

HAILEYBURY NEWS

12 December 2025



From the Master

It has been a pleasure to acknowledge and reward effort and achievement in Lists this week. Pupils have excelled in their studies and across the wide range of activities on offer, and many were invited to collect an award or were mentioned in reports and updates.

Whether or not their name was called in Lists, I have been impressed by our pupils' endeavour this term. They have worked hard and given their all. Haileybury works to high standards and we do challenge every pupil to aim high and be the best they can be. They have risen to that challenge and should feel proud of what they have achieved.

I hope you all enjoy a restful break and a merry Christmas.

Engage de Tait

Giving Week Success!



We are thrilled to share the news that thanks to the generosity of the community and the incredible fundraising efforts of our pupils, we have raised an outstanding £81,246 for Haileybury Youth Trust (HYT) and Hearts & Wings Holidays, exceeding our target of £75,000.

This remarkable achievement means that both projects are fully funded for the year and can continue their vital work: empowering young people in Uganda by providing skills and opportunities through HYT, and creating fun, inclusive holidays for children with disabilities through Hearts & Wings.

The dedication shown by our pupils, through bake sales, sports challenges and countless hours of enthusiasm and creativity, has played a key role in the success of this campaign. Their commitment, together with the generosity of the Haileybury community, ensures that our Community Outreach Projects can continue to transform lives locally and globally.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported this year's campaign and helped to make Giving Week such a success!

OH Oscar Piastri's Standout F1 Season

At Haileybury, we are filled with immense pride as we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of one of our own: Oscar Piastri (Kipling, 2020). As a Formula One driver, Oscar has reached the pinnacle of motorsport while embodying the values we strive to nurture in every Haileybury pupil.

Oscar joined us from Melbourne, boarding in Kipling House, where he quickly became known for his humility, composure and strong work ethic. His time at Haileybury was defined by a balanced commitment to academic and athletic pursuits, supported by an environment that helped him thrive on and off the track.

In 2025, Oscar delivered a season of near-flawless drives, securing multiple victories and finishing third in the Drivers' Championship. He was also awarded 'The Don Award', Australia's most prestigious sporting honour. His achievements have brought immense pride to the Haileybury community, reflecting excellence, integrity and the courage to chase one's dreams.

Oscar Piastri is not only a sporting icon but an inspiration to current and future Haileyburians. His story reminds us that with dedication, support and the right environment, remarkable things are possible. We look forward to celebrating his continued success on the world stage.



Photo credit: @McLaren



Celebrating 100 Years of Ossi di Seppia

On Saturday, we proudly concluded “**Time Capsule: Italian Poets – A Poem for the Future,**” a unique pupil-led initiative by Haileybury Italian Society honouring the centenary of Eugenio Montale’s Ossi di Seppia and its lasting influence on world literature.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Montale’s masterpiece, this time capsule will safeguard unpublished, secret, handwritten poems by 37 contemporary Italian poets, to be preserved for 100 years in the Haileybury Archives and to be opened in 2125. It is an invitation to speak to the future, leaving poetry as a gift for those yet to come.

We are deeply grateful for the patronage of the Italian Cultural Institute in London (IIC London), and the kind message of Dr Francesco Bongarrà, Director of the IIC, whose support highlights the cultural and educational value of the initiative.

Here’s to poetry that journeys beyond our time.



On Wednesday, pupils gathered in the Dining Hall to enjoy the much-loved traditional Christmas lunch. The Hall was transformed into a festive wonderland, sparkling with decorations and filled with the cheerful sounds of holiday music. Laughter and conversation echoed across the tables as pupils tucked into a delicious seasonal feast, sharing in the joy and camaraderie of the season. From festive crackers to cheerful songs and plenty of holiday cheer, it was a lovely Christmas celebration.



Festive Feast



London Christmas Carols

Last Friday, our annual Carols in London service at Holy Sepulchre, The National Musicians’ Church, was a truly memorable occasion. The church was filled with the beautiful sounds of our Schola Cantorum and Lower School Choir, complemented by thoughtful readings and the shared festive cheer of alumni, pupils, parents and staff.

It was a wonderful celebration of the season and a perfect opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues across the Haileybury community.



Christmas Carols in the Chapel: A Festive Celebration



This week, the Haileybury community came together in the Chapel for our much-loved Christmas Carol Services, a **true highlight of the festive season**. The air was filled with the joyful sounds of traditional and seasonal hymns, as well as favourite carols such as *Gaudete*, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*, and *Silent Night*.

Adding to the festive magic, B  renger (L6, Th), Andre (U6, Th), and Charlie (Tr, M) gave dazzling organ performances, playing works by Bach and Pachelbel that beautifully complemented the readings and choral pieces. The spirit of Christmas resonated throughout the services, creating memorable moments for pupils, families and staff.

These carol services offered a wonderfully moving and joyous celebration of music, community and the festive season at Haileybury.



We have been delighted to welcome Andre, our organ exchange student from Haileybury Melbourne, who is studying with us until the end of term. During his visit, he has been joined by some of our own talented organists—Charlie (Middles, Trevelyan) and B  renger (L6, Thomason) and together the group have visited the organs at Waltham Abbey Church and St Bride’s, Fleet Street. They also attended evensong and an organ recital at Westminster Abbey last Sunday and the highlight was a visit to St Paul’s Cathedral, where the Cathedral Organist showcased the full capabilities of the world-famous organ before giving each organist the incredible opportunity to play it themselves.

The experience provided a wonderful chance to share musical inspiration and celebrate the connections that unite our two schools through the joy of music.



A Shared Passion for Music



Batten House Gets Festive!



The Batten House boys kicked off the Christmas season in style by decking the House tree with decorations, lights and plenty of festive cheer. Their creativity and team spirit helped transform the common room into a sparkling celebration of the season, setting a joyful tone across the House.

With the tree twinkling and carols filling the air, excitement was building for the traditional Christmas lunch and the many festive activities still to come.

It was the perfect way to launch Haileybury’s seasonal celebrations and spread holiday cheer throughout the House!

*From all of us at Haileybury,
we wish you a joyful Christmas
and a happy, healthy New Year!*

Coming Up

- Friday 12 December
 - End of term, 1.30 pm
 - Mistletoe and Lanterns Ball, 7 pm, Dining Hall
- Saturday 13 December
 - VEX Competition, 10 am, SciTech
- Saturday 13 - Monday 15 December
 - Boys Pre-season Hockey Tour to Barcelona
- Sunday 14 - Sunday 21 December
 - Girls Netball Tour to Barbados
- Monday 5 January
 - Boarders return, by 8.30 pm
- Tuesday 6 January
 - All pupils return, by 8.10 am

