

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst every secondary school in the country is currently very focused on exam season, the staff at The High School Leckhampton have been able to give our Year 7 and 8 pupils their undivided attention over recent weeks. As such, we have enjoyed another busy, positive and productive half term!

To celebrate the coronation, we organised a '4 corners' challenge for our Year 7 pupils, competing against each other in games themed around the coronation. It was a very competitive event, with Lilley Brook taking victory overall. Recently, our Year 8 pupils went on a careers visit, to the University of Gloucestershire's Oxstall's campus, as part of our personal development programme. You can read more about the activities they participated in and their positive feedback in this newsletter.

Mental Health awareness week was marked with some special assemblies and tutor activities, with many of our pupils and staff wearing something green to mark the occasion. Simultaneously, our Eco Committee actively promoted a walk to school week and empty carpark day - and they are currently busy collecting data to see if there was a reduction in the overall number of cars coming into school during that week.

Mrs Simms recently arranged for a group of Year 8 pupils to attend an international development talk at the University of Gloucestershire Park Campus, organised by Cheltenham Education Partnership. Mr Newman and Mrs Cox organised a fantastic trip for all our Year 8 pupils to Bristol, where they went to M-shed to learn more about transatlantic slavery and conducted some geography field work about urban regeneration. Having attended this trip, I would like to thank the pupils for their superb conduct. It is a genuine pleasure to take our pupils on visits such as these and the museum staff were keen to comment on their engagement and behaviour. Last week was topped off with a rather 'silly sports day' which was great fun indeed and we have organised an array of other sporting activities, including cricket fixtures and House sports competitions! We were delighted to take over 40 pupils to Leckhampton Primary School this week, to help support their Sports Day. We were incredibly proud of the Year 7 pupils who attended and were able to show their excellent leadership skills.

Whilst all these enrichment activities have been going on I am pleased to say that our pupils have continued to work hard in the classroom. The Year 8 interim reports suggest that our pupils are really focused, with the vast majority of pupils securing 1 and 1* grades for their effort. We are looking forward to reading the Year 7 reports which will be published before the end of term, and are confident these will capture the same positive picture of excellent effort and engagement.

Finally, in this edition of the newsletter, we've decided to introduce 'subject spotlight'. This month's focus is on Geography and inside you can read about all the interesting things our pupils are learning in their Geography lessons.

We hope you all enjoy a wonderful half term break.

With warm wishes,

Helen Wood
Headteacher





Key Dates - June

7th June	Cheltenham Science Festival Trip
7th June	Year 8 Parents Evening #1 (16:00 - 19:00 online)
8th June	Year 8 Parents Evening #2 (16:00 - 19:00 online)
8th June	PTFA Meeting (LRC 19:00)
13th June	Year 8 Parents Evening #3 (16:00 - 19:00 online)
14th June	Year 8 Parents Evening #4 (16:00 - 19:00 online)
15th June	Year 7 Crystal Maze challenge
15th June	Parent Forum (LRC 16:00)
16th June	RRSA Steering Group (lunchtime)
19th June	National Sports Week
22nd June	Learning Council Meeting (LRC lunchtime)





Coronation Photography Challenge

Over the weekend of the Coronation of King Charles III, HSL students were set the challenge of taking some photos to record the historic event. Twenty-seven students each submitted a group of images that they felt reflected the celebrations.

Mr Bunting and Mrs Cox would like to congratulate all students who took part, for their thoughtful selection of images. All participants should check the VLE for feedback and epraise points!



Students who took part:

Alannah Abbott, Alex Piper, Beth Sterry, Charlotte Deacon, Constance Grant, Daisy Tustin, Delphine Jones, Edward McMahon, Ella Sylvester, Eloise Swan, Euan Cameron-Mitchell, Evie Davenport, Fraser Warwick, Grace Paine, Henry Johnson, Imogen Thompson, Isabelle Macdonald, Jemima Woodcock, Justin Collier, Tee Redfearn, Laurie Shore-Nye, Molly Hannaford-George, Oscar Hunt, Oshan Cooper, Saoirse Lemmy, Syra Jallow-Rossiter, Talia Phelps-Garcia, Will Ford.



Four Corners Challenge

Year 7 students participated in some fun and games as part of the school's celebrations of the coronation of King Charles III. The four houses competed against each other in a series of challenges, each related in some way to the preparations for the coronation in Westminster Abbey.

The students took on the roles of royal aides supporting the King, solving problems such as the sceptre and orb becoming separated, getting the crown to the venue punctually and practicing processing down the Abbey's centre aisle as a united team. The competition ended with a 'royally ready' quiz, where the students showed fantastic knowledge about the coronation ceremony and its history.

Just before the students went home the marks were totalled up and the winner announced. Our congratulations go to 7LB, for a fantastic winning score. And well done to all the participants. We hope they felt that the afternoon's activities prepared them well to enjoy the weekend's celebrations!





Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts

Over a busy two week period in May, several High School Leckhampton pupils competed at The Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. They performed in Dance, Drama and Music, achieving some incredible scores - and winning some of their classes! We are incredibly proud of them for their commitment, dedication and effort.



Focus on... Geography

Our Key Stage 3 Geography curriculum has been crafted with a simple intent, to inspire in our pupils, a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. We use a thematic approach to ensure that our pupils can see the common threads that unite the study of Geography, with hazards, sustainability, physical landscapes, economies, and development key to understanding the world around them. This is supplemented by the development of key skills which enable our pupils to read and interpret the world.



What have our students been learning?

Year 7 – At the start of Year 7, our students focused on the geography of the United Kingdom, to ensure that their future studies were grounded in knowledge of their local spaces. Following this, they developed their practical geography skills by learning how to read and use maps and geographical information systems. A key theme of geography at High School Leckhampton is learning about natural hazards, so the Year 7s looked at Volcanic hazards and how they impact communities around the world. Introducing the students to core geographical ideas came next by looking at issues around sustainability – where students have been encouraged to evaluate our school's ability to act in an environmentally responsible manner. The natural world will follow this, with an introduction to river landforms and uses. Students have learnt key concepts in each of the geography topics whilst beginning to develop their mathematical, analytical and fieldwork skills, using the local environment for the latter.

Year 8 – At the start of Year 8, our students focused on the geography of Europe, to ensure that their future studies were grounded in knowledge of their continent (expanding the scale from the 1st topic of Year 7). Following this, they investigated natural environments and human impacts on Rainforests and Deserts. Continuing the key theme of natural hazards, the Year 8s looked at Earthquake hazards and how they impact communities around the world. Introducing the students to core geographical ideas was next by looking at issues around Development (Poverty and Wealth) – where students have been encouraged to evaluate the UK's relative wealth in comparison with other countries. The natural world theme will be revisited as we approach the end of the year, with an introduction to coastal landforms and management, this continues our theme around natural landscapes starting in Y7 with Rivers. Students have continued to embed the key concepts in each of the geography topics and develop their use of mathematical, analytical and fieldwork skills, using an urban environment (Bristol) for the latter.

Focus on... Geography

Fantastic examples of work:

Our Year 7 pupils have recently been investigating sustainability at the High School and collected data about the environmental impact of the school. They were encouraged to present their findings using infographics, and then analysed their work to either agree or disagree with the following hypothesis. "High School Leckhampton is a sustainable school".

Well done to Lara, Elsa, and Evie (7IS) for being chosen!



Our Year 8 pupils have recently completed a decision-making task, where they were presented with 6 options to dramatically improve the Democratic Republic of Congo. They had \$1billion to spend on an infrastructural project to raise the living standards of residents. Having evaluated each project for their relative strengths and weaknesses, students had to create a campaign to justify their opinions to a wider audience.

Well done to Arabella and Callie (8LB) for being chosen!



Focus on... Geography

Geography Field Trip

On a recent visit to Bristol, Year 8 Geographers were given an opportunity to develop their field working skills by collecting information about the regeneration of Bristol's Princes Wharf area. A former docking area up to 1975, Bristol's floating harbour was too shallow to accommodate large container ships and therefore fell into disuse and disrepair throughout the 1980s/1990s. To increase footfall in the area much has been done, including the opening of the M-Shed Museum, cafes, restaurants, shopping facilities and the famous SS Great Britain.

Students were placed into small groups and given time to investigate the wharf by collecting pedestrian counts, traffic surveys, environmental quality assessments and land use surveys. The most popular technique used was the questionnaires, which required students to ask a range of questions to members of the public.

This visit has helped expose our students to the demands of fieldwork by increasing their range of skills. This will ultimately prove useful in preparing our students for their GCSE in Geography as well as encouraging them to read landscapes carefully and apply ideas to the world around them.





Maths Challenge Winners

Our budding mathematicians sat the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Maths Challenge on the 26th April and have been waiting with bated breath for the results! The questions in the challenges are tricky and designed to make the students think. The students represented the school remarkably well and their participation and engagement with the challenging puzzles was exemplary.

This week the results arrived, and a tea party was held to celebrate the achievements of the students. With many students achieving the Bronze and Silver awards we had a single Gold achiever. The Best in Year 7 award went to Oscar Bruce (7WI) and the Best In School award went to Ollie Freebry (8IS). Congratulations to all the students and in particular our 'Best' winners!





Eco - Committee Update

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to walk or cycle to and from school during Walk To School Week from Monday 15th - Friday 19th May. To assess the impact of this week, the Eco-Committee have been monitoring the number of cars entering the car park at the start and the end of each day. We will share our results with students and staff during our next assembly.

This month, HSL has taken part in No Mow May and allowed certain areas within our school site to grow freely - there are some beautiful wild flowers on the verges and in the nature area for students and visitors to appreciate. The International Day for Biological Diversity took place on Monday 22nd May. To celebrate this, the Eco-Committee spent our lunchtime meeting outside, identifying and measuring the circumference of the trees growing on our school site. We plan to carry out these measurements each year to track the growth of these trees as we also increase in size.






Eco - Committee Update


A reminder that HSL has signed up to be a public drop-off point for two of TerraCycle's Recycling Programmes - Cheese Packaging and Air, Home and Laundry Care products. If you would like to drop off any empty packaging, please do so at Reception between 08:00 and 16:00 from Monday to Friday during term time.

For the final step of our Eco-Schools Green Flag application, the Eco-Committee had to design an Eco-Code for HSL. The Eco-Code is a whole school promise to protect the planet and should reflect the work we have done as part of our Action Plan throughout this academic year. Thank you to Delphine Jones, Jacob Freer, Charlotte Deacon, Evie Davenport and Justin Collier for designing and submitting fantastic Eco-Codes. It was a very difficult decision, however Mrs Wood and Miss Kennedy agreed that Jacob Freer's Eco-Code best represented what The High School Leckhampton stands for and have chosen to submit it as part of our Eco-Schools application. Congratulations Jacob!






The High School
Leckhampton



As the hill protects us.... We protect it.

At The High School Leckhampton we pledge...
To be responsible and care for our local environment and our planet
for the generations to come. This is our Eco-Code.

<p>We pledge to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce our use of single use plastics • Reduce our food waste • Support our community by helping it to be litter free • Recycle as much as we can • We will try to buy and use recycled products • Spread the message around the community about our Eco Friendly school • Encourage all wildlife in and around our new school 	<p>We will involve...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils and recruit more to our Eco Committee • We will ask parents to help by recycling more • We will encourage the local community to show them we care about their local environment • We will volunteer wherever possible
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Working Together



Eco - Committee and Sir David Attenborough

Some members of the Eco-Committee wrote letters to Sir David Attenborough to introduce themselves and tell him all about our school and the work we have been doing to protect the environment and raise awareness this year. We received a reply which was written on Monday 8th May, Sir David Attenborough's 97th birthday! A photo of the letter is below, and it will be framed and hung up near the Eco board.



5 Park Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6NS

8.5.23

Dear Members of Leekhampton High
School Eco-Committee.

Thank you very much for
your letter. I congratulate you
on all you are doing to help
in the struggle to help our
environment and for explaining to
others of the dangers that will come if
we do not do so.

Best wishes
to you all

David Attenborough

from David Attenborough



University of Gloucestershire Year 8 'Pre-16 Aspirations Day'

Year 8 pupils were invited to the University of Gloucestershire for a 'Pre-16 Aspirations Day'. Students had a tour around Oxstalls campus with student ambassadors from the uni and a talk from Dr Rachel Fennell informing our pupils about Post 16 qualifications, what support is available to students and the various courses that are on offer around the UK.

Additionally, pupils got taster sessions in Law, Sports Therapy and Sports Sciences as well as taking part in an informative 'myths busting' session about university life. All in all, an enriching and worthwhile experience for our pupils!





Swimming Gala



Team Position - 5th

The Year 7 Girls 4x25m Medley - 2nd

The Year 8 Girls 4 x 25m Medley - 4th

Year 8 Backstroke: Tillie-Mei Robinson - 3rd

Year 8 Backstroke: Seb Miles - 5th

Year 7 Backstroke: Fraser Warwick - 3rd

Year 7 Frontcrawl: Poppy Davis - 3rd

Year 7 Frontcrawl: Fraser Warwick - 3rd

Year 7 Butterfly: Poppy Davis - 1st

Well done to all of our swimmers that took part in the Cheltenham District Swimming Gala on Tuesday 9th May. All swimmers performed incredibly well in their races and had a really enjoyable day out competing for HSL.

For many of the team it was their first competitive gala and there were some very impressive results recorded.



House Sport

House Competitions have been hotting up this month with girls and boys Basketball, girls and boys Football, Silly Sports Day, and Pickle Ball. Pupils have been organising themselves with the help of their Sports Leaders and there have been some fantastic sporting contests on display between all of the houses.

Each house has won an event between both of the year groups, however, 7 Lilleybrook continue to be the team to beat for the Year 7's; winning three out of the four sports this term, and there is a closely contested battle between Isbourne and Windrush in Year 8.

There are still plenty of points to play for with Rounders, Cricket, Tennis and Sports Day all happening after half term.

The overall results as they stand heading into the final term are:

1st Place - Isbourne (37 points)

2nd Place - Windrush (33 points)

3rd Place - Lilleybrook (31 points)

4th Place - Chelt (26 points)





'Silly' Sports Day

Our fantastic PE department, organised a brilliant 'silly sports day' for all our pupils at the end of mental health awareness week. Each house competed fiercely against one another in events such as egg and spoon, the three-legged race, sack race, welly wanging, and a hotly contested tug of war.

The pupils really enjoyed the event, as you can see from the photos, and the scores were very close indeed with pole position changing throughout the event. In the end Lilley Brook managed to take the crown, closely followed by Isbourne and Chelt who tied for second - and Windrush in last place. However, before Lilley Brook get complacent, Windrush are fired up to regain their first place when we do the 'real' sports day in July, which they won last year!





Mental Health Awareness Week

Between Monday 15th - Friday 19th May, HSL pupils and staff took part in a range of activities to show their support of 'Mental Health Awareness Week 2023'. This year's theme was 'Anxiety'.

The Mental Health Foundation (MHF) chose anxiety as their [Mental Health Awareness Week 2023](#) theme to provide a better understanding of what anxiety is, when it becomes a concern, and what people can do to help themselves and each other when anxiety starts to become a concern.

The week started with all pupils taking part in the NHS 'Worry Tree' activity. This was closely followed by an assembly for all pupils regarding 'Mental Health Awareness Week and Anxiety' where pupils were informed that feelings of anxiety are a natural and important human response to stress or perceived danger. They are feelings of unease, worry, or apprehension. Pupils were also reminded of the support they can get at school from HSL staff, the website and VLE pages.

Following the assemblies, pupils took part in some 'Feel Good Friday' activities to promote positive mental wellbeing, including: mindfulness colouring, chair yoga and meditation and other fun activities. All pupils (and staff) were also invited to give a monetary donation to 'Wear It Green' on Friday - where members of the HSL community could wear an item of green on top of their uniform to show their support for 'Mental Health Awareness Week'.





PTFA Quiz and fish & chips night

The Quiz at the beginning of May was a great success. A big thank you to the PTFA and the Quiz masters Rich Reader and Jon Manton for a great fish and chip Quiz night!

We raised an amazing £1,153 and the winners on the night were Arthick Monkeys - congratulations!

A large graphic overlay on a background image of a school building. The overlay is a dark blue circle with yellow dotted lines. Inside the circle, the text reads: "You helped the PTFA Raise £1,153 from the Quiz and Fish & Chips Night". At the bottom left of the graphic is a "Save THE Date" logo. At the bottom right is a calendar icon showing "JULY 14".

You helped
the PTFA Raise

£1,153

from the Quiz and Fish & Chips Night

Save THE Date

HSL Summer End of Term BBQ

JULY
14