

HARINGTON LINK





Welcome

Life is a series of hellos and goodbyes, and as this academic year draws to a close, we find ourselves preparing to say goodbye to our current Year 13 cohort. While they may be remembered as a quiet year group, they are certainly one that got things done — after all, actions speak louder than words.

We would like to extend special thanks to our Head Students, George and Hannah, for their incredible speech at Open Evening; Laura for organising the very first Harington Autumn Ball; Sam for his work on the Year Book; Nanditha, Sadhbh and Charlotte for their commitment as part of the Performing Arts team; alongside the GreenPower Team, Young Enterprise Team, and everyone else who has given so much of their time and energy over the last 18 months. You truly make it a pleasure to come to work every day. We wish you all the very best of luck in your A Level examinations and hope you enjoy a long and well-earned summer once they are completed.

In this term's edition of The Harington Link, you can read about the recent Spanish trip to Málaga, our latest world record attempt, the continuing progress of our Young Enterprise team, and a recent life drawing workshop. You'll also find reports from our visit to see Hamlet at the Royal Shakespeare Company, along with visits from The Oddballs Foundation, Charlie's Promise, Leicestershire Fire Service, and Tolethorpe Youth Drama. Finally, we introduce our new student leadership team and share the latest update on the Harington expansion project.

This really is a jam-packed edition — we hope you enjoy reading it.

Oliver Teasel
Head of School





Spanish Trip to Málaga

Our A Level Spanish students have recently returned from an unforgettable 5-day immersive adventure in Málaga! From living with warm and welcoming host families to tasting delicious traditional dishes (including the unmissable churros con chocolate), every moment was a cultural feast. We wandered through the stunning Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba, sipped fragrant Moorish tea in an authentic tetería, and put our Spanish skills to the test in Málaga's vibrant food market. The trip finished with a burst of creativity at the Pompidou Centre of Contemporary Art, where students explored bold ideas and opened their minds to new perspectives. We came back inspired, energised... and already wishing we could go again!





Team Record Breakers

In 2018, Harington School students set a Guinness World Record with the fastest toilet, and it still remains.

A group of Year 12 students are now aiming to break the fastest wheelbarrow world record (55.12 mph).

They are looking for sponsors to help make this official record attempt happen.

Want to be part of it? Email recordbreakers@haringtonschool.com



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Trade Fair

Well done to our Young Enterprise teams who represented the school at the local trade fair with their businesses, Cover Up and Bubble Up. They showed great confidence, creativity and teamwork, with fantastic feedback from mystery shoppers. A special well done to Cover Up for winning the Best Customer Service award!



Young Enterprise

We are proud to introduce Bubble Up, one of this year's Young Enterprise teams. Bubble Up has created a fun and creative craft kit that allows children to design their own colourful bubble art gift cards. Their aim is to encourage young children to step away from screens and enjoy a hands-on, imaginative activity instead. We are excited to support their journey and see their business grow.





Alumnus spotlight Harvey Hester 2019-2021

From Chemistry to Finance Success

We are delighted to feature Harvey Hester, a Harington School alumnus who, after a gap year in Edinburgh, graduated from the University of York this summer with a First-Class degree in Economics and Finance. He chose this subject after initially applying for Chemistry.

During his time at York, Harvey combined academic excellence with leadership in student finance. As Director of Competitions for the Investment & Finance Society, he mentored over 120 students through stock pitch challenges such as the UBS Stock Competition, SEHF in Atlanta, and the Oxford Alpha Fund. In the latter, his team reached the final with an in-depth valuation of Teekay Tankers. He also served as Head of Cloud Computing and Software at York's Student Investor Fund, managing a team of eight analysts and leading successful pitches on tech companies such as CrowdStrike and Palantir. Outside competitions, Harvey helped create and lead the Career26 Finance Summit, now the UK's largest student finance conference. He sold over 650 tickets, secured top industry speakers, and chaired a panel on "Finding Your Passion" in finance. He also undertook a six-week internship with EMS in Operations in 2022. This autumn, he will begin an 18-month Commercial Graduate Programme with Vp plc, rotating through operations, audit, sales, and accounting in four- to eight-week placements across the UK.

Reflecting on his journey, Harvey says:

"Taking the time for a gap year helped me discover my passion for economics, and switching from my initial degree choice of Chemistry was one of the best decisions I've made. I'm thrilled to apply everything I've learned, including competitions, modelling, and organising events, to my new role in September."



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Life Drawing Workshop

Our A level Art, Craft and Design students attended a life drawing workshop with visiting artist Scott Bridgwood.

Scott is a full-time professional artist. He graduated from Chelsea College of Art in 1992. After exhibiting in and around London, he emigrated to Rome, Italy where he lived and worked as an artist for ten years. It was there that he discovered his passion for figurative art. He now lives in Leicester where he still works as an artist and teaches Life Drawing and Portraiture at Attenborough Arts in Leicester. He is a member of the 'Leicester Society of Artists'.

As this was the students' first-time life drawing Scott guided them through a series of studies using a range of drawing techniques including drawing shadows, negative space and opposing curves. This artwork supports the work students are doing for their A level qualification and will be particularly useful for those students wishing to apply for foundation and degree courses in Art and Design subjects.

The workshop was an excellent opportunity for our students to broaden their portfolio and gain knowledge from a professional practitioner. The students were a credit to Harington in the way they conducted themselves and the work they produced.





Hamlet Trip to the Royal Shakespeare Company

Our Year 12 A level English Literature students recently attended a powerful performance of Hamlet by the Royal Shakespeare Company in Nottingham. The production was truly captivating, with a striking set design inspired by the Titanic, symbolising how a “rotten state” and corrupt society are doomed from the very beginning. A thought-provoking and memorable experience for all involved!



The Oddballs Foundation

Nottingham Trent University's The OddBalls Foundation representative, Cieran Barry, visited Harington to raise awareness about testicular cancer. Speaking to Year 12, he stressed the importance of self-checks and early diagnosis, as young men are most at risk. Cieran also highlighted ways students can support fundraising efforts. It was great to see Harington students engaged in such an important talk, taking in vital health advice that could save lives.



International Youth Maths Challenge

The International Youth Maths Challenge is a global mathematics competition featuring three challenging rounds and attracting students from more than 140 countries. It gives participants the opportunity to apply their maths skills to interesting problems and explore topics beyond the school curriculum. Year 12 student, Chiara scored an impressive 26 points in the final round, placing her in the top 5% of all entrants worldwide. This is a fantastic achievement and we are incredibly proud of her!



Student Leadership Team 2026

"I am delighted to announce our Head Students and Deputy Head Students for Harington School 2026. We had a large number of applications this year which made our decision even more challenging.

All applicants completed a one-minute video and took part in an interview.

Congratulations to Samantha and Iva who have been appointed as Head Students together with George and Chloe as Deputy Head Students. I am sure they will make an excellent team."

Oliver Teasel, Head of School



Tolethorpe Youth Crama Visit

Recently Tolethorpe Youth Drama visited School to hold a workshop with our Year 12 and 13 students. This was extremely well received, with a number of students getting their first taste of YouthTheatre. Thank you to the Tolethorpe team for giving us this opportunity.



Charlie's Promise

We had the privilege of welcoming Martin Cosser, who came in to speak to us about the powerful work he is leading through Charlie's Promise.

After the tragic loss of his son to knife crime, Martin has shown incredible strength and courage by turning heartbreak into action. Through Charlie's Promise, he is dedicated to educating young people about the devastating consequences of carrying knives and the life-saving importance of speaking up.

His message was clear and impactful: carrying a knife does not make you safer. By challenging knife culture and reporting concerns, we can prevent further tragedy and stop lives from being lost unnecessarily.

Thank you, Martin, for sharing your story so openly and for the vital work you continue to do in making our communities safer.



Road Safety

With many Year 12 students starting driving lessons and some already passing their tests, congratulations to them. Now is a good time to focus on road safety. Thank you to Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service for visiting the school and highlighting the "Fatal Four": using a mobile phone while driving, driving under the influence of drink or drugs, not wearing a seatbelt, and speeding. Students also took part in an immersive 360° virtual reality experience to reinforce these important messages.



Engineering Apprenticeship



We recently welcomed back Alumni Felix, who is completing an apprenticeship with Airbus. Felix spoke about his route into the role, the steps he took during the application process, and what helped him stand out. He also shared practical advice for students preparing to apply for apprenticeships.



Supporting Our Community's Future: Expanding Harington School to Meet Demand for Sixth-Form Places

Since opening in 2015, Harington School has provided outstanding A-level education for local students, with 80%+ securing their first-choice university and 97% of parents recommending us. Demand for places now far exceeds our current 150-student capacity.

This success and the increase in the population locally has resulted in significantly increased demand for places which we are unable to meet. In September 2025, we received 360 applications for 150 places, and we are seeing the same level of interest again this year. Our largest and closest feeder school, Catmose College, is also expanding, which will result in an additional 30 students becoming eligible to apply next year. We therefore anticipate even greater pressure on places in the years ahead.

We're proposing to increase admissions to 200 students per year so more local young people can access high-quality sixth-form education.





MAY 2026

- Thursday 7** Year 13 afternoon tea
Thursday 8 Year 13 study leave
Friday 22 Term 5. School closes

JUNE 2026

- Monday 1** Term 6. School opens
Monday 1-10 Year 12 mock exams
Friday 19-21 Year 12 Sheringham trip
Thursday 25 Year 13 formal

JULY 2026

- Friday 3** Year 12 sports day
Friday 10 Term 6. School closes
Tuesday 14-17 Year 12 Gold DofE qualifying expedition
Tuesday 28 Year 13 Malaysia expedition
-11 August

SEPTEMBER 2026

- Thursday 3** Term 1. School opens



Illustration: Anna Tring, Alumni



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