



Newsletter

January 2023 - Issue 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

A belated Happy New Year, I do hope that 2023 has started well for you all! Before we look take a look at the activities the students have been engaging in this term, I'd like to thank you for the many kind gifts that your children brought into school at the end of term - the staffroom was awash with chocolates, and they were much appreciated by all the staff!

Since our return to school in January, despite the dark and cold, the pupils have continued to engage really positively with their lessons and all the activities going on at school. There's no doubt that rehearsals for our school production of High School Musical have created a real buzz around the place, with literally hundreds of pupils singing, dancing and performing. Please do save the dates - 27, 28, 29th March - it is promising to be absolutely fantastic, and the pupils are working really hard! (a few rehearsal pictures in this issue)

I'd like to offer additional praise to our pupils for the way they are conducting themselves in their lessons. Recently, Mr Newman and I have had the pleasure of conducting Learning Walks, Pupil Pursuits and 'Booklooks' - and we have been incredibly impressed by how engaged our pupils are in their learning, really showing impressive levels of enthusiasm, participation and effort - we couldn't ask for more! The Year 8 Interim reports confirm that our pupils are working very positively with their teachers in the classroom and we are looking forward to reading the Year 7 reports in early February.

You may have seen a large number of teacher vacancies on our website recently. It is an exciting time here at HSL, as we begin our recruitment for September. I'd like to thank the pupils of the Learning Council and our Governors for their involvement in the forthcoming interviews - we are going to be very busy!

Finally, I'd like thank parents for making sure you are using the drop-off point safely at the start and end of the school day. As you know, we would prefer all pupils to walk and cycle to school but when using the car is unavoidable, please make sure you park in the designated bays, do not block the access routes and switch off your engine. This issue has been picked up by our Eco Committee and you'll read a request from them in the newsletter.

With warm wishes,

Helen Wood
Headteacher



Key Dates

1st February	Enrichment Day - 'Me and My Future'
3rd February	Fairtrade Fruity Treats Cake Sale
7th February	Safer Internet Day
13th February	Green Group Meeting (after school - parents welcome)
13th February	Launch Of 'Hundred Objects' Competition
13th February	Lost Property Collection Week
14th February	Badminton House Matches
17th February	RRSA Steering Group (lunchtime)
17th February	Random Acts Of Kindness Day
20th February	HALF TERM
27th February	Fair Trade Fortnight





Springbank Food Pantry Donation

On Monday 18th December Mrs Cox, on behalf of the High School Leckhampton community, delivered a donation of food to the Springbank Pantry. We were greeted by Anita, who received the donation on behalf of the charity, which supports any person in the community with accessing their rights, including the right to food.

Anita asked Mrs Cox to pass on her thanks for the school's generous donation, much needed at the time of its arrival.

The RRSA steering group would like to add their thanks to this - in a little less than a week the school community had filled an office floor with food donations - a wonderful achievement and testament to the kindness and generosity of everyone who was involved.





Philosophy Week

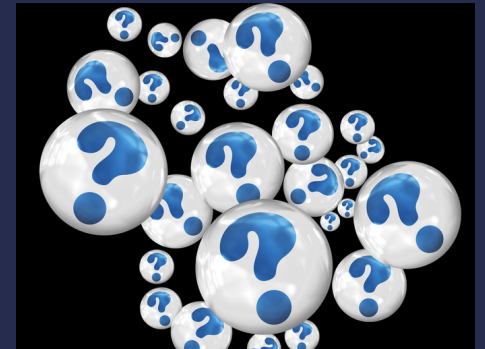
We encouraged students to "think like a philosopher", as they took part in our first Philosophy Week.

Tutors introduced the idea of philosophy, starting off with a discussion about what philosophy is. Throughout the rest of the week tutors and teachers included some interesting questions in registrations times and lessons: Can kindness change the world? What is the difference between kids and grown ups? Are the best things in life free?

In their year-group assemblies, students were invited by Mrs Cox and Mr Newman to consider "What makes a 'good life'? They explored this further with their tutors later on in the week.

Finally, we took a break from the regular RE curriculum, with lessons on Christianity or Hinduism giving way to more philosophical questions surrounding the existence of a soul and why we disagree.

Thank you to all the students who entered into the spirit of the week with great positivity and enthusiasm.



*The saddest
summary of a life
contains three
descriptions: could
have, might have,
and should have.*
Louis E. Boone

**A good life is a
collection of happy
moments.**
Denis Waitley

The whole secret of a
successful life is to find out
what it is one's destiny to
do, and then do it.
Henry Ford





Sports Update

In January, PE lessons have started with Football and Basketball, the students have been shooting hoops and practising their skills in the sports hall, as well as making the most of our fantastic AstroTurf.

January has provided a busy timetable of fixtures afterschool, Football, Netball and Hockey taking place over these first few weeks back.

With the new adjusted system of clubs at lunchtimes we are able to host more fixtures without cancelling training, a great move in the right direction.

Cross-Country club have been tackling the best of the winter weather, this club stops for no one, rain or shine. A big well done to those who brave all conditions and complete the 3km course every Thursday morning at 8:00am!



t pupils are feeling safe, happy and are enjoying their
Please see below some of the highlights.



Pupil Wellbeing Survey

In early January, HSL pupils were asked to complete a pupil survey regarding their thoughts about life at HSL! We were delighted with the overwhelmingly positive responses from our young people. It is fantastic to see that pupils are feeling safe, happy and are enjoying their time at school. Please see below some of the highlights and the additional actions we are taking in response to their comments. Please do contact us at school should you ever wish to discuss your child's wellbeing.

Feedback from Pupil Questionnaire:

98% pupils stated that there is a member of staff at school who cares about their wellbeing.

95% pupils stated they have everything they need for school.

99% pupils know which member of staff they would talk to if they had a worry/concern.

Actions the school has taken since the survey:

Tutors have had conversations with the pupils who wrote 'I don't know' to remind them that all members of staff care about their wellbeing and will support them during their time at HSL. Pupils were reminded and encouraged to talk to their tutors who see them twice a day.

The 5% of pupils who said that they didn't have what they need for school, stated that they were sometimes missing basic equipment such as a pencil or a protractor. Tutors have spoken to these pupils to see if there is a financial issue at home and we will provide equipment if this is the case. Parents are reminded that Maths equipment can be purchased on SCOPAY and Miss Jones (Curriculum Lead for Maths) will facilitate giving equipment out to pupils whose parents have purchased these items.

The 1% of pupils who said, 'I don't know', have now had conversations with their tutors (or Miss O'Riordan) to discuss why and the next steps to support them. More visible display boards have been created to help create awareness about who pupils can talk to. This has also been spoken about in assemblies.

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Pupil Wellbeing Survey

Feedback from Pupil Questionnaire:

96% pupils said they felt included in activities in school.

99% pupils stated they get on well with other pupils during breaks/lunch times

92% pupils stated they felt a sense of belonging to HSL

Actions the school has taken since the survey:

Miss O'Riordan hosted a pupil conference in her office with the 4% who said no, to discuss why they feel this way and what could be improved so these pupils can feel like they are involved in school activities. Some pupils stated they accidentally clicked the wrong option, however others said they sometimes found some elements of group work a challenge. Staff have been made aware of this so they can help support these pupils in their lessons and help them manage social situations.

Of the 1% pupils who said they didn't get on well with other pupils, conversations have been held between the tutors and the pupils to help address any friendship issue(s).

Miss O'Riordan hosted a pupil conference in her office with the 8% of pupils who stated they 'didn't know', to discuss why they feel that way and what could be improved so they feel that there is a sense of community. Some Year 7 pupils said that because they spent more time at their primary schools they therefore still had a sense of belonging to them. However, they feel that over time, they will feel more belonging to HSL. We are hopeful that as we progress through this half term, with clubs, the school production, and school trips, that this small number of pupils will feel a sense of belonging. Miss O'Riordan will be meeting with these pupils again after half term to see how they are getting on.

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Pupil Wellbeing Survey

Feedback from Pupil Questionnaire:

95% pupils stated that they do not feel lonely when at school for breaks/lunches

98.5% pupils said that they are not being bullied.

95% pupils take part in extracurricular activities at HSL

Actions the school has taken since the survey:

Tutors have spoken with individuals who stated they did feel lonely during social times and have discussed strategies as to how to support them moving forward. At HSL, we have a range of extracurricular clubs on offer which are key in helping to build and foster new relationships for pupils. Equally, we offer both The Hive and the Library as a safe space for pupils too.

Miss O'Riordan and/or tutors have spoken to the very small number of pupils who raised a concern. An action plan is in place for each individual. Since the survey, Miss O'Riordan and/or tutors have spoken with these individuals, and they all feel that the school is supporting them and that they are not being bullied.

We will continue to promote the idea of a 'telling school' and actively encourage pupils to talk to an adult if they are concerned about any type of poor behaviour.

Tutors and/or Miss O'Riordan have spoken to the 5% of pupils who did not identify an extracurricular activity during their survey. However, these pupils are all either taking part in the school production, going to homework club or spending lunch time in The Hive/Library - which we fully support! Tutors have also reminded tutor groups about the clubs that are on offer, and it was a recent item on the House Council Agenda (held on the 24th January). We are always keen to hear of any clubs that the pupils would like to start at HSL!

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The Wellbeing Hub

The High School Leckhampton continues to have a subscription to 'The Wellbeing Hub', which we know has been a great source of information for our parents and carers. We'd like to make you aware of the upcoming events/courses that The Wellbeing Hub is offering over the next few weeks. You can access [The Wellbeing Hub](#) here.

Upcoming Events:

Webinar: Personal Safety: Supporting Your Child To Navigate The Teenage Years with Andrew Privett, Founder of Streetwise365
Wednesday 15th February, 6:30pm

Latest Resources:

Webinar: Online Safety: The Latest Risks & Opportunities with Karl Hopwood, Independent Online Safety Expert.

Blog: Cyberbullying For Parents & Young People by Alicia Drummond, Therapist & Founder Of The Wellbeing Hub.

Awareness Days:

Time To Talk Day, 3rd February: A day to talk about your mental health and listen to others. Here are some resources to get you started:

- Blog: It's Ok Not To Be Ok by Dr Tamara Scully
- Blog: Managing Negative Thought Patterns by Clare Nicholas, School Counsellor.



— The —
**Wellbeing
Hub**
— from Teen Tips —





Spotlight On Clubs - Warhammer Club

Every Wednesday lunchtime a large group of WarHammer enthusiasts meet to build, paint, battle and discuss all things WarHammer. Many pupils bring kit from home, but the school received a generous donation of figures and paints, so everyone has something to paint!

Mrs Wood who supervises the club says:

"It is an absolute delight to run this club. I can't profess to knowing very much about WarHammer when I first started leading the club, but the pupils are teaching me. It is a fantastic way to spend a lunchtime, watching the pupils skilfully paint their figures, sharing advice about techniques, and discussing their collections.

They are such a wonderful group of students, welcoming newcomers and getting a lot of enjoyment from this wonderful world. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr C Smith, who donated such a large amount of equipment. If anyone else has any WarHammer figures or equipment in their loft, I know some pupils who'd be absolutely over the moon to receive it!"





Eco Committee Update - by Michaelah 7CH

Did you know that around 30% of greenhouse gas emissions come from transport? Greenhouse gases cause climate change and contribute to respiratory disease from smog and air pollution (www.nationalgeographic.com).

At HSL we care about the environment, the school community and those living close by. Therefore, we have introduced a new school policy asking all stationary vehicles to turn their engines off at drop off and pick up.

This will greatly improve the air quality for all students, staff, neighbouring residents and parents as well as the wildlife.

Small changes like this can contribute to having a big impact.

Thank you in advance.

Michaelah





Let's Go Zero

In 2022, HSL pledged to become net zero by 2030. Let's Go Zero, who are running the campaign, asked to use our school as a case study and interviewed some members of the Eco-Committee last term about what we have done so far to support our environment. They have now published our case study which can be viewed at [this link](#).

Let's Go Zero school action: The High School Leckhampton, England

The High School Leckhampton is a new school that opened in September 2021 who has pledged to be environmentally friendly and become net zero. Sustainability is a focus throughout the school, initiatives include:

- Using sustainable and active travel for school trips
- Installing solar panels on the roof
- Making classrooms an extension of the school grounds by having plants on windowsills

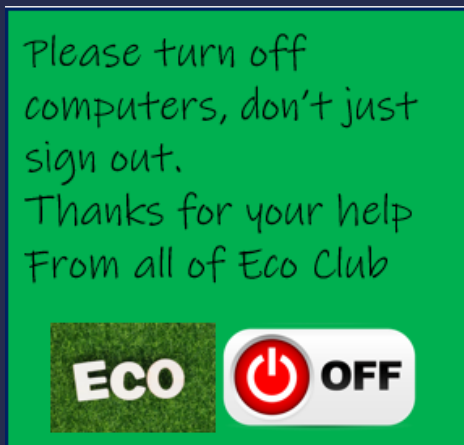
Many initiatives they take, are not only environmental but saves money, creating a win-win scenario.





Energy Saving and Recycling Signs

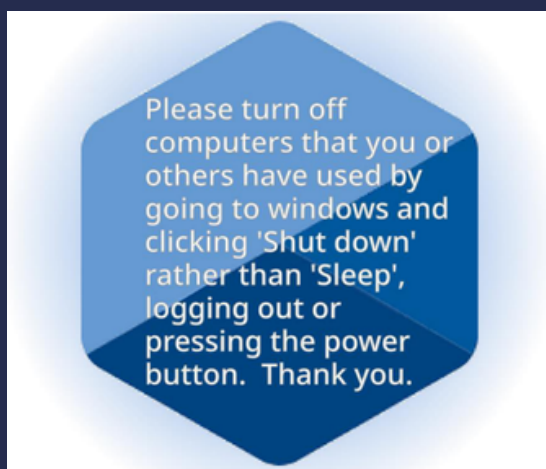
Many students may have noticed signs appearing around the school this month! The Eco-Committee have been busy designing and putting signs in classrooms and the canteen to remind everyone to save energy and recycle where possible. Please remember to turn lights off when leaving a room, shut computers down when finished with them, and to recycle your plastic items in the canteen's mixed recycling bin. Thank you from the Eco-Committee!



Charlotte Deacon 7IS



Michaelah Dixon 7 CH



Justin Collier 8WI



Delphine Jones 7CH



Thick Jumper Non-Uniform Day for Water Aid

On Friday 13th January, The High School Leckhampton wore their favourite jumpers to school to raise awareness and funds for Water Aid. During the day, the sixteen students with the 'best' jumpers, as voted for by their tutor groups, were put before the Eco-Committee. Congratulations to Saoirse Lemmy in 7CH and Amelie Holloway in 8CH who were chosen as having the 'best' jumper in Year 7 and Year 8 respectively and received a pack of reusable eco-friendly straws as a prize. Thank you to all who donated - we raised £176 which will go towards providing clean water and decent toilets for those who need it most.





Photo Competition

Cheltenham Twinning Association 35th anniversary photo competition

To celebrate 35 years of twinning between Cheltenham, UK and Weihai in China, Cheltenham Borough Council and Cheltenham Twinning Association, in conjunction with Cheltenham Camera Club and Weihai City Council in China, organised an amateur photo competition this term.

Miss Kennedy advertised this competition to HSL students in October and many entered their photo for the theme 'One planet... many ways to care for our environment'. Out of all the entries, only 15 were shortlisted from Cheltenham and are now displayed online at [this link](#).

We are proud to say that one of the 15 shortlisted entries is from Jessica Sperring in 7LB, which she called 'The floral crisis of planet Earth'. What a great achievement Jessica!





PSHE Lesson by Marina and Amelie

In our first PSHE lesson we looked at how to keep ourselves clean and healthy during the busy lives we have in year 8. As we dived deep into 'Personal Hygiene', we looked at how to keep ourselves clean and why we should. Covering all bases, from brushing our teeth to showering and washing our face every day, Year 8 learned it all! In 8IS, we created mind maps and lists of all the things we should be doing and what we can do to keep ourselves clean. We decorated them with colour and pictures to make them exciting for us and others. Our mind maps included: a balanced diet, keeping hydrated, exercising for 60 minutes a day, washing our hair often (more than once a month!), washing and airing our clothes to keep them fresh and clean, and washing our hands after we visit the toilet. This is an important topic to learn about because as we start to grow older everyone should want to stay clean and fresh. This lesson felt like an important reminder of these essential life skills. To then test our knowledge, we played a game called 'Are you a Stinker?' which raised different scenarios about personal hygiene and the importance of it. This activity was a lot of fun and turned an awkward subject into a game! The first hour was a highly successful.

During our second session of PSHE, we discussed about how to keep our world clean by recycling all types of plastic, from plastic bottles to plastic bags. Over the last 50 years, we have increased the use of plastic by 20%. We also looked at where the plastic goes when it's not recycled and how not recycling plastic affects animals such as turtles, fish, and birds. We learned how plastic ends up in our oceans and how if it ends up in landfill it accumulates and produces a toxic gas that kills fish and sea life. Instead of letting our plastic harm the environment, we can recycle it and give it a new life. Recycled plastic can become fleece jumpers, scarves, seed trays and even help to make our school uniform!

To make recycled polyester clothes, the plastic is first broken into small plastic flakes. Then, the small plastic flakes are melted and then reformed. After learning all about how plastics that are not recycled harm our environment, we finished our lesson by taking part in a competition, which was to create our own poster that would be displayed in school to try and prevent people from using too much plastic. Mrs Wood judged this competition, and the quality of the entries were brilliant! However, Holly and Josie 8IS won, with the excellent display below!

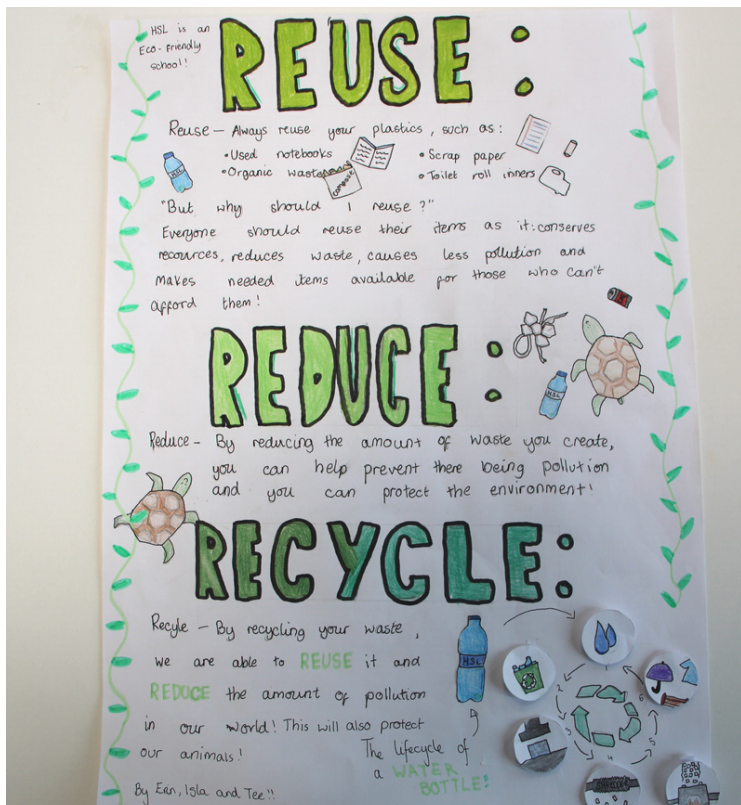


Competition Winners - Holly and Josie 81S





Highly Commended





High School Musical Rehearsals





Other Information

The Right of the Month - Our Rights Respecting School

This month we continue our rights respecting journey with Article 14 – Freedom of thought, belief and religion.

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

Donations for D&T

If you have any newspapers, magazines or jam jars you no longer require we would really appreciate them in D&T. Please hand in any donations to Reception.

Requests for Holidays During Term Time

Parents are politely reminded that the school will not authorise absence for holidays during term time.

Equipment Required for School

- Pen (black/blue)
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Sharpener
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- A Highlighter
- Maths Equipment
- Colouring Pencils

