

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely half term break - which feels like a distant memory after the events of the last two weeks!

As you know, we had our first Ofsted Inspection during the first week back and we are now waiting for the report to be published, so we can share it with the community. The inspectors left no stone unturned at HSL! As we are a relatively small secondary school they were able to talk with a very high percentage of our pupils (the inspectors even got to know a few of them by name!) and they were able to really dig into our systems and policies, - getting a genuine flavour of our culture and ethos. The pupils conducted themselves superbly and went about their business as they would on any normal day - I am sure that you would have been very proud of the mature way they coped with the visits to lessons and constant questions. Thank you very much for completing Parent View and taking the time to email good luck messages to the staff!

Hot on the back of Ofsted, this week we hosted another significant visit, this time of 16 secondary Headteachers who were visiting The Balcarras Trust from their schools in Surrey. After a short seminar, they explored the school, visiting lessons and talking to staff, and we were able to share with them our work on school improvement and how we have gone about building a culture from scratch. They were clearly very impressed and it was a pleasure to showcase our work and introduce them to the pupils and staff here.

Your children may have noticed that we have also been welcoming visitors to the school for teacher interviews and have recently appointed teachers of English, Computing, MFL, Science, and Maths to join the team in September. We involve the pupils in the Learning Council in a panel interview for each appointment and all interviewees teach lessons, so your child may have had an unexpected teacher over the last few weeks. Our pupils always give them a warm welcome and a good grilling and we are absolutely delighted with the quality of applications and expertise of those appointed. Once we have completed all recruitment, we will be writing to parents to let you know who is joining the team in September.

And finally, with less than 3 weeks to go, we are gearing up our preparations for the school production of *The Addams Family*. Thank you so much for supporting your children to learn their lines and get involved. There are 3 evening performances, 18th, 19th and 20th March, and we would love to see as many of you as possible in the audience. I have no doubt it will be a fantastic performance, with so many talented pupils taking part. Please buy your tickets soon!

With warm wishes,
Helen Wood
Headteacher

Key Dates - March 2024

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 4th March | Fairtrade Fortnight (4-17 March) |
| 5th March | Year 8 Reward Assembly |
| 5th March | Year 7 History Chepstow Castles Trip #1 |
| 5th March | Learning Council Meeting (13.20 - 14.20) |
| 6th March | Year 7 Reward Assembly |
| 6th March | Year 7 Parents' Evening - online #1 |
| 7th March | Year 7 Parents' Evening - online #2 |
| 7th March | Year 7 History Chepstow Castles Trip #2 |
| 7th March | World Book Day 2024 |
| 7th March | Year 9 Reward Assembly |
| 8th March | Fairtrade Fortnight Bake Sale |
| 8th March | Deadline for '50 objects' competition |
| 8th March | UN International Women's Day |
| 11th March | Neurodiversity Awareness Week and Nutrition and Hydration |
| 11th March | British Science Week |
| 12th March | STEM Careers Day |
| 12th March | Year 7 Headteacher's Reward Tea Party |
| 13th March | PSHE P2 and P3 |
| 14th March | Year 8 Headteacher's Reward Breakfast |
| 15th March | Year 9 Headteacher's Reward Afternoon Tea Party |
| 15th March | Sketchbook Circle Deadline |
| 15th March | Young Carers Action Day |
| 18th - 20th March | School Production - The Addams Family |
| 21st March | Non Uniform Day and End of Term for Pupils |
| 22nd March | INSET - School Closed to pupils |
| 8th April | Summer Term Starts |



HSL's Book Of The Month - Letters To The Earth

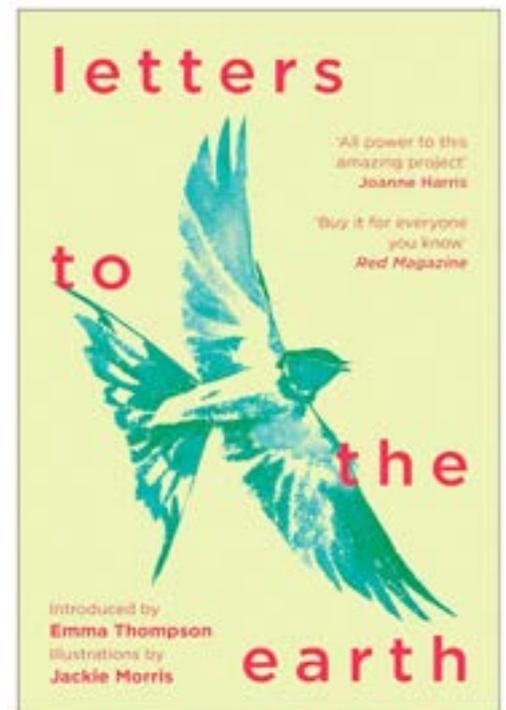
This term, we are recommending that our pupils and parents of the HSL community read: Letters to the Earth.

"A profound, powerful and moving collection of 100 letters from around the world responding to the climate crisis, introduced by Emma Thompson and illustrated by CILIP award winner Jackie Morris.

How can we begin to talk about what is happening to the world? How can we explain to our children, and to ourselves, what the future of our planet might look and feel like?

Letters to the Earth is the beginning of a new conversation. One that attempts to answer some of these questions by listening to the voices of parents and children; politicians and poets; songwriters and scientists. Gathering together over 100 letters written in response to the climate emergency, each entry begins to give language to the unspeakable, and shows how our collective power is present when we are ready to slow down and listen to each other.

It's natural to feel worried or concerned about what the future of the earth holds. These letters are an opportunity to reflect on our connection to the planet and each other in times of crisis. They are also an opportunity to act and respond to this crisis. To put pen to paper and make your voice heard."



We have 6 copies of this book in our LRC, so please do check one out to read. Some of you will find this book familiar after looking at it during our Eco-School Enrichment Day last term!

Do you want to write a letter to the earth? Please come and speak to Mrs Simms.

Enrichment Day - Eco Schools

Eco-School Enrichment Day Tuesday 6th February 2024

On Tuesday 6th February 2024, The High School Leckhampton hosted our second enrichment day of this academic year. All students and staff spent the day learning about the causes of, and solutions to climate change, linking to our status as an Eco-School and our commitment to look after our environment and build a sustainable future for all.

During the day, students had the opportunity to meet local individuals and organisations and learn about the work they do to protect our environment. We were very fortunate to have a number of visitors attending who spoke to, or even ran an activity for, our students including: Cheltenham Borough Council, Grundon, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, FoodLoose, Soil Snack, Walk21, Tewkesbury Friends of the Earth, Spirax Sarco, Butterfly Conservation, CK Futures, FOLK, Plastic Free, Vision 21, Friends of Pilley Bridge, Young Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire Community Energy Co-Operative.



Enrichment Day - Eco Schools

The day began with an introductory assembly hosted by Raechel Kelly from Planet Cheltenham and Laura Gelder-Robertson from Low Carbon Leaders, who explained the problem of climate change and how the solutions to it already exist. Students explored these solutions through various sessions throughout the day and had the opportunity to have their say by completing the InterClimate Network Climate Action survey. At the end of the day, all students and staff were asked to imagine a world where climate change was no longer an issue and represent their ideas as a piece of artwork now displayed in the cafe area, in the foyer.

It was an important day for the school to raise awareness of a global issue, inspire our students to take action, and to reassure individuals who are worried about the impact of climate change that so much fantastic work is being done already by many people in our local community.

Miss Kennedy would like to thank Mrs Agombar, Laura Gelder-Robertson and Raechel Kelly for helping her to organise the day, and all staff and students who took part for their support and enthusiasm.



'Teach The Teacher'

On Monday 5th February, six members of HSL's Eco-Committee delivered a 45-minute workshop on Climate Change and Climate Education to a large gathering of HSL staff after school as part of a national, student-led campaign called Teach the Teacher.

Charlotte, May, Erin, Jacob, Henry and Molly had been preparing to deliver this session since October when they first volunteered and took part in an online training session after school. They selected their script, practised for weeks until they were confident and then invited staff to attend their session. All six Eco-Committee members thoroughly enjoyed the experience, as did the teachers! Please see below for Molly's account of her 'Teach the Teacher' experience, and an email from Mrs Holland thanking those students who ran the session.

Miss Kennedy would like to thank Charlotte 8IS, May 8IS, Erin 7LB, Jacob 8IS, Henry 9WI and Molly 8IS for leading the 'Teach the Teacher' campaign, and Mrs Agombar for supporting these students in preparing for their workshop.

'I feel that I have made a difference because our teachers will now be more informed and equipped to help the students regarding climate change and climate anxiety through the lessons they teach. I feel more confident because I have been part of a process where I can let teachers know about something that matters to me.'

Molly 8IS



Dear Eco-Committee,

'I just wanted to write and say 'thank you' for the session last night. You all presented brilliantly, and it was lovely to see other members of the group there as well - I know it was a team effort.

It definitely made me think about how we approach climate change in our lessons - so thank you! I was particularly interested in the bit on climate justice and intersectionality so I will be looking into this more.

Thank you again for making a difference to our community,'

Mrs Holland



Rights Respecting Round Up

Articles of the Month for February, March and April

In February our chosen articles were 6, 24, 27 and 28. These are the right to life, survival and development; access to water, food and clean environment; the right to a good standard of living and the right to access education. We will focus on these four rights in March and April too, to support our school's participation in the OutRight campaign.

This annual campaign aims to provide young people in Rights Respecting schools with a framework in which to take action in a safe yet meaningful way, on a rights-related issue. The theme for the 2023-4 campaign is climate change.

This has given us an excellent opportunity to join up with the Eco-Committee for our meetings in the Spring Term and plan some actions that we as a school can take to help bring about meaningful change.

Our rights-related tutor time activities are focusing on key issues surrounding climate change and will culminate in the opportunity for all to take action on climate change.

RIGHTS FOCUS: FEBRUARY AND MARCH

ARTICLES 6, 24, 27 & 28

HSL has signed up to Unicef's OutRight campaign, with the RRSA Steering Group and the Eco-Committee working together to lead our school in helping take action on climate change, the effects of which may in future prevent children accessing some rights

Article 6: life, survival and development

Article 24: access to food, water and a clean environment

Article 27: the right to a good standard of living

Article 28: every child has the right to access education

During this term, look out for ways **YOU** can get involved in OutRight!

Steering Group news

In the next few weeks, members of the Steering Group will have the chance to apply to become Gold Ambassadors for the Award. As our Steering Group has expanded, we have spotted an opportunity for some of the Group to take on leadership roles as we work towards our Gold accreditation. More on this in the next issue!

A note to parents

In April, we will be assessed for our Gold accreditation. Our regional RRSA co-ordinator will carry out a virtual inspection, speaking to senior leaders, staff, students and other members of the school community. We would very much like to invite some parents to join us, to talk about the Award and how it positively impacts our school. If you think you may be able to help, and would like to know more, please contact Mrs Cox, via email in the first instance, at aec@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk. Thank you.

Big Garden Birdwatch 26-28th January 2024

On Friday 26th January HSL's Eco-Committee took part in the world's largest wildlife survey to help the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

Eco-Committee members and other students spent a sunny lunchtime in our nature area, watching for and recording any birds we saw that landed on our site using the tally chart below. We submitted the results of the birdwatch online and are looking forward to when the national results are released later this year.

Miss Kennedy would like to thank the students that took part, including any HSL families that carried out their own birdwatch over the weekend and submitted their results.



Weavers Field - Tree Planting Day

Our Eco-Committee members attended a tree planting event on Weavers Field before half term which was featured in 'GloucestershireLive'



PE Latest News

Hockey

The Year 9 Boys hockey team have had a hugely successful month in February, coming 2nd place in the Gloucestershire Hockey Association County Tournament and qualifying for the regional tournament at Millfield School. Representing Gloucestershire, our Year 9's made the trip to Millfield and performed against several top-level teams, playing against Cornwall, Bristol and Bath based schools. The team finished 3rd in our group, narrowly missing out on the next round due to goal difference. A huge congratulations to the whole squad, very well done!

House Badminton

The illustrious House Badminton competition served up a fantastic display of high-level competition between the year groups. Both boys and girls competitions ran on consecutive weeks, with a total of 256 players taking to the court, not including the substitutes! Scores will be tallied and the results will be published on the PE noticeboard shortly!



Year 9 Hockey Team

PE Latest News

Basketball

Our Y9 pupils have had two basketball fixtures so far this term. Both of the opposing teams have provided a really high level of basketball and has given our players the hunger and desire to keep improving. We travelled to Pates for our first fixture and had a positive first quarter scoring some great points with a range of shots. Our general play was good and we were winning our fair share of rebounds, putting us in a great position to attack in the remaining quarters. Pates proved too strong in the end, making the most of some hesitant defending by us, however, there were lots of positives moving forward to our next match.

We played ASA in our second match. Once again, we started brightly and got points on the board in the first quarter. Similar to the Pates game, ASA stepped up their game and blew us away in the middle quarters. We regrouped and finished really strongly giving us a platform for our remaining fixtures.

Well done boys!

Football

Over the term, we have been busy competing in football fixtures. All year groups, both boys and girls, have responded brilliantly to these demands and have achieved some great results.



Our Y7 boys team have played two league matches so far. Drawing against Pittville and losing to Chosen Hill. We are certainly improving as a team and look forward to our remaining fixtures vs ASA and Cleeve.

The Y8 team continues to go from strength to strength. Picking up a total of 6 points from their first 3 games. A win against Cleeve will put us in a great position to advance out of the group stages.

Our Y9 team have also started the football season strongly with wins against St Edwards and Pates. We narrowly lost to ASA even after being 2-0 up. We have played some delightful football and have a real hunger and energy to do well in our remaining fixtures against Cleeve, Balcarras and Tewkesbury.

The Girls have been playing fantastically well in their league campaign. We have played 2 league games and have 3 points. We have another 2 league games to go against Churchdown and Bournside.

National School Attendance Award



We are delighted to have been recognised as being in the top 10% of all secondary schools in England for our attendance in the Autumn term 2023-24.

We strongly believe that high attendance is paramount to our students achieving well in school and enjoying their education.

South West Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to Ben in Year 9, who was one of ten runners in his age group to represent Gloucestershire Schools at the South West Cross Country Championships!

Ben travelled to RNAS Merryfield in Somerset where 6 counties met for this regional championship.

Ben ran 3km in a personal best time of 10 mins 3 seconds and came 29th out of 64 and was the 4th Gloucestershire runner to cross the line, Team coach, Andrew Beadle, was very impressed.

Ben has since been selected to run for Gloucestershire in the England Schools Cross Country Championship race on 16th March in Pontefract!

This is a post run picture and Ben looks as if he's just been for a light jog! Well done and good luck for the Championships.



The Addams Family

A NEW
MUSICAL COMEDY

Show times:

- MON 18 MARCH
- TUES 19 MARCH
- WED 20 MARCH

START TIME:
7:00 PM

Tickets on sale
now!

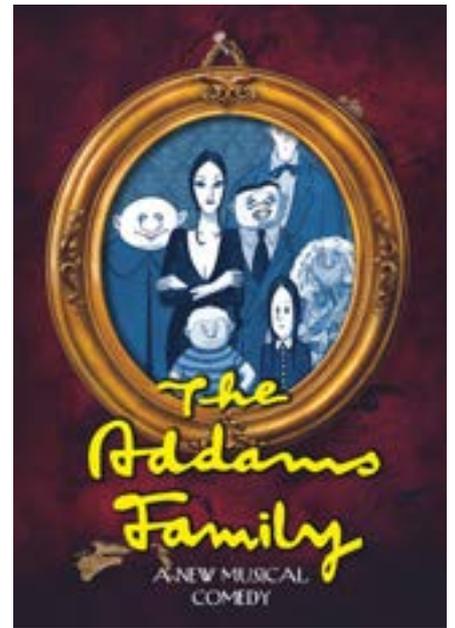


THE ADDAMS FAMILY IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT WITH AND ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE
MATERIALS ARE SUPPLIED BY THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE
(TRW), WWW.THEATRICALRIGHTS.CO.UK

Designed by: Maya Jacob

School Production

INTRODUCING...

Wednesday Addams**Liv 7WI**

Is this your first major performance and if so, how did you feel when you got the part?

It is one of my first major performances as it is my first lead role. When I found out I got the part I was so shocked and overwhelmed. I was a little bit nervous thinking 'this is real now' but what an experience it has been!

What is the best thing about being your character?

I like her because she's got two sides to her – miserable and sad but then joyful and happy. I like how she portrays her lines and her actions. I am learning that I can do different types of acting and this is helping me to learn to use different skills including to be sad and dark.

What advice would you give to someone wanting to audition for a lead role?

Don't overstress it. Put yourself out there because I wasn't expecting to get a lead. I would have been happy with the ensemble but if I hadn't gone for the audition, I wouldn't be here right now. The show was launched in the second week so it took a lot of guts to do it as I am in Year 7 but there is nothing stopping you! Anyone can be a lead – doesn't matter what year group you're in!

What is it like to be a lead and have so many rehearsals?

I love it so much and I get so excited when the schedule is posted. Rehearsals are so welcoming and so fun and I really enjoy myself. I have made loads of new friends in Year 8 and 9 who are also leads and I wouldn't have met them if I wasn't doing the show. I have to be really organised and diligent to make sure I go to all of my rehearsals but also be passionate about it as I have to do lots of preparation outside of rehearsals such as running my lines, practising my songs and my dance cues!

Interview by Hattie and Lola (Year 7)

"THE ADDAMS FAMILY" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), www.theatricalrights.co.uk

PTFA Update



The School Production 18th - 20th March

- We are looking forward to serving interval drinks each night of the performance. A range of alcoholic & non-alcoholic drinks will be available, but orders must be placed in advance.
- **How do I do this?** Simply complete the pre-order slips provided with your tickets at home and bring them with you on the night, where you can pay for your order with card or cash before the performance. You will also have the pick of a variety of snacks and treats at our student-run tuck shop, where cash is preferred.

Upcoming Events for the Diary

- **Next PTFA Meeting:** 29th February, please join us if you would like to know more at 7.30pm at HSL.
- **Pre-Loved Uniform Sale:** March 4th between 3.30-4pm – we have lots of new stock available!
- **School Production:** 18th – 20th March. If you would like to support this event, please do join the volunteering WhatsApp group before the start of March to be included in the action.
- **Quiz & Chips Social:** 3rd May – A fun packed social evening which will include some glorious fish and chips and a quiz to test everyone's knowledge – more info to follow closer to the time.

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 or bring with you on the night of the school production (18th-20th March).
- The DT department are always in need of natural wood / timber for their projects, for donations please drop to reception. Unfortunately, plywood is not needed, they are looking for pine / mahogany etc
- The Production team are still collecting old broomsticks, the team still need 6! Please do drop off to reception if you have any.

Thank you to all for the donations to date – they make a BIG difference!

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



Join us on our Facebook group for further info and news

"The High School Leckhampton PTFA"



Join us on our Instagram group for further info and news

"highschoolleckhamptonptfa"



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.

Fairtrade Fruity Treats Sale



On Friday 8th March 2024, The High School Leckhampton will be hosting our next fundraising event of this academic year. All students and staff are invited to participate in the baking and purchasing of Fairtrade fruity treats at break time in the Foyer.

All the proceeds will be donated to the Fairtrade Foundation. Students will be able to purchase individual items from the sale using cash, each item costing 50p. If students wish to bake an item for the sale at break time we please ask that it is provided in a container with a lid.

Baked goods should be brought to Reception before school on Friday 8th March. Please attach the student's full name, tutor group and a complete list of ingredients to the container, including if the item is vegetarian, vegan, nut-free or gluten-free. Students should collect their containers at the end of the day to take home.

If possible, we kindly ask that the items for the sale include fruity Fairtrade ingredients. Please see the next page for a Fairtrade Banana Cake recipe, and there are more recipes available on the Fairtrade website [here](#). We thank you for your support for what will be an exciting and important event for the school.



Fairtrade Fruity Treats Sale



BANANA CAKE RECIPE



Bake your own delicious Fairtrade banana cake for a tea-time treat or to raise money at your event. Gather your ingredients, then stir, mix and mash your way to tasty goodness. Follow this easy-peasy recipe and get stuck in!

CAKE INGREDIENTS:

- 500g extra-ripe, soft Fairtrade bananas
- 400g plain flour
- 200g unsalted butter at room temperature
- 350g Fairtrade golden caster sugar
- 2 tsp baking soda
- A pinch of salt
- 200ml sour cream
- 3 tsp Fairtrade vanilla extract
- 4 large free-range eggs

METHOD:

1. First, preheat your oven to 180 °C/350 °F/ Gas Mark 4, a with unsalted butter.
2. Next, sift the baking soda and flour in a large bowl. Stir together. Using an electric hand mixer, add in the butter until the mixture has a creamy consistency.
3. Using another bowl, mix the vanilla extract and the sour cream together by hand. Blend this into the flour mixture above.
4. Add in the eggs one at a time to the mixture, beating well after each egg. Mix in the sugar.
5. Mash the bananas and add to the overall mixture until combined.

CHOCOLATE ICING INGREDIENTS (OPTIONAL)

- 40g unsalted butter at room temperature
- 230g Fairtrade icing sugar
- 30g Fairtrade cocoa
- 2 tbsp milk

6. Pour the mixture into the greased cake tin and bake in the preheated oven for 25 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.
7. Allow the cake to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then remove from its case and place on a rack to cool.
8. Serve your cake warm or without icing.
9. For the optional chocolate icing, sift the icing sugar and combine with butter, sugar, cocoa and milk. Beat until smooth. Once the cake has cooled, spread evenly and serve.



**DON'T FEED EXPLOITATION
CHOOSE FAIRTRADE**



The Big Plastic Count 11th - 17th March 2024

The Big Plastic Count, the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste, is taking place between Monday 11th and Sunday 17th March 2024. We are inviting everyone at home to participate in positive change. Together, we can build even more evidence about what happens to our plastic waste to help put a stop to the plastic crisis. With enough evidence we can convince UK ministers, supermarkets and big brands to lead the way at the global talks that could finally phase our plastic production for good.

How to take part in The Big Plastic Count?

- On Friday 8th March, every student and staff member will receive a Let's Count Tally Sheet to take home and put up on the fridge or near your bin.
- Using the Let's Count Tally Sheet, record the different types of household plastic packaging waste you use for one week. This includes plastic going in your bin and plastic you put out for recycling. From Monday morning until Sunday evening, count as you throw!
- Use the Plastic ID Tool to look up plastic items if you need to (QR code on the Let's Count Tally Sheet).
- Remember to write down any piece of plastic packaging you use while out and about, then mark it on your tally sheet when you get back home.
- Once your household has completed the survey, your child can record their results online at home via the unique class link that will be available on the VLE.

To find out more about The Big Plastic Count please click here: <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

We'd like to say a huge thank you in advance for taking part in this important investigation!



FR Member of the FUNDRAISING REGULATORS

For more information
 visit: sueryder.org/springfayre
 email: leckhampton.fundraising@sueryder.org

Spring Fayre

Saturday 23rd March 2024

JOIN US!

Entrance fee on day: £2.50
FREE for children under 12

10am–5pm
Leckhampton Court Hospice grounds

- BBQ, pop-up bar and tasty treats
- Live music and entertainment
- Leckhampton Court Tea Rooms
- Lots of family friendly activities

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Sue Ryder
 Because no one should face death or grief alone



Ride for Ryder 2024



Because no one should face death or grief alone

Sunday 7 July

Choose your distance - cycle 40km, 60km, 90km, 130km or 160km

Starting Dean Close School, Shelburne Road, Cheltenham

Join us at one of the best-loved charity cycling events in the Cotswolds and raise vital funds for our expert care and bereavement support.

Sponsored by



Sign up!

visit: sueryder.org/rideforryder

email: leckhampton.events@sueryder.org

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Early Bird entries available.

Register online.



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 www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk

 01242 383351

 admin@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk

