

HUTTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2024



South Ribble Sports Award
School of the year

KS3 Students Shine in the
Bebras Challenge

Hutton Sporting Success
Continues!

Sixth Form Update

Photo by L Hallows





Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of Hutton,

As Christmas approaches, it marks a significant time for us at Hutton Grammar School. This season provides the perfect opportunity to reflect on our core Christian value of Koinonia and how we live it out within our school and wider community.

The end of the year also invites us to look back on the achievements and successes of our students—not just during this term but across all of 2024. It has been my personal privilege to witness our students' growth, resilience, and accomplishments both in and beyond the classroom.

A hallmark of Hutton is the dedication and goodwill of our staff, who work tirelessly to provide a rich variety of opportunities for our students. From the competitive Inter-House University Challenge to the Warhammer Club and our thriving sporting activities, these opportunities exemplify our commitment to nurturing talents and interests. This term, we have also celebrated these gifts through events such as the Disco, Christmas Fair, services, concert, and certificate evenings.

We value the partnership we share with you as parents in supporting your child's education. Whether through practical assistance or contributions to the HGSA, your involvement is vital. I'd like to extend a special thanks to the HGSA for their exceptional fundraising efforts this year, which have greatly benefited our school.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at Hutton, I wish our students, families, and friends a joyful, restful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Warm regards,

Mr Christie, Deputy Head Teacher





Mr Aitchison and Mr Tynan collecting the school's award

Hutton Grammar School - Secondary School of the Year!

In the South Ribble Sports Awards 2024, Hutton has been awarded Secondary School of the Year. The awards, which were part of South Ribble Borough Council's 50th Anniversary celebrations, celebrate the success, passion and dedication to community sport and physical activity across South Ribble.

Axiom Maths Program - year 7 and sixth form work together

The Axiom Maths program has been running for most of this half term, giving some Year 7 pupils the chance to develop their understanding of the subject beyond the curriculum whilst fostering a real love and appreciation for the subject.

Each week, students belong to their "Maths Circle" to complete challenges and puzzles that don't always have an answer. It is to develop articulate, adventurous and accepting Mathematicians.

A big thank you to our sixth form mentors (Sam, Dan, Dan, Luke, Will, Finley and James) who help run and coordinate the sessions.



Cyber Defenders Course!

We are delighted to announce that 17 of our talented students have successfully completed the Cyber Defenders course, run by CyberFirst, a program from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

This intensive course provided our students with invaluable hands-on experience in cybersecurity. They tackled real-world challenges and developed key skills in ethical hacking, network defense, and digital forensics. By completing the course, our students gained a deeper understanding of the cybersecurity landscape and are now better equipped to pursue careers in this rapidly growing field.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work and determination throughout the program, and we look forward to seeing the impact they will make in the world of digital security.

Food Bank Donations

Thank you to all the families who helped support our Harvest appeal which was organised by Walton House. Donations, along with £237.50 collected through Scipay, were taken to Penwortham Food Bank by Mr Pemberton, Mrs Waddell, Mr Alty and some helpers from form 7F. Whether parents donated some food, toiletries or money, all will be put to great use in the local community.



Book Buzz

Year 7 Book Buzz were delivered to all Y7 students this term. Students have been challenged to read at least 5 Book Buzz books to collect a reading award.





University Challenge

The competition has been amazing so far this year with lots of fantastic effort from all the teams who have taken part.

The Y11 competition was won by Fleetwood only 5 points ahead of Hines!

So far we have had the play-off rounds in the sixth form contest with Walton (L6) and Hines (U6) eliminated.

KS3 Students Shine in the Bebras Challenge

All Key Stage 3 students recently participated in the Bebras Challenge, an exciting competition organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation and delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford. It is designed to develop computational thinking and problem-solving skills and encourages students to tackle a series of puzzles that test their abilities in logical reasoning, algorithms, and data analysis.

Throughout the event, students worked both independently and collaboratively to solve challenging problems, showcasing impressive teamwork and creativity. The Bebras Challenge is not only about competition but also about sparking a passion for computer science. It provided a fun and engaging way for students to explore the fundamentals of the subject while enhancing their critical thinking skills.

Several students achieved outstanding results, scoring well above average and demonstrating their growing confidence in the field. The challenge has been a fantastic opportunity for students to develop essential skills that will support their future studies and careers in technology.

Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and enthusiasm! The Bebras Challenge has proven to be a valuable experience, and we look forward to seeing how our students continue to grow in the world of computer science. Special mention to:
Best in school for their age group: Elijah M, Aiden S, Joshua S.

Gold awards for pupils who scored in the top 10% nationally and will be invited to participate in the Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC) Round 1:
Elijah M, Ollie S, Aymaan N, Jasper O, Aiden S, Dylan M, Henry R, Toby T, Harry T, Dev P, Jamie S, Dawson T, Elijah F, Joshua S.

8W raise over £100 for Cancer Research UK

Well done to form 8W who took it upon themselves to raise some money for Cancer Research UK. The students aimed to raise £100, which they achieved by organising a quiz and chocolate raffle. Thank you to Miss Wright who encouraged her form and helped with the organisation of everything.



Primary STEM club

Hutton Science Department are looking forward to welcoming the year 5's from St Stephen's Primary School for a half term to complete their Superstar Crest Award. Each week they will be carrying out different investigations to develop their science skills and knowledge.

As a school we work closely with the local primaries, in particular in our science department, giving pupils the chance to learn in a lab and work with equipment they may not have access to in their year 5 and 6 class rooms. It will be lovely to have the pupils from St Stephen's for the full half term and inspire them through the crest award.

South Ribble Bikeability

Well done to the 42 students across the school who have complete their bikeability level 3. The course, run in partnership with South Ribble, teaches pupils how to be safe, independent and confident on the road.



Year 9 Bikability participant

Celebration Assemblies

At the end of every term, we hold our celebration services to congratulate our students on all they have achieved. From positive points, subject awards and sporting half colours we are proud of how much our students are able to put into their school work and extra curricular activities. Thank you to our student leadership teams who helped with handing out the awards to the students .



Year 9



Year 11



Year 7

A photograph of several young male students in school uniforms sitting at a computer lab. They are looking at a computer monitor on the right side of the frame. The text 'Extra Curricular Spotlight...' is overlaid in a large, bold, yellow font across the middle of the image.

Extra Curricular Spotlight...

Code Club – A Thriving Start to the Year!

Since the start of the school year, our Code Club has been in full swing, and it's been an exciting journey of coding, creativity, and collaboration. Every Thursday afternoon, students have been coming together to explore the world of programming and work on a variety of engaging projects.

So far, we've covered a range of topics, catering to both beginners and more experienced coders. We've introduced students to the fundamentals of programming with languages like Python, JavaScript, and Scratch. Many students have already created their first interactive games, built simple websites, and even experimented with animations. Some have delved into more advanced challenges, including basic robotics and artificial intelligence concepts, sparking a lot of curiosity and enthusiasm.

The Code Club has proven to be a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their problem-solving skills while working on projects that they're passionate about. Whether it's building a game, designing a webpage, or simply exploring new ideas, students have had the chance to be creative, learn at their own pace, and collaborate with their peers.

Highlights of the Year So Far:

- **Game Development:** Many students have created their first simple games, learning about game loops, user input, and even animation.
- **Web Design:** Some have built their own personal websites, experimenting with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- **Robotics & AI Exploration:** We've introduced the basics of robotics and AI, sparking interest in the cutting-edge technologies shaping our future.

What's Next?

Looking ahead, we're planning even more exciting projects, including group challenges, coding competitions, and perhaps even a showcase event where students can present their work to the rest of the school. We'll continue to encourage creativity and problem-solving while helping students build the technical skills they'll need in their future careers.

Thank you to the Computer Science Department!

Christmas at Hutton



We have held some lovely events in the lead up to Christmas. Starting with our Christmas fair which raised over £2,000 for the HGSA.

Year 7 pupils had an enjoyable trip to Cinderella in Blackpool and our sixth form students took part in the annual Santa Dash for St Catherine's Hospice.

Our "wear something festive" non-uniform day raised almost £400 along with donations which will be taken to the local food bank.



Christmas Dinner - over 400 portions served!

As a school we wish to extend a huge thank you to our catering team. Mrs Parker and the team work so hard all year round and even more so to prepare and serve Christmas Dinner to staff and pupils. It's no easy task to serve so many hungry boys in 45 minutes, but the team achieved it brilliantly!





Christmas Service at St Andrews

For our Christmas Service, all students walked to St Andrew's in Longton together. Years 7, 8 and 9 filled the church on Thursday with years 10, 11, 12 and 13 doing the same on Friday.

Our school choir "The Hutton Collective" along with the school band provided the hymns. Mrs Watson brought the Christmas cheer with her Christmas wrapping game - who would have thought you could wrap a person in under 2 minutes!

Thank you to Rev. Sam, Piper, Alex and Katie for creating such a memorable festive service.



Hot Chocolate and Donuts

Thank you to our HGSA and Sixth Form helpers - student were greeted from their walk back to school after the Christmas Service with a donut and hot chocolate. The festive treats were very well received by all year groups!





Celebrating our GCSE and A level classes of 2024



GCSE Presentation Evening

Our GCSE class of 2024 returned to Hutton on Monday 2nd December to collect their GCSE certificate and awards. It was lovely to see some familiar faces and catch up with students and their families. A big thank you to former student Garth Dew who was the guest speaker for the evening.

Some honorable mentions include; Kayden who was the first student to receive the Janet Lavin Award for Reading which is in memory of our Librarian.

Luke was awarded the Bernie Bowker Prize for achievement in sport.

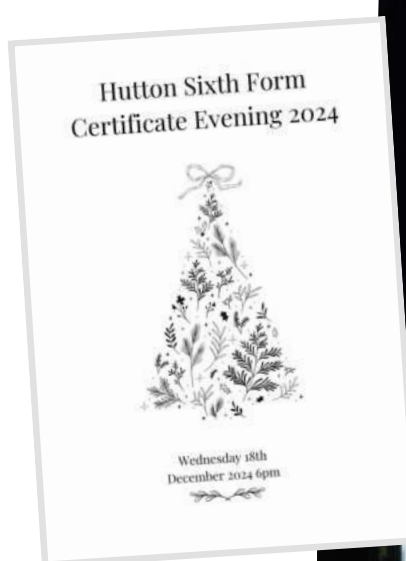
The Headteachers award was awarded to Taylor who received this from last year's winner Nathan.



A level Presentation Evening

Our A level class of 2024 reunited for Mr Hill's favorite night of the year - the A level Presentation Evening. It's exciting to catch up with the year group and find out what challenges they are taking on next. From degrees, apprenticeships, employment and gap years, our students are making the most the of opportunities available to them post 18.

Thank you to Sophie Cannon a former sixth former who joined us as our guest speaker.



HGS Sports News

RUGBY

This term we have enjoyed block fixtures against Birkenhead, Merchant Taylors, St Mary's Crosby, Scarisbrick and AKS on a Saturday morning. In the Lancashire Cup our Y9 team overcame AKS, Y11 beat Lytham High School and the First XV defeated Ripley St Thomas meaning all have progressed in the Lancashire Cup. At the time of writing Y10 have AKS to play to reach the next round. Y7 and Y8 have Lancashire Festivals at Preston Grasshoppers in the new year to look forward to.

FOOTBALL

Y10 and Y11 have both progressed in the Lancashire Cup with victories against Ormskirk and All Hallows and a selection of Y7 and Y8 students have enjoyed a football festival at Balshaws and Priory. There will be more football in the new year for all year groups with all teams in the South Ribble Cup.

BASKETBALL

Our U16 team had a strong start in the Lancashire Cup with a good victory against Armfield in Blackpool followed by a very narrow 2 point defeat to Corpus Christi losing 47-45 in what was a very entertaining game. They still have Broughton and Garstang to play and are in contention of reaching the Quarter Final stage.

BADMINTON

Both our U14 and U16 teams were crowned South Ribble Champions after going undefeated in all their games. Hutton is fast becoming a hotbed of talent in Badminton with lots of the boys eager to improve their game. As such we have started a Badminton and Table Tennis league with All Hallows for Y9-11 students for them to get regular competitive games. These have been played on a Tuesday from the end of November through December.

Year 7 Rugby Team



Year 10 Football Team



U16 Basketball Team



U14 & U16 Badminton Team



CROSS COUNTRY

Hutton U16 were South Ribble Champions with podium finishes for Mason G and Josh S. Our U14 team finished 2nd overall and our U12 team finished 2nd overall. The combined points total for the Boys meant Hutton finished in joint 1st place with All Hallows. A selection of Hutton Runners have been selected to run for the District in the new year in the Lancashire Cross Country Championship

ATHLETICS

Our U16 Athletics team were joint Boys South Ribble Champions with All Hallows having competed with all South Ribble Schools at UCLAN Sports Arena in early September. Podium finishes Results below:

Luke H - 400m - 1st place
Josh S - 800m - 1st place
Mason G - 1500m - 2nd place
Relay Team - 3rd place
Ben R - Discus - 1st place
Toby B - Javelin - 2nd place
Harry B - Shot - 2nd place
Oliver W - Long Jump - 2nd place
Josh S - Triple Jump - 1st Place

YEAR 10 YOUNG LEADERS

Year 10 GCSE PE students started their journey as young leaders in September as they refereed the Primary School Football across 3 weeks. They can look forward to leading in Volleyball, Swimming, Tag Rugby, Indoor Athletics and Cricket over the rest of the school year.

Thank you to our PE department who make our fixtures and extracurricular activities possible.

And thank you to all the parents who give up their time to support the students, and help with lifts and refreshments

U16 Cross Country Team



Top 3 U16 Cross Country



Athletics Podium



Hutton Sixth Form News



Our Culture of Debating big ideas Continues to Grow

With a new influx of year 12 students comes a desire to debate ideas affecting people in the UK. Already this year we have debated two important topics:

"There should be no limit to freedom of speech".

"This house believes everyone has the right to an assisted death".

In the new year we will debate "Cannabis should be legalised for personal use in the United Kingdom".



Our newest extracurricular - Knit and Natter

Thank you to Mrs Watson, Dr Penman and Miss Simpson for their work with our more needle-challenged students!

We have been celebrating getting to the end of a row without dropping a stitch!! There has been lots of crochet as well, including blankets, scarves, hats.



Creative Arts Trip to Manchester

Students from our Art, Photography, Music Technology and Design Technology A levels were invited to Manchester Metropolitan University. Students were able to try out the equipment and see what creative degrees are available once they finish sixth form.



Law workshop

Lower Sixth students met with Judge Jefferies for a law workshop to look at careers in law. This will be followed up by a visit to watch the judge in action at Preston Crown Court.

Over the past years we have had students from the sixth form go on to study Law at Lancaster University, Edge Hill and through degree apprenticeships with local solicitors.



Sixth Form Litter Pickers

Thanks to our lovely sixth form for helping to keep our local environment clean. Lots of litter picked was picked around the school and the nearby streets, once again some unusual items were found!

Our Geography and Biology Students regularly carry out conservation projects around Hutton and Longton.



The Annual Santa Dash Returns to Sixth Form

Our sixth formers brought back a traditional festive favourite - the Santa Dash! Students (and a few staff members!) donned the traditional red suits and took to the streets for a race in aid of St Catherine's Hospice. Cookies and hot chocolate awaited the runners at the end of their race. Well done to Tom who came in first place followed by Toby and Nathan.

We raised over £390 for St Catherin's Hospice.



Our Sixth Form Prom Committee are busy preparing for this year's Sixth Form Prom. The theme will be Casino Royale and we are looking forward to seeing Bartle Hall transformed into our very own casino.

A vibrant poster for a Casino Royale-themed prom. The central graphic features a slot machine with three reels, each displaying the number '7'. Above the slot machine are five playing cards: Ace of Clubs, Ace of Hearts, Ace of Spades, Ace of Diamonds, and a partially visible Ace of Hearts. The scene is surrounded by red and black casino chips, two red dice, and several gold stars. The background is a light gray with a subtle grid pattern. At the bottom, there are stacks of red and black chips on either side.

**HUTTON'S VERY OWN
CASINO ROYALE**

**THURSDAY 3RD APRIL 2025
BARTLE HALL, PR4 0HA
DOORS OPEN FROM 7PM**

Tickets available to
purchase on Scopay now.

£40



HUTTON STUDENT STORIES

Over the summer holidays the old honours boards were repaired and reinstalled into the main hall. After some research led by Clive Eckersley, an old boy of the school, we managed to track down one of the last names on the boards, John Bamford.

John attended the school from 1955 to 1962. He was highly academic and was fast tracked through the school gaining several O Levels and becoming 'First Boy In GCSE' in 1959. He was also Deputy Head Boy. He earned a scholarship to Cambridge University studying Natural Sciences with specialism in Chemistry.

After University he worked at ICI in their research department in the 1960s, then moved to work on a production site in 1970. Eventually he was involved with a management buyout with some colleagues of a specialist division of ICI called Victrex in 1993. Victrex produces a highly specialised plastics and has now become a hugely successful multinational company. It became a PLC in 1995.



On Friday 18 th October 2024 we managed to invite John to the school to see the boards. His schedule is normally very busy (he is Governor of Blackpool Victoria Hospital amongst other things) but he was delighted to see the boards back in their rightful location. He had a very pleasant chat with Mrs Moran where he gave insights into his school life and career. Mr McKeand then gave the Old Huttonians a guided tour of the school and it was remarked how little had actually changed since they left in the late 1950s!

They gave fascinating insights into school life back when they attended including stories about the Boarders, school discos, tuck shop excitement and cross-country runs down to the River Ribble. (Also for the few naughty pupils at the time, Saturday morning detentions!)



Left-Right John Bamford, Mrs Moran and Clive Eckersley (Old Huttonian and chief researcher of the boards. He also helped with the repairs to the boards)



Year 11 Applications for Hutton Sixth Form

Any year 11 students who intend to continue at Hutton Sixth Form will need to complete our online application form, this can be completed [here](#). Applications close at the end of February so the Christmas break is the perfect opportunity for students to apply. If any parents or students have any questions about our Sixth Form, they are welcome to chat with Mr Hill or Mr Hacking.



**Reach Higher with
Hutton Sixth Form**



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Well done to our year 10 DofE students who completed their practice expedition earlier this term. They are set to complete their Bronze award in May.

Our newest group in year 9 should have received their login details and can now begin to complete their volunteering, physical, and skills sections.

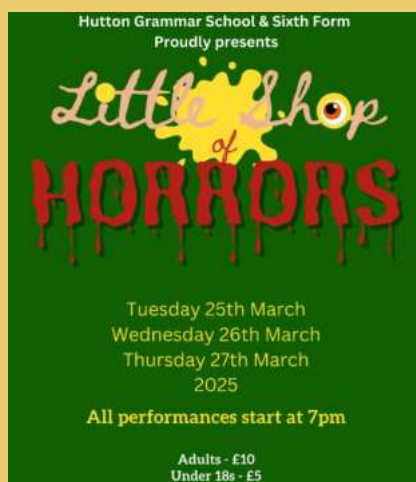
Thank you to Mr Young and the DofE volunteers who have give up their free time to make this possible for our students.

Homework Club

Homework club has flourished this year with over 130 students, an impressive 20% of main school students, having accessed it at lunchtimes so far this year.

We are open daily in M46 as a place for pupils to complete homework and access support if needed.

Little Shop of Horrors



Our next school production will be Little Shop of Horrors. Tickets will be available via ticket source in February for shows in March

Hutton Grammar Collective

Our school choir "the Hutton Grammar Collective" performed for the first time at St Andrew's Church in Longton



SPRING TERM DATES TO REMEMBER

January

- Monday 6th - Start of Spring Term
- Monday 13th - Friday 17th - Year 13 Internal Exams
- Friday 17th - Sunday 19th - Coldwell Music Trip
- Monday 20th - Friday 24th - Year 11 GCSE Food Practical Mocks
- Thursday 23rd - Year 11 Parents Evening
- Thursday 30th - Year 11 Study Skills Evening
- Friday 31st - Year 13 Mock Results Day

February

- Thursday 6th February - Sixth Form Parents Evening
- Friday 7th February - HGSA Sports Quiz
- Monday 10th - Friday 14th - Year 10 Work Experience
- Thursday 13th February - Year 8 Parents Evening
- Friday 14th - INSET Day
- 17th - 21st February - Half Term Break
- Monday 24th - Friday 7th March - Year 11 Mocks
- Tuesday 25th - Year 10 An Inspector Calls Trip

March

- Monday 10th - Friday 14th - Year 11 GCSE Food Practicals
- Wednesday 12th - Year 9 Options Evening
- Thursday 13th - Year 10 Parents Evening
- Monday 17th - Year 10 Blood Brothers Trip
- Thursday 20th - Year 9 Parents Evening
- Monday 24th - Monday 31st - Year Group Celebration Services

April

- Tuesday 1st - HGSA Easter Bingo
- Thursday 3rd - Year 7 Parents Evening
- Thursday 3rd - Easter Service (Years 10, 11, 12 & 13)
- Thursday 3rd - Sixth Form Prom at Bartle Hall
- Friday 4th - Easter Service (Years 7, 8 & 9)
- Friday 4th - Sixth Form Coursework Catch Up Day
- Monday 7th - Monday 21st - Easter Holiday
- Tuesday 22nd - Start of Summer Term



HGSA SPORTS QUIZ NIGHT



£30 TEAM ENTRY | MAX 6 PER TEAM

**LOCALLY BREWED DRAUGHT BEER
SOFT DRINKS AND SNACKS
PULLED PORK SANDWICHES**

**FRI
7
FEB**

6pm - 10pm
Hutton Grammar School
Dinning Room

Email d.tynan@huttongrammar.org to enter your team