help with personalised recommendations based on favourite genres or current mood.



Haileybury Turnford Carols

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome pupils and families from Haileybury Turnford to Chapel for their **annual carol concert**. The service was a joyful celebration of music, reflection and the festive spirit of this special time of year.

It was wonderful to see so many young people engaging with the Chapel and embracing the true meaning of Christmas. The occasion was a beautiful reminder that Haileybury is so much more than just a school - it is a place where warmth, friendship and festive cheer are shared by all.

Coming Up

- Monday 8 December**
 - School Carol Service (Alb, Aby, BFr, B, C & E) 6.30 pm, Chapel
- Tuesday 9 December**
 - School Carol Service (H, K, L, M, Th & Tr) 6.30 pm, Chapel
- Wednesday 10 December**
 - Pupils Christmas Lunch, Dining Hall
 - Community Carols 8 pm, The Goat, Hertford Heath
- Thursday 11 December**
 - Pastimes, 7.30 pm, Big School
- Friday 12 December**
 - Lower School Carol Service, 11.30 am, Chapel
 - End of Term, 1.30 pm
 - HPA Mistletoe and Lanterns Ball, 7 pm, Dining Hall