ISSUE 5



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems a long time since our Christmas holiday - I do hope you enjoyed a lovely break! Thank you again for the kind gifts that were sent into school over the last few days of the autumn term - the whole team at HSL really do appreciate your kindness! As ever, we have started 2024 with a busy calendar of events for the pupils at our school and I am pleased to say that they have returned to us with enthusiasm and positivity. We recently enjoyed our first 'HEARTS' fortnight - a celebration of the Humanities, English and the Arts. Pupils were offered the chance to work with a WWI reenactor, engage in a debate about artificial intelligence, busk in the cafe, work with an Islamic artist, and participate in our first House Art competition. There were Drama and RE activities set on the VLE and Year 8 participated in an author webinar, where they learnt more about the Holocaust. There was something for everyone and we hope these opportunities deepened their understanding of these subjects - going way beyond the normal curriculum.

Miss Winters and Mr Bunting are now in full rehearsal mode - and so too are the cast and crew involved! The school is really buzzing with music and drama. Tickets will be on sale for our production of The Addams family, after Half Term and we do hope as many of you as possible will support them. We have also had a packed schedule of sporting fixtures, with some notable victories in girls' and boys' football, netball and rugby. Thank you for supporting your children by enabling them participate in these extra-curricular opportunities - we know family lives are very busy but our pupils do seem to get such a lot of enjoyment from these activities.

In amongst these activities, lessons, and meetings we are also currently engaged in a busy period of teacher recruitment. You may have seen the adverts on our website or your children may have been involved in one of our panels recently. As the school continues to expand, embarking on GCSE courses with Year 10 pupils next year, we are seeking the very best teachers to complement the current team. I was delighted with the large number of applicants we received for our Heads of House positions, and we made four fantastic appointments. These colleagues will be joining Mrs O'Rlordan and her pastoral team in September. If you are a teacher, or know of an excellent teacher looking for a new challenge, please do look at the website to see which subjects we are currently recruiting for. We will also be increasing our support staff team in the summer term, ready for September.

Finally, I hope you have had chance to read our very first edition of the school magazine 'The View.' Every pupil received a copy last week and we hope they have dug them out of their bags and shown you! The View has been written and produced by a brilliant team of HSL pupils, who wrote the articles and met with the printing company to produce what I think is a really a high-quality publication all about the school. They are hoping to publish two editions a year, so please look out for the next one at the end of the summer term!

With warm wishes,

Helen Wood Headteacher



Key Dates - February 2024

5th February House Photography Competition Launch

6th February Enrichment Day - Eco Focus

6th February Year 9 Interim report 2 issued

7th February Year 9 Options Evening - 18.00 - 20.00

12th - 16th February Half Term

19th February Pupils return to School

19th February RRSA Steering Group - 13.30 - 14.20

19th February Launch of 50 Objects Competition

21st February International Mother Language Day

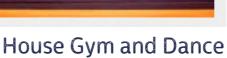
21st February Year 9 Parents' evening online 4pm - 7pm

22nd February Year 9 Parents' evening online 4pm -7pm











The first HSL House Gym and Dance competition was held in December, and what a fantastic event it was - students across the school worked tirelessly choreographing and practising for their house either as part of the large group, small group, solo or open event. The level of competition between houses was very high with some having every single member taking part in the competition.

The overall results for the competitions are as follows:-



1st Place Windrush, 250 points 2nd Place Lilley Brook, 236 points 3rd Place Chelt, 202 points 4th Place Isbourne, 195 points





ISSUE 5 FANUARY 2024

House Gym and Dance

Mrs Vaughan invited a panel of three external judges into school for the day and they were incredibly impressed by all of the students' skills, giving some lovely feedback about the quality of performances and the effort that they had put in prior to the day. Please see some of their comments below - we can't wait for next year!



Year 7 Chelt Solo: "Lovely integration of gymnastics and dance".



Year 9 Chelt Large Group: "Good involvement of all, great energy!"

Year 8 Isbourne Large group: "Fabulous performance. Great partner balances and characterisation".

Year 8 Windrush Small Group: "High energy, fun. Some great contact work. Great use of space and levels".

Year 9 Windrush Large Group: "Great large group material, lovely lead group. Well timed dance and good fun!"

Year 9 Isbourne Solo: "Great choreography, amazing energy, brilliant performer!'

Year 7 Isbourne Large Group: "Great

mix of dance and gym, lovely shapes and formations".

Year 7 Lilley Brook Large Group: "Great use of everyone's skills, super dance and gymnastics choreography. Excellent tumbling from the boys and the girls".

Chelt Open: "Great song choice and variety of dance styles. Lovely to see boys and girls all dancing alongside each other".

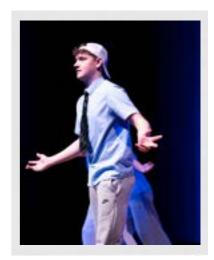
> Year 8 Lilley Brook Large Group: "Fab song choice! Choreography fit the theme very well. Well reahearsed. Great use of props".

Year 7 Windrush Large Group: "Lovely whole class dance. Brilliantly themed routine, great choreography. Great teacher involvement".

> Year 9 Lilley Brook Open: "Great whole house dance. Suitable choreography for everyone so all children could participate. Lovely year 7 Leads".





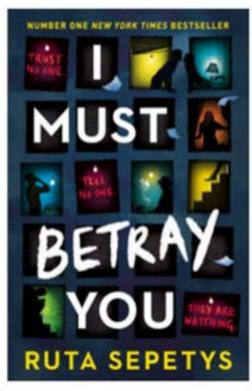


HSL's Book Of The Month - I must Betray You

This term, we are recommending that our Year 9 pupils and parents of the HSL community read: I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys.

This fast-moving and dark dystopian thriller for older teens follows 17-year-old Christian who is blackmailed by the state authorities and forced to make a decision to either stick to his principles and resist or betray his family to save his grandfather's life. Based on true events, I must Betray You is an eye-opening window into survival within a controlling and repressive regime.

Do you want to write a book review of I Must Betray You? Please see Mrs Simms!



Please note: this is recommended for Year 9 pupils due to some graphic descriptions.

Youth Parliament

Well done to Elsa O'Neill in Year 8 who is standing to be a Member of Youth Parliament. Voting opens on 29th January and hopefully she will be successful in becoming a voice for young people.



Please read her pledge below:

"I would like to become a Youth MP because I am very passionate about raising awareness about disability and neurodiversity issues and promoting accessibility and inclusivity. I am passionate about promoting positive mental well-being and would like for everyone to have access and support and someone to talk to. I plan to represent young people in my constituency by always listening to and promoting their ideas to try and help bring about positive change. I believe some of the main issues affecting my area are poverty and protecting our environment. Voting for me would ensure everyone's voices are heard"



WWI Reenactor

On Monday 15th January, HEARTS fortnight - a celebration of all things Humanities, English and the Arts got underway for Year 9 as we welcomed into school a First World War reenactor.

Paul spent an hour with each of the History classes, talking to them about the experience of soldiers in the trenches on the Western Front, and allowing each student to handle a wide variety of objects including shrapnel helmets, webbing, boots, trench digging tools and other kit. Year 9 will use this knowledge in their History lessons in the next few weeks, as we continue to study the events and impact of the First World War.

Our thanks to Paul, from Guarderobe, for bringing his excellent knowledge and superb range of artefacts, and for sharing his time with some of the students in his lunchbreak.









Pupil Report:

Paul from Guarderobe visited HSL to give Year 9 students a talk about the First World War. He brought with him items that were relevant to the subject and the era and explained their uses. These included the Lewis light machine gun, a Lee-Enfield bolt-action rifle and examples of rations and uniforms worn by soldiers. He talked about each item individually and we all had a chance to examine the items as they were passed around the class whilst Paul gave details about each one.

The talk was very interesting and informative, and helped bring history to life. I was so interested in what Paul had to say about this subject, that I took up his offer to go back to the hall at lunchtime to find out more. Paul had left out all the items on display on a table, and I was able to examine them and ask any questions that I had. Paul gave in depth answers to my questions and I found him very friendly and knowledgeable.

I would love to have another visit from Paul as I've had a look at the Guarderobe website and see that they cover other areas of history and I would love to hear what Paul has to say about them.

By Euan Cameron-Mitchell 9CH

ISSUE 5

Rights Respecting Roundup

Right of the Month for January - Articles 1, 4 and 41 - The responsibility of governments to protect the rights of children

In January, we linked our articles of the month to Holocaust Memorial Day, marked annually on 27th January, the date in 1945 that Auschwitz was liberated. In tutor times all students considered governments' responsibilities to keep children safe and make laws that are in the best interests of children. Students discussed why it is important for governments to have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and drafted letters to the US Embassy to encourage the USA government to join other countries in ratifying the Convention.



Steering Group news:

Also in January, the RRSA steering group and Eco-Committee joined forces for the first time, to work together on this year's Unicef Outright campaign. The Outright campaign supports young people in taking action and addressing issues of social injustice in a safe, meaningful way. This year's Outright campaign has climate change as its focus. We spent the January meeting of the steering group with the Eco-Committee, planning what we as a school can do to help fight climate change. Already, our students are brimming with excellent ideas - we look forward to seeing how they develop over the next few weeks!

A note to parents:

The RRSA was a topic for discussion at one of the Autumn term's Parent Forums. We were very grateful for feedback from parents about their understanding of the Award and how they felt it positively impacted students. If any parent or carer would like to give feedback about the Award or share any discussion about rights you've had with your young person, please email Mrs Cox.

We have also been asked to offer some guidance to families who wish to discuss some of the challenging topics in the news at present. Unicef has produced some excellent information to help frame home discussions. You can access this here: <u>How to talk to your children about conflict and war | UNICEF Parenting</u>

And finally...

Thank you all for your incredible generosity supporting our collection for the Springbank Pantry. We breezed past our 450-item target, eventually collecting 573 individual donations. Some of these didn't make it into the store at the Pantry and were immediately put out on the shelves, a reminder of the need of some families in our community at present. Through the school community's donation we have helped ensure that children have access to nutritious food. Your support is greatly appreciated.





Physical Education

2024 has already seen a lot of sporting action for our HSL students! January has been full of fixtures, house matches and district tournaments.

Fixtures in badminton, boys' football, girls' football, netball, rugby and hockey have all taken place in the past 3 weeks, with lots more coming up as we move through the term.

Tewkesbury school held their annual fortnight of district football and HSL entered a team in every year group for both boys and girls. Our Year 7 girls and boys A teams were highly competitive in their tournaments with some close results against other schools from the Cheltenham district. Our Year 8 and 9 teams battled it out in some chilly conditions and our highest finish was 5th out of 14 teams present. The tournaments have been a positive way to start the football season and we are pleased to say that teams have already performed with skill and resilience. We are anticipating an exciting season of football ahead of us.

U14 Girls Badminton



Year 8 Football



The U14 girls badminton team performed well at the recent Cheltenham district tournament where they were against some very experienced players. It was an enjoyable day of badminton for the girls involved and great to be able to put the skills from lessons and clubs onto practice. We finished the day in a very respectable 4th place and look forward to the boys competition in February.



Physical Education

Year 7, 8 & 9 girls have played some competitive netball against Bournside School this term, winning both the Year 7 and 8 matches, with some superb team play, speed through the court and tenacious defending. Our Year 7 girls' football teams travelled to Balcarras who hosted us on their astroturf for A and B team fixtures. Our A's narrowly pipped the win in the 2nd half with an outstanding long range effort by Phe.



Year 7 Netball - supported by our Year 9 Sports Leaders

During February and March, we will be attending the boys' Gloucestershire Hockey Association District Hockey tournaments. We have entered all three year groups and are excited to make our debut in the boys U14's 11 aside competition.

House Football is well underway, with the boys competitions played over the lunchtimes of Wednesday – Friday last week and the Girls' tournament this week. House Badminton is our next house sport in the calendar. Results will be published in February's newsletter!



Year 7 Football

MFL

Year 9 became intelligence officers for an hour in early January when we had a visitor to talk about GCHQ and how they use language skills alongside IT and analytical skills. Year 9s had to decode a message in French to be able to pass on information about a drugs haul. Some students were surprised to hear that there is a Government Communication Headquarters in Cheltenham and all were intrigued to hear about what happens there and what kind of roles are available.





They learned that along with STEM, language skills are highly sort after and play a very important role in what happens at GCHQ. Our visitor pointed out the importance of languages that our students may speak at home as well as those which we teach in schools. And she talked about French and Spanish being "gateway" languages which open the door to learning new languages in the future.

Thankfully, the outstanding year 9 HSL students were able to decode the message and successfully halted the criminals!

Linguists of the Month

Our linguists of the Month for MFL are, Toby Long for French and Harry Cann for Spanish! Both for outstanding performance and consistently giving 100% in lessons. Congratulations!





Spanish Cultural Studies club

What a January treat! Spanish Cultural Studies club this month was on the topic of festivals and celebrations and students enjoyed researching and finding out about these events in Spanish speaking countries.



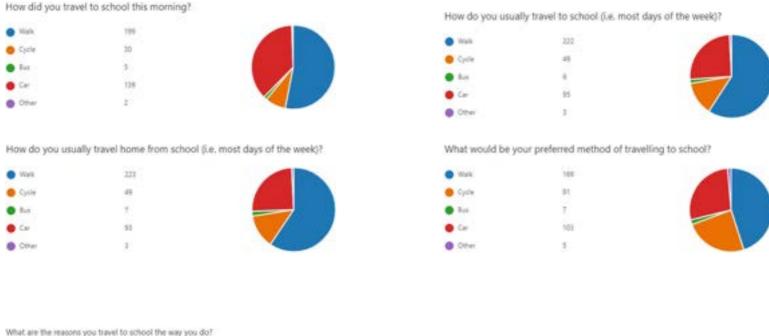
Ms Wright had a special treat in store as she brought in some Spanish themed food.... we tried to take a picture of the treats but, as you can see, they disappeared quickly and we had some very happy students! ¡Qué bueno!

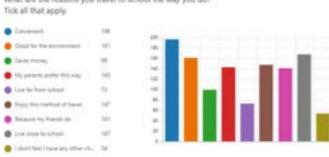
Eco News

HSL Travel Survey December 2023

In December we launched the HSL Travel Survey for the third year running! All students and staff had the opportunity to complete a short questionnaire to help us understand how our students and staff are travelling to school.

We would like to thank all those that completed the survey and a summary of the results can be found below:





It is fantastic to see that the majority of our students are walking or cycling to school, demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that we look after our environment and build a sustainable future for all.

Although the number of students travelling by car is higher than we would preferred, it was understandable given the time of year when daylight hours are limited.

We would like to thank all parents and carers that support their children in travelling to and from school sustainably, including organising car shares when walking and cycling is not possible.

We plan to run the HSL Travel Survey again in June 2024, following our 'Walk to School Week', to see how students and staff are travelling to school during the summer term.

Eco News



Eco-Committee Trip to Weavers Field for a Community Orchard Tree Planting event

On Wednesday 17th January 2024, 10 members of the Eco-Committee braved freezing temperatures to plant cherry, apple and plum trees on Weavers Field as part of a Community Orchard Project run by Cheltenham Borough Council's Green Space Development Team.

Elijah Callaghan in 9WI attended the event has written a summary of his experience below:

We started the day by walking to Weavers Field, as opposed to driving there and creating emissions, where we met the Park Rangers, volunteers and the two other schools that took part.

We then all had a talk with the Park Rangers about what we were going to do and then we got our hands dirty. Overall, there were plum trees, cherry trees and apple trees. HSL took charge of the plum trees and planted one between two people as some had quite big roots so we needed to dig big holes. Some people even got to use a spade that had been used before by Queen Elizabeth II!

After this, we had refreshments which included hot chocolate and biscuits and then we learned how to put cages around the trees to stop wildlife getting at them and humans damaging them. However, we did leave a little gap at the bottom of the cage for animals like deer to eat away at the weeds to keep it tidy.

Lastly, we had some photos with our trees and the Park Rangers and volunteers and then walked back to HSL.

Because of this trip I hope it will encourage more wildlife to come into Weavers Field so we can encourage biodiversity. I will enjoy visiting the trees so I can see how much they are growing year upon year.







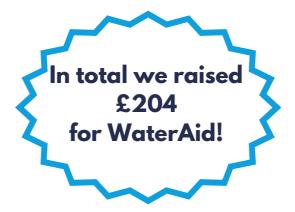


Eco News

Thick Jumper Non-Uniform Day for WaterAid

On Friday 19th January 2024, The High School Leckhampton invited all students and staff to wear non-school uniform, including a thick jumper, to raise money for WaterAid. As part of our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint we also turned down the heating on this day. As part of the day we ran a competition for students and staff with the best thick jumpers, as chosen by our Eco-Committee. Congratulations to Tahira in 7CH1, Daragh in 8WI, Sophia in 9CH and Mr Powell-Jones who won and received prizes made from recycled materials.





This will help bring clean water, decent toilets and hygiene knowledge to people who don't yet have access to them. Thank you to all students and staff who donated and we look forward to seeing more fantastic thick jumpers next year.







CAREERS - WINTER 2023



Welcome to the HSL Careers Update

Careers education is a fundamental part of preparing students for their future. The HSL careers programme is fully inclusive of all students, and is constantly monitored and evaluated to ensure it meets the needs of everyone. We hope you will find this update useful and interesting. If you have any feedback on what you have read or have items you wish us to include in future editions please let us know.

Mrs Lewis - Independent Careers Advisor

A PARENTS' TOOLKIT FOR CAREER CONVERSATIONS



https://talkingfutures.org

It has long been acknowledged that the most influential people in a young person's life are their parents or carers, and that many of the ideas related to their careers and future are formulated in their early school years and through conversations with family members. Talking Futures is a website is full of useful information and guidance on the various pathways available. There are lots of helpful conversation starting points to help parents approach the subject with their children, which can be the trickiest part. The earlier these conversations take place, the more informed and prepared students are when they reach Year 11. Visit the site at https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk. You can find more information on the Careers VLE Pages.

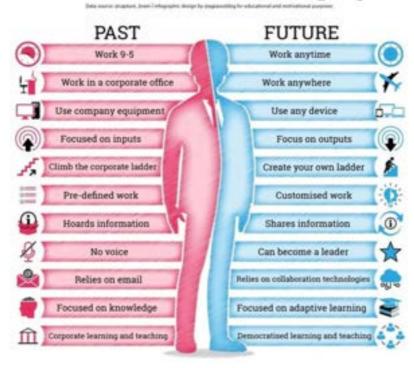
CAREERS PAGES VLE



For information on Apprenticeships, CV Writing, Work Experience, Post 16 Options, Practice Interviews, Universities, Gap years and lots, lots more please visit the careers pages on VLE

The Evolution of the employee

The evolution of the employee



Even before the impact of the pandemic on businesses, the work model that had existed was evolving. Employees are not as they were a decade ago, and as a result businesses are having to adapt and move with the times. The pandemic has merely quickened the pace of this transition.

One of the biggest challenges is ensuring that young people today are given as much support in school and at home so they are as ready as they can be for their working life. One key driver in this will be the messages that students hear from local businesses. The careers programme at HSL includes presentations and visits from businesses and employers, as well as visits to workplaces by students. It is so important that students use these opportunities to find out how they are approaching the areas noted above, by developing that curious mind and asking questions. Students who have part time jobs or who have taken part in work experience may already be experiencing some of these changes.

Many more young people are talking about wanting to become entrepreneurs when they finish education (some even have 'side hustles' already!) so many of them are probably more clued up on this evolution than we realise. Entrepreneurs and the self-employed all naturally follow the right hand side of the above table.

It is also important that parents and carers are aware of this evolution. You are more than likely living and breathing these new working ways already, and so are in the ideal place to pass on this experience and understanding to your children!

Mrs Lewis - Independent Careers Advisor

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

LAW



GETTING INTO: LAW

The Legal industry is more than just solicitors and barristers - it covers a huge range of roles such as Coroner, Judge, Law Lecturer, Legal Secretary, Mediator, Paralegal, and courtroom ushers and clerks to name but a few.

Whilst it's true that potential earnings in the industry can be very attractive, those top salaries take years of training, hard work, dedication and drive to achieve. The nonfinancial rewards are huge for the right person, and you must have passion for the industry to be successful.

The standard route to become a Solicitor is usually A levels followed by a degree, and then completion of the Solicitors Qualifying Exam followed by 2 yrs of work experience. The apprenticeship route is also an option.

To qualify as Barrister, again a degree is required (ideally a law degree) followed by the Bar Professional Training course and then a year of practical training (pupillage).

To become a Judge, you have to be a qualified solicitor or barrister and have at least 5-7 yrs of legal work experience, and then go through an extensive application and selection process.

Paralegals and legal assistants can follow either the A level, diploma or apprenticeship routes. A degree is not essential but might help depending on future plans.

The more administrative roles, such as court clerk and usher, require less demanding qualification routes such as Business Administration diplomas and also apprenticeships.

- A Lawyer in the UK is not a specific role it is more of an umbrella term to cover anyone working as a legal practitioner
- A solicitor will help people right a the start of legal proceedings and may appear in court to help their
- · A barrister will only get involved once a case goes to court

Key Skills Required

Motivation - Resilience - Teamwork - Communication Skills - Intellectual Ability - Leadership

As always, research is the key. Here are some good starting points:

https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/solicitor
https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/judge
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector
https://www.lawcareers.net/
https://online.flippingbook.com/view/203901004/

LOOKING BACK

Careers Fair October 2023

The careers fair took place on the 5th October, it was very well attended, representatives from further education providers and a wide range of industries attended, encouraging the students to explore a wide range of courses and career opportunities. For the first time HSL year 9 students attended the event, they asked some great questions and came away inspired and with lots of ideas for the future. Look out for the next careers fair this October 2024.



Creative Careers Week Workshop

To celebrate creative careers week local artist Jenny Stringer ran a block printing workshop and spoke to students about block printing methods, the students created some beautiful pieces for more information - @Jennyblockprintedfabrics, https://whittingtoncourt.co.uk/block-printed-textiles



Career Presentations Cirencester & Gloucestershire Colleges

Both Gloucestershire and Cirencester College have presented at morning assemblies to year 8 and 9 students. Giving an insight into what each college offers and a overview of college life. For more information on post 16 options please see the careers pages of VLE.







LOOKING FORWARD

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College

On the 17th January 2024, SGS College presented to Year 8 & 9 Students. They spoke about the wide range of vocational courses on offer, including:

Bricklaying

Mastering the Art of Make Up

Construction

Animal Science

Business

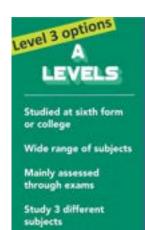
Games Design

and many more!



We'd very much like to thank Nicole from SGS for attending. We know that lots of pupils found the talk both informative and encouraging!

www.sgscol.ac.uk



Develop key skills for

university

VOCATIONAL COURSES

Specialist work related qualifications

Available at levels 1, 2, and 3

Combine practical and theory work

Assessed mainly through coursework

Gain key skills to work in a specific industry / study at HE

BTECs are being phased out from 2023/24

LEVELS

Industry / employment related qualifications

Mixture of classroom learning and on the job

Industry placement of at least 315 hours / 45 days

Assessed through exams and practical skills tests

Maylead to HE level study

APPRENTICESHIPS

Paid employment with training

You find the employer

Usually start on Intermediate (L2) and progress to Advanced (L3)

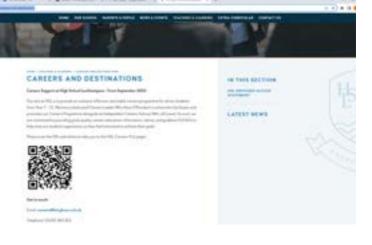
Assessed through practical evidence, assignments and exams

Progression into employment or higher education



For more careers information please scan the QR Code this can also be found on the careers pages of the schools website





Other News

Art & DT

Any unwanted scrap natural timber (we already have enough manufactured boards) would be gratefully appreciated by the DT department. This can be in the form of furniture that has already been dismantled or if you work for a company that would be willing to donate any timber and dowel, students will be able to use this for their projects. Please arrange delivery at ges@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk. Thanks in advance.

Thank you to all who have already donated in November. We have two more classes about to start the project and we need more material.

Here are some of the outcomes using the recycled material.



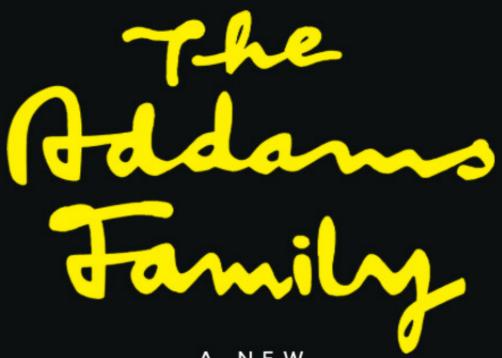
Macmillian Cancer Support

Thank you to everyone who brought in a 'tub' - a plastic chocolate tub so we can hand them in to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Mrs Holland





ANEW

MUSICAL COMEDY

Show times:

- •MON 18 MARCH
- •TUES 19 MARCH
- WED 20 MARCH START TIME: 7:00 PM

Tickets will be on sale soon on scopay



THE ADDAMS FAMILY" IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH AND ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE SUPPLIED BY THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE (TRW), WWW.THEATRICALRIGHTS.CO.UK

Designed by: Maya Jacob

PTFA Update

Our Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA) Key Updates January 2024

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyable start to 2024. We have several exciting events in the pipeline for 2024. A quick list for your diary:

- 2nd Hand Uniform Sale: 26th January between 3.15-4pm
- Next PTFA Meeting: 29th February 7pm held in the staff room, all are welcome @
- School Production: 18th 20th March. We will once again be serving drinks during the intermission, further
 information to follow
- Quiz & Chips Night: 3rd May further information to follow in the coming months

If you would like to help or get involved, please do reach out via social - the more the merrier!

Donations Requested for the School Production in March

The school production preparation is well underway but we need your help! We are looking for the following props, if you can help please can you drop these off to reception at the school:

- A toy rat
- 10 x old brooms
- · A toy yellow bird
- · leather flight helmet & goggles
- · An old black corded phone
- A fake bouquet of flowers
- · Variety of gothic looking bottles of vials (not alcohol bottles)

Join us on Social to Stay up to Date

To stay up to date with all of the latest news and announcements. Join us on our Facebook group for further info and news



"The High School Leckhampton PTFA"



"The High School Leckhampton PTFA"







- www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk
- (01242 383351
- admin@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk









