

HOULTON AUTUMN NEWS 2022



HOULTON
SCHOOL



Welcome from the Principal

Dear Houlton family,

I can't quite believe we've already reached the end of our first half-term! The time seems to have flown by since our new Year 7 cohort joined us, doubling both our pupil and staff populations over night.

New pupils and colleagues alike have settled in wonderfully well and there is definitely a renewed energy around campus that is a joy to see.

You will have seen that we recently released this year's unparalleled co-curricular opportunities for your child(ren) to enjoy: from clubs and activities before, during and after school to the exciting enrichment week residential visits that have proven so popular. I'd like to publicly thank staff for volunteering their time to plan and run

these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities in their own time that would otherwise simply not happen. Enrichment brings our Houlton Family to life and I'm incredibly proud to see so much on offer.

Vice Principal Buckenham and I are, of course, looking forward to judging this year's Hallowe'en college challenge when we return from half-term; meanwhile, please enjoy a restful and happy break together.

Principal Michael McCulley

Year 7 Transition

It has been an absolute pleasure welcoming our new Year 7 cohort to Houlton School this year. We have been so proud of how much courage they have shown as they transitioned to Houlton School. Our Year 8 pupils have acted with superb integrity and maturity in supporting our new pupils to feel welcome and safe and it is wonderful to see both year groups working together so collaboratively.

We launched the term with a fantastic day with Year 7, as part of our 'Secondary Ready' Young Warrior Day. This allowed Year 7 to get to know their college and start to develop the vital LORIC (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Independence, and Communication) skills that are integral to all aspects of the curriculum. Pupils engaged in a number of problem solving and team building activities and were introduced to our five character values of Kindness, Loyalty, Tenacity, Excellence and Courage. Our Character Curriculum will continue this work and we look forward to our upcoming Community Kindness Projects which all colleges will be launching after half term.



By Miss Chloe Buckenham,
Vice Principal

V&A INNOVATE

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

[Watch now](#)

V&A Innovate Challenge 2023

Mr Hill recently spoke at the annual teachers' conference at the V&A, providing insight into the process of offering V&A Innovate Challenge opportunity to the entire pupil population of Houlton School. Houlton School is the only school in the UK to offer every pupil the chance to take part over the course of an entire school day.

V&A Innovate is an annual National Schools Challenge, asking students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to work in teams of between 4 – 6 to design a solution to a real-world problem.

The V&A are asking students to work in teams to follow a human-centred

design process and respond to one of the three challenge themes inspired by V&A collections:

Adapt: How might we adapt the world around us? How might we adapt everyday items, buildings and spaces to make them more inclusive of people's needs?

Care: How might we create objects that care? How might we create environments that show or provide care for others?

Disrupt: How might we use design to introduce new perspectives on issues we care about? How might we challenge stereotypes through design?

Students submit their ideas on two A3 design sheets and finalist teams are invited to pitch their ideas to our expert judges at our annual Pitching and Awards Day at the museum.

"I am so excited to be able to offer this opportunity to our pupils and hope to build on last year's success. It is a real pleasure to witness our pupils tackling real world problems, using their creativity and problem-solving skills through independent teamwork."

By Mr Russell Hill,
Subject Leader: Creative

Staying safe online


Just how safe are we online? What are the common issues and pitfalls people fall into online? What exactly is the difference between the internet and the World Wide Web?

This term, Houlton computer scientists have started to delve into these questions by uncovering the best ways to create a new password; looking into some of the dangers in replying to unknown emails; the history of when the internet first became an idea and what we need to access the World Wide Web.

Year 7 have done exceptionally well with the concept of the internet; how vast it is and how old. Year 8 have also taken to their new topic exceedingly well, showing some amazing prior knowledge and a willingness to discuss ideas and concepts.

I look forward to next term where we will expand on these topics further and start to look at the effects of social media.

By Mr Matthew Cresswell-Peters, Subject Team Leader: Computer Science



A reminder for Year 7 pupils. Your username and password for Edulink and signing into the computers is:

your username (Y22 + surname + first letter of first name).

The login for Google suites e.g., Gmail and Classrooms is:

your username + @houltonschool.org.uk

The password for all of these will be the same password you set in school.

Robots come to Houlton

Coding and robotics are changing our world. Design & Technology at Houlton School aims to be at the forefront of exploring how coding, programming and robotics can fit into the modern world.

Over the next term, all Year 8 pupils will begin their coding journey by programming electronics as part of the current Big Question; Should We Sleep in The Dark? Alongside this, pupils attending D&T Club as part of the extra-curricular offering will gain first-hand experience of what robots are capable of.

STEM education is an important part of our curriculum as it teaches young people the building blocks of how to think and problem solve. STEM-based products surround us all and as people interact more with machines it becomes more important for us to understand how they work.

We aim for all pupils to gain hands on experience with this technology to inspire their own curiosity and build confidence navigating new and emerging technologies.

By Mr Russell Hill, Subject Team Leader: Creative

Robotics Quiz:

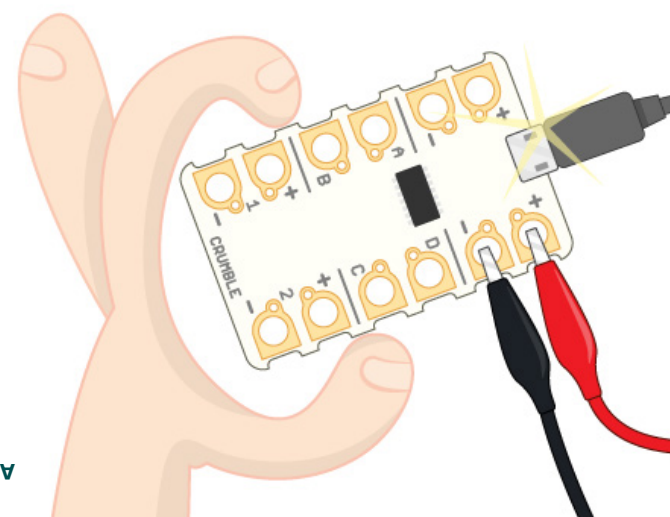
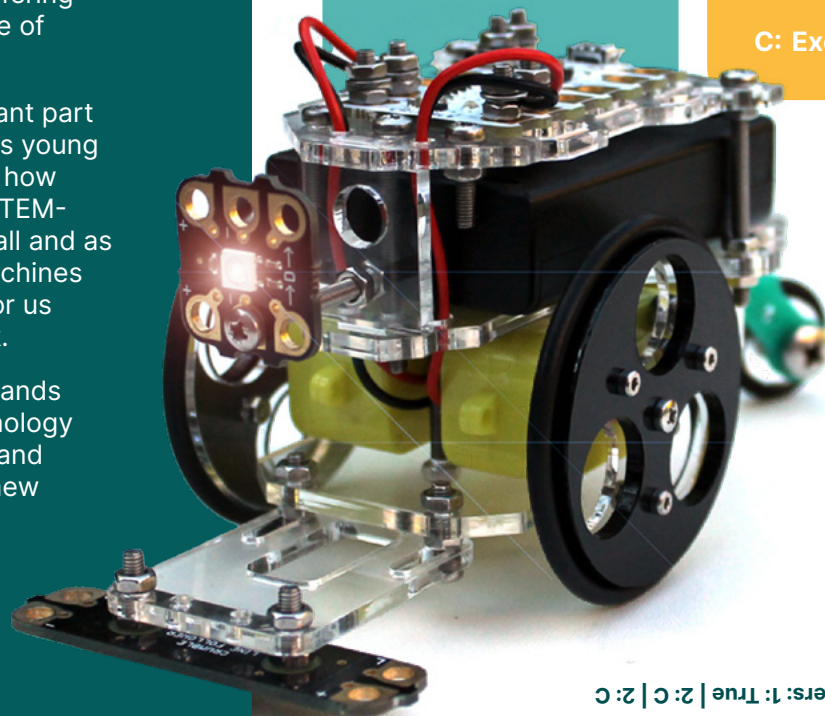
1. True or False? – Does a robot come from the Czech word 'robota', which means 'forced work of labour.'

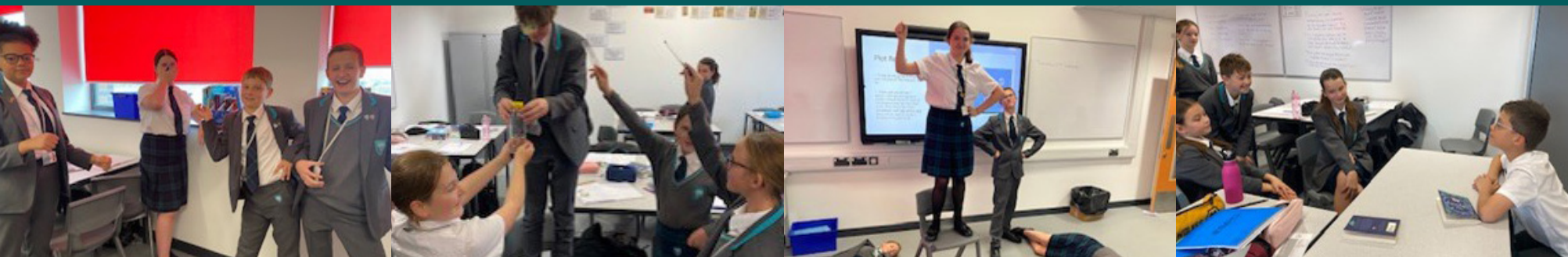
2. Name the rigid external covering for the body in some invertebrate animals but also robots

- A: Endoskeleton
- B: Armour
- C: Exoskeleton

3. In robotics, what is meant by an Android?

- A: A software program used to control a robot
- B: A type of operating system
- C: A robot with human like appearance





English and Acting

This half-term, through studying Ele Fountain's novel, *Boy 87*, our Year 7 pupils have been learning about the global refugee crisis. Through this work, the Year 7s have explored ideas about power, otherness and the adversity faced by millions of refugees around the world.

Throughout this topic, pupils have been improving their oracy skills through debate and discussion around big issues like race, gender, and dehumanisation. They have also been expanding their knowledge of the modern world by reading articles for homework surrounding the refugee crisis.

Year 8 have been diving into the world of Greek Mythology and reading Geraldine McCaughrean's modern adaptation of Homer's *The Odyssey*. Pupils have been improving their literacy skills through exploring vocabulary, that they will need for KS4, when studying *Macbeth* and other GCSE texts, such as 'hubris'. To aid their understanding, Year 8 also brought *The Odyssey* to life, through the creation of freeze-frames showing their knowledge of each Chapter.

To provide continuity within their learning, the Acting curriculum mirrors the pupils' English studies. In Year 7, pupils have had the opportunity to develop their understanding of characterisation and explore what it is like to empathise with those directly affected by the refugee crisis. Year 8, meanwhile, have begun studying Ancient Greek theatre through the play *Antigone*. More specifically, they have engaged in chorus work, looking at the concept of unison and how masks can be used within a performance.

By Mrs Shelley Parkin, Teacher of English and Acting

Further Reading:

If your child is enjoying learning about this topic, Ele Fountain has written three other books, 'Lost,' 'Melt' and 'Fake,' or for Year 8 your child could try the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan, which can be bought online, or found in the library.

What is Geography?



Year 7 pupils are exploring the Big Question: What is Geography?

Pupils have been investigating a vast range of geographical topics including, continental drift theory, income inequality in England, contrasting countries and regions in England. The purpose of this is for pupils to experience what Geography covers and to explore Geography's importance in their world. Pupils have completed world class work, developing their Geography knowledge and skills.

Our Year 8 Geography pupils have been exploring the Big Question: What are the threats to the biosphere?

Pupils have investigated the distribution of biomes and factors which influence this. Pupils have researched biodiversity hotspots in the Horn of Africa and South China, helping them to understand the importance of biodiversity and endemic species. Pupils have discussed the threats to the biosphere including logging, urbanisation, cattle ranching, and mining.

Ultimately, pupils are working together in teams to practice oracy, the ability to speak like a geographer. At the end of the half-term students will present their presentations to the class, developing their linguistic and body language skills, to develop their oracy skills and develop into a world class orator.

Example slide from Anna Z, Year 8

By Mr Chris Youmans, Subject Team Leader: Geography

Exploring Roman artefacts

Year 7 historians got the chance to get hands on with History this half term, when they explored Roman artefacts in their lessons. As part of their big question, focusing on what Rugby was like during Roman occupation, they handled artefacts from the local Roman settlement of Tripontium.

The students explored how life changed from a military relay station, into a Roman settlement, and even got to handle a 2,000-year-old Roman tile. We also explored parts of the Dunsmore Plain, investigating whether the school field could have been the final battle ground of Boudicca. Having the opportunity to bring the past to life in the classroom

is one of the key principles of the History department and we look forward to offering more opportunities in the coming months.

October is also Black History Month. As a department, we aim to embed opportunities to study the History of the world through different perspectives throughout the year, not just the month of October.

By Mr Jamie Abbott, Head of Faculty: Humanities (History)

[To find out more, visit this link](#)



Welcome to Sparx!

This term we have launched a brand-new homework system in maths, Sparx. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised maths homework. Houlton pupils have been working on Sparx over the last few weeks completing homework tasks, games and independent learning.

Sparx has been learning about the pupils' strengths and will be able to create personalised homework to support and challenge them.

Pupils have been amazing on Sparx so far and have been completing additional target work and XP boost to level them up.

In both Year 7 & Year 8, we have had some pupils already level up: (Achieving a huge 10,000 XP points!)

- Luca 8M Level 4
- Andras 8M Level 3
- Loic 8M Level 2
- Erin 7W Level 2

- Maja 8W Level 1
- Callum 8W Level 1
- Oskar 8S Level 1
- Katherine 8M Level 1
- Ella 8M Level 1
- Harry 8O Level 1
- Waseem 7S Level 1
- Alex 7S Level 1

By Miss Jasmine Etheridge, Head of Faculty: Maths and Numeracy

The ranking for each college now stands as follows:



1st
Morse
206,474 XP



2nd
Winton
156,825 XP



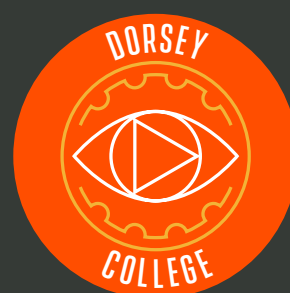
3rd
Shakespeare
115,395 XP



4th
Armstrong
88,601XP

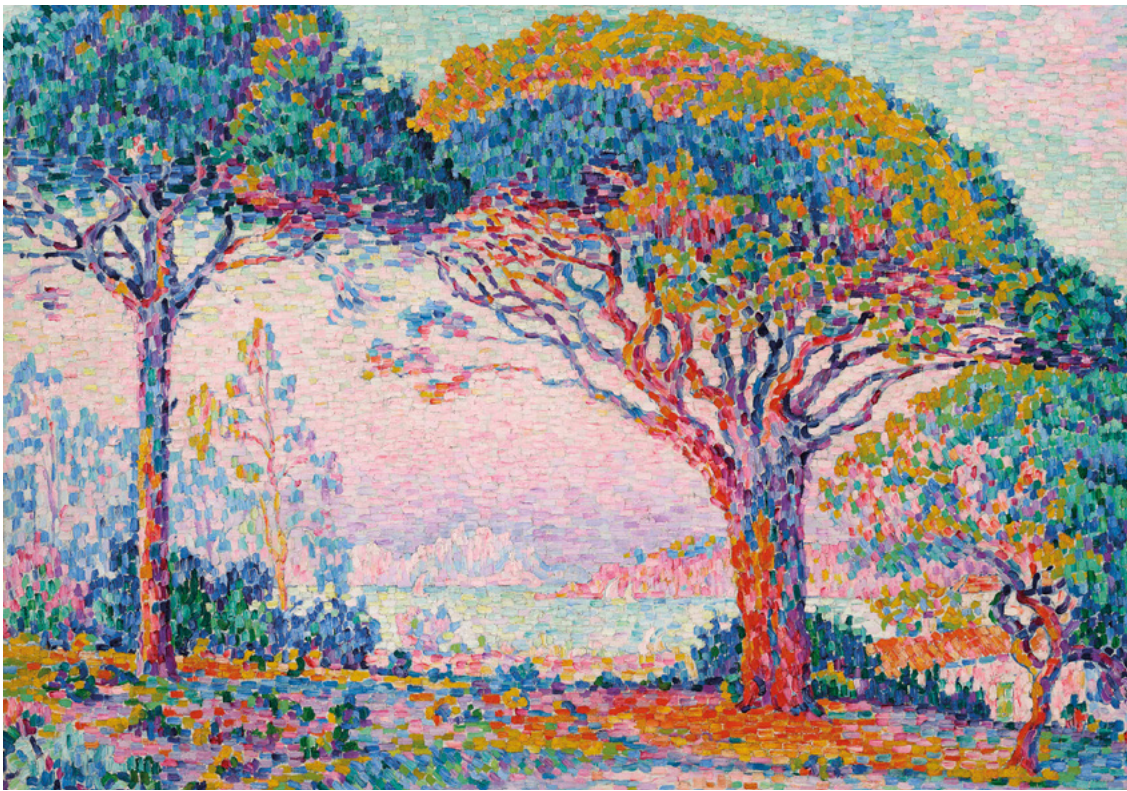


5th
Obama
86,751 XP



6th
Dorsey
76,333XP

Well Done Morse – can you keep it up? We will be awarding the top pupil in each class a prize in the last week this term to celebrate the effort they have put in – we will share this information with you via the Maths Department Twitter @HoultonMaths.



French: Bonjour la mode!

This term in Year 8 pupils have been researching French fashion, and discussing: Is France still the international capital of fashion? Is fashion over? After a heated debate on the latter, the partisans of the 'crops and socks' and the detractors of 2022 fashion came to an agreement: la mode c'est avant tout une expression de ta personnalité.

Year 7 on the other hand, learnt how to make new friends in French, introducing themselves, and reflecting on their own definition of 'friendship'. Paul Signac, artist of St-Tropez was the *fil d'Ariane* of the term, and pupils have now had an introduction into French *pointillisme*.

**By Mr Matthieu Raffy,
Subject Team Leader: Modern Languages**

Spanish: Should we be proud of where we live?

In Year 8, pupils have been working on a very *cercano* question: 'Should we be proud of where we live?'. Having reflected on last year's charette presentations pupils have mapped out their ambition for a pupil led business centre in Houlton, where Spanish and languages would play a key part. Their ideas included Crepes & churros stands, tapas bars and a language centre. Pupils finished the term feeling excited to discover what the *Calle Mayor* of Houlton has to offer in the coming years!

In Year 7 pupils have been exploring 'what makes us who we are?' with the Big Question: Who am I? Looking at authentic material, pupils have been learning about different accents and dialects, and most importantly, how to pronounce Spanish words with confidence. We have finished the term by pupils designing their very own *calaverita* for *El día de los Muertos* and looking at extracts from the film *Coco* to catch a glimpse of how those who have passed are celebrated in Mexican culture.

**By Mr Matthieu Raffy -
Subject Team Leader:
Modern Languages**





SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING

We are proud to announce the school's partnership with Music Mark - The UK Association for Music Education, championing and supporting access to music for all children and young people. We are delighted to have been awarded this accolade, demonstrating our full commitment to our pupils accessing music both in and out of school.

The benefits of being a Music Mark School include being able to access resources and training sessions, enabling our school to keep up to date with the latest national and regional sector news, events and resources.

By Mr James Hunter,
Subject Team Leader: Music

More Music news

It is an exciting time for the Music Department as we push onwards with our new curriculum, new equipment, a fully equipped computer suite and a new era in our relationship with Warwickshire Music Service.

The foundations have also been laid for our first whole school production that will be taking place next May, with auditions starting after half term. We will become for this year 'The School of Rock'. This beloved West End production of the film of the same name will be a rousing and fun blast of energy and we cannot wait to cast and start preparing! There will be three shows in May 2023 with dates and times TBC.

Science: Houlton's first dissection

All aspects of science are interrelated and the first half term in Year 8 has been spent looking at how physics and biology are linked.

The topic for this unit is energy and pupils have looked at how organs like eyes and ears have evolved to transfer energy efficiently so that the brain can detect it. The most exciting part of this unit allowed pupils to learn about the anatomy of a mammalian eye and then dissect one. Through careful incision using dissection scissors, pupils cut around the tough sclera to reveal the dark retina inside. Fluid inside the eye called vitreous humor makes the location of the soft lens challenging, but careful removal allows for the lens to be isolated.

Pupils could then place the lens on a newspaper and then notice that the text became magnified. Concepts like refraction and energy transfer are essential for the understanding of how the anatomy of an eye relates to its function, and pupils gained practical experience through their first ever dissection! Particularly fitting with Halloween around the corner.

By Mr Aaron Griffin, Head of Faculty:
Science and Computer Science



Houlton PE/ Dance news:

As the first half term at Houlton School comes to a close, here in PE we have had lots of successes within our lessons and co-curricular clubs. Year 7 have been introduced to Rugby and Netball this term, whilst Year 8 have been building on previous knowledge in Rugby and learning about Handball.

Our lessons are underpinned through our Big Questions, which enables our pupils to develop a deeper understanding around our activities.

Next term Year 8 will be moving onto Volleyball and problem solving, whilst Year 7 remain on Rugby and Netball until Christmas.



Co-curricular:

Our co-curricular clubs are up and running with Football, Netball, Rugby, Volleyball, Badminton, Circuit Training and fencing this term. We run our clubs in line with the local fixture timetable to ensure our pupils are best prepared for the games. We will offer a variety of clubs across the year and clubs will change as we move through the year. We have an exciting opportunity for our rugby pupils this year, as we have Northampton Saints running our Rugby club until February alongside Mr Williams and Mr Griffin.

We have had many fixtures this term with the opportunity to showcase our new Houlton kit which Webb Ellis designed for us. Please see all the results below for #teamhoulton this year so far! We have Badminton and Basketball fixtures in the next half term, alongside some more Rugby fixtures.

Please follow our twitter page with all news regarding fixtures, results, and PE department news. [@HoultonPEdept](#)



Football

Match One

Year 8 pupils have recently played their first game of the season at home vs. Princethorpe.

Mackye opened the scoring early on in the game, giving Houlton a deserved lead. Princethorpe responded sharply, scoring two nicely worked goals to put them ahead. With the game seeming lost, a frantic last couple of minutes saw Houlton grab a dramatic equalizer. A fantastic delivery from a corner by Callum was punched away by the Princethorpe goalkeeper, only to land on the boot of Mackye who produced a wonderful volley to level. From the restart, the referee blew his whistle for full-time, and the game ended 2-2.

A fair result due to the way both teams played!

Player of the Match: Mackye (8W)

Report by Reid (8W)

Match Two

How times have changed in the Year 8 football team! Later in September, we faced our second game against Lawrence Sheriff School.

Following on from a hard fought 2-2 draw against Princethorpe, Houlton raced into a two-goal lead courtesy of Mackye. Mikey extended the lead on the 20-minute mark with an early contender for goal of the season, floating a delightful chip over the stricken Lawrence Sheriff keeper. Mikey added to his tally moments later before David latched onto a delightfully weighted long ball by Orson to make the score 5-0 at half time. Sheriff pulled a goal back with 15 minutes to go but with the award of a fortuitous penalty, Mackye went on to complete his hat trick and the game ended in a convincing 6-1 victory.

Player of the Match: Michael (8W)

Report by Callum (8W) and Mackye (8W)

Match Three

– A controversial decision!

Houlton continued their unbeaten start to the Year 8 football season with a hard fought 3-3 draw against Harris on Wednesday 28th September. Houlton started the game well, keeping a lot of possession and they looked threatening as they attacked. They raced into another 2-0 lead, courtesy of Mackye, who scored his 6th and 7th goals of the season. However, complacency set in and the team started to make silly mistakes. Harris soon capitalised, scoring 3 goals in the blink of an eye to put Houlton behind at half time.

Houlton dominated the second half in a game of attack vs defence. Time and time again they were denied by the Harris goalkeeper who made a string of excellent saves. With time beginning to run out, Mackye popped up with a deserved equaliser, netting his 8th goal of the season and completing his first hat trick in Houlton colours.

There was still time for some last-minute drama as Houlton looked to have stolen the game in the last seconds, only to be denied by the assistant referee's flag, a decision that may have been overturned if Year 8 football had VAR!

A well-deserved draw for the ever-improving Houlton team.

Player of the Match: Arjun (8O)

Report by Michael (8W)

Match Four

Houlton concluded the half term with another victory, leaving them unbeaten for the season as we approach the winter break. In a fairly contested match, Brandon broke the deadlock on the 15-minute mark. A lovely ball in was neatly dummied by Reid and Brandon was left with the simple task of putting the ball into an empty net.

A frustrating 30 minutes followed. Avon Valley rarely threatened, but Houlton were unable to add to their lead as attack after attack were snuffed out by the Valley defence. As has been the case this season, a frantic last ten minutes saw Mackye doubling the Houlton lead as he coolly slotted the ball past the onrushing Valley keeper following a superb through ball by Reid. Valley scored with three minutes to go, tapping in from close range after an awesome save by Orson, setting up a grandstand finish. Despite a final onslaught, Houlton held firm and recorded a third win of the season with the game ending 2-1.

Player of the Match: Mikey (8O)

By Mackye (8W) and Reid (8W)



Pupil of the Term

Our PE department are looking out for the following qualities, in order to win our Pupil of the Term award:

- Gone above and beyond to help out in PE/ Dance lessons
- Demonstrated exceptional effort and enthusiasm consistently across the term
- Taking an active part in our co-curricular clubs and teams
- Positive attitude and a willingness to learn
- Polite, punctual, reliable and organised pupil

The pupil who wins this award will receive an R2 and a piece of sporting equipment!

Dance

This year for Dance we are working in blocks of five. Pupils will follow the same structure of lessons and the style of dance will change after the 5th lesson. Pupils will learn a set motif choreographed by Mrs Forrest, then build upon this using their knowledge and creativity within small groups.

This term, Year 7 are focusing on Street dance and Year 8 on African dance. They will look into background information regarding where the style originated from, when it was most popular and common themes that you would usually see. They will be working through a portfolio throughout the year to document their progress and learning.

We are very excited to see their showcases in lesson 5!

**By Miss Abbie Hartfield, Subject Team Leader:
Physical Education and Mr Jonathan Williams,
Specialist Coach: Physical Education & Games**





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