



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now over halfway through the Autumn Term and the pupils have achieved so much. It has been another busy few weeks, with lots happening in school, at extracurricular clubs and at the Farm Lane site too.

A particular highlight was the Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph on the Promenade. Seb and Amelie did a wonderful job representing the school on such an important occasion and it was fantastic to see other pupils taking part in the parade or attending with their families.

We have recently launched some very exciting opportunities for the pupils, including our Time Capsule competition and the School Production, which will hit the stage in early April. There is a lot of information in this edition about these opportunities, as well as all the activities the pupils have been involved over the last month.

Helen Wood

Headteacher

Key Dates	
26 th November 2021	School closed for pupils
29 th November 2021	School closed for pupils
2 nd December 2021	Christmas celebration at St Philip and St James Church 7pm
7 th December 2021	Christmas lunch for pupils
7 th December 2021	Closing date for time capsule competition

Subject Information Booklet

I wanted to inform you about our Subject Information booklet. This has been written so that you are well informed about all the courses your child is following. I hope that you will find it helpful. It is intended to be no more than an introduction, where you need further information, the Responsible Teacher concerned will be pleased to provide it.

The booklet is on our website which you can find [here](#)

Newsletter November 2021



Time Capsule

On Thursday 18th November we welcomed Kier representatives from the Farm Lane site, who joined us for the morning to work with students in our first whole-school time capsule event.

The Kier team came along to talk to the students about designing a time capsule and what sort of materials might be suitable, bringing along a range of samples. The students asked lots of excellent questions.

After the talk students then returned to their tutor bases to have a go at designing their own time capsule. We were really pleased to have the team of construction experts with us, working alongside the students to discuss their designs and answer their enthusiastic questions about properties of materials and environmental conditions.

Next week we are delighted to be launching a competition for the students. We would like to invite any student who would like to participate to submit their own design for the HSL time capsule. The winning student will have elements of their design incorporated into the capsule to be sunk at Farm Lane next year – a great chance to be a part of our history!

More details of what to do and how to enter the competition will follow – keep an eye on the website for updates!







Girls' Football

We have a great opportunity to support Leckhampton Rovers Football Club who are trying to build their new Under 12's girls football team. The poster below explains all the details, it would be wonderful to see some HSL girls playing.

Y7 PLAYERS NEEDED



LRFC GIRLS U-12 All girls welcome!

Our club is expanding! We are starting an Under 12 team for local year 7 girls.

Our aim is to provide competitive playing opportunities for girls and young women as well as friendly, relaxed and fun football for all girls, regardless of experience or competitiveness.

We are keen to promote women/girls coaches and managers and the club will support any girls or women wishing to coach or manage the teams.

If you are a player, or a coach interested in joining us we hold weekly sessions at the Park Campus on Saturday mornings and we'd love to see you there!

Saturdays 11-12.30
Park Campus, Cheltenham
GL50 2RH

Facebook @LRFCGirls
www.leckhamptonrovers.co.uk

First session free, £5 registration fee
and £3.50/session



Anti-Bullying Week

HSL students were involved in Anti-Bullying Week (15th-19th November). As part of raising awareness about spreading kindness, the children were invited to wear odd socks for the day to celebrate and embrace difference within the school's community. The children had a lovely day and had thoughtful discussions with their tutor groups about why spreading kindness is key to challenging bullying.



Miss O'Riordan delivered an 'Anti Bullying' assembly which utilised the Anti Bullying Alliance's resources and will be popping into tutor groups this week to see who is embracing this week's challenge of spreading 'One Kind Word'. The powerpoint slides from this assembly are on our website.

We will continue to educate the children of The High School Leckhampton about why bullying is wrong through our assemblies, PSHE sessions and throughout the curriculum. The children's two-hour PSHE session this week is based on what bullying is, why it is wrong and how can we spread kindness to all. In each tutor room, posters have been put up to show the children that staff are very much willing to listen and help, should there be a problem.

A big well done to our children for embracing this week's key message: One Kind Word.

We'd encourage all parents to remain vigilant in monitoring their children's use of the internet. Cyberbullying has a negative impact on all children involved and we would advise parents to familiarise themselves with the below link which includes:

- What is cyber bullying?
- Support for parents and carers related to cyber bullying



[NSPCC cyberbullying](#)

Parents can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

- What are the issues? [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Hot topics [Childnet International](#)
- Parent resource sheet [Childnet International](#)
- Healthy relationships [Disrespect Nobody](#)

Out and about at Cheltenham Literature Festival

It is always great to hear from parents and pupils about their interests and achievements outside of school. We will always try and celebrate them in assemblies and tutor time. Several of our pupils enjoyed attending the Cheltenham Literary Festival in October and we thought you might like to see our very own Daisy Tustin in 7CH who had a wonderful time and even managed to meet Ben Miller!





Remembrance Ceremony

Pupils from The High School Leckhampton were very proud to be asked to attend as special guests at the Mayor's Remembrance Ceremony, at the Cenotaph outside the Municipal Offices on Sunday 14th November 2021. Seb and Amelie, stood alongside the dignitaries and other community groups and read a poem to the gathered crowds. The pupils also laid a wreath on behalf of the HSL community. With several thousand people in attendance, it was a very moving occasion and a huge honour. It was also fantastic to see so many other HSL pupils attending as Scouts or Guides, as well as attending in the crowd with their families.

The poem read by Amelie and Seb was 'Asleep' by Wilfred Owen





House Cross Country

Congratulations to 20 HSL pupils who competed at the Cross-Country competition at St Edward's school. With over 100 runners in both the boys' and girls' races there was steep competition and all the HSL runners gave their very best effort on the hilly course. Alicia was the first HSL girl to cross the finish line, with Marina and Jemima hot on her heels. Ben was the first HSL boy to cross the line, closely followed by Zac and Noah. It was great to see so many parents cheering them on!



Topping Out Ceremony

Ten very lucky pupils and their teachers, Governors and Trustees attended a 'Topping Out' ceremony at the Farm Lane site in early November. The team from Kier, took the pupils and other visitors up to the roof, where they explained that 'topping out' occurs when the building reaches its highest point. A spruce tree was taken up to the roof and will now be planted in the grounds to 'grow with the school.' It was another important moment in the school's history and one which those involved will never forget!



Scopay update

We appreciate your patience as the SCOPAY system is brought inline with the Balcarras system. This has now been resolved and you should be able to top-up canteen cards using the canteen tab on Scopay. This also includes being able to see your child's balance and what they are buying.



COVID 19 and Remote Access to work REMINDER

We are pleased to see that positive test for COVID amongst our pupils have dropped significantly since the October Half Term break. However, please remember that 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.

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.

Christmas Celebration – Thursday 2nd December 7pm St Philip and St James Church

Miss Smith is working hard with the pupils to prepare for our Christmas celebration, which is less than two weeks away! More details have been sent home in a letter and they are also on our website.





Christmas lunch

We will be having a festive Christmas lunch on 7th December 2021. This is a lovely occasion for the children to enjoy together.

Please see the poster below for details and the menu.



Dear Pupil,

The Festive season will soon be here, and we will be having a special Christmas Dinner on:

Tuesday 7th December
(Years 7)

&

Wednesday 8th December
(Years 8 & 9)

Thursday 12th December
(Year 10, 11, 12 & 13)

Menu

Roast Turkey or Gammon (depending on availability)

Roasted Vegetable & Feta Cheese Tart (veggie option)
(Vegan option available on request)

*Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Pigs in Blankets &
Seasonal Vegetables*

Christmas Pudding, Mince Pie or Ice Cream

*The Cost will be £2.75 per person. Please pay online via the VLE no cash will be taken for payment, Online payment will close on Thursday 5th December, please make sure payment is made before this date, if you need assistance with online payment please email:
sed@balcarra.gloucs.sch.uk*

Yours Sincerely

*Ian Cole
Catering Manager*

Alex Chalk visit 19th November 2021 – History and Politics Fortnight

As part of History & Politics fortnight, Year 7 pupils from HSL and Balcarras attended a talk by Alex Chalk MP. The pupils sat as if they were Members of Parliament in The House of Commons and Mr Chalk, explained how The House operates and what the Government and Members of Parliament do. He faced some tricky questions from the pupils on both sides of the House, ranging in theme from COP26 to Lobbying. Mr Chalk encouraged our pupils to get involved with local issues and we hope it provided them with a valuable insight into the world of politics.





The High School

Leckhampton

Update from PTFA 4th November 2021

The Ice Breaker disco was a huge hit with the children and the PTFA managing to successfully raise £135.20 from the night.

Thank you to all those parents who made suggestions for events and activities, and those who have pledged to support the PTFA in various ways. This input has been invaluable, forming the basis of how your PTFA runs for you, the children and the school. The main desired ethos was "community" and there was also strong support to be sustainable and eco-friendly. We will try to uphold this ethos in our events and activities.

The PTFA committee are working on future events and activities based largely on the suggestions given by parents (below) and more details will be provided soon.



The next event will be the Christmas Celebration at St Phillips' and St James' Church, Leckhampton, on 2nd December where we will be providing mince pies, mulled wine, and hot chocolate during the evening.

If you would like to get more involved with our PTFA, here is a reminder of the dates for PTFA meetings. This school year they are being held at THSL school building on Balcarras school grounds. We look forward to seeing you there.



The High School
Leckhampton

Event	Date for the Diary
Christmas Celebration Event	2nd December 7pm
PTFA Meeting	6 th January 7pm
PTFA Meeting	15 th March 7pm
PTFA Meeting	27 th April 7pm
Quiz Night Event	29 th April 7pm
PTFA Meeting	8 th June 6:30pm

The School Production Launch – Little Shop of Horrors - SAVE THE DATE!

We are very excited to announce that our very first school production will be the wonderful, **Little Shop of Horrors!** The production will run over 2 nights on **5th and 6th April 2022** in Balcarras School Hall.

Fun auditions will start **on Tuesday 7th December (after school)** and we would encourage as many as pupils are possible to attend. Whilst we want to see as many as possible on the stage, there will also be opportunities for the pupils to get involved in costumes, advertising, ticket sales, lighting and technical work, as well as props. We are all very excited indeed!

