



The High School
Leckhampton

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic first term it has been at The High School Leckhampton. We have achieved so much as a school and I am very proud of our pupils.

Our Christmas Celebration concert was a lovely occasion to start the festive season. It was wonderful to see so many families in the audience.

Other highlights this month have been the Christmas lunch, see below for some very jovial photos. We have also seen the launch of our time capsule competition and our Christmas card competition, with many fabulous entries from our pupils. The winners are announced in this Newsletter!

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the reverse advent calendar food bank donation. Open Door will be so grateful for your generosity.

Please note some of the key dates below and we look forward to seeing you in the Spring term.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break.

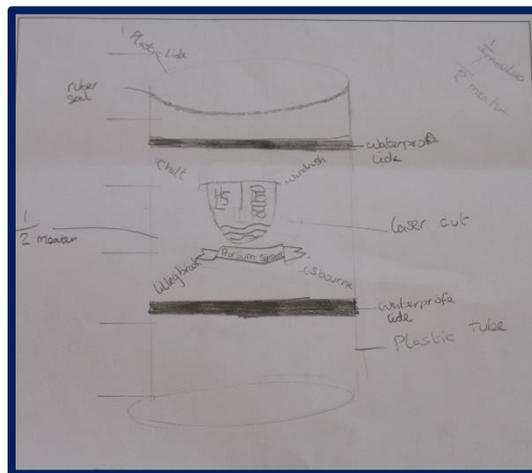
Headteacher

Key Dates	
17 th December 2021	Christmas Jumper Day
17 th December 2021	Last day of term. School closes at 12.10
4 th January 2022	Spring term begins - COVID testing at school
5 th January 2022	Pavilion closed at lunchtime due to flu vaccinations
6 th January 2022	PTFA Meeting 7pm at HSL
11 th January 2022	Pavilion closed at lunchtime due to flu vaccinations
14 th January 2022	Thick Jumper Day (non-uniform day with heating off to help the planet!)

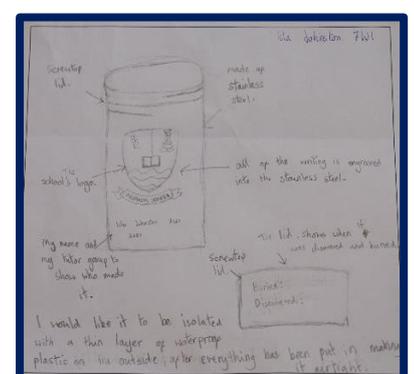
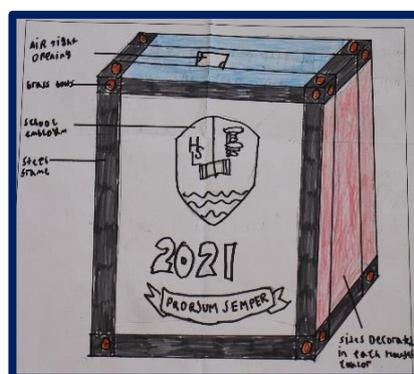
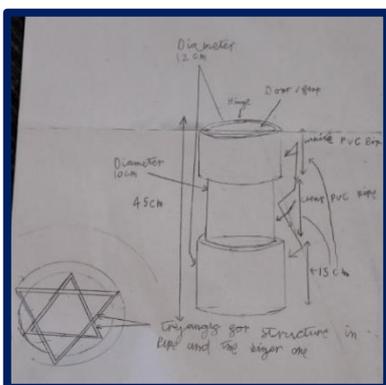
Time Capsule competition

The Time Capsule Design Competition - Winner Announced!

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the Time Capsule Design Competition is **Marianne Harmer!**



We had some fantastic entries and it was clear that all of the students had given a great deal of thought to the design and the challenges that would need to be overcome for the capsule's contents to be protected for the next fifty years. It was tricky but we eventually decided to short-list entries by Marianne, James Birt, Euan Cameron-Mitchell and Isla Johnston.





Mrs Wood and Mrs Cox were joined for the judging of the short-listed entries by Paul Ingram from Kier. All were in agreement that Marianne's design was carefully thought out and made good use of existing materials from the construction site. It was also great to see the school logo feature on the exterior too.

In the Spring Term the team at Kier will start work on the creation of the time capsule, using Marianne's design. We are all looking forward to seeing this take shape!

Headteacher's reward tea party

The Headteacher's Reward Tea Party continued this month with another group of pupils who were nominated by their Tutors for their excellent effort and attitude this half term. The pupils enjoyed some drinks and cookies and were asked about all of the activities and events that have taken place over the last few weeks.





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

On 2nd December 2021, we held a wonderful Christmas Celebration for the HSL community at St Philips and St James Church. Miss Smith, our Musical Director, led a joyful evening of song, poetry reading, instrumental solos, and congregational carols.

Many thanks and congratulations to everyone who was involved, especially the pupils for their fantastic performances, we were very proud of them indeed.

A particularly big thank-you goes to Miss Smith for her energy and skill in putting together such a wonderful programme. Thank-you to the team of teachers and support staff who helped make the evening such a great success - including making all the mince pies! Thank-you to the Reverend Gary Grady, who joined us for the evening and the community at Pip & Jim's Church for their kind support. And finally, thank-you to Richard Irvine and the PTFA Committee who helped with the sound and served the mulled wine and hot chocolate!





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Christmas card competition

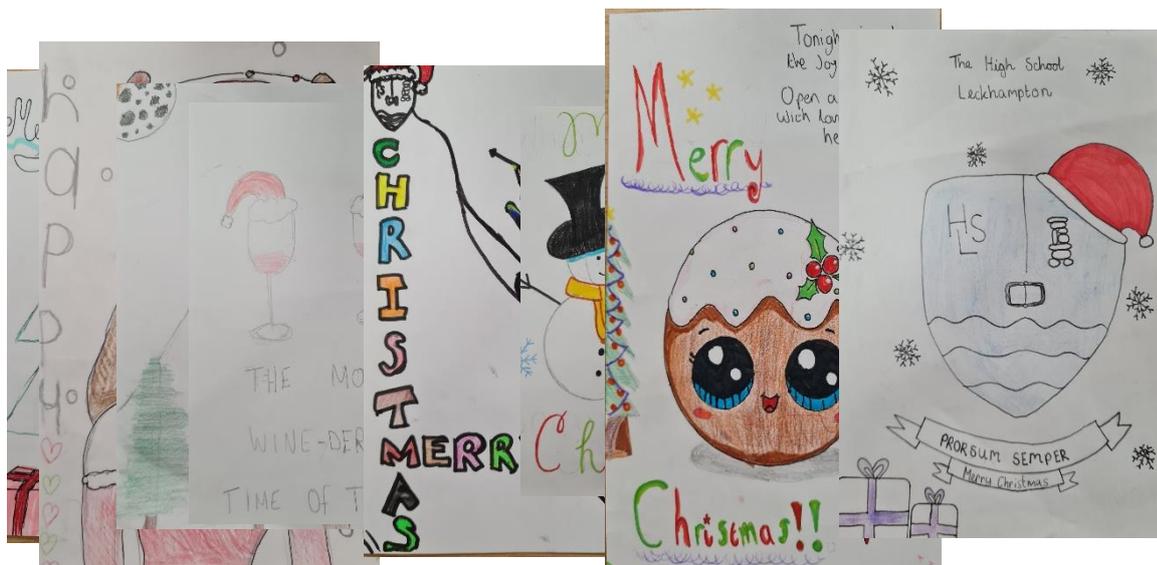
We had so many great entries to our Christmas Card competition. A huge congratulations to the winner Yasmeen Suleiman in 7IS! Her design captures the festive season beautifully and shows a great deal of artistic skill. Yasmeen's design has been made into HSL's official Christmas card of 2021.



Here are a few more designs from our students.



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Christmas lunch

The Christmas lunch was a fun filled occasion to get us into the festive spirit. The children enjoyed eating with their friends whilst many of the teachers helped out with serving lunches and puddings!





Science Club Siemens School Competition

Two HSL students were awarded prizes recently for winning first and second place in a Siemens technology challenge as part of Science Club.

The challenge was to design a railway network that could be used to carry new higher speed trains, whilst also continuing to allow lower speed trains to travel on the same tracks. Amelie and Toby both did a great job in thinking about how they would adapt the tracks to make the high-speed trains safe and efficient.

First place was awarded to Amelie who won a Raspberry Pi/Arduino Learning Kit and a certificate. Second place was awarded to Toby who won a £20 Amazon voucher and a certificate.

Well done to Amelie and Toby and everyone who took part!





The HSL Badminton Team

HSL's fabulous Badminton team have been enjoying lots of practise during lunchtimes.



RRSA

Last Friday we held the first meeting of the Unicef *Rights Respecting School Award* steering group. This group, which consisted of twenty-six students and six members of staff, will help lead our school towards achieving each stage of the award.

Students will have the opportunity to help teach about rights to all members of the school community, to contribute ideas about how we can further embed children's rights into our daily life at school, and to become advocates for the award at the High School and beyond.

I am really looking forward to working with all of the young people and staff in the next few months as we make our preparations to apply for the Bronze level of the award. The student's voice is at the heart of our Rights Respecting journey.

Have a look on our [website](#) for more information.





Learning council

Our Learning Council have been busy this term, providing some invaluable feedback about their learning to Mrs Wood. Most recently, the pupils wrote a list of all the qualities and skills they would be looking for in a teacher – ready to help with our next round of recruitment in the new year. The Learning Council will be involved in the interviews for our new staff and they rightly have high expectations indeed!



Little Shop of Horrors Auditions

The first set of auditions for the school production started last week and it was wonderful to see so many of the students wanting to participate. Over 70 arrived ready to take part!

We have held another set of auditions this week and other backstage/behind the scenes roles will be allocated in the new year.



House Matches



Congratulations to Isbourne who won both Rugby and Hockey matches. It is lovely to see the team spirit of each tutor group and they were lucky with the weather too!



Pavilion

Please be aware that on Wednesday 5th January and Tuesday 11th January the Pavillion will be closed at lunchtime as it is being used for flu vaccinations, therefore students will be unable to get any food from there. Please make sure your children either stock up at breaktime, go to the main canteen, or bring some provisions for lunchtimes on these days.

COVID testing

We have been asked by the DfE to test all pupils once on-site as we return in January. Similar to the testing we did at HSL at the beginning of September we will be conducting this again the first day back after the Christmas break (Tuesday 4th January). Parental consent was sought for the testing in September and is assumed to be the same for this round of testing.