



Newsletter

February 2023 - Issue 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this latest newsletter finds you and your families safe and well and that you had an enjoyable half-term break. We are about to embark on a short but busy half term in the lead up to Easter. Our Year 7 Parents' Evenings start this week and will run over 2 weeks (4 nights in total), so that parents get chance to speak to every teacher. The pupils have STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week to look forward to in early March, a non-uniform day for Red-Nose Day, and of course the much-anticipated school production. There are many other fixtures and events in the calendar too. Please continue to use the school website to stay up to date and we will always email parents with important information.

The past few weeks have seen some challenging international events, with the continuation of war in Ukraine and the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. We have joined with other local schools to create a JustGiving page where, if you are able, you can make a donation to support those impacted by the earthquake. Please see the link in this newsletter that takes you to the page. At school, we discuss international events such as these in tutor period and use programmes such as Newsround to ensure our pupils understand their world and can ask questions. As a Rights Respecting School, we encourage our pupils to think about rights, freedoms and experiences both in the UK and internationally, so that they develop empathy and compassion for others. We are continually impressed by the maturity and compassion our pupils show.

It is World Book Day on Thursday this week. Please remind your child that they can take part in a book swap in the LRC at lunchtime. They simply need to bring in a book they have read, that they think someone else might like, and swap it for another. The more books brought in, the more chance they'll find something that appeals!

In this newsletter, you will read about our ongoing preparations for the school production High School Musical - which is now only 4 weeks away. Thank you very much for helping you child learn lines, source their costumes, and collecting them from rehearsals. We will be writing to you shortly with details about how to purchase tickets. Please do bring friends and family, the pupils have been working so hard, it would be fantastic if they could perform to a full house each night!

With warm wishes,

Helen Wood
Headteacher



Key Dates

27th February	Fair Trade Fortnight
1st March	Year 7 Parents Evening #1
2nd March	Year 7 Parents Evening #2
2nd March	World Book Day - Book swap event in LRC
6th March	Deadline for payment to the Thinktank Science Museum
8th March	Year 7 Parents Evening #3
8th March	UN International Women's Day
9th March	Year 7 Parents Evening #4
10th - 19th March	British Science Week/STEM Week at HSL
20th March	Year 7 History Trip - Windrush and Lilley Brook
22nd March	Year 7 History Trip - Isbourne and Chelt
17th March	RRSA Steering Group (lunchtime)
17th March	Red Nose Day - Non Uniform Day
27th - 29th March	School Production





RRSA - Silver Award Success!

We are delighted that after an assessment, involving a number of colleagues and pupils, we have achieved the Silver Award of the Rights Respecting School Accreditation!

This is fantastic news and tangible confirmation of our commitment to creating a respectful, inclusive school where both staff and pupils are valued and respected.

The pupil panel were superb - talking with genuine passion about our school and their pride in what we stand for. They clearly feel safe and supported.

A huge thank you to Mrs Cox for leading us on this journey. The assessor was quick to compliment Mrs Cox on her clear vision, and innovative, thoughtful leadership.

If you would like more information on the RRSA Please [click here](#).



RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

unicef 
UNITED KINGDOM

SILVER – RIGHTS AWARE



Holocaust Memorial Day - 27th January 2023

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day on Friday 27th January 2023, the pupils at HSL took part in a number of events and activities.

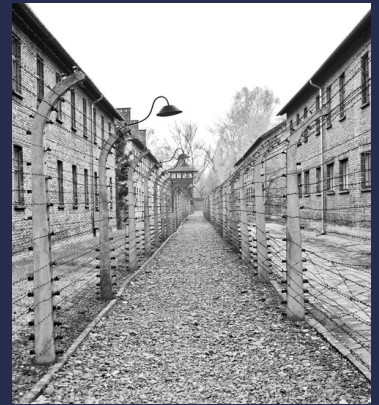
Throughout the week, pupils read the short story 'Small Steps' by Tom Palmer; a story based on the life of one of the Windermere children, a group of 300 Holocaust survivor refugees who arrived in the UK after the end of WWII. After reading the story, pupils watched workshops with Tom Palmer about how to write their own creative writing and were encouraged to write their own story based on Sir Ben Helfgott, a Holocaust survivor who represented Team GB for weightlifting in two Olympic games.

On the day itself, the entire school was fortunate enough to watch a live Q&A between Tom Palmer and Holocaust survivor, Mala Tribich. It was a fascinating and incredibly moving conversation between them as Mala explained what life had been like for her a young girl growing up in a Jewish Ghetto in Poland and then being transported to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. After the talk, the pupils had the opportunity to discuss and reflect upon what they'd heard, and many meaningful and thoughtful conversations were had. If you'd like to watch the talk yourselves, please find the link to the live recording below.

[Q&A with Tom Palmer and Mala Tribich](#)

As a result of taking part in the workshops with Tom Palmer and hearing from Mala Tribich, many pupils were inspired and to write their own stories.

Many thanks to all of the pupils of HSL for dealing with such a sensitive and difficult topic with such maturity, consideration and compassion.



National Literacy Trust
Changing life stories

Holocaust Memorial Day Zoom live webinar

With author Tom Palmer and Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich

Friday 27 January
2:00pm - 2:45pm

literacytrust.org.uk/holocaust-memorial-day



History Competition

We have recently launched the HSL History 50 Objects Competition. Students have been asked to reflect on what has been special about this year at HSL and then choose an object that conveys that. Students have been asked to draw that object and write an explanation of what it is and why it sums up 2022/2023 at HSL.

We look forward to receiving all the entries!





Earthquake Appeal

A group of Cheltenham schools are standing together in support of those who are suffering as a result of the devastating Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. We have created a Just Giving page to raise funds to help where we can. If you would like to donate, the link is below.

[Just Giving Page](#)



Cheltenham schools coming together to support their wider community

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

DONATE NOW

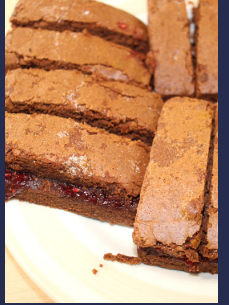




Fairtrade Fruity Treats Cake Sale

On Friday 3rd February, the Eco-Committee ran a Fairtrade Fruity Treats sale at break and raised £53 for the Fairtrade Foundation.

On the same day each tutor group put their Fairtrade knowledge to the test and competed in the House Fairtrade Quiz. Congratulations to Year 8 Lilley Brook who scored highest in the quiz and received some Eco ePraise points and some Fairtrade chocolate to share.





Sports update

Year 7 A and B teams v Chosen Hill

Both won their matches 9-5. We are proud of the successful results and great netball played by the whole team.



Year 8 HSL v Chosen Hill netball

Two great matches from our Year 8 teams, resulting in 2 wins and 2 narrow losses. There was great team work and enthusiasm by everyone.





Rehearsals - High School Musical on Stage

Our pupils are continuing to work tirelessly on 'High School Musical on Stage', and wherever you turn in school there is a wonderful buzz with acting, singing and dancing happening.

The pupils have been very organised checking rehearsal schedules and doing their own practicing at home. For many, the rehearsals will start to increase now including some weekend rehearsals and more information on this will follow shortly.

We are still collecting props and parts for our set. However, as it is only our second school production, we have a very bare Drama cupboard! We are therefore asking you to raid any sheds, garages or lofts to see if you have any of the following items that you would be able to either loan us or donate:-

- Gold and silver tinsel
- Happy New year party banners/hats/glasses/ general paraphernalia
- 2 x Clothes rails
- Empty paint tins
- Full/half full tins of paint – any colours
- Old painting rollers/paint brushes
- Newspapers
- Basketball backboard/hoop (with or without a stand)
- Trellis panels
- Fake flowers/fake ivy
- Office whiteboards on wheels/stands
- White, red or black material





Shawn the Skeleton arrives at HSL

Introducing the Science Department's newest member - Shawn the Skeleton! Many thanks to Shawn Gillham for donating Shawn to our school.





Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice Spring Fayre

On Saturday 25th March Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice will be hosting their Spring Fayre in the hospice grounds to raise money for this local charity.

It is a great family fun day with many exciting activities for children to get involved with. From bouncy castles, nature trails, to storm troopers and live music.

Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice is Gloucestershire's only hospice with beds and are the largest provider of Hospice at Home care. Providing specialist palliative and end of life care for adults (18+) from across the county and look after their loved ones too, through Family Support and bereavement counselling.

Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice

Join us at our
Spring Fayre

Saturday 25th March
10am–5pm
Leckhampton Court Hospice grounds

Entrance fee on day: £2.50
FREE for children under 12

- BBQ, pop-up bar and tasty treats
- Live music and entertainment
- Leckhampton Court Tea Rooms
- Glitter face painting, bouncy castle, and family fun activities

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For more information
visit: sueyder.org/springfayre
email: leckhampton.fundraising@sueyder.org
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t @SueRyderLCH

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