



NEWSLETTER



Dear Parent and Carers,

Thank you for your support during what has been a very busy first few weeks of term. Our new Year 7 pupils have settled in well and all pupils have shown excellent engagement in our extra-curricular programme. It is great to see the school buzzing with life! The Year 7 disco and parent social proved to be a popular event and our pupils have already had several trips and fixtures that you can read about in this newsletter. I hope that you managed to attend our Open Evening this week as it was a really positive and popular occasion. The pupils were absolutely fantastic tour guides and helpers, and they were paid many compliments by our prospective parents and pupils. We were very proud of them.

Just a few reminders, particularly for new parents:

- Please do continue to encourage your child to walk and/or cycle to school. The drop-off point is getting busier, and we really don't want to increase the traffic on the local roads and cause a problem for our neighbours.
- If your child grows out of their uniform, we would be delighted if you could donate it to the school. We will either pass it on to families who need it, or the PTFA sell it ask for a small donation. Please send any items into reception with your child.
- In order to encourage good attendance, please note that we do not authorise holidays during term time. Please look at the school calendar to ensure you know the dates, which are published well in advance.
- If your child needs help with homework, please encourage them to attend our 'Study' sessions after school (Tuesday-Thursday). These are supervised by a Teaching Assistant or Teacher. There is no need to book a place.

With warm wishes,

Helen Wood
Headteacher

Key Dates

Key dates in October (please see the school calendar on our website for other events and more information):

3rd - 6th October	Y8 Bike-ability
5th October	Y9 Careers Fayre at Balcarras School (HSL slot from 6pm)
6th October	House Cross Country - all year groups
W/c 9th October	Literary Festival visits
11th October	Year 7 Interim Reports issued
12th October	Year 7 Parents' Evening with Tutors (in person) 4pm-7pm
17th October	Parent Forum 4-5pm
18th and 19th October	Year 8 Parents' Evening (online)
18th-20th October	House netball matches
23rd October	Green Group Meeting 3:45-5pm (all welcome)
25th October	Year 8 Interim Report issued
25th October	Autumn Music recital
27th October	House Music recitals
27th October	Break up for Half term at 3:35pm



The High School Leckhampton achieves the Green Flag



At the end of last term HSL achieved the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, recognising the hard work of the Eco-Committee, staff, students and parents throughout the academic year.

At The High School Leckhampton, we are committed to looking after our environment and building a sustainable future for all.

Please see below for a list of what we do at HSL to protect our environment:

- Walk or cycle to school
- Bring our own water bottle to school
- Eat all our lunch
- Eat less meat (meat free Mondays!)
- Do not drop litter
- Pick up litter that is not ours
- Do not waste paper
- Recycle the correct items in the correct bins
- Turn off electrical appliances (e.g. lights, computers, monitors) when not needed

The Eco-Committee meets every Monday at 13:30 in GW4 if students would like to get involved.

All staff, students, parents and governors are invited to attend Green Group Meetings once a term to discuss our school's approach to environmental sustainability, including reducing carbon emissions and developing a climate action plan to achieve our goals. The next Green Group Meeting will take place on Monday 23rd October 2023 in the Library from 15:45 - 16:30.



Art and DT Trip to Harry Potter Studios

It all began last summer, when students received their long-awaited letters to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry! This was not just any ordinary acceptance letter however – but an invitation to embark on an extraordinary trip to the Harry Potter Studio Tour, a place where magic is made and creativity knows no bounds. This trip promised to transport our Year 9 students from the realm of muggles into a world filled with spells, potions, and fantastical creatures, setting them on a quest to awaken their magical (and creative) abilities. With wands at the ready and a sense of anticipation in the air, the students ventured into the enchanting world of Harry Potter.



On the trip students explored the iconic sets and props used in the beloved film series and had the opportunity to see behind the magic, gaining an understanding of the design and manufacturing processes involved in bringing the world of Harry Potter to the screen. The tour allowed them to explore iconic locations used in filming including the Great Hall, Diagon Alley, the Gryffindor Common Room, Gringotts and even the cupboard under the stairs. These insights have proven very valuable as all Year 9 students will work on a set design project in their DT lessons at some point during this academic year.

As they explored the studio's vast collection, students were encouraged to take notes, sketch designs, and gather inspiration. From the intricately detailed wands at Ollivander's shop to the towering spires of Hogwarts Castle, there was no shortage of creative stimuli. For many of us, seeing the scale and grandeur of the sets firsthand was impressive and brought to everyone's attention the detail, precision and teamwork involved in bringing a vision such as this into existence.



One of the highlights of the trip was the set design workshop. Led by experienced set designers, the workshop delved into the intricate art of set design and the creative process behind making fictional world, a reality. Students investigated existing sets and locations, exploring how to effectively convey atmosphere and narrative through the careful design and arrangement of a scene and its props. The technical aspects of set design such as the use of scale models, lighting and materials were also explained, and students worked with paper model techniques to create some initial ideas.



While we marvelled at the incredible sets, intricate props, and the sheer artistry, one aspect that stood out for many was the diverse range of creative careers showcased throughout the tour. Apart from set designers, our students were amazed to discover they could become graphic artists, prop and model makers, work in special effects and animatronics, costume design and even behind the scenes. As we left Hogwarts to return to The High School Leckhampton, there were lots of smiles, and hopefully, an excitement to continue being creative, both in the classroom and beyond.



Art and DT Donations

Food

Any unwanted serving dishes and plain white (or lightly decorated) crockery would be gratefully received by the Art and DT Department. We will use them to present our cooked dishes. We also need ramekins (eg Gu pots).



Product Design

Any unwanted scrap natural timber would also be gratefully appreciated by the DT department. This can be in the form of furniture that has already been dismantled or if you work for a company that would be willing to donate any timber/dowel/screws students will be able to use this for their projects.

To arrange delivery please email Mrs Elliot-Squire ges@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk

Many thanks in advance.

Historical Association essay competition

In the summer term three students each wrote an essay about an aspect of local history, for a schools' competition run by the local branch of the Historical Association. Constance Grant (Year 9), Maithri Gunavardhana (Year 8) and Jacob Freer (also Year 8) all put a great deal of effort into their entries, which were on a diverse range of topics.

This week, we were delighted to receive an email from the Historical Association thanking our students for their entries and informing us that Jacob's essay on the Battle of Tewkesbury had been awarded 'Highly Commended' for being "full of enthusiasm and interest in history".

Thank you to all those who entered this year's competition, and our congratulations to Jacob!

News from the PE department

What a fantastic start to the year the HSL pupils have made! The energy and enthusiasm in lessons, sports clubs and fixtures has been great to see, with incredibly high levels of participation at all the extracurricular PE clubs. Once again, badminton, strength and conditioning, cross-country and yoga have all been very popular and if pupils haven't yet attended an early morning club they are able to join at any time – it really is a great way to start the day!

We'd like to congratulate all our pupils who completed the cross-country course in their lessons at the start of term. We are anticipating the house cross country competition will be well contested in October. We can't wait to see the course record being challenged and pupils setting their own personal best times. Please encourage your child to practice for this event and maybe try out our cross-country course as a family.

PE Lessons this term are focused on Netball and Rugby. Please find below the kit list for these activities and please ensure that all kit is named.

- Netball – HSL polo shirt, HSL shorts or skort, HSL ¼ zip (optional), white socks, trainers.
- Rugby – HSL polo short or HSL Rugby shirt, HSL shorts or skort, HSL ¼ zip (optional), navy rugby socks, trainers or boots, gum shield.

Fixtures have already started against other schools with some very promising early results in netball and hockey. Rugby fixtures for this term will be starting in the next couple of weeks. Please encourage your child to check the fixtures notice board where we post team sheets, results and match reports.





As part of the tutor programme, pupils will be looking at a 'Job of the Fortnight' and signing into Unifrog to search various careers opportunities, think about labour market research and discover the qualifications needed for these roles, as well as the salaries they could hope to earn should they go into that industry! We will also be asking all pupils to log careers 'activities' or 'interactions' to help build their careers profile, so they can keep track of all of their wonderful achievements and key transferrable skills. This will support them with any future job applications that they may make. Please do encourage pupils to do this at home too! This can include anything extracurricular that they have taken part in out of school such as scouts, drama clubs and charity work.

In our summer term 'Personal Development' lessons, all Tutor Groups will be focusing on the unit 'Living in the Wider World'. Pupils will be learning about 'career choices', 'appropriate conduct when at work' and 'transferable skills'.

At HSL we think it is never too early to think about the future and next steps! It is important that all children know that school is a stepping stone to their future and during their time with us they will receive a lot of information regarding the world of work. In this newsletter we would like to flag up our careers information and the support we will offer during the course of this academic year.

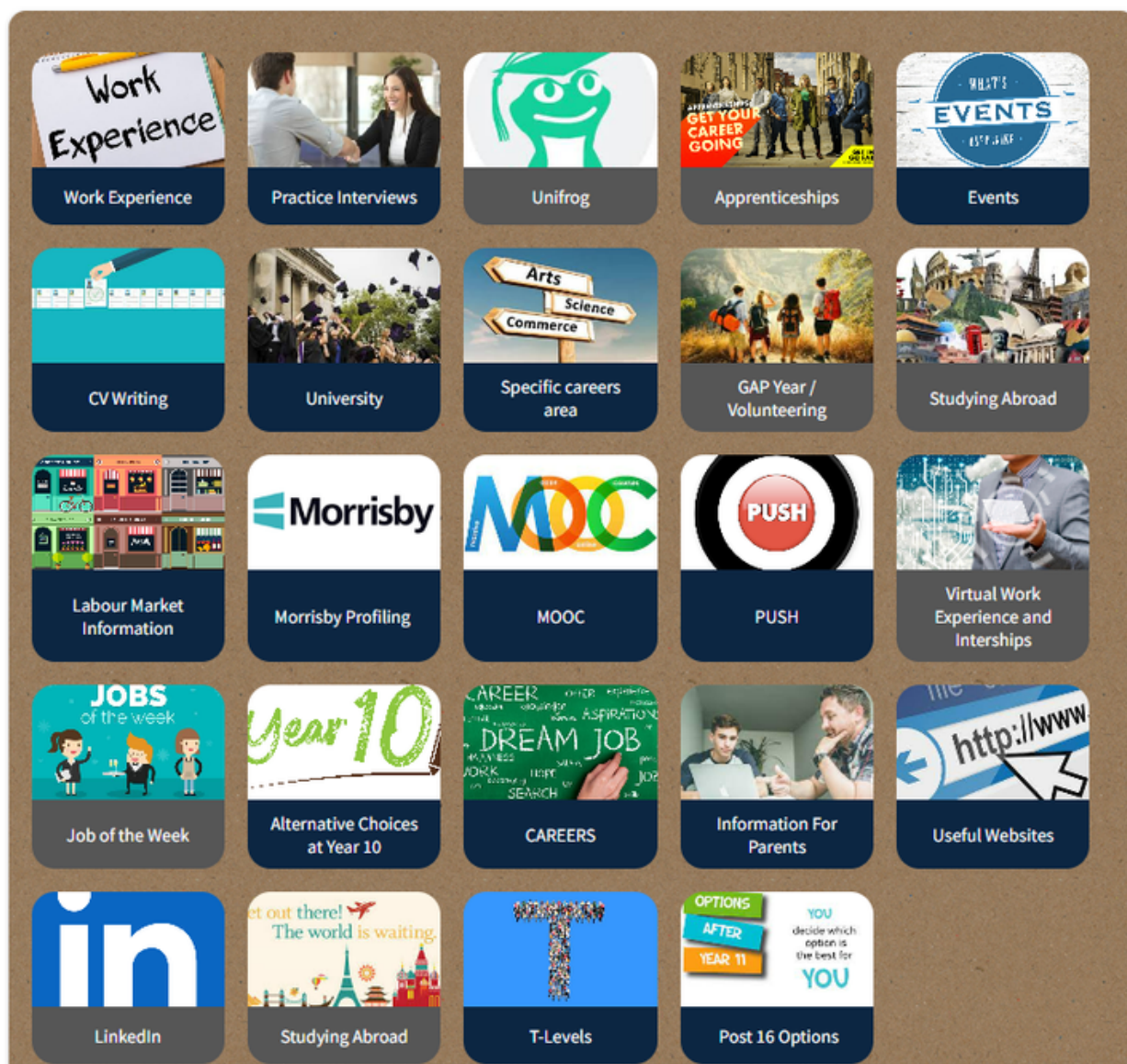


VLE Resources

Our school VLE Careers pages contain a wealth of information which we would encourage all pupils and parents to have a look at. Additionally, please do also visit our school website for more information.

CAREERS

Welcome to the Careers page of the VLE. The careers department at HSL aims to support all pupils with their decision making and future planning throughout school from Year 7- 11. The careers programme is overseen by Mrs O'Riordan (Careers Lead) and Mrs Lewis (Careers Adviser)



Safeguarding

At HSL we pride ourselves on keeping up with the most contemporary safeguarding strategies, in order to make sure our school is a safe space for everyone. This month we have hosted Year 7 Parent Talks, Staff CPD safeguarding training sessions and all staff have completed an internet safety course. Our students have been involved too, working through their online safety activities, to ensure that they are up-to-date and aware of how to be safe online.



Information for Pupils, Parents and Carers about online safety

As well as training in school, there is a wide range of specialist age-appropriate support available on the National Online Safety website (www.nationalonlinesafety.com). It is important to monitor children's mobile phone usage, as social media platforms can be a hot-spot for bullying and if unsupervised, can have the potential to cause significant upset and harm. With guidance from school and an input from parents at home we can work together to support and protect our students from the risks they face online.



Sponsored ~~walk~~ skip July 2023

Unfortunately, the heavy rain and strong wind on Friday 14th July meant we were not able to complete our sponsored walk up and around Leckhampton Hill. However, HSL pupils still managed to earn their sponsorship money by completing a challenging circuit of exercises in the sports hall instead, including enough skipping, sit-ups and triceps dips to make up 9km!

We would like to thank every student who took part and who raised sponsorship money. In total we raised an amazing £2445.65 for the three charities voted for by our pupils:

- Cheltenham Animal Shelter
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- The World Wildlife Fund

Thank you so much for all your donations!



Gloucestershire Animal Welfare Association &
Cheltenham Animal Shelter

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Cheltenham Half Marathon 2023

On Sunday 3rd September 2023, Miss Kennedy, Mr Powell-Jones and Mr Taylor represented HSL in the Cheltenham Half Marathon. Despite the heat, all three managed to finish and were (just about!) able to walk on Monday for our staff training day.

Miss Kennedy would like to thank everyone who came out to support on the day, and especially those who sponsored her by donating to Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice we raised over £600! The link below is still live if anyone else would like to donate.

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



Science Revision and Review Resources

Every new student has now been given a numbered red CGP KS3 Science Higher Level Study Guide. Please encourage your child to use their Study Guide at home to complete their homework, review what they have learned in their lessons, and revise for their assessments. More information regarding how to revise and which page numbers to use can always be found on the VLE in the Task Description for the homework or assessment.



The school will collect these Study Guides back at the end of the KS3 course to pass on to the new cohort of Year 7 students. Students have been told to keep them safe and avoid writing in them at all. If you would like to purchase the Science Study Guide, you can do so via Scopay for £3.15. If your child has lost the Study Guide and needs a £3.15 replacement copy, please email admin@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk to let us know.

