



# Newsletter

June 2023 - Issue 10

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our newsletter this June provides a wonderful platform to celebrate a wide variety of achievements and successes at HSL, from winning architectural awards, to sporting successes and artistic achievements. It is such a pleasure to work with our pupils, who engage so enthusiastically in the opportunities provided by their dedicated teachers and staff!

As I have said before, there are so many 'firsts' at our school, and this term has been no exception. At the start of the month, we took the whole school for the first time to Cheltenham Science Festival - the sight of 240 pupils walking with their teachers through the streets of Leckhampton was really something to behold!

Most recently, we held our first Art & Design Technology exhibition, a celebration of the creativity of our pupils this year - it really was an impressive display. We have also started to make a name for ourselves in athletics, with several of our pupils achieving personal bests in the district competition.

Thank you to all parents and friends for the support you have given to all these events.

In other news, you will see that The High School Leckhampton was recently nominated for some important architectural awards, achieving a Commendation in the Education Business Awards and winning first place as 'Education Project of the Year' for the Southwest Region in the Michaelmores Property Awards. Both nominations, and the achievement of first place in the face of some strong opposition, is a reminder of how lucky we are to have such a fantastic building with such great facilities.

There are still lots of events to look forward to over the next 3 weeks of term. We are busily planning our Taster Day for Year 6 pupils and enrichment week for current pupils. We will also be writing to you in a separate letter detailing arrangements for the start of term in September and to introduce to you the names of our new teachers. Finally, we hope to see many of you at our Summer BBQ on Friday 14th July. Our brilliant PTFA will be running a bar and a BBQ and we hope that as many of you as possible will pop in between 7-9pm to enjoy a lovely social event. Our jazz band will hopefully be performing and our pupils will be running stalls to raise some money for the school.

With warm wishes,

Helen Wood  
Headteacher



## Key Dates - July

3rd July	National Thank You Day
5th July	Year 6 Taster Day and Parents Talk 6pm - 7.30pm
7th July	Sports Day 12:30pm - 15:30pm at Cheltenham College
10th - 11th July	Curriculum Enrichment Days
12th July	Activity Day
13th July	Day of Sport
14th July	Sponsored Walk
14th July	PTFA Summer BBQ 7pm - 9pm
17th - 18th July	PE House matches
21st July	End of Term - finish at 12:20pm





## Science Festival Visit

On Wednesday 7th June, all staff and students at The High School Leckhampton enjoyed a fantastic day out at the Cheltenham Science Festival in Imperial Gardens. Thank you to the students who represented our school so positively and made a great impression on the public. Thank you also to the parents who contributed so that we could run this school visit for our students. Please see below for some more photos from the day, and a summary written by Chloe Kapp, Jessica Sperring and Coco Stevens in 7LB. Enjoyable, cool and lots of fun!

*When we arrived, we headed straight to the town hall to see an event about "The Science of TikTok" where a man showed us the science behind Tik Tok's experiments. He proved to us that some of them were fake, like the magic candle or the coke and mentos. However, some of them were also real, like the orange and the balloon. When the man squeezed some orange peel on a balloon, it popped! One of our favourite experiments was the coke and the milk, where someone in America put ice, milk, and coke in a cup and enjoyed it, yet someone in England tried it and was nearly sick. We think this is because of the different milk in different countries.*

*We visited the discovery zone full of awesome science. It had so many cool activities to do. The one that got people most excited was a plastic box full of white and black balls. The aim was that you had to put all the white balls in a box connected to the main plastic box. The aim was to not put any black balls in the box and only put white in, but you only had 30 seconds! Later most people looked around the rest of the discovery zone and we went to a bean bag toss. Every time we put a bean bag in a hole, we donated a tree or a period pack to people in Uganda. Every time I threw a bean bag it went into the highest hole (which was 50) and overall, I had donated a lot of trees and period packs!*

*After lunch, we visited the Queens Hotel to participate in an activity called Digital Detectives. We were detectives on the Toc Tic case of a criminal trying to find the Mastermind! We had 45 mins to crack codes, solve equations and riddles. On a table there were multiple clues that were supposed to help us with some of the codes. There were also different cool team names that linked to computers such as: Cyber, Avatar, Emoji, Pixel and Drone. We were the winners, so we were given good bags full of fun and enjoyable gifts.*

*Overall, the day was enjoyable, cool and lots of fun!*

*Chloe, Jessica and Coco*







## Science Festival Visit







## Science Festival Visit







## Eco-Committee Update

On Monday 5th June, six members of the Eco-Committee, along with Miss Kennedy and Mrs Wood, were interviewed by Lauren Hennessy from the Climate Change Education Network based at the University of Bristol. Last year, HSL signed up to take part in a research project looking at leadership responses to Climate Change Education in secondary schools and our students have really enjoyed being part of it. The Secondary Leadership in Climate Education (SLiCE) project is scheduled to end on 1st September 2023 and we will share the report with our school community once it is published.

Thank you to Lauren (7CH), Jacob (7IS), Katie (8CH), Lily (8IS), Constance (8WI) and Henry (8WI) for taking part in the interviews.

Lauren has written about her experience below:

*"As a member of the Eco-Committee who was interviewed, we were asked some school- and Eco-related questions by a Bristol University researcher called Lauren. I think that it was important that we were interviewed because it means that other people can see what we are doing for the planet, and maybe encourage others to do the same."*

The Eco-Committee have also been busy working to construct a couple of insect hotels in our nature area at HSL, as part of the Biodiversity Topic in our Eco-Schools Action Plan.







## HSL secures a win in the Michelmores Property Awards

The Michelmores Property Awards celebrate the best property, development and construction projects in the South West, bringing together all those who contribute to the region's exciting property, real estate and construction sector. The Awards have long-championed sustainability and innovation in the sector.

The sustainable, social, environmental and economic values of a project sit at the heart of the judging criteria and are considered just as important as its aesthetics and purpose.

The competition recognises both commercial and residential projects of all shapes and sizes, with shortlisted and winning projects placed firmly in the industry's spotlight.

HSL are proud to announce that the school won 'Education Project of the Year'! beating off stiff competition from educational projects in Devon and Cornwall.



*Proctor & Partners*



## National Education Business Awards

### SCHOOL BUILDING AWARD

Commended 2023

**The High School Leckhampton**  
Gloucestershire

*David Devoto*

David Devoto, Chairman, PFI

Presented by

**Education  
Business**  
Business Information for Education Decision Makers

**Education  
Business  
Awards**

Recognising excellence in the Education Sector

14th June 2023 • [ebawards.co.uk](http://ebawards.co.uk)



Additionally The High School Leckhampton was shortlisted and achieved highly commended in the 'New School' category of the National Education Business Awards. This is a fantastic accolade for all those involved in the design and construction of our school and a reminder of how lucky we are!





## National School Attendance Awards

We are delighted to have received, once again, two National School Attendance Awards from FFT (Fischer Family Trust). HSL pupils enjoy coming into school, immersing themselves in their education and taking advantage of the range of extracurricular opportunities that are on offer to them.

Attending school every day is crucial to happy, well-rounded and well-educated pupils. We would like to thank parents who support us by ensuring good attendance and remind parents that requests to take pupils out of school for holidays will not be authorised.







## Sports Update

We have had another action-packed month of House Sports at HSL, with Rounders, Pickleball, Girls Tennis and Boys Cricket all being hotly contested. The level of competitive sport on display across both year groups has been fantastic and we've been really pleased with the desire to compete for their houses that many pupils have shown.

Year 7 Chelt managed to turn the tide on their sporting year during the pickleball championship by finishing top of the table against some very tough opposition. The same happened for 8 Lilleybrook who claimed the spot for the Year 8's.



Mixed Rounders didn't disappoint either with some spectacular fielding and batting from all the houses. There was great tactical fielding on display, and if a player missed the ball when batting they were almost certainly out due to some quick reactions and high-level fielding skills between the bowlers, backstops and first bases in every house.

A special mention must also go to all our Year 7 and 8 pupils that have helped officiate the house events so fairly across each of the sports this term.

### Year 7 Results

1st Chelt

2nd Windrush

3rd Isbourne and Lilleybrook

### Year 8 Results

1st Lilleybrook

2nd Windrush and Isbourne

4th Chelt

### Year 7

1st Lilleybrook

2nd Chelt

3rd Isbourne

4th Windrush

### Year 8

1st Isbourne

2nd Windrush

3rd Lilleybrook

4th Chelt





## Sports Update

### Cheltenham District Athletics

Our pupils competed earlier in the month at the Girls and Boys Minors Athletics Competition at the Prince of Wales stadium. All the secondary schools in Cheltenham attended this event and HSL performed incredibly well across both the track and field.

We had some very impressive individual performances: -

Kitty Lorraine (Y8) 2nd in the 1500m A Final

Alicia Jamieson (Y8) 2nd in the 800m A Final

Imogen Thompson (Y7) 3rd in the 70m Hurdles Final and 4th in the 200m Final.

Ben Sholly (Y8) 3rd in 1500m A Final

Year 7 Boys Relay 3rd in the Final

Theo Nock (Y7) 2nd in Javelin

Toby Watson (Y8) 2nd in Triple Jump

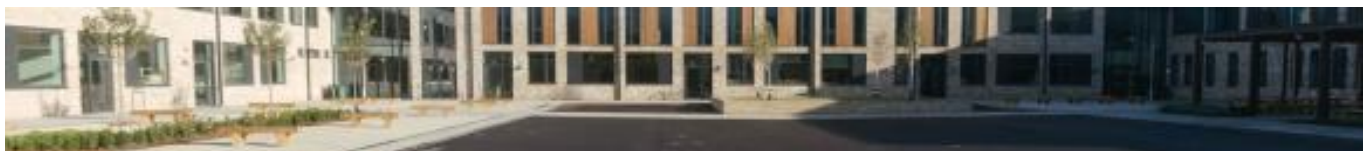
A number of our field athletes and sprinters reached their respective finals - this means that they finished in the top 6 in the district and each of our relay teams made their finals.

The boys finished 4th overall in their competition out of 16 schools, and the girls finished 6th overall out of 18 schools.

Well done to all those that competed!







## Sports Update

### Boys Cricket

The boy's cricket has been a particular highlight this year. Year 7 have won 5 out of 5 matches, proving to be a very strong team, with depth and quality across the year group. All the players have shown some excellent skills with the bat and every player on the team has bowled in each match. Year 8 have also had a great season; developing into a fantastic squad where they have improved in every match, gaining confidence as batters, bowlers and in the field.



### Rounders

The Year 7 and 8 Rounders teams have had a successful season, and attendance at clubs has been incredibly high with boys and girls playing in each year group. In the recent District Rounders tournaments both the Year 7 and Year 8 teams finished 5th out of 10 schools, narrowly missing out on the top 3 positions by 1 rounder and a  $\frac{1}{2}$  rounder respectively. In school matches and at the tournaments all players have demonstrated some fantastic tactical awareness in their fielding and are continuing to improve with the bat in every game.



# Focus on... Art and DT



## Art and DT Summer Exhibition

This week we showcased the remarkable skills and achievements of our students in our School Art and DT Exhibition. The event was a celebration of the diverse range of artistic expressions and creative endeavours our students have pursued throughout the year, in both Art and Design Technology.

Thanks to all parents and friends who managed to join us to admire the captivating artwork created by our students, which included projects from our extra-curricular clubs as well. From painting to photography, printmaking to ceramics, product design to textiles, our exhibition encompassed a rich tapestry of artistic mediums and talents.

See below for some photographs of the exhibition.







*Pratt School*





Focus on...  
Art and DT



Panorama Sample

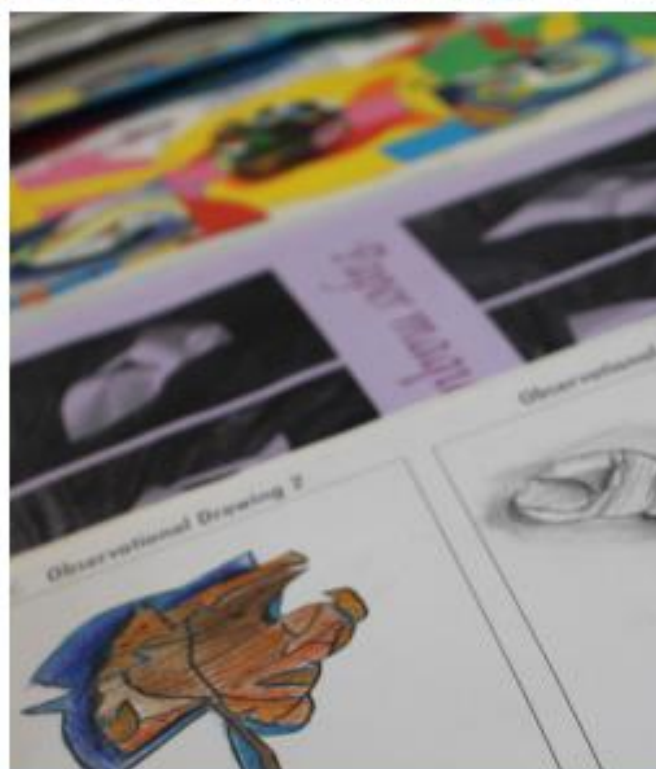


Focus on...  
Art and DT



*Prædium Sempus*







Focus on...  
Art and DT

## House Crest Competition

Art and DT recently launched a house crest competition.

Students were tasked with designing a crest for their own house, which they feel represents its strengths and values. The closing date is today - so we'll be announcing the winners in the next Newsletter.

## DESIGN A HOUSE CREST COMPETITION

The House Crest Design Competition is an exciting event in which students from different houses showcase their creativity and artistic skills by designing a crest that represents the, strengths and values of their respective houses. The aim of this competition is to foster a sense of pride and unity among students, as well as to create a crest that embodies the unique identity of each house.



# Focus on... Art and DT

## Photography Club

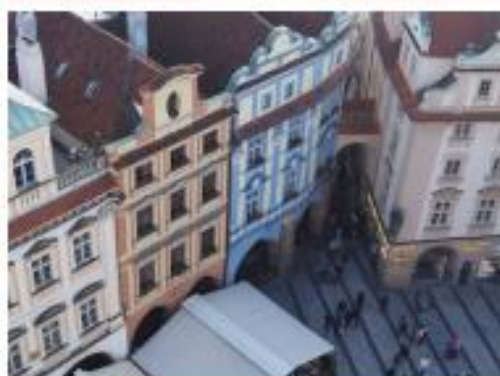
Photography club has been going strong since September and during that time many members of both Year 7 and 8 have joined in. The club introduces students to the world of digital image making and encourages them to closely observe the world around them. Students have built up their confidence by taking on several challenges covering a range of subjects and themes with a focus on the elements and principles of design.

Favourite tasks have been the creation of an entire alphabet by photographing and cropping shapes to show individual letters, and the pareidolia challenge which encouraged students to see and record faces in everyday objects and locations.

The club meets every two weeks and students share their outcomes with everyone at the start of each session and give constructive feedback and discuss their intentions. It's a valuable and hugely positive experience giving students fresh insight and different interpretations of their visual outcomes.

All work is available on the VLE to view along with the 'Photographer of the Fortnight' announcement to recognise those students who have pushed themselves and produced excellent work for that particular challenge.

Please view all the work created so far this year in the 'Student' area of the VLE, in the Photography Club section. Photography club will run in September and anyone interested in joining is more than welcome.





# Focus on... Art and DT

## Donations

The Art and DT department need your help and would welcome the donation of any of the following items:

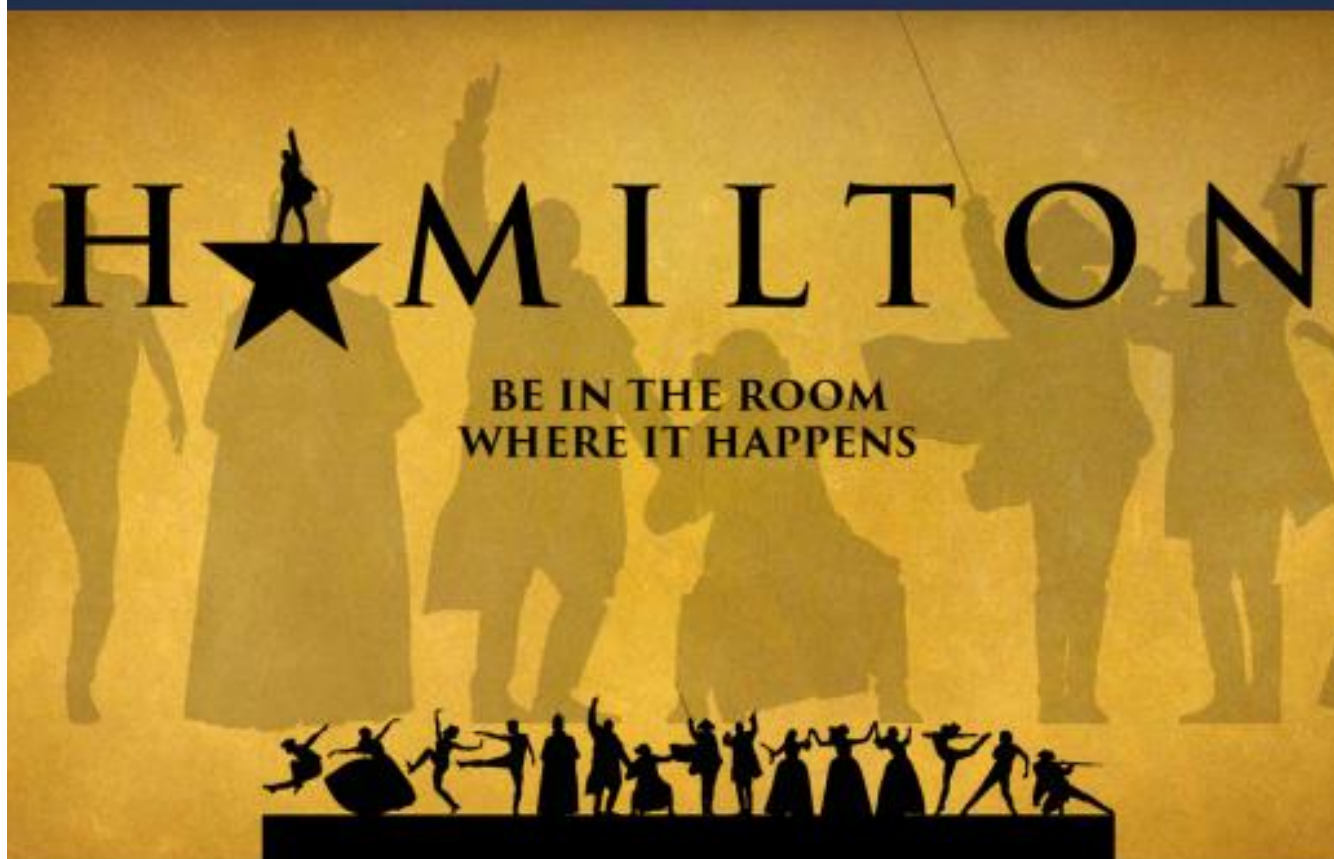
- Tea Towels
- Secure plastic containers with good lids - various sizes
- Wipe down tablecloths
- Fabric books for babies/toddlers
- Beads for embroidery
- Coloured plastic bags
- Newspapers

We no longer need any glass jars but thank you to those who have donated to the department so far.





## Music Trip to see Hamilton



We are excited to be able to offer next year's Year 8 and 9 pupils the opportunity to visit the Bristol Hippodrome to see the musical 'Hamilton'. We have reserved 80 tickets for Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 14:30. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to experience a West End musical with an emphasis on American History.

Please purchase your child's place on the trip by Thursday 6th July 2023 on Scopay, which will also act as your consent for your child to attend the trip.

In the event that the trip is oversubscribed and we are unable to secure additional tickets we will use a ballot system to assign places. If you have any questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Bunting [mpb@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:mpb@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk)

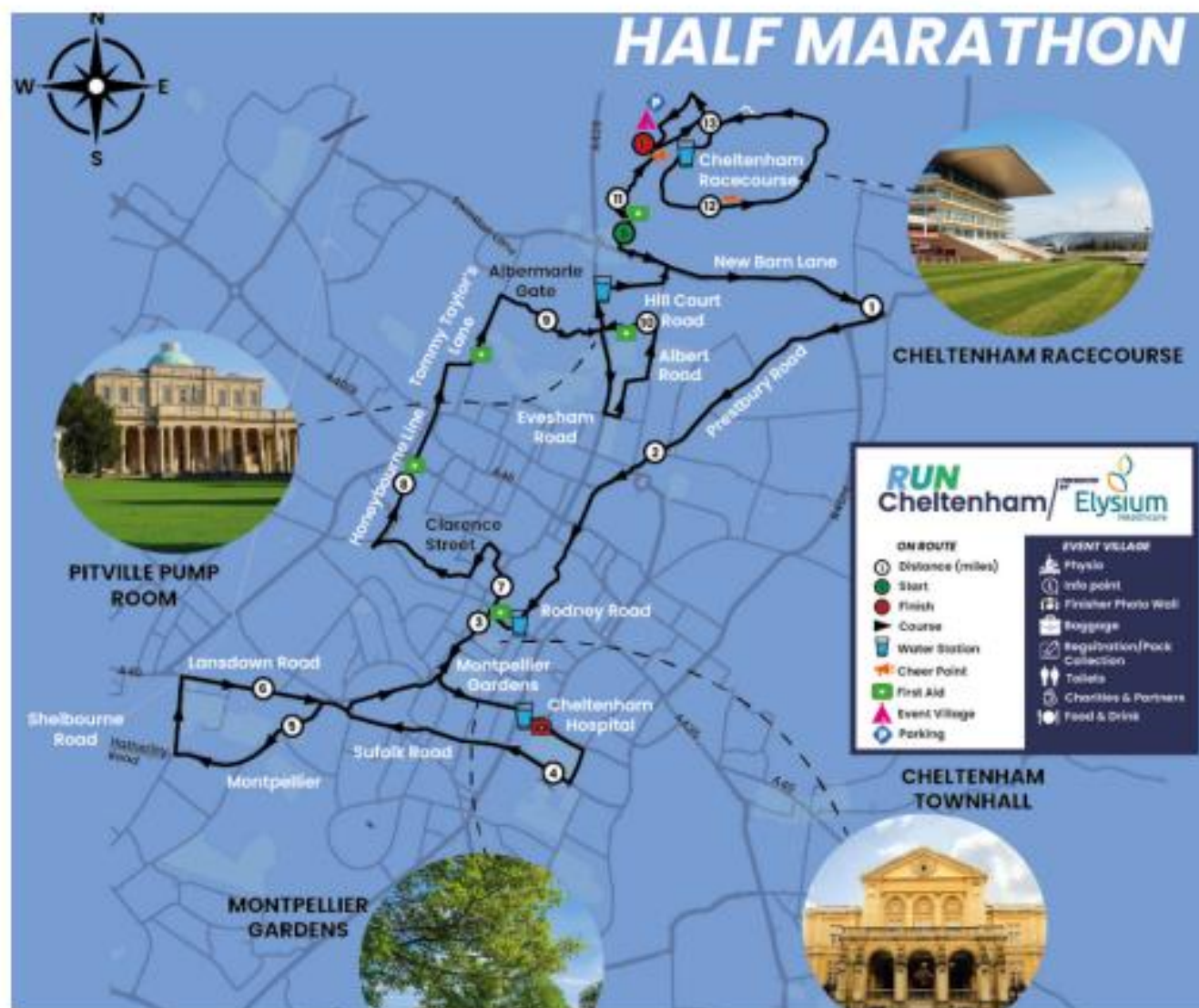




## Cheltenham Half Marathon 2023

On Sunday 3rd September 2023, our very own Miss Kennedy and Mr Powell-Jones will be representing HSL in the Cheltenham Half Marathon. Please click on the link below and show your support by donating to Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice. We wish them the best of luck in their training over the summer.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/katherine-kennedy12>





HSL PTFA

# SUMMER BBQ

FRI 14 JULY

7PM – 9PM

GET READY FOR A SIZZLING  
SUMMER CELEBRATION AT  
HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON!

BURGERS & HOT DOGS,  
DRINKS, ACTIVITIES  
AND MORE!

PLEASE ENTER THROUGH THE  
COMMUNITY ENTRANCE

CASH PREFERRED, CARD PAYMENTS AVAILABLE  
GLUTEN-FREE / PLANT-BASED OPTIONS AVAILABLE