



I hope that you all enjoyed Half Term, even though it was a little wet and windy at times!

Countdown to opening:

Since my last newsletter it has been confirmed that there will be a Judicial Review taking place on the 15th March, pertaining to one aspect of the planning permission granted for the school at Farm Lane. We know that this will have caused a great deal of concern for our parents, both the 2021 and 2022 cohort. Please do take some reassurance from the statement we have put on the website. Whilst frustrating, we are moving forward at great pace with our plans for opening this September and are very excited that 120 offers will be going out to families on Monday.

On a related note, I am delighted to be able to confirm that the Secretary of State has signed the funding agreement for The High School Leckhampton. This marks an important step on our journey to opening, confirming the 'official' existence of the school as a legal entity, and comes after the submission of a very detailed financial forecast.

Over the last couple of weeks I have continued to build links with the local educational community, having met with the Admissions and School Finance Teams from Gloucestershire County Council, as well as Emily Buirski of Cheltenham Education Partnership. Shortly before half term, County Councillor Iain Dobie and I enjoyed an interesting discussion about the local issues facing residents of Leckhampton and Warden Hill. I have also been introduced to Reverend Nick Davies, Reverend Gary Grady and Sarah McDonald Haden of Cheltenham Network Church. It is wonderful to meet so many people in the local community who are willing to support our school and I am looking forward to working together when the school opens.

Every day I watch the new building take shape here at Baccarras. There is a short time lapse video on our website that captures the rapid progress made at the start of the project. We now have the walls and floor in place for the ground floor and are expecting it to be water-tight by mid-March! This building is currently ahead of schedule.



National Allocation Day for Secondary School Places

On Monday 1st March you will receive notification of which school your child has been allocated to for their Secondary education. You will receive this notification either by email or in a letter, depending on how you applied. I hope that all our local families, who chose The High School Leckhampton as their first choice, have been offered a place! Once you have accepted your place, we will be writing to all our families with a welcome letter and admissions form. You are likely to receive this between **29th March and 10th April**, depending on how quickly we have a confirmed admissions list from Gloucestershire County Council. We will put a message on the school website when the welcome letters have been sent out, so you know to look out for it. Please see below for a reminder of the important deadlines.

It is crucial that you remember to accept your place by midnight Monday 8th March.





Monday 1 March 2021	Allocation Day
By Midnight Monday 8 March 2021	Closing date to return reply form accepting the School/ Academy place or requesting to be put on waiting list/s
After Monday 29 March 2021	Outcome of waiting list requests
Wednesday 7 April 2021	Closing date for the return of reply forms
May 2021 to July 2021	Appeals

If you have any queries about school admissions, please contact The Co-ordinated Admissions Team at Gloucestershire:

[Helpline: 01452 425407](tel:01452425407) or school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Teacher Recruitment

We have been continuing to recruit Teachers for The High School and just before Half Term we were delighted to secure outstanding teachers for Maths and D&T. To date, we have been absolutely thrilled to receive very large numbers of excellent applications for these externally advertised posts - from superb teachers all over the country! It is clear that the opportunity to be part of the journey from the outset has wide appeal to some very talented, ambitious teachers!

Competition Time!

We are very excited to launch our first competition which allows the successful child to be a part of our school's history. We would like to invite our prospective students for September 2021 to design and create a piece of artwork for the front cover of the first High School Leckhampton planner. This really is a unique and wonderful opportunity, and it is the first of many opportunities for our pupils to help shape the school from the beginning.

Important guidelines:

- The artwork can be related to anything that is appropriate to display for children. It would be lovely if it was somehow linked to the opening of the school
- Any form of artistic medium can be used. e.g. drawing, painting, oil painting, creative web art etc. but it needs to be portrait (not landscape) to fit with the planner design
- This must be an original piece of work created by a future student at The High School Leckhampton and the entry must include the pupil's full name when entering the competition

The deadline to submit the piece of work is **Wednesday 17th March 2021**. Entries can be posted to Balcarras School for the attention of Miss O'Riordan or emailed to: thsl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

All entries will be judged by myself, Miss O'Riordan and the Art Department at Balcarras School. We will contact the lucky winner shortly after the deadline to inform them of the good news and share some of the entries on our website.

We are very much looking forward to seeing the creative skills of our future pupils. This is a chance to have fun, get creative and be a part of the school's history. Good luck!

With warm wishes,

Helen Wood
Headteacher

