



HUGH SEXEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

TOGETHER WE BELIEVE; TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE



WEEKLY UPDATE

CORE VALUE: THANKFULNESS

AUTUMN TERM - ISSUE 6

16TH OCTOBER 2026

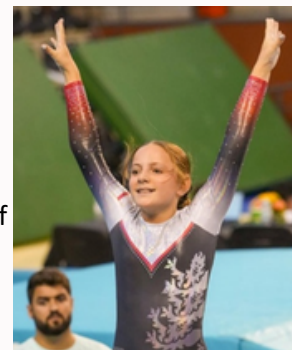
Dear Parents/Carers

What a privilege it is to work in a job where no two weeks (sometimes days) are ever quite the same and where the breadth of opportunity, experience and achievement continually reminds me this is the best job in the world! This week has offered a particularly wonderful illustration of that variety. It is not often that the daily responsibilities of a headteacher include the opportunity to shake hands with an international trampolinist, while also coaching a football team to tournament glory! Yet these are precisely the moments that make school life here so rewarding, distinctive and full of possibility.



Well done to our year six boys footballers who were crowned tournament champions, securing the gold medal competing against a field of ten Somerset schools. Their success speaks not only to their talent and determination, but also to their teamwork, resilience and commitment to one another. They represented our school superbly, and I could not be prouder of them. The next round sees them up against regional opposition on January 22nd. Well done also to our girls football team who despite not coming away with the Silverware, they showed some excellent team spirit and were complimented on their exemplary behaviour. Goal of the tournament was also credited to Lottie S.

Staying on the sporting theme, Massive Congratulations to Amber in year eight, who, whilst competing for England last weekend secured an amazing 8th position from over 100 competitors at the European Championships in Portugal. Her success included a new personal best in one of her amazingly complex routines. Despite being hugely talented and elite in her sport, Amber is the most humble, polite and considerate young person; we are so proud of her; a genuine first-class role model to others.



Also, beyond the classroom this week, the year six rivers trip provided a valuable opportunity to bring curriculum knowledge to life through practical experience, exploration and discovery and our year eight pupils benefited from the careers fair at Kings of Wessex on Wednesday, broadening their horizons, engaging with different pathways and beginning to consider the many possibilities that lie ahead of them. These experiences are so important to nurture curiosity, build confidence and help our pupils develop an understanding of the wider world and their place within it. I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside colleagues who make these opportunities possible, and to lead a school community in which ambition, participation and personal growth are so evident. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. It has been another week full of energy, achievement and opportunity, and one that provides plenty of reasons to feel proud of our pupils, our staff and our school community.

Christmas Trees

I am delighted that the Friends of Hugh Sexey (FOHS) will be hosting their inaugural Christmas Fair on **Saturday November 28th November**. On sale during the day will be Christmas trees of varying sizes. In order to help them gauge the quantity of stock to pre-order, it would be most helpful if families who are considering buying their tree from FOHS this year could indicate their intention via response to the form below.

[Christmas Tree Purchase on Saturday November 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Matt Drew

CALENDAR 2026

October

- 19th Y5 Clive Pig Visit - Victorians
- 19th Y6 House Matches (P1 & P2) Arrive in PE Kit, change after.
- 19th KS2 Rocksteady Lessons - prebooked
- 20th Y7 Airbus Trip 1
- 21st A2L Reports Home to Parents/Carers via MCAS
- 21st Y7/Y8 Rugby Tournament @ Tor Rugby Club (4pm Start)
- 22nd Y7 House Matches (P1 & P2) Arrive in PE kit, change after.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Please keep an eye on the website for updates

- **Sports Leaders Cancelled 21st Oct & 4th Nov**
- **Singing Club Wednesday 21st Oct afterschool cancelled due to staff absence**
- **Thursday 22nd Oct KS3 Hockey Club - Due to a fixture**

[After School Clubs & Activities](#)

As part of our commitment to develop responsible, thoughtful pupils, who support their communities, we will be collecting donations for Cheddar Valley Foodbank.

Foodbanks provide vital support to local individuals and families, who may be experiencing difficult times. We would welcome donations of the following items:

- Tinned food: baked beans, soup, vegetables, fruit, meat and fish
- Cupboard essentials: pasta, rice, cereal, pasta sauces and instant mashed potato
- Drinks: tea, coffee and UHT long-life milk
- Treats: biscuits, snack bars, jam and tinned puddings
- Toiletries: soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Household essentials: toilet rolls and other everyday necessities

Please ensure that all food donations are unopened and within their use-by dates. Fresh, chilled and frozen items cannot be accepted.

Donations can be made in the corridor by reception. Pupils can place their items in their house colour box. Each pupil in the house that collects the most items will receive 2 house points, going towards the overall total. Every donation, however small, can make a real difference.

Donations will be accepted by Friday 6th November and the items will be delivered to Cheddar Food Bank in the week commencing **Monday 9th November**.

Thank you for helping us support our local community.

HSMS SUPERSTARS

TRAMPOLINING

Congratulations to Amber in Year 8 who recently represented England in trampolining, she competed against 15 countries and came a very respectable 10th out of 95 competitors.

An amazing achievement, well done.



KINGS OF WESSEX - CAREERS EVENT

Our Year 8 students had a fantastic opportunity to attend a Careers Event at Kings, where they met and spoke with a wide range of professionals from different industries. Representatives from organisations including NatWest, Thatchers, EDF, the NHS, and many others were on hand to share their experiences, career journeys, and insights into the world of work.

Students were fully immersed in the event and engaged enthusiastically in meaningful conversations with employers and industry professionals. They asked thoughtful questions, explored different career pathways, and gained a better understanding of the skills and qualifications needed for a variety of roles. It was encouraging to see so many students showing curiosity, confidence, and ambition as they discussed their future aspirations.

Students will bring home a reflection sheet to help them think about what they learned from the experience. We would love families to use this as a discussion point at home, talking together about the careers that interested them most, the skills employers value, and the opportunities that may inspire their future choices.

This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons and begin making connections between their education and the exciting possibilities that lie ahead. We are grateful to all the employers and professionals who gave their time to support and inspire our young people.



FIXTURES - RESULTS

HOCKEY

Year 7 Hockey v Wells Blue

The Year 7 hockey team enjoyed a fantastic first fixture against Wells Blue, with many of the girls representing the school for the very first time. It was a closely contested and evenly matched game, with possession moving back and forth throughout as both teams worked hard to create opportunities.

There were some lovely attacking runs and passages of play on display. The match also highlighted some key areas for development, particularly using the width of the pitch more effectively and ensuring players are in the correct positions to support attacking play. With many girls experiencing unfamiliar positions, it was great to be able to rotate the squad and give everyone the opportunity to develop their understanding of different roles within the team.

After a hard-fought contest, the final score was 1-0, thanks to a fantastic run and finish from Poppy. Special congratulations also go to Ruby in Year 8, who did an excellent job stepping up to referee the match.

Player of the Match: Mabel

Well done to all the girls for their enthusiasm, effort and determination in such a positive first outing for the school.

CROSS COUNTRY

Huge congratulations to our Year 8 girls who took part in the Cross Country event at Kings College, Taunton, on Monday. Competing against 49 runners in their race and tackling a challenging 2300m course, the girls produced some outstanding performances. Special congratulations go to Tilly, who finished 6th, Flossy in 9th place, Bea in 12th, and Freya in 36th. This was a fantastic effort from all involved, and the girls represented the school brilliantly with their determination and resilience. Thank you also to parents and carers for their continued support. Well done, girls!



UPCOMING SPORTS FIXTURES

- **Wednesday 21st October** - Y7/Y8 Rugby Tournament @ Tor Rugby Club (4pm Start)
- **Thursday 22nd October** - Y7/Y8 Hockey v Fairlands @ Kings of Wessex

Fixture selections are sent out to Parents/Carers via MCAS and can be found under the messages tab, please complete the consent form as soon as possible via the link provided in the message.

Y6 ASHFORD WATER TREATMENT CENTRE VISIT

This week, year 6 students visited Ashford Water Treatment Centre as part of their Humanities topic on Rivers and Mountains. They had a tour of the treatment centre, took part in a workshop with the Wessex Water staff and despite the very low water levels, were able to visit the river to explore some of the river features that they have been learning about in lessons. Well done to all of the students for their exemplary behaviour and thank you to the staff who helped to support the visit.



NEW AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

A poster for the LAMDA Speech and Drama club. At the top, it says 'LAMDA' in large letters, with 'DRAMA • CONFIDENCE • CREATIVITY • OPPORTUNITY' underneath. The main title is 'SPEECH AND DRAMA' in large, bold letters, with 'WITH SYLVIE-ANNE KENNEDY' below it. On the right, there is a crest with the motto 'TOGETHER WE BELIEVE. TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE.' and a spotlight shining on two drama masks. On the left, there is a red curtain. At the bottom, there are four icons: a calendar, a clock, a location pin, and a group of people. Below these icons, it says 'STARTING MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER FOR 6 WEEKS', '3.50PM - 4.50PM', 'PICK UP FROM THE LOOP', and 'OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS'. At the very bottom, it says 'If you are interested in joining the workshops, please speak to Miss Keep, who will add your name to the club list.'

SPEECH & DRAMA LESSONS AT HUGH SEXEY

Could your child benefit from greater confidence, stronger communication skills, and a creative outlet they genuinely enjoy?

We are thrilled to announce that we are now offering **tuition in Acting, Recital and Public speaking** for all years at Hugh Sexey. These classes are an exciting opportunity for pupils to develop their communication skills in a fun, supportive environment where every child can thrive.

With **small groups of no more than four pupils**, each child receives plenty of individual attention and tailored coaching. Whether they're naturally outgoing or need a little encouragement to find their voice, our classes help build confidence, communication skills, and collaboration.

Choose from three exciting courses:

- **Acting** – Develop performance skills, creativity, and characterisation.
- **Speaking in Public** – Build confidence in presenting ideas clearly and effectively.
- **Speaking Verse & Prose** – Explore poetry and literature while developing expressive reading and interpretation skills.

Children work towards **internationally recognised LAMDA qualifications**, gaining valuable experience that benefits them not only in school, but they can take with them on their educational journey and beyond into interviews, work and everyday life. These qualifications have the same structure as instrumental grades, with Grades 6-8 gaining UCAS points. For further information please visit <https://www.lamda.ac.uk/lamda-exams>

Course Details

- Weekly 30 minute sessions. Classes rotate through the school day
- Term length: **10 sessions**
- Cost: **£10 per session** Total cost: **£100 per term**

Whether your child loves performing or simply wants to grow in confidence, these lessons provide a welcoming space to learn, develop and shine.

Places are limited to ensure every student benefits from personalised tuition, so early booking is recommended. If you'd like to find out more or reserve a place for your child, simply email sylviannekennedy@gmail.com. I'd be delighted to answer any questions and help you choose the course that's right for them.

I look forward to welcoming your child and helping them discover the confidence to express themselves with skill and enthusiasm.

Kind Regards

Sylvie-Anne Kennedy

PE KIT - AUTUMN TERM

As the weather gets cooler, pupils are reminded that they may wear leggings or tracksuit bottoms for PE lessons. Please note that tights are not permitted as part of the PE kit.

Pupils are also welcome to wear additional layers underneath their PE kit to keep warm; however, their school rugby top or PE jumper must remain the outermost layer and be visible at all times.

Thank you for your support in ensuring pupils arrive prepared for PE lessons.

Changes to games lessons:

After half term:

- **Boys** will begin **hockey** and must bring **shin pads and a gum shield**.
- **Girls** will begin **rugby** and will need **boots and a gum shield**.

Thank you for your support in ensuring pupils have the correct equipment for PE lessons.

RAGS2RICHES

It's time to clear out your wardrobe over the Half Term holiday and donate any unwanted clothing, shoes, bedding and accessories to our Rags2 Riches collection. Our next collection is on Friday 13th November.

Please deliver your items in a black bin bag or tied plastic bag to our main reception by Thursday 12th November.

No school uniform please, please donate this to the preloved shop.

[What We Collect- Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools](#)



Year 5 Virtual Judaism Visit

On Thursday, year 5 had a virtual visit from Iris Segall, a member of the Bristol and West Progressive Jewish Congregation, as part of their inquiry about Judaism in RPE. Iris spoke to the students about how she practises her religion to help bring their classroom learning to life. She was very impressed with how keen the students were to share their knowledge and the questions that they asked.

Thank you to Iris for giving up her time to speak with us and for sharing her recipe for Challah (attached to this newsletter), the plaited bread eaten on Shabbat (pronounced Hallah), in case students wanted to try some baking at home!



The online application window for places in Year 9 for September 2026 opens on **Monday 14th September 2026**.

To apply for your child's place next phase of education please apply via the link below

Somerset Council - School Admissions - https://emsonline.somerset.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

For further information please follow the link below

[Starting at a secondary or upper school in September 2027](#)

The application window closes on **31st October 2026**

FRIENDS OF HUGH SEXEY SCHOOL



CHRISTMAS TREES

Come and grab your tree
AT THE CHRISTMAS FAIR!

Support Hugh Sexey C of E Middle School to enrich our children's school experience

5/6ft £45	6/7ft £55	7/8ft £65
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FREE mulled wine or hot chocolate with every tree purchased

Local delivery available upon request for a charge.

Saturday 28th November 2026
10.30am – 2pm

Hugh Sexey C of E Middle School, Blackford, Wedmore, BS28 4ND



CHRISTMAS FAIR

EXTERNAL STALLS | FESTIVE FOOD | CHRISTMAS TREES | CRAFTS AND MORE!

SAURDAY 28th NOVEMBER
10.30am – 2pm

Hugh Sexey C of E Middle School
Blackford, Wedmore, BS28 4ND
W3W: ///prospered.quoted.fault

A fun, festive event for the whole community!

Support your local school

NEXT WEEK IN
PICTURE NEWS

HSMS VALUES IN ACTION @ HOME
WB 19TH OCTOBER 2026



Should age decide what we're allowed to do?

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Eleven-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan from London has become the youngest person ever to earn the woman grandmaster title in chess. She achieved this while playing for England at an international competition in Uzbekistan. Bodhana said she was happy with her achievement and wanted to keep making history.

Things to talk about at home ...

- How do you think adults might feel competing against someone much younger than them?
- What could you teach someone older than you?
- Should age decide what we're allowed to do?
- When might an age limit be fair?

Invitation prayer

Dear God,
Thank You for giving us different gifts and abilities.
Help us to listen to others, use our gifts wisely,
and have the courage to make a difference.
May we encourage one another and make sure
everyone has a chance to be heard.
Amen.

HSMS Christian Value and Virtue next week: Thankfulness & Service

Bible Link: 1 Samuel 3:10

British Value and Protected Characteristic: Democracy / Mutual Respect & Tolerance & Sex

UN Rights of the Child: #2 No discrimination