

# NEWSLETTER



Dear Parent and Carers,

What a busy half term we have enjoyed! Over the last 8 weeks, the pupils and staff of HSL have certainly made the most of every day and as a consequence this newsletter is packed with news stories and pictures. We are all ready for a rest! That aside, we are continually impressed by the engagement of our pupils, who get involved in the opportunities on offer to them with incredible enthusiasm. This was particularly evident recently, as they threw themselves into auditions for the school production, our recent Rights Respecting enrichment day, and house music. It is a pleasure to work with young people who are very kind and show excellent attitudes. Thank you very much for all your support sending them into school so well prepared and positive.

I hope you all enjoy a lovely break over half term and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back on Monday 6th November.

With warm wishes,

Helen Wood Headteacher

## **Key Dates**

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

6th November Pupils return to school

9th November Year 9 Peer Mentor Activities day at Croft Farm

w/c 13th November Anti Bullying Week

14th November Year 9 National Portrait Gallery Trip

16th November 'Keeping Your Child Safe Online' PC Simon Williams

6.30pm - all welcome

16th November PTFA Meeting 7pm

17th November Eco-Committee Leckhampton Hill Trip
20th November RRSA Steering Group Meeting 1.30pm

21st November Year 8 Geography/History Bristol Trip 8CH and 8LB

21st November Learning Council Meeting 1.20pm

23rd November Year 8 Geography/History Bristol Trip 8IS and 8WI

24th November INSET DAY - school closed to pupils
27th November INSET DAY - school closed to pupils

28th November House Council Meeting

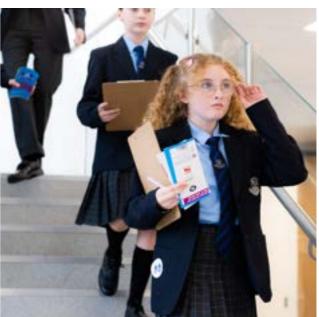


# Enrichment Day - our Gold Journey

On Wednesday 25th October the whole school spent the day exploring children's rights, as we continue on our journey towards achieving our Unicef RRSA Gold Award.

Each year group's activities had a different focus. Year 7 found out about how rights are upheld in school and by organisations in our local community, completing a diverse range of activities including a rights 'quest', team-work activities focusing on the right to rest, play, leisure and the arts and the chance to meet some members of our local community and talk to them about their work with children.









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# Enrichment Day - our Gold Journey

Year 8 investigated the impact of poverty on children's rights in the UK. They attempted a budgeting exercise to start to understand some of the challenges faced by people living in poverty. We welcomed Councillor Flo Clucas into school to talk about child poverty in Cheltenham, and her involvement in the 'No Child Left Behind' project. Pupils also considered the north-south divide and debated the impact of the cancellation of HS2.



# Enrichment Day - our Gold Journey

The Year 9 day allowed pupils to explore the experience of refugees. They took part in classroom-based workshops, a creative writing session and listened to a superb talk by Paddy Davie from 'Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees.' An immersive-drama session allowed pupils to understand the experiences of those who cross the water in small boats and build empathy through a multi-sensory activity in the drama studio.







#### Cheltenham Literature Festival 2023

We had a busy and exciting week visiting the Literature Festival with our pupils for lots of different events: half of the Year 9 pupils got to experience 'Battle of the Books'; a debate between local secondary schools about books that have impacted them and the other half of Year 9 heard from author, director and screenwriter Manjeet Mann talking about her new book 'Run, Rebel'. Then, Year 7 heard from Julian Sedgwick and Chie Kutsuwada about their new book '100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café' and saw the Manga artist at work producing some fantastic artwork. The pupils had an excellent time hearing from such interesting and inspiring authors and were a credit to themselves and the HSL community.

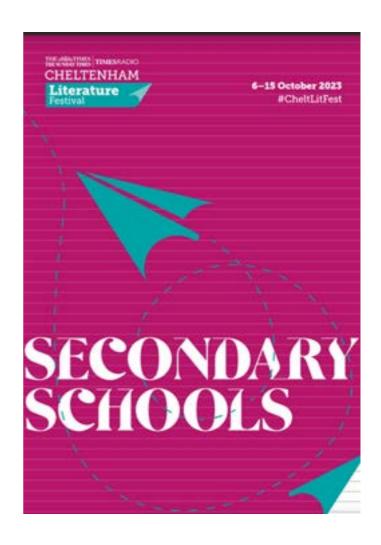


#### Cheltenham Literature Festival - student reviews

#### Battle of the Books

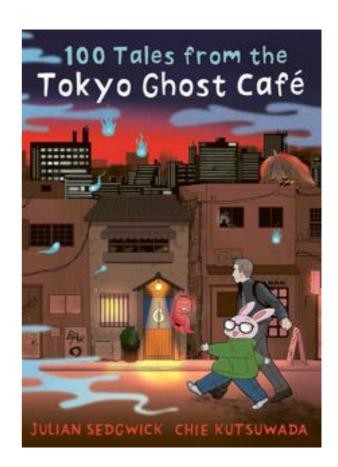
On the 9th October, all Year 9 pupils had the exciting opportunity to attend the Cheltenham Literature Festival. Some of us were lucky enough to attend 'Battle of the Books' which was an interactive live debate which was very inclusive and enjoyable. Five local schools each chose a book and a pupil representative, and it was great to hear how they felt about different books. Everyone in the audience got to have a say and were able to get involved by asking questions and judging which book they liked the most.

By Daisy Tustin, 9CH



# 100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café by Julian Sedgewick and Chie Kutsuwada

As we arrived that The Garden Theatre for our event, there was excited chatting from all of the schools present – we couldn't wait for it to begin! Suddenly, loud music played, and the authors came on stage and there was silence. Author Julian Sedgewick and Manga artist Chie Kutsuwada introduced their new book '100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café' – a book that is a mix of writing and manga, and it looks brilliant. They told us all about the inspiration for the book and how they went about writing and drawing the book – and Chie even did some live manga for us to describe the stories that Julian was telling us.

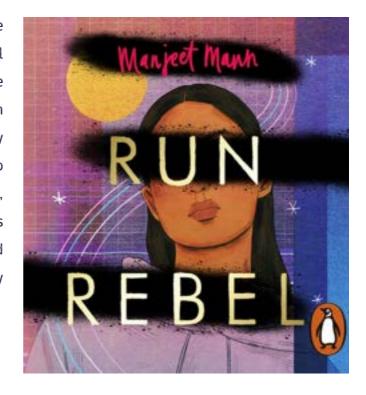


It was a really fun event and we got to ask lots of questions at the end, and even got an advanced preview extract of the book to take home. I have read it and would deeply recommend it and cannot wait for the book to come out in November!

By Luke Zurita 7CH1

# Run Rebel by Manjeet Mann

On the 9th October the Year 9's of HSL went to the Cheltenham Literature Festival. During the festival we went to see a talk by Manjeet Mann who is the author of the book 'Run, Rebel.' The talk involved an introduction about the author who told us her story of becoming a writer after being an actress and also told us about her second book which has written, 'Run, Rebel'. The book is the story of a girl who has grown up in a traditional Indian family in Britain and is distracting herself from her problems at home by running, which is her passion.



Overall, the talk was a great experience which taught Year 9 about a new author and a new book which has intrigued lots of us due to its interesting topics and how the book was aimed at young people our age.

Tillie-Mei Robinson, 9WI.

#### HSL Book of the month

This month, we are recommending that our pupils, parents and all members of the HSL community read:

## The Blackthorn Branch by Elen Caldecott

#### Synopsis:

Cassie's older brother Byron has fallen in with the wrong crowd – it's soon clear these boys are wild, reckless and not human at all. They are tylwyth teg – Fair Folk, who tempt humans down into the dark places of the world. And Byron is tempted.

When he goes missing, Cassie and her cousin, Siân, follow his trail to an old abandoned railway tunnel which goes down and down into Annwn, the underworld. Here they find that the tylwyth teg are restless – and angry. Their leader, Gwenhidw, wants to protect Annwn from the damage humans are doing to the world. Byron is part of her plan. But Cassie won't let her big brother be part of anyone's plan. Can she rescue her brother before it is too late?

An exciting tale of mystery, folklore and magic, this is a fantastic book that will engage the whole family.

Do you want to write a book review of The Blackthorn Branch? Please see Mrs Simms!

Enjoyed reading this book? Look out for some creative writing tasks on the VLE based on The Blackthorn Branch.



#### House Maths

Following last year's success The High School Leckhampton's annual house maths competition took place on the 5th October for Year 7 students. Working together in teams of 6, students were able to tackle some obscure maths problems whilst racing across the MUGA to the other half of their team. The problems focussed on reasoning and logical thinking and introduced students to concepts they will meet again later in Key Stage 3 and 4! Points were awarded for each correct answer in each group and then totalled up for each house. The results of the House Maths Competition are as follows:

- First place Isbourne (173 points)
- Second place Chelt 1 (161 points)
- Third place Lilleybrook (159 points)
- Fourth place Chelt 2 (126 points)
- Fifth place Windrush (115 points)

The students were excellent, it was a pleasure to see them work so hard and be so supportive of their houses!

Year 8 and Year 9 House Maths competitions will be held later on this year.















#### **Humanities**

#### **Religious Studies**

In Religious Studies year 7 are studying census data to see how religious affiliation has changed over the last 10 years in England and globally over the last 100 years - especially the rise of the Nones. We will then investigate evidence for and against the existence of God before exploring Christian, Muslim and Humanist beliefs.

Year 8 are exploring The Big Story of the Bible and how the themes of sin, redemption and atonement run throughout the Old Testament and 'set the scene' for Jesus' arrival in the New Testament. Students will then ask the question 'Was Jesus God on earth?'

Year 9 continue to explore and evaluate different ethical theories - currently exploring Joseph Fletcher's Situation Ethics and whether one should be allowed to do ANY action if motivated by love.

Philosophy Club has good attendance and students have explored the method of Socratic questioning as well as debating the ethics of AI cars and considering 'how do we acquire knowledge?', 'what makes a wise person wise?' and 'are we truly free'?



# humanities on

#### Humanities

# Geography

In Geography Year 7 have been learning about their local place contexts up to a national scale, to further their understanding of the United Kingdom and it's physical and human characteristics. This has involved studying the natural features of the UK including the climate of different regions. We have learned how to create and interpret climate graphs, read a range of choropleth maps and gather information to understand which areas are sparsely or densely populated and why.

In Year 8 Geography, our focus has been on learning about their continental contexts, to further understand how the UK differs to our European neighbours. This has involved a focus on the physical attributes of the continent and learning about the disparities in wealth across Europe. More recently we have begun to look at the Geo-political contexts of the region, with a focus on the role of the European Union, including an investigation into the reasons for Brexit.

In Year 9, our focus has been on learning about where our students fit in the global system, to complete their contextual understanding of their place in the world. This topic builds on those seen in Years 7 and 8, with globalisation the core concept underpinning the topic. Students have considered how the world is more interconnected than it has ever been, using the examples of food, clothing and large companies to understand their links to other nations.

Geography Rocks is our weekly Geography-based club, where students have had fun playing map games, creating Geographical decorations for our classrooms, designing Geography based pumpkins for Halloween and planning their terrarium ecosystems in a jar.



# humanities on History

#### Humanities

In History this term pupils have made a super start on their learning, engaging enthusiastically with some diverse topics.

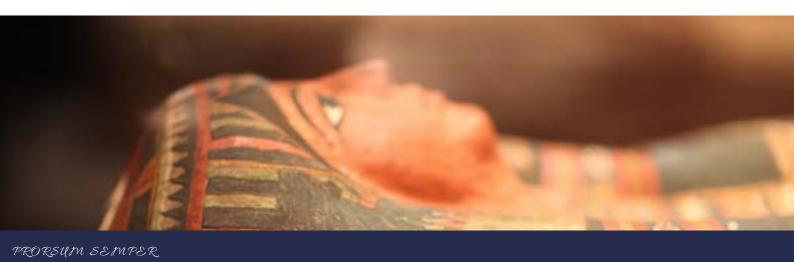
Year 7 have just completed their first module, An Introduction to History, during which they engaged with the five skills that are the 'nuts and bolts' of the Key Stage 3 History curriculum. Amongst other things, pupils have learnt about time terms and chronology and have worked together to put themselves as a class into chronological order.

In Year 8 pupils have been exploring the English Civil War, when, as contemporary viewers put it "the world was turned upside down". They have become adept at explaining the causes of the war and will now test the idea that it brought about significant change, as they study the consequences.

Year 9's are currently grappling with understanding Britain in the period before the outbreak of the First World War. In this module our approach is source-based, with pupils using the knowledge gained in lessons to decide whether the film Titanic accurately reflects society at the start of the twentieth century. They have also engaged with primary sources about life in Britain during this period and used a range of primary sources to investigate the introduction and impact of free school meals in 1907. After half term pupils will consider the impact on society of the Liberal party gaining power in 1906 and explore what Europe was like on the eve of World War One.

All pupils are encouraged to look outwards, beyond the boundaries of British history, through the completion of the 'Meanwhile, Elsewhere' homework tasks. These tasks require pupils to research an event happening at the same time as the period studied, but somewhere else in the world. Year 8 researched the founding of the Jamestown colony in 1607, and Year 9 found out about the mountain-climber Lizzie LeBlond, whose daring ascents in an ankle-length skirt caused a stir in pre-war society!

History Hub continues to give pupils the chance for some 'hands-on' history. Having investigated mummification - its purpose, process and global use - the History cupboard is currently playing host to a tray of mummified oranges. We'll see if they were a success after the half term holiday!



# MFL- Modern Foreign Languages

## European Day of Languages

On the 26th September, we celebrated EDL at HSL. Students entered the Great Languages Challenge competition from the British Council and told us about all the ways they used a language. Some listen to songs, enjoy eating lots of different foods from around the world, some told us about how they were teaching their parents about their favourite language at home and lots told us about different films and cartoons they regularly watch!

It's so exciting to see how many students at HSL use a variety of different languages. There's still time for pupils to send in their completed entry to either Madame Claydon or Señora Wright. During lessons, members of staff have also been practising using different languages with their classes. Mr Grant and Mr Matthews were chosen by the students as top users but no one could beat Mr Bunting, his was a landslide victory!



#### Linguists of the Month

Our Linguists of the Month for September were Archie Allen for French, awarded for outstanding enthusiasm and participation in class and Leila Dawood for Spanish, who shows an exceptional attitude to learning.

# MFL- Modern Foreign Languages

#### Día de los muertos

We are also currently running our Day of the Dead competition, students are being introduced to this festival and are entering their impressive designs of brightly coloured and spooky 'calaveras' (Skulls). They have until November 10th to hand in the design. Epraise points will be awarded to all who enter and prizes are up for grabs for the most impressive!



# Sports update from the PE department

#### Netball

We have seen some fantastic netball matches this term from our Year 7's, 8's and 9's against the local schools of Chosen Hill, Cleeve, Winchcombe and Pates. It has been wonderful to watch the pupils put their skills and tactical understanding learnt in lessons and clubs into practice against the opposition and see many of our Year 9 Leaders umpiring fixtures for the Year 7's and 8's.

We hosted a tournament for both Year 7's and 8's against Cleeve, Chosen Hill and Winchcombe where all HSL teams displayed some fantastic netball, producing some very impressive results.

Our Year 7 A,B,C and D teams also had their very first away fixture this term at Chosen Hill, where we played some fast paced and skilful netball, again coming out with some fantastic results for all of the teams.

The Year 9's have also had some very noteworthy performances against Cleeve and Pates in their recent fixtures and have set themselves up for a very promising County Netball Tournament in November.









# Sports update from the PE department

#### Football

The boys have been equally busy this term with their clubs and have started the process of football trials in preparation for the football season in January. There will be plenty more opportunities at the football trials, so please reassure your child if they haven't been able to attend yet.

Girls football training has also been going well on Tuesday evenings and we recently hosted a Primary Schools Girls Football tournament on our astroturf which our young leaders refereed. We will be holding trials next term for the school teams so pupils should keep an eye out on the sports notice boards.

#### Rugby

The first of many rugby matches have been taking place this week where we have been putting our passing, running and tackling skills into practice with great effect; gaining valuable experience against The Cotswold School and Bournside, again, with great results.



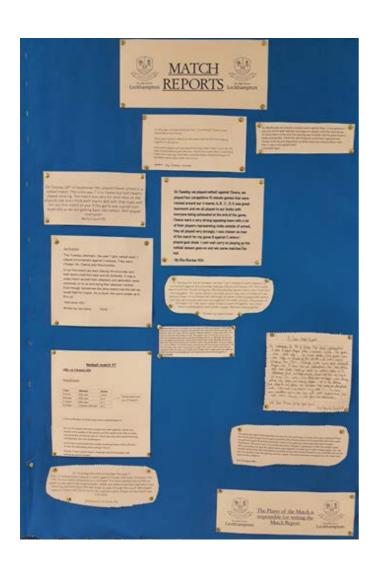
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# Sports update from the PE department

### Hockey

The girls hockey teams are going from strength to strength in their fixtures where we have so far played Bournside, Balcarras, Cleeve, Pates and Chosen Hill across the age groups, with many more fixtures to come. We are hoping to be able to play some mixed hockey matches this season, and we will be entering a boy's team in the County tournaments to get them more match experience.





Match Reports are being written by the pupils who have been awarded 'player of the match' summing up each fixture.

# **House Sports Competitions**

We had our annual House Cross Country recently, with the whole school taking part in the event throughout the day. There was some wonderful running on display and all our pupils showed great resilience and enthusiasm for what is possibly the most physically challenging house event in our sporting calendar. Well done to all runners!

A special mention to Ben Sholly in Year 9 who set a new course record of 11m.32s!

The Overall Results are as follows: 1st Lilley Brook 2nd Isbourne 3rd Windrush 4th Chelt

House netball and rugby have been in full swing at the end of this term and it has been great to see all pupils performing very well in their assessments in class and then have the opportunity to put themselves under greater pressure in these intra-school competitions. The young leaders have been officiating the fixtures with great maturity and a very high skill level was displayed throughout all competitions.

#### House Netball Results:

1st Isbourne 2nd Windrush 3rd Lilleybrook 4th Chelt



# Fixtures

Below are the fixtures for next half term. There are more to be added, these will be uploaded to the VLE when confirmed.

Week beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 <sup>th</sup> November			Y9 Rugby vs Bournside @HSL Start at 3:00pm finish at 4:30pm MPJ RJG		Cross Country 11:40 Leave HSL 2:40pm Return to HSL 50 seater bus MPJ RXV
13 <sup>th</sup> November				Y7 A and B Girls Football vs Cleeve Y8 A Girls Football vs Cleeve @HSL Astro Start 4:00pm finish at 5:00pm RJG MPJ Y8&9 B Team Netball vs Pitville@HSL 3:35pm Start 4:45pm Finish RKV	
20" November		Y9 Hockey vs Balcarras @ Balcarras 3:30pm Leave Return at school 5:15pm 16 seater bus MPJ WDR	YS A and B Rugby Vs Bournside @HSL Start at 3:00pm finish at 4:30pm MPJ RJG	Y9 A and 8 Hockey vs - Denmark Road High School @HSL 4:00pm start 5:15pm finish MPJ WDR	Y7 Girls GHS Hockey Tournament @ Dean Close 16 seater bus MPJ
27 <sup>th</sup> November		Y7 & 8 Hockey vs Cleeve @HSL 4:00pm start 5:15pm Finish MPJ RJG		Y9 Girts Football vs Balcarras @HSL 3:30pm start 5:30pm finish RJG	Y8 Girls GHA Hockey Tournament @ Dean Close 16 seater bus MPI
				Y8 Hockey vs Denmark Road High School @HSL 4:00pm start 5:00pm finish MPJ	
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary School 'Move More' Girls Football Event (External).		Y9 Girls Football vs Cleeve @ HSI, Astro 4:00pm Start 5:15pm Finish RJG Y7 A and 8 Rugby vs Chosen Hill @ HSI, 3:00pm start 4:30pm finish MPJ RKV	Y9 Basketball vs Pates @ Pates 4:00pm start 5:00pm finish 9 seater bus RJG Y7 & Y8 11 a side Football vs Pitville @ Pitville Leave HSL at 3:10pm Return at 5:00pm 30 seater bus GJT MP3 WSG	
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary School Basketball Event @HSL 2:00pm Start 3:30pm Finish RJG Plus student helpers				
18 <sup>th</sup> December					

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# Safeguarding

PC Simon Williams - Keeping Children Safe Online

On Thursday 16th November at 6:30pm, we'd like to invite all parents and carers into HSL for an hour long, informative, supportive talk based on supporting your child with using the internet safely hosted by PC Simon Williams. PC Williams will offer support to parents regarding:

- How to set appropriate filters in place with your internet provider at home
- · Which social media platforms are out there, their age ratings and what to look out for
- · How to support your child to navigate through the online world
- Answering any questions that you may have regarding accessing support to keep your child safe when using the internet

We would actively encourage as many parents to attend as possible!



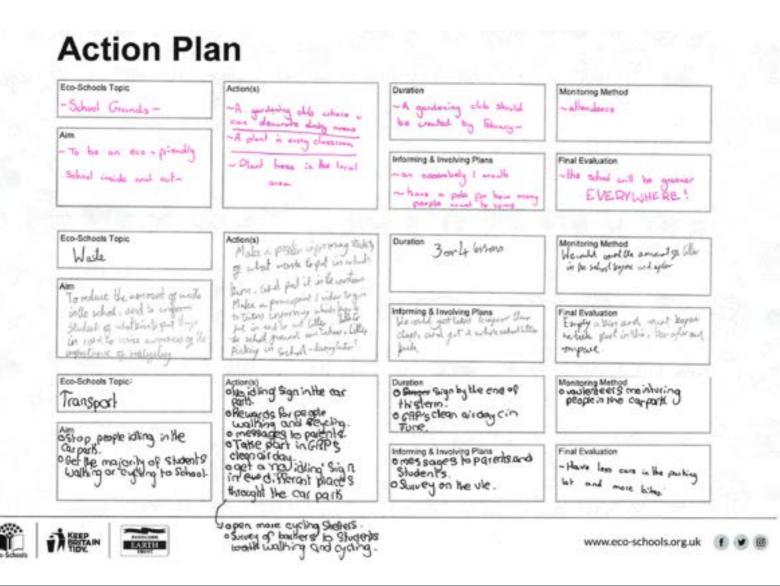


### Eco-Schools Action Plan 2023-2024

The Eco-Committee are a fabulous group of HSL students who are passionate about protecting the environment and dedicated to making our school as environmentally friendly as possible.

Over the last few weeks all our committee members have been conducting an environmental review to better understand what environmental work our school is already doing, and what we need to improve.

Now that the review is complete, our eco-committee have designed an action plan detailing changes they would like to make this academic year. Look out for more information in the months to come about these actions and how you can help.





# "Teach the Teacher"

On Monday 16th October, members of the Eco-Committee attended an online training session as part of the "Teach the Teacher" campaign, which aims to empower young people to deliver a 1-hour workshop on climate change and climate education directly to their teachers later this academic year.

Molly Hannaford-George in 8IS attended on Monday and has written about what she learned from the training session:

"Teach the Teacher is an organisation that helps children who are passionate about the environment and want to help it to understand about climate change. The students can then educate their staff and teachers about the effect climate change has on them and young people in their community from their point of view, also it helps teachers to understand how to teach students about climate change. Teach the Teacher also enables the students to help their school to be more eco-friendly and play an important part in the community as well. It will also help communities tackle climate change by educating other people to understand how they can do their bit to help prevent climate change."

For more information about the campaign please see the website link: www.teachtheteacher.uk







# "Cut Your Carbon Campaign"

During assemblies this month, the Eco-Committee have launched the "Cut Your Carbon" campaign to every student at The High School Leckhampton. Eco-Schools is challenging all young people in England to take action on their carbon footprint throughout the month of November by completing the 9 simple actions on the Cut Your Carbon checklist with friends and families.

The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness, change behaviours, and Cut Your Carbon (Dioxide) - the greenhouse gas responsible for driving climate change.



At the end of next month, the Eco-Committee will visit each tutor group to record how many actions have been completed by how many people so we can estimate our impact as a school. Thank you in advance for all your support in helping our students take action against climate change.

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#### Macmillan Bake Sale

On Friday 29th September, all staff and students at The High School Leckhampton came together to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support by wearing their own clothes with a splash of green (and donating £1 for this privilege via Scopay) and by bringing in and buying items in our bake sale at break time. It was a very popular and successful event (we sold out in 20 minutes!) and we raised £542.40 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Miss Kennedy would like to thank all those who donated cakes to the event and especially the Eco-Committee who gave up their break time to run the bake sale.







CANCER SUPPORT







# **New House Crest Designs**



The House Crest design competition was launched last summer and the winning designs can be seen here. Congratulations to the following students who now have their designs displayed in Reception.

Mille Dewhurst - Chelt

Autumn Ball-Hornblow - Isbourne

James Birt - Lilley Brook

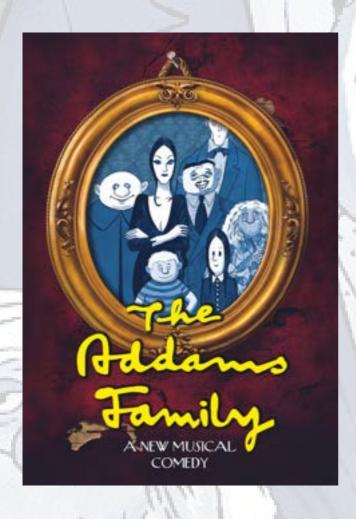
Eleanor Barnard - Windrush

Their designs were selected as they contained well chosen, identifiable symbols that our graphic designer could use to create these striking House crests.

The standard was exceptionally high, with many pupils submitting interesting and beautifully presented ideas. We hope that by making the crests classically simple, they will have a longevity for many years to come!

Congratulations to all those who entered and our 4 winners!

# The School Production - The Addams Family



It has been a very busy first term in Drama and Music following the very exciting reveal of our next annual production - The Adamms Family. There has been a real buzz around the school following the staff video announcing the show (if you haven't seen it yet, please visit the school production page through Music on the VLE!)

Students have been auditioning at lunchtimes and afterschool for the last 4 weeks and the very difficult decision on callbacks was made for our lead roles.

We have been thrilled with the number of students wanting to get involved with over 100 students auditioning for lead roles, over 70 students interested in backstage roles and over 50 students wanting to be involved in dance and gymnastics.

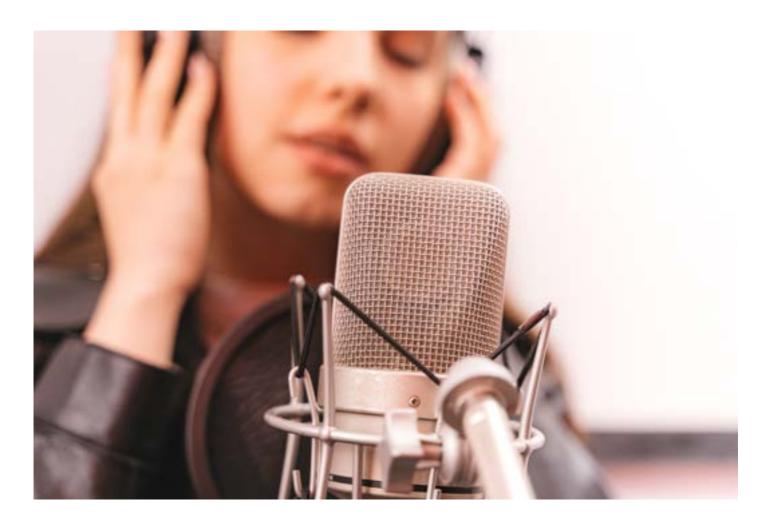
All students who have expressed an interest both on stage and off stage will be involved in this fantastic production and we are excited for rehearsals to get underway next term!

#### LAMDA

Mrs Crough is excited to be able to share the excellent LAMDA results achieved by her pupils. Almost 30 students took their exam with a 100% pass rate and a staggering 93% passing with DISTINCTION.

Amazingly, 5 of Mrs Crough's pupils passed with 100% which is incredibly hard to do. The range of disciplines covered include Public Speaking, Musical Theatre, Acting and Group Acting.

A huge THANK YOU to all the LAMDA parents for their constant and continued support. The children have showed commitment, resilience, enthusiasm and creativity throughout the year to achieve these wonderful results. The examiner commented on what lovely and talented children they all were!



#### PTFA

Our HSL Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA) is in full swing and looking forward to another successful year of fundraising, supporting the school and growing the community.



#### Thank You

- •We would like to thank Richard for leading the PTFA for the last few years and welcome Kelvin as the new Chair of the committee! There are lots of new exciting ideas in the pipeline and we would love to hear yours too!
- •We are delighted to share that at the last pre-loved uniform event in October we raised  $\pounds$ 119.47 which will be used in supporting the continued growth of the school. A big thank you to all involved.

# Upcoming Events for the Diary

- •16th Nov Is our next PTFA Meeting. Please join us if you would like to know more at 7pm at HSL.
- •13th Dec Join us for the Christmas Celebration between 7-9pm. We will also be running a preloved uniform sale and a Christmas jumper swap (more information to follow!)

# Donations - can you help?

•We are always looking for donations of preloved uniform, school shoes, sports shoes / boots (excluding trainers) for our upcoming sales . If you have a donation, please drop this off with the HSL reception.

The DT department are also collecting:

- · spare plates, bowls and slate boards for food displays
- natural timbers (e.g. wooden broom sticks, cricket stumps, old solid wood furniture) are also always appreciated for upcoming woodwork projects.
- ·If you have a donation for the DT department, please email ges@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk

If you would like to get involved and support the school, please join us on Facebook and our volunteer WhatsApp group:



Join us on our Facebook group for further info and news





To get sight of the upcoming volunteering opportunities, please join us on the volunteering WhatsApp group.

Follow the QR code to the left for easy access.

#### Half Term activities



