

HAILEYBURY NEWS

9 January 2026



From the Master

Happy New Year and I hope that 2026 has begun on a positive note. Although the icy conditions have presented a few challenges, the year has started well and we are set fair for the term ahead.

Our IB pupils are sitting their trials, university offers are coming in and summer examinations are not far away. Ambition and diligence are the order of the day and I know that pupils and their teachers will be working hard to ensure that everyone is best placed to achieve excellent results next term.

I have recently chaired a working group which has been considering our future academic priorities. Haileybury has a well-earned reputation for academic excellence and it is essential that we continue to challenge ourselves to think strategically about the academic needs of our pupils in the years to come. We are proud of our academic provision, but we must be confident in adapting to change so that our pupils leave Haileybury equipped with the values, skills and credentials they need to thrive.

I hope you enjoy your weekend.

Engene de Tait

A Star Moment for Ella

Upper Sixth pupil Ella (Lawrence) had the honour of participating in the **200th Anniversary Royal Institution Christmas Lectures**, broadcast nationally by the BBC over the festive season.

During the televised lecture, Ella joined host Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock on camera to discuss the space economy and its importance for future generations. Speaking afterwards, Ella described the experience as “a wonderful way to close out the year, both personally and for the Space Economy Society.”



Haileybury in Concert

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Thursday 22 January 2026, 7.00 pm
Haileybury Chapel

Haileybury Chorus
Haileybury Schola Cantorum
Haileybury Concert Orchestra
Soloists from the Schola Cantorum and Chorus
Richard Brain Conductor

To reserve your free ticket, scan the QR code



Netball Teams Shine in Barbados



Over the Christmas break, two Haileybury teams, one U14 and one U16, travelled to Barbados for a **Netball Tour** that provided outstanding opportunities for both sporting development and cultural enrichment.

Across eight competitive fixtures, the teams recorded seven wins, adapting superbly to the fast-paced and physical Bajan style of play. A particular highlight was an **inspiring coaching session with former Barbados National Coach Denise Alleyne**, which challenged the girls to refine their technical and tactical understanding.

Beyond the court, the girls also enjoyed a range of excursions that offered them a taste of Caribbean culture and some well-deserved sunshine during downtime. The girls were a credit to the School throughout and a truly brilliant group to take away.

SPORTS TOURS

Senior Boys Hockey Tour to Barcelona



Meanwhile, the senior boys' hockey squad travelled to **Barcelona for a three-night pre-season tour**, preparing for the term ahead with top-level training and invaluable match experience.

The team took part in several high-intensity training sessions at the prestigious Polo Club, honing skills and tactics under expert guidance. A highlight of the tour was a competitive fixture against local side Linia 22, played at a stadium originally used for the Olympic Games, where Haileybury secured an exciting 6-4 victory.

Away from the pitch, the group explored some of Barcelona's most iconic landmarks, including the Sagrada Familia, Olympic Park and the Gothic Quarter, making the most of the city's rich culture and atmosphere.

The tour provided the perfect start to the season and we look forward to seeing the squad build on their progress in the matches ahead.

Tennis at Haileybury

We are delighted to share that the **Legends Tennis Centre** has now **joined Haileybury**, further strengthening the role of tennis within our vibrant sporting community. The Centre's superb facilities include four indoor and four outdoor courts, all featuring a high-quality acrylic surface, similar to that used at the Australian Open. Pupils will therefore benefit from a true Grand Slam quality bounce as they train and compete.

Our **new Director of Tennis**, Francisco Ruiz Lopez, is driving the continued growth of tennis across the School, inspiring both increased participation and competitive success. He is now joined by the talented coaching team at Legends, bringing an exciting new depth of expertise and quality to our pupil tennis programme.

The tennis centre will also continue to have a community outlook, teaching the game to local children as well as housing an adult membership who play, train and compete locally as a club. Our goal is to both develop young players through the Legends community programme and attract young players into the School who will be able to compete internationally on the tennis stage.

Parents and members of our community who would like to use the tennis courts are also welcome, either as beginners or experienced players. Please contact Sheila Langley (s.langley@haileybury.com) for more information, or if your child would like to play more tennis, then please contact Fransisco (f.ruizlopez@haileybury.com).

We look forward to sharing more tennis news with you throughout the year.



A Legacy of Inspiration in the Arts



It was a privilege to welcome members of the **Thomas family** to Chapel, where they viewed the tablet honouring Jack Thomas and his enduring contribution to Haileybury. A much-loved teacher, Housemaster and passionate advocate for the arts, Jack's boundless enthusiasm, particularly for drama, has left an influence that continues to enrich School life today.

Through the Ayckbourn Theatre and the Mathews-Thomas Drama Award, Jack's legacy lives on, inspiring creativity, confidence and a lifelong appreciation of the performing arts within our community.



Coming Up

Saturday 10 January

- African Caribbean Society Fair, 7.00 pm
- *Grubber*
- Batten Parents Lunch, 12.30 pm, *Dining Hall*

Monday 12 January

- OHs Drinks Reception with the Master 7.00 pm, *Almaty, Kazakhstan*

Tuesday 13 January

- LS1 T&P Trip: Places of Worship, *Luton*
- LAMDA Showcase, 7.00 pm, *Ayckbourn Theatre*

Friday 16 January

- Wycombe Abbey MUN Conference, all day, *Wycombe Abbey*