



Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels like a significant milestone as we reach October half term! It has been such an amazing start to our new school, and I am so very proud of all the pupils and staff. The children have shown great motivation, effort, and determination to succeed since the very beginning of their secondary school journey. The last 7 weeks have been fast paced and busy, however, the school has a lovely friendly and professional buzz about it. The children are settling in well, getting used to their new routine and many are participating in lunchtime and afterschool clubs.

I hope this newsletter gives a flavour of what has been going on this term. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing half term.

Helena Wood

Maths Challenge



On the 24th of September all students completed the first High School Leckhampton House Maths Competition. All 4 classes were invited out to the field, during their Maths lesson, to complete The House Maths Relay. Students worked together in teams to solve puzzles, have them checked and run across the field to pass on the next question. The puzzles introduced new aspects of Maths and students used their knowledge well to unpick the questions. The enthusiasm and engagement displayed by the students was exceptional. It was a pleasure to see the students cheering their House on and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Congratulations go to **Windrush** for being the overall winners of the House Maths Competition, let's see what happens next time!



Sponsored Walk

Congratulations to our pupils who completed the sponsored walk. They contended with a hot day and a challenging course but were rewarded with spectacular views over Charlton Kings.

So far, we have raised **£2746.33** with more to still come in. What a fabulous effort!





House Cross Country

We were delighted to see so many of our pupils participate in our House Cross Country competition. Congratulations to Marina and Ben, who were the fastest girl and boy. The overall winners were **Isbourne!**





Headteacher's Reward Tea Party

The Headteacher's Reward Tea Party got off to a great start last week and we were able to reward a small group of pupils who were nominated by their Tutors for their excellent effort and attitude since September. The pupils enjoyed some drinks and cakes and were asked about their experience since joining the school. They have certainly got involved!

This was the first of several planned Reward Tea Parties and we are looking forward to celebrating the efforts of many other deserving pupils throughout the year.





Choir

Miss Smith is running our choir on a Tuesday lunchtime. It is lovely to see so many of our pupils attend and join in the singing. They are currently preparing to perform at our Christmas celebration on 2nd December 2021 at St. Phillip's and St. James' Church in Leckhampton. Please encourage your child to join in.



THSL Band



We are hoping to get our very own THSL band off the ground. If your child is interested, please ask them to speak to Miss Smith or Mr Hinton in the Music Department. The next session will be at lunchtime on Friday 5th November.



PSHE Quiz



Great fun was had by all on the 29th September as all the pupils took part in a 'PSHE Quiz'. The quiz involved various rounds including: settling into secondary school; literature, and 'how well do you know Cheltenham?' The pupils were placed into teams of four and were sent to different classrooms, with children from the other houses, to take part the quiz. Scores for each round were kept top secret and sent to Miss O'Riordan, who calculated the final result. Once the quiz was over, there was a real sense of excitement in the air, and the children patiently waited to hear which house came out on top. There was a clear winner... **Isbourne** had taken the quiz by storm and had won by over 50 points! They have received the 'PSHE Quiz' Trophy for this year and congratulations to them for this accomplishment! A huge well done to all children in all houses for taking part and the effort they demonstrated. The attitudes they displayed on the day was fantastic and it really was a massive success!

Open Evening and Open Week



On 30th September we welcomed hundreds of prospective pupils and parents to our Open Evening. Our current pupils did a fantastic job of showing families around and talking about our school. Thank you to the pupils who spoke or played instruments during the talk in the Hall. We are very proud of you all.



PE kit update



We are pleased to let parents know that our local uniform suppliers, Universal Uniform and School Togs (Monkhouse) will now be stocking our school PE kit.

Having consulted at Parent Forum, we have taken the decision to move to our local suppliers as they can provide a more convenient service throughout the academic year.

Universal Uniform will have our PE items from **1st November 2021** and School Togs will be stocking the items in the new year.

If you have currently ordered and paid for items from the school, please continue to liaise with Miss Langford in the PE department.

Bus Transport



We are very pleased with how the bus service is running and the vast majority of our pupils are behaving very well on the buses. However, there have been reports of pupils not wearing seatbelts and moving around on the bus whilst on route. We have spoken to all tutor groups and reminded pupils of their responsibility to behave sensibly. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that if bad behaviour is reported on the bus, the school will take action and inform GCC. Any pupil who has misbehaved **may be banned by GCC** from using the

bus service and parents will have to arrange to bring their child to and from school. Please see the school website for the code of conduct which parents were asked to read and acknowledge when completing the pre-admissions form.



If you have any further questions please contact:

Miss Faye Williams (Mainstream School Transport Lead Officer) at GCC Transport Team

- **Tel: 01452 425543**
- **Email: faye.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk**

The contract is being run by Eagle Line – they may also be able to help you with general enquiries.

- **Tel: 01242 820535**
- **Email: enquiries@EagleLineTravel.co.uk**
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See [here](#) for the latest bus timetables

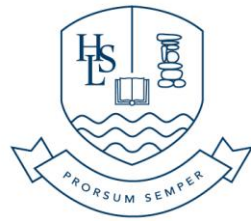
COVID 19 and Remote Access to work

Pupils should still be doing Lateral Flow tests twice a week. These are available from school. If a lateral flow test is positive, it is important to arrange a PCR test and keep your child off school. If the PCR test is positive, they must remain off school for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they can come back into school if they feel well enough. Please keep the school informed at every stage of the process.

Please remind your child that it is recommended they wear a face mask on school transport.

If your child is absent due to COVID and is well enough to complete work, this can be accessed on the VLE and/or Microsoft Teams. Tutors have been showing pupils how to access Microsoft Teams and we will continue this until all pupils are confident using the system.

Please do let the school know if your child is likely to find it difficult to access their work remotely and we will work with you to find a solution.



The High School
Leckhampton

Pastoral Support



We would like to remind all parents that there is a 'Pastoral Support' page on our school website. You can access that [here](#).

This support page contains information regarding support lines for families who may require early help with **internet**

safety, social media usage, mental health amongst other services that you may wish to explore with your child.

Following Parent Forum last week, Miss O'Riordan contacted our School Beat officer to ask for some resources that would signpost parents to appropriate websites that offer guidance and support in relation to online safety. These, amongst additional resources, have now been placed on the school website under '**School Beat Officer Resources 2021-22**'.

PTFA – Ice Breaker Disco



Thank you to the PTFA who organised a fantastic Ice breaker Disco for the pupils and a social event for the Parents in late September. Despite, a long sponsored walk during the day the pupils threw themselves into the disco and had a wonderful time.



School closure on 22nd October 2021

A reminder that THSL will be closed for pupils on **Friday 22nd October** for a staff inset day, following the communication I sent out last week.

Parental questionnaire

Thank you to parents who completed our questionnaire at Parents' Evening in early October. We received 77 responses and were delighted to receive such positive feedback. Here is a summary of the results:

My child is happy at this school	99% Strongly Agree/Agree 1% Don't know
My child feels safe at this school	97% Strongly Agree/Agree 3% Don't know
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	95% Strongly Agree/Agree 5% Don't know
When I have raised concerns with the school they have dealt with properly	100% Strongly Agree/Agree 36/77 responses hadn't raised concerns
Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)? Yes/No	13 parents completed this question
The school gives them the support they need to succeed	85% Strongly Agree/Agree 15% (2 parents) Don't Know
The school has high expectations for my child	93% Strongly Agree/Agree 7% Don't know
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	99% Strongly Agree/Agree 1% Don't know
My child is studying a good range of activities at this school	98% Strongly Agree/Agree 1% Disagree 1% Don't know
The school supports my child's wider personal development	79% Strongly Agree/Agree 21% Don't know
I would recommend this school to another parent Yes/No	100% Yes

Farm Lane update



The view of the school Hall and West Wing



The Astro Pitch



The Library



The Dining Hall



As you can see, the building is progressing well and Kier have invited the school to attend a small **'topping out' ceremony on 2nd November 2021**. We will be contacting families about this separately. As we will only be able to take a small number of pupils, names will be selected at random. If your child is not selected this time please don't worry, we are going to ensure all pupils get the chance to visit at some point.

Fireworks

Some information about a local fireworks display. Please stay safe.



Hockey

Congratulations to the girls' hockey team who secured an excellent draw with Chosen Hill School last week. The final score was 4-4. A great achievement for their second match as a brand-new team.



Attendance

If you wish to report your child's absence from school please use **01242 545136** or email at: thsl@baccarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Many thanks.