



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a short half term since Easter but pupils at HSL continue to be very busy indeed! The Great British Spring Clean and the Maths Challenge got the term off to a great start and both Chelt and Isbourne have recently led excellent assemblies. There have been a number of sporting fixtures, including tennis and rounders with many of our pupils joining new summer clubs like cricket and athletics. One of the most exciting and proud moments we had as a school this month, was our Time Capsule Event at Farm Lane. As you know the students went on a trip to the new site to look around the school for the very first time and I hope they came home full of excitement.

I was delighted to welcome our new Operations Manager, Mrs Nottingham to the HSL team after the Easter break. Over the last 5 weeks she has been working tirelessly to help resource our new school at Farm Lane and get all our systems and processes in place ready for a smooth transition over the summer. Mrs Nottingham has also been helping us recruit more support staff, including a catering manager. We are currently recruiting for Teaching Assistants, a Facilities Manager, as well as Science and D&T technicians. Please do keep an eye on the website and feel free to share these adverts with any interested friends or family!

Over the past few weeks, myself and Miss O’Riordan have visited children from local primary schools who will be starting at HSL in September, and we are all looking forward to welcoming in a new cohort of pupils. When September comes round, we hope our Year 8’s can lead and nurture our new Year 7’s through the start of their secondary school journey.

Finally, I’d like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA, who ran a wonderful quiz night just before the Easter break. It was great fun and fantastic to see so many parents (and HSL staff!) supporting the event. The PTFA have kindly donated £500 from this event to allow us to purchase books for our new library.

Have a lovely half term.

Kind regards

Headteacher

Key Dates 2022	
06.06.2022 – 10.06.2022	Cheltenham Science Festival Week
08.06.2022	PTFA Meeting
10.06.2022	Reports Issued
15.06.2022	Parent Forum
21.06.2022	Rewards Assembly
24.06.2022	Mufti Day
30.06.2022	Head Teacher’s Reward Tea Party
27.06.2022	Year 7 Maths Test – Non Calculator
01.07.2022	Inset Day – pupils not in school
04.07.200	Year 7 Maths Test - Calculator



## Reporting Absence

If your child is ill or unable to attend school please can you call or email the school by **8.30am each day of their absence**. This is important so we can keep pupils safe and monitor attendance. If it is before 8am, you can leave a message on the answerphone and these will be picked up.

Email: [thsl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:thsl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

Phone: 01242 545136

Any pupil arriving at school late, must come to Reception to sign in stating why they are late.

## Appointments During School Hours

When pupils are attending an appointment during school time, parents must let the school know beforehand by email [thsl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:thsl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

Detailing the time, what the appointment is for, who will be collecting them and the expected time of return. Students will need to come to Reception to sign in and/or out so we know they are safe.

## Activities Week

Activities week is nearly here and there are a few things that you will need to know beforehand. Please be rest assured there will be lots of instructions in the pupils tutor bases and on the website.

For now, if you have not paid, please can you do so as soon as possible. If you have any issues regarding payments, please email [ljm@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ljm@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

If your child is participating in the go karting and laserquest, then please can you fill in the booking forms below. This will help the venue get the pupils on to the tract quickly. Please be aware of the day that your child is actually attending the go karting to ensure you have filled in the correct day.

13<sup>th</sup> July: [Go karting and laserquest booking](#)

14<sup>th</sup> July: [Go karting and laserquest booking](#)

15<sup>th</sup> July: [Go Karting and laserquest booking](#)



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## Catch Up Club

We have been impressed with our students' positive attitude towards catch up club this half term. The children who have missed school due to illness have found the system to be a supportive strategy to help them fill the gaps in on lost learning time. As a result of its success, we will continue to run catch up club moving forward. We are very proud of how diligent and conscientious the children at HSL continue to be. A big well done!



## Maths Challenge

On the 27<sup>th</sup> April 30 students took part in the UK Maths Challenge. It was an opportunity for students to participate in a national competition against other year 7 and 8 students. The 60 minute, multiple choice challenge encouraged mathematical reasoning and precision of thought. Whilst the questions were accessible, they were designed to make the students think. We are awaiting the results and certificates and to hear if any students were successful enough to be invited to compete in the next round.

One of the example questions is below – are you able to do it?!

13. The diagram shows five squares whose side-lengths, in cm, are 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. What percentage of the area of the outer square is shaded?

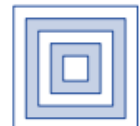
A 25%

B 30%

C 36%

D 40%

E 42%



## PHSE Lessons

During this half term the children have looked at and will continue to look at a range of important topics including learning about:

- The economy - what is it and how does it work
- Understanding and promoting self esteem
- Understanding what racism means and challenging discriminatory views

The children have worked hard during these sessions and have not shied away from challenging topics that need to be discussed. The children will also be learning some basic First Aid skills including CPR over the next few weeks. We continue to promote the rights of young people and make explicit links of the rights of the child and the PSHE curriculum.

Below are some photographs of the children taking part in some PSHE sessions.



## Wellbeing Hub

A reminder that as a HSL parent, you are entitled to free access to the Well-being Hub. We highly recommend you register and start using the resources with your child. We want to support students to gain tools to help their own mental health and wellbeing.

All information and how to register can be found here: [Wellbeing hub](#)



## Time Capsule Event

Last week we were delighted to be able to take the students to visit the Farm Lane site. Members of the Kier team took students, staff, governors and other invited guests on a tour of the new building. Students were able to see the facilities they will enjoy from September, from the classrooms and Art and DT rooms to the fantastic sports' hall and activity suite.

After the tour we gathered together outside in the courtyard and assembled for the sinking of the time capsule. A digger lowered the capsule into the ground and Mrs Wood gave a short speech. Four students representing each house and the student who designed the capsule used a spade to symbolically sprinkle some earth on top of the capsule. In the next few weeks it will be covered fully, surrounded by planting and a plaque will be mounted on the nearby wall to commemorate the event.

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who was involved in the project, and especially the team at Kier who planned our visit and made it a very memorable occasion for students, staff and visitors alike.

Please see below some fabulous photos.

There is a lovely article on [Gloucestershire Live](#) for you to take a look at too.



## Great British Spring Clean

The Great British Spring Clean took place between 25th March - 10th April in a bid to pick up as much litter as possible. Some of our Eco conscious students joined in and there are some lovely photos of their hard work.







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## Recycling Awareness Campaign

To raise awareness of what, why and how to recycle, every member of 7LB has made a recycling information poster which can be found displayed in one of the four tutor rooms in the HSL building. This recycling awareness campaign forms part of the Eco-School Action Plan developed by the HSL Eco-Committee who are committed to making our school as environmentally friendly as possible (photo attached).

More information about how to recycle can be found at [www.cheltenham.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/recycling)



## Chelt's Got Talent



Last week Chelt hosted a very exciting assembly showing off all their skills and talents. The children really enjoyed seeing what their friends get up to outside of school.



Chelt's many talents include:

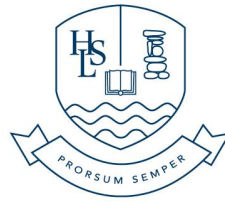
Alex Jones – Violinist	Ben Sholly – Basketball Player
Bethany Haslett and Ella Riordan – Presenters	James Guppy – Linguist
Amelie Holloway – Rubix Cuber	Halle Corbet – Climber
Freddie Collis and Ted Skinner – Footballers	Sebastian Miles – Animator
Josh Rudd – Footballer	Marianne Harmer – Designer
Ethan Rowland-Hill – Footballer	Euan Cameron-Mitchell – Trumpeter
Absham Syed – Footballer	Michalina Satora – Cross-sticher
Logan McMahon, Toby Watson and Hamish Stuart – Mountain bikers	Scarlett Addison-Evans – Crocheter
Milly Dewhurst – Cheerleader	Katie Wetherilt – Photographer
Daisy Tustin – Hamster Trainer	Willow Agg – Springboard Diver
Sophia Hanlon – PI Expert	Henry Perks-Bueno – Squash Player
Macie Davey – Synchronised Swimmer	Edie Irvine and Lauren Taylor – Singers
Elliot Murtagh – Photographer	



## Balcarras In Bloom

After school on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May, HSL students, staff and parents joined forces with those from Balcarras for a gardening and planting afternoon to get the school site summer ready. It was two hours of hard work in glorious sunshine, and all were rewarded afterwards with refreshments and a BBQ! Amelie, Michalina, Katie, and Constance were put in charge of refreshing the planters outside the HSL building.





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## Year 7 Sporting Achievements

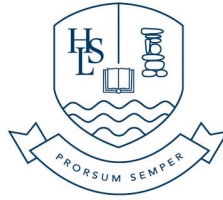
The students continue to impress us with their sporting achievements outside of school. Please do let us know if your child is involved in a club and they would like to share their experiences with their fellow peers, it is very inspirational.

I entered a gym competition and got given a certificate for taking part. I also got a medal to keep for a week (gymnastic of the week). I do it every Wednesday 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

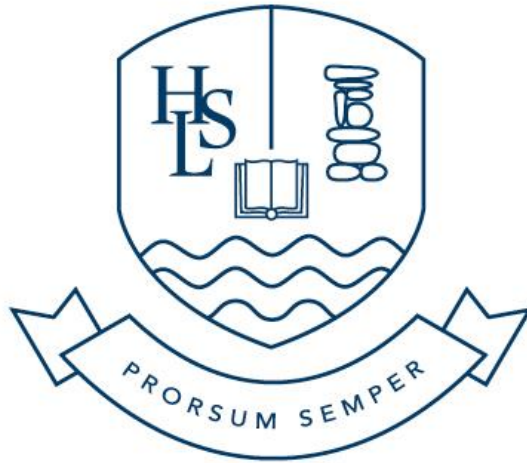
Daisy Tustin 7CH

I play tennis for Gloucestershire (I am the number 1 player in the county). Tennis to me is a big part of my life because I love playing it. My dream is to play at Wimbledon on the grass courts even if I win or lose.

Seb Heather 7LB



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