

HUTTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025



Edinburgh Rugby Tour
School Council Update
STEM Plus Christmas Lectures
Christmas Celebrations

Photo by Mrs D Brown

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of Hutton,

As we come to the close of the Autumn term, I would like to thank you for the commitment, support and sense of shared purpose that continue to shape life at Hutton. Christmas is a time to pause, reflect and give thanks for the community we are part of, and for the values that guide us.

Our vision at Hutton Church of England Grammar School and Sixth Form is to nurture a Christian community underpinned by our core value of koinonia – the ability to live well together. This vision calls us to create an inclusive, calm and safe environment in which every individual is valued, supported and encouraged to flourish, both academically and personally.

The Christmas story itself speaks powerfully into this vision. It tells of God choosing to enter the world not in power or privilege, but in humility, connection and community. At its heart is a message of light, hope and belonging – a reminder that we are called to care for one another and to live with compassion, generosity and grace. These are the very principles that koinonia invites us to live by each day.

Throughout this term, we have seen many examples of koinonia in action: in the way students support one another, in the dedication and professionalism of our staff, and in the strong partnership we share with families and the wider community. In a world that can often feel divided, these moments of unity and shared responsibility are especially important. This newsletter shows some of the many wonderful moments in school, what it cannot do is to capture the little acts of kindness, the care that our pupils and students show for each other. From a cheery 'Good morning!' to holding a door open or inviting someone alone to join them – these things are what make Hutton such a special place.

As we look ahead to the year to come, we remain committed to our vision and to continuing to live well together as a school community, guided by our Christian values and a shared sense of purpose.

On behalf of everyone at Hutton, I wish you and your families a peaceful, joyful and blessed Christmas, and every good wish for the New Year.

Every blessing to you all,
Mrs N Moran

Headteacher Hutton Church of England
Grammar School and Sixth Form



Access to school during the school day

Parents, visitors and pupils requiring access to the school during school hours must now enter via the Old Memorial Gate (right hand side when looking at the school from Liverpool Road). There are designated visitor parking spaces on this side.

The gate on the other side is designated for deliveries only and cannot be opened by the school office.



School Council Update

The recent Full School Council meeting gave student representatives from all year groups the chance to share concerns and suggest ideas to improve school life.

Issues raised included toilet facilities, food availability and pricing, lunchtime queues, and muddy pathways. Students also suggested positive initiatives such as fundraising for new gym equipment and creating a student-led weekly newsletter.

Representatives will now gather wider feedback through House and Year Group Councils and return after February half term with clear proposals. Thank you to all students for their valuable contributions.





Y11 Edinburgh Rugby Tour

Back in November, the year 11 team travelled to Edinburgh for an action-packed rugby tour combining competitive sport and sightseeing.

On Friday, the boys faced George Watson's College, one of Scotland's strongest rugby schools. Hutton made an outstanding start, dominating the first 20 minutes and racing into a 0-19 lead. However, a lapse in intensity allowed the opposition back into the game, and by half-time the score had swung to 21-19. George Watson's brought on stronger players in the second half and eventually ran out 63-19 winners. Despite the result, the boys remained positive, showing excellent sportsmanship by sharing lunch with the opposition after the match.

Saturday afternoon was spent exploring Edinburgh's city centre. The team walked along Princes Street, took in views of the Old Town and Edinburgh Castle, and enjoyed the Christmas markets.

The tour concluded on Sunday with a visit to Murrayfield Stadium to watch Scotland take on Tonga. It was a fantastic experience and a fitting end to the weekend.

Special awards went to Oscar E as Best Tourist, and Oliver H, who was named Player of the Match.



Year 11 excel at “Alpprentice” Mega Day – Second Place Success!

Our Year 11 students recently took part in an exciting and future-focused “Alpprentice” challenge, where they stepped into the shoes of AI entrepreneurs for the day. Hosted at a local further education hub, the event brought together young people from a range of schools to tackle real-world problems using cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence tools and creative thinking.

Throughout the day, students worked in teams to design their own AI-powered solution that addressed an industry-set challenge. After a fast-paced introduction to AI and its impact on businesses and society, teams toured the college’s facilities, met current students, and gained an insight into the growing opportunities within the digital and technology sectors.

The core of the day focused on ideation, collaboration, and innovation. Students developed their concepts using digital tools, refined their pitches, and prepared for a high-energy “Dragon’s Den” style showdown in front of a panel of industry, education, and local representatives. The judging panel were impressed by the students’ confidence, creativity, and ability to think critically under pressure.

We are delighted to share that our students finished 2nd place overall, an outstanding achievement considering the high standard of entries. Judges praised their strong teamwork, entrepreneurial mindset, and well-thought-out presentation.

Beyond competition success, the event offered valuable opportunities for personal growth. Students developed skills in communication, digital literacy, creativity, resilience and problem-solving, while gaining insight into post-16 study routes and future careers in the rapidly evolving tech sector.



A Brilliant Day for Hutton Cross-Country

Hutton's cross-country squads produced a fantastic set of results on Saturday, showing determination, resilience, and outstanding team spirit throughout the day.

The Year 7 team set the tone early, led by a superb 1st-place finish from Louis Bilsborrow, supported by strong runs from Ted Proctor, James Wynn and Will Proctor. Our Year 8/9 boys followed this with another excellent showing, including a top-three finish from Gabe Sardais and impressive positions from the whole squad.

In the South Ribble U16 Championships, Hutton's runners continued the momentum. Strong performances from Samir F (11th), Ethan P (12th), Jasper K (14th) and Ethan W (17th) secured the team 3rd place in a highly competitive field.

Across the age groups, Hutton finished:

- U12s – 2nd
- U14s – 2nd
- U16s – 3rd

These results meant Hutton claimed a superb 2nd place overall in the boys' competition.

A huge well done to every runner – not just for the results, but for the way they supported each other throughout the day. A real display of Hutton character.



Ethan represents Lancashire Schools Football

Well done to Ethan P, who has been selected to represent Lancashire Schools Football for the second time. Ethan came through a highly competitive selection process, taking part in several trials involving over 250 players. He has also been named team captain, which is a tremendous honour and reflects his leadership and commitment.



This is a significant achievement for Ethan, who works exceptionally hard in his sport and continues to excel at a high level.

Primary Schools Quiz Night By Anton B STEM Leader, (Year 12)

As part of our school's outreach and enrichment programme, we hosted a Primary Schools Quiz Night, welcoming pupils from several local primary schools along with their parents and teachers. The event aimed to provide an engaging and enjoyable evening while encouraging teamwork, problem-solving, and enthusiasm for learning.

The quiz night consisted of a variety of rounds, including both written questions and practical challenges. One of the highlights was the practical activity rounds, such as an egg-drop challenge, which tested students' creativity and problem-solving skills. In addition, there was a dedicated parents' round, allowing parents to take part and adding a fun, competitive element to the evening.

The event was supported by Sixth Form students, who designed and delivered the quiz rounds, helped run the practical activities, and assisted with refreshments throughout the evening. Their involvement played a key role in ensuring the event ran smoothly and provided a welcoming experience for all participants.

Throughout the evening, there was a lively and positive atmosphere, with refreshments available for students and parents between rounds. The night concluded with the announcement of the winning team, with Cop Lane CE Primary School taking first place. All participants were congratulated for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and effort.

Overall, the Primary Schools Quiz Night was a successful and enjoyable event that strengthened links with local primary schools and provided a memorable experience for students, families, and staff.

Christmas Concert

A huge thank you to all the pupils who took part in the Christmas Concert. We've had great feedback from the parents and families who were in attendance.

Thank you to Mrs Massey and Mr Pemberton who work so hard putting on extra curricular activities and planning events like these.



Sold out!

HGSA News

We are incredibly grateful for the continued and wide-ranging support of the HGSA, whose commitment to our school community has made a real and visible difference throughout the year. Their work goes far beyond fundraising alone, helping to create opportunities for our boys, strengthen community links, and ensure that the profile of our school is proudly represented across the wider area.

This term alone, the HGSA has supported the school through its presence at local Christmas markets, alongside the organisation of two discos, the Christmas Fair, refreshments at events such as cross-country fixtures and primary school sporting opportunities. When we refer to the HGSA, we mean not just an organisation, but the dedicated staff, volunteers and parents who generously give their time, energy and enthusiasm to support school life in so many ways.

These are just a few examples of the new and evolving ways in which the HGSA has supported the school this year. Their commitment, creativity and willingness to step forward whenever help is needed is hugely appreciated by staff and students alike, and we are incredibly thankful for everything they continue to do for our school community.

Mr Christie (Deputy Head)



The Christmas Fair



Penwortham Christmas Market

Thank you for your continued support!



Celebration Assemblies

We celebrated the end of the term with our traditional celebration assemblies. Students from all year groups gathered in the main hall, where, led by their respective Heads of Year, they came together to honor achievements across various areas— from positive points and subject prizes to sporting accolades and other noteworthy accomplishments throughout the school year.



Gold Silver and Bronze Awards

As a new initiative, we are celebrating the top positive points winners in each year group. The top three students (Gold winners) enjoyed a trip to Arcade Club in Blackpool, before being joined by the next three (Silver winners) for a celebratory brunch at Hickory's in Hutton. The top nine students (Gold, Silver and Bronze) in each year group were also entered into a prize draw to win an Amazon voucher.

Well done to all our winners - their hard work and commitment have been well deserved and recognised.

As we look ahead to next term, the points system will be reset, giving every student a fresh opportunity to work towards Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. We look forward to seeing students continue to demonstrate the positive behaviours, effort, and values that are recognised and rewarded within our school community.



GCSE and A Level Presentation Evenings

As always, we celebrated the success of our GCSE and A Level Class of 2025. It was wonderful to welcome everyone back to school to collect their exam certificates, along with subject prizes, sporting cups, and Headteacher awards. Our guest speakers, Mr Archie Urey (GCSE) and Dr Peter Williams (A Level), spoke to the year groups about their experiences at school, in Sixth Form, and in life beyond.

Thank you to all the families who attended and helped make the occasion so special.



Our 2025 Headboys, Ben, Jack and Anton



Our 2025 Sixth Form Leadership Team with Mr Hill and Miss Yule



If anyone still needs to collect their certificates, please contact m.greenall@huttongrammar.co.uk to arrange collection.

Christmas Dinner

Thank you to our catering team for providing an amazing Christmas lunch for both staff and students. Mrs Langfield and her team worked incredibly hard to create a truly festive experience, from the delicious Christmas lunch to the popular festive ciabattas. Their effort and dedication were greatly appreciated by everyone.



Church Service at St Andrews

The whole school walked down to St Andrew's for our Christmas service. It was a lovely event, and we are very grateful to the clergy for making us feel so welcome, as always. A big thank you goes to The Hutton Collective for their beautiful singing. The pupils behaved impeccably and sang wonderfully throughout the service.

Our annual Christmas game involved dressing up as form tutors as Christmas trees (Mr Browne, right)



Hutton Sixth Form News



Santa Dash for St Catherine's Hospice

Hutton Sixth Form students kicked off the festive season by donning their Santa suits for the annual Santa Dash in support of St Catherine's Hospice. Organised by Miss Yule, the event saw students race around the school grounds before returning gifts to the Sixth Form, raising over £500 for the charity.

Our winning team, Sam, Oscar, James, Eddie and Charlie



Spectroscopy in a Suitcase Kit

Our Year 12 and 13 chemistry students had the chance to explore the practical side of their A level course when Lancaster University visited with their Spectroscopy in a Suitcase kit.

A huge thank you to Lancaster University for giving our sixth formers such an engaging experience that will help to reinforce their theory work.





Natural Hazards conference Manchester

In November A Level geography students attended the Natural Hazards Conference in Manchester. They were able to experience a dynamic and inspiring deep dive into the world of volcanoes, earthquakes, and plate tectonics. Featuring talks from leading experts, the conference was able to bring our Edexcel curriculum to life.



Street Pastors Inspire Year 12 with Message of Compassion

Year 12 students were inspired by a visit from the Preston Street Pastors, who shared how compassion guides their work supporting vulnerable people on the city's streets. They spoke about helping the homeless, supporting those on nights out, and making a difference through small acts of kindness, such as providing flip-flops, hot drinks, and taxi fares.

The team also offered practical advice on staying safe during nights out. It was an engaging and uplifting session, and thanks go to Paul and his team for sharing their experiences.



Politics Student Published on National Platform

Taylor T (Yr 13) has had an article published on LabourList. Which can be viewed [here](#).

It's an incredible achievement to have his writing featured on a national platform at his age (or any!). The piece is super thoughtful, clear and well written. A great achievement and one he should be really proud of.

Christams Tree Competition

Our Sixth Form form groups took part in a Christmas tree competition. Well done to Walton, who won with their fantastic tree made from donations for the food bank. Thank you to everyone across Sixth Form for all your effort and creativity.



Christmas Quiz

A huge thank you to our Sixth Form Council for organising the Christmas Quiz. It was a fantastic event, and special thanks go to Tyler and Jacob for all their hard work and effort

Consultation on proposed changes to our admissions

Hutton Church of England Grammar School and Sixth Form is launching a consultation period to change our admissions number from 149 to 128. This affects the admissions policy for the 2027-2028 intake onwards. A six week consultation period from 10th December 2025 to 21st January 2026 has commenced.

The proposed changes aim to secure the future of Hutton as the demographic changes within the area.

This consultation is in line with the requirements of the codes and relevant admissions legislation, which at the date of this Agreement is section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended, and Regulations under that section, Academy Trust Determination of Admission Arrangements.

If you would like to submit a comment, please email:

admissions@huttongrammar.co.uk and include the subject line of 'Admissions Consultation'.

All responses received will be considered by the Governing Body once the consultation has closed on 21st January.

Wear Something Festive fund raiser

£367 was raised on our Wear Something Festive Day towards outside drinking water facilities, plus we received lots of donations for the Food Bank, which was kindly delivered by Mrs Watson along with Sixth Form Volunteers.

Sixth Form Entry for September 2026

Any one wishing to apply for Hutton Sixth Form should complete the application on our website [here](#)

100 Skips a Day Challenge

Well done to Elliot C (yr8), who completed 100 skips per day in October and raised over £200 for Cancer Research UK in the process.

Term Dates for 2026-27

Our term dates for the next academic year are available now via our website [here](#).

Old Huttonian Association



The Old Huttonian Legacy (inaugural) Award

As the membership of the association grows so too does its relevance and presence in school with a number of initiatives being supported by 'Old Huttonians' and one such recent event was the annual prize giving ceremony held at the school. The Old Huttonian Association Committee are proud to have participated by the giving of a unique and inaugural 'Legacy Award' which will now be awarded annually.

A person's legacy is the enduring impact that they leave on the world and the memories they create in others, which can include material possessions like money or other property, or intangible things like values, knowledge and wisdom. It is the sum of their life's actions and the mark that they make on the hearts and minds of those around them, which can intentionally be built through conscious choices.

The Old Huttonian Legacy Award is presented to the student, who in the opinion of the teaching staff, has created such a legacy securing a lasting impact here at Hutton Grammar School and in doing so, has reflected and, reinforced the values of the school. Indeed, it is someone whose personal goals, actions, decisions and words have made a significant contribution and a positive difference to the lives of others here at Hutton.

The recipient of the 2025 award has represented the school at every event possible and has served the school well throughout his time at Hutton as an exemplary role model and head boy. He has also represented the school at sports events and as an individual, competed at a national level and I trust will continue to not only uphold the traditions of Hutton Grammar School but continue the history of the Old Huttonian Association for many years to come.

The Association President Mr. John Lucas was pleased to present the award to Ben R. Congratulations Ben! (Ben received an engraved glass trophy, a framed certificate and an Amazon Voucher).



“Continuing the History”

Old Huttonian Association



Remembering Jim Marsh

The 'Old Huttonian Association' and the school community were saddened to learn of the passing of former teacher Jim Marsh who died on 9th November 2025 aged 82. Jim was Head of History at Hutton and 'Housemaster' of Rawstorne and is fondly remembered by students he taught during his time at the school. He had been ill for a while.



His funeral took place at West Lancashire Crematorium, on Friday 5th December 2025 and celebrated further at Hillside Golf Club where Jim was a keen member. There was a good turnout from Old Huttonians including a significant number of former teaching staff. His son Andrew and daughter Sarah led the remembrance of their dad with some wonderful memories shared.

Our thoughts are with them and all his family and friends at this time.

Rest in Peace Jim and thank you for your service.



“Continuing the History”



**Hutton
Sixth
Form**

STEM Plus Christmas Lectures 2025

4th, 11th and 17th December 2025



STEM Plus at Hutton Sixth Form

The STEM Plus programme at Hutton Sixth Form gives students the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics far beyond the classroom and examination syllabus. Designed to inspire curiosity and ambition, the programme helps students discover the breadth of opportunities available within STEM-related pathways.

Students can choose to take on a variety of roles within STEM Plus. Some become STEM ambassadors and leaders, representing the programme and helping to promote STEM across the school, while others enjoy supporting younger pupils through lower school and primary outreach events. These experiences help develop confidence, leadership skills and a strong sense of responsibility.

Every STEM Plus student is also paired with an industry mentor, providing invaluable guidance on university applications, apprenticeships and future employment. In addition, our Year 12 work experience programme offers hands-on placements within industry, allowing students to gain real-world experience and insight into STEM careers.

Together, these opportunities ensure that STEM Plus students are well prepared, well informed and ready to take their next steps beyond Hutton Sixth Form.

Programme Benefits

Personalised STEM Mentors

Receive one to one guidance from industry professionals who inspire and support your STEM ambitions.

Christmas Lectures

Take part in sessions led by top scientists, engineers, and innovators from academia and industry.

STEM Conference Day

Join exciting talks and workshops exploring the latest STEM developments and innovations.

Work Experience Placements

Gain valuable, hands-on experience in STEM related industries to enhance your skills and future prospects.

Primary Liaison

Inspire younger pupils through primary school STEM lessons, developing your leadership and communication skills.

Christmas Lectures 2025

We were privileged to host three external speakers from the world of STEM as part of the Hutton Sixth Form Christmas Lectures 2025. These sessions offered our GCSE and A Level students valuable insights into the wide range of opportunities available within STEM. This is only the beginning. Many more events are planned as part of our STEM Plus programme throughout the year.

Members of the group have written reports on the lectures.



Formula One: STEM, Sport or Business? With James Allison - Technical Director, Mercedes AMG PETRONAS F1 Team

Thursday 4th December 2025

Written by Anton B, Year 12, Hutton Sixth Form STEM Leader

As part of our STEM enrichment programme, we welcomed James Allison, Technical Director of the Mercedes Formula One Team, who delivered an engaging lecture on how Formula One functions and the careers that support the sport.



James began by explaining that Formula One operates through three key organisations. The FIA acts as the governing body, creating and enforcing regulations. The Formula One Group manages the commercial side of the sport, including promotion, broadcasting, and race events. Finally, the teams design, build, and race the cars, operating as large organisations that combine engineering excellence with business management. Teams receive funding through a variety of income streams, including sponsorship, prize money, and commercial revenue, with budgets often reaching hundreds of millions of pounds.



He then discussed the range of careers within Formula One, highlighting the importance of business and commercial roles in maintaining sponsor relationships, managing finances, and ensuring long-term competitiveness.



A key part of the lecture focused on aerodynamic development and idea progression. James explained that an aerodynamicist may propose an idea which is first reviewed by the team. If it is not promising, it is discarded. If approved, it is tested using a supercomputer, and only successful results progress to the wind tunnel, where the same evaluation process applies. Although physical testing is heavily restricted, teams can use AI-based simulation, which is often more effective than human judgement and allows ideas to be tested without the same limitations.



James concluded by emphasising the importance of team spirit and collaboration, explaining that strong communication and trust across the team are essential for success in Formula One. Overall, the lecture was informative and inspiring, providing a clear insight into the sport as both a technological and business-driven industry.

The Incredible Hulk. Going Green in the Modern World With Dr John McNally CEO Project One (INEOS)

Thursday 11th December 2025

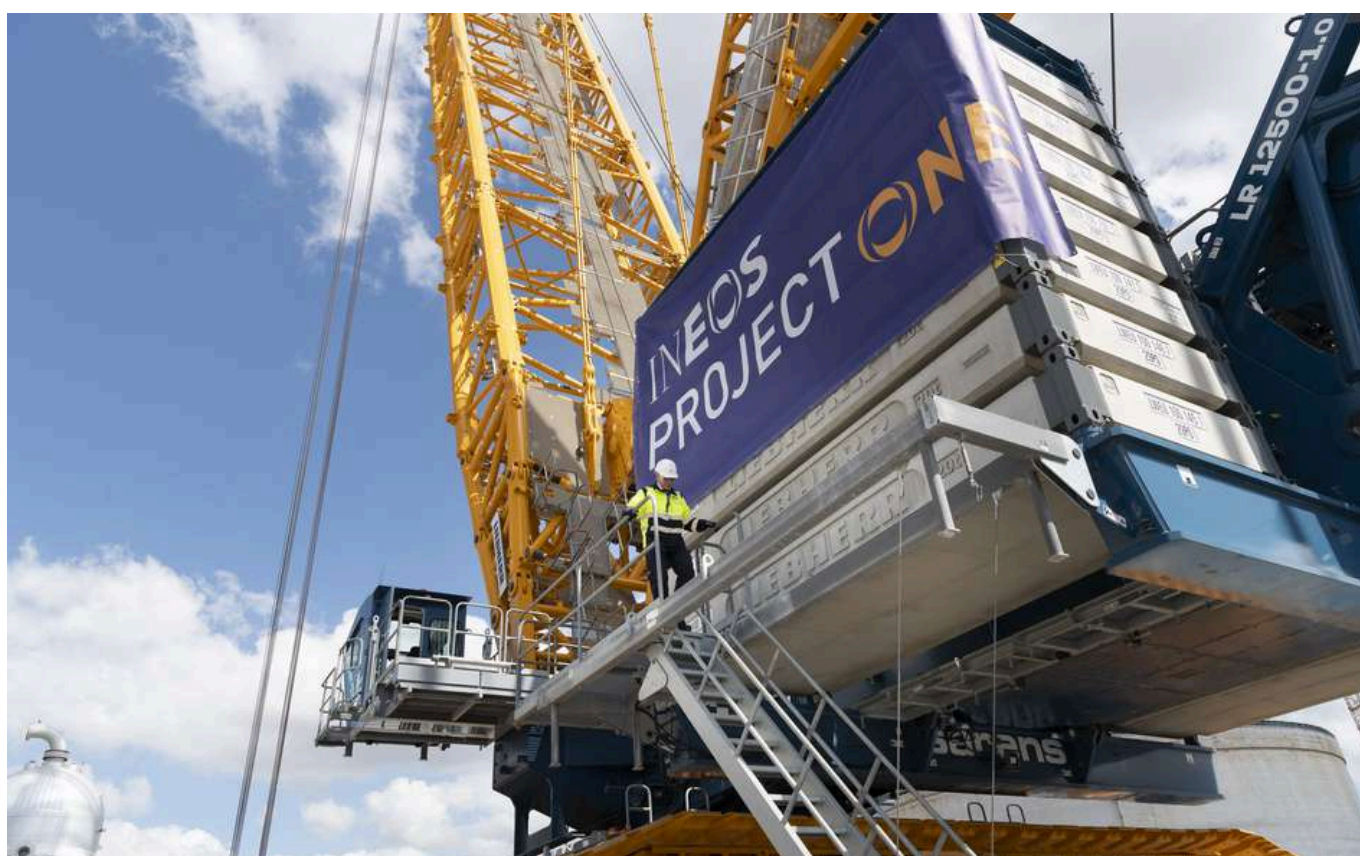
Written by Monica P, Year 13, Hutton Sixth Form STEM Ambassador

This week, we welcomed guest speaker Dr John McNally, who spoke about his work at Project One, currently the only project in Europe focused on cracking ethane sustainably. The talk offered insight into an advanced industrial development that aims to balance progress with environmental responsibility.

Dr McNally described how the project site is being built and outlined the many challenges involved in its development. In particular, he discussed the political challenges surrounding the transportation of materials. One major problem he spoke about was choosing between shipping goods through the Red Sea, which carries the risk of sinking due to political instability in the area, or taking a significantly longer and more expensive route around it. This highlighted how global politics can directly impact large-scale engineering projects.

Dr McNally also spoke about the widespread use of plastics and their importance in everyday life, from medical equipment to packaging, construction and household items. He emphasised that while plastics are often criticised for their environmental impacts, they remain essential to society. This reality, underlines the urgent need to produce Ethene — a core component in plastic manufacturing — more sustainably.

Overall, the talk was incredibly thought-provoking, giving us a clearer understanding of both the difficulty involved in developing sustainable solutions and the importance of innovation to meet future environmental challenges.

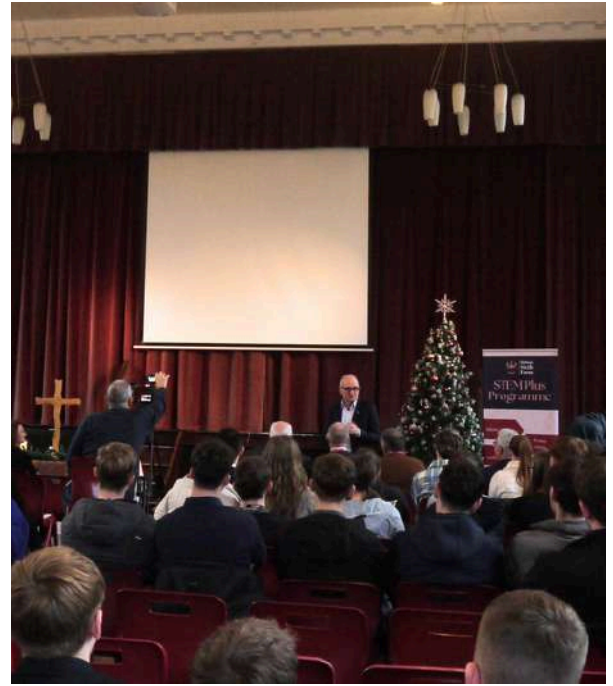


Ghosting gas and oil: it's more complicated than that. We still need energy and things. With Dr Peter Williams, Group Technology Director & Head of Investor Relations, INEOS

Wednesday 17th December 2025

Written by Eleanor A and Molly W-B, Year 12, Hutton Sixth Form STEM Ambassadors

On Wednesday the 17th of December, Hutton was privileged to hold the last of our Christmas Lecture series, 'Ghosting Gas and Oil: it's more complicated than that.', delivered by none other than Dr. Peter Williams.



Throughout the lecture, Dr. Williams talked us through the challenges faced with expectations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions whilst also meeting ever increasing demands for energy. The lecture provided interesting food for thought regarding sustainability within energy production as Dr Williams talked us through INEOS's steps to capture carbon dioxide and store it in previous oil sites deep in the North Sea. Dr Williams also explained how often governments and larger organisations tend to make it seem like we must do all or nothing and change all our energy sources to renewables, however we need to do everything in conjunction in order to ensure that energy sources will be sustainable and reliable for the future energy demand.

We also heard some interesting examples of recycling; such as using beards from muscles to spin synthetic fibres to make insulation boards! Dr Peter Williams made sure that the lecture was informative, listening to many queries from students and staff so that everyone understood his information.

On behalf of everyone at Hutton, we'd like to give a big thanks to Dr Peter Williams for this amazing opportunity and chance to learn about STEM outside of our curriculums!

