

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

There is a rather ghoulish theme to this edition of our newsletter - The Addams Family - our fantastic school production, which has just closed after 3 brilliant evening performances! With auditions taking place in the autumn term and rehearsals starting in earnest in January, the pupils and staff of HSL have been working really hard to put on this ambitious show and they really didn't disappoint. Those lucky enough to be in the audience were treated to a comedic evening with The Addams family, who were grappling with the theme of love, each in their own distinctive way. The standard of singing, acting and dancing was absolutely incredible - worthy of the west end! Behind the scenes over 80 pupils were supporting the show in a variety of different roles, from managing backstage, lighting, sound, to designing the costumes, and doing the hair and make-up - in true HSL fashion there was a job for everyone. There are lots of photos for you to enjoy in this edition, however there are more to come after Easter as one of our parents, who is a professional photographer, kindly offered to take photographs on the last night. We are excited to see what she has captured and will share them with you on our website soon.

I would like to thank all our parents who supported the PTFA in organising the refreshments for the show and those of you who have kindly donated and made other props. It really was a huge team effort. We are already excited about next year!

I hope you all enjoy a lovely Easter holiday and we are looking forward to welcoming the pupils back on Monday 8th April.

With warm wishes,

Helen Wood

Key Dates - April 2024

8th April	Summer Term Starts
8th April	Year 7 No homework fortnight
15th April	RRSA Steering Group (13.30-14.20)
16th April	Pitt Rivers Trip - Year 8
19th April	B Team District Primary Netball Tournament
23rd April	Learning Council Meeting
23rd April	Year 9 House Competition Public Speaking
25th April	UKMT Junior Maths Challenge - Year 7 and 8
26th April	April On Your Feet Britain
26th April	Year 7 House Crystal Maze Challenge



The Addams Family - Rehearsals



The Addams Family - Rhearsals



The Addams Family - Behind the scenes

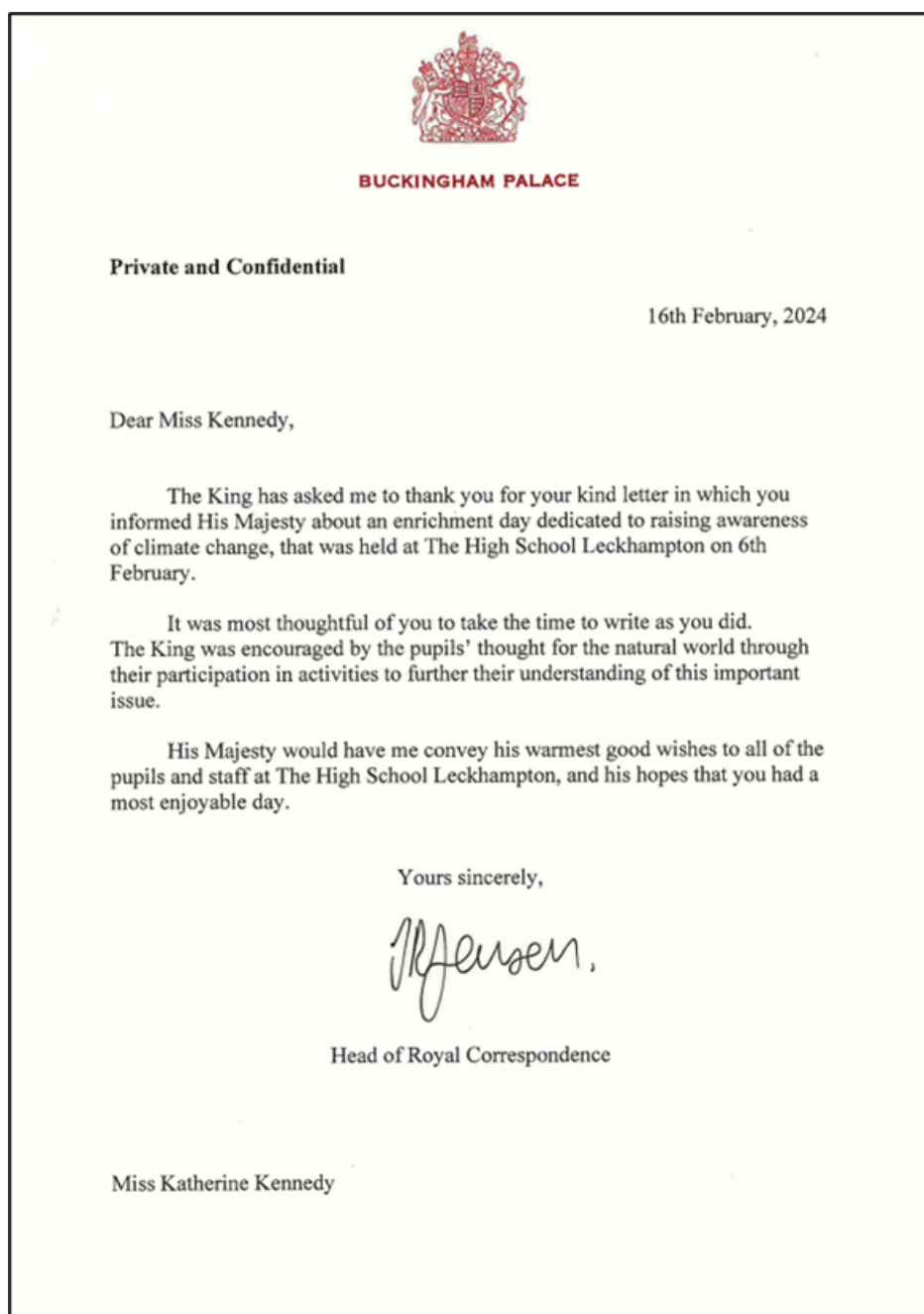


Letter from Buckingham Palace

We were very excited to receive a letter from Buckingham Palace this month!

The King congratulated HSL on our recent Eco-Schools Environment Enrichment Day that took place on Tuesday 6th February. During the day students and staff learned about what it means to be an Eco-School, with a particular focus on the causes of, and solutions to, climate change.

Congratulations to Miss Kennedy and all of our pupils who got so involved.



HSL's Book Of The Month - Make More Noise

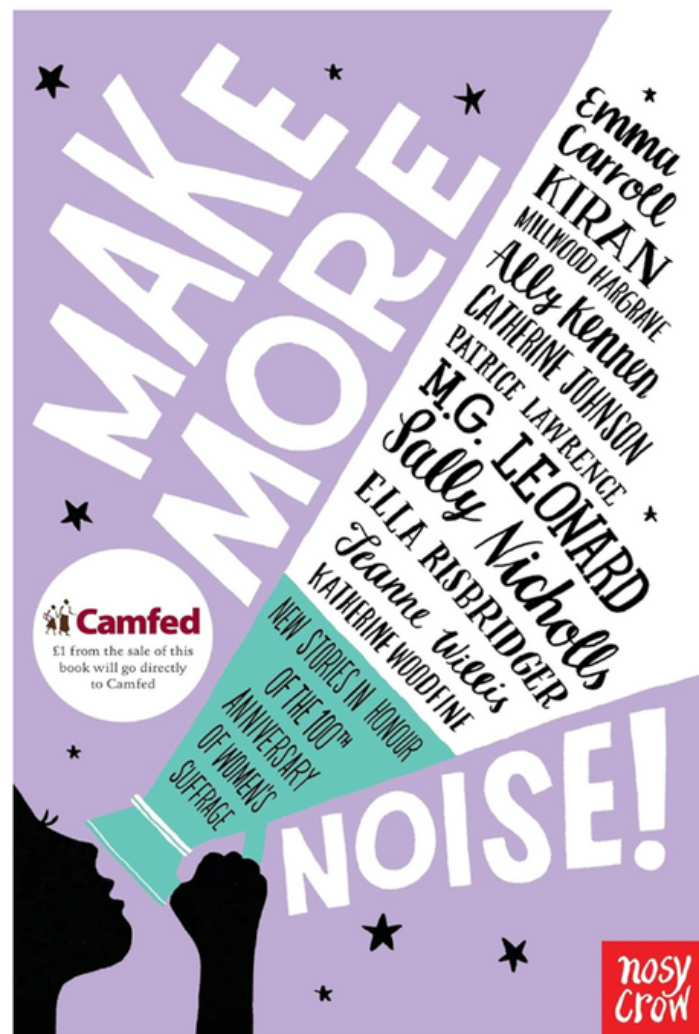
HSL's Book of the Month - March

This month, in honour of Women's History Month and International Women's Day, we are recommending that our pupils and parents of the HSL community read: *Make More Noise*

"You have to make more noise than anybody else" Emmeline Pankhurst, leader of the British Suffrage Movement.

This book is a collection of short stories from the UK's very best storytellers, celebrating inspirational girls and women, written to commemorate the 100% anniversary of the women's suffrage in the UK.

Pupils, if you enjoyed the short story you read to commemorate International Women's Day during tutor time, please come and get this book from the LRC!



CEP Chelt4Change Public Healthcare Event: Friday 8th March 2024

On Friday 8th March, a small number of Year 9 students attended an exclusive event hosted by the Cheltenham Education Partnership at Cheltenham Ladies College.

During the afternoon, our students were able to speak to and learn from leading experts in public health including Professor Dame Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency and leading figure in helping the UK through the Covid-19 crisis, and Dr Mark Pietroni, Director for Safety and Medical Director and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Gloucestershire Hospitals.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the event. Euan Cameron-Mitchell in 9CH said that he "enjoyed the fact that we got to hear the experiences of different people with different careers" and that "the event was quite illuminating about the field of medicine". Euan also said that "events such as this are important because they can provide children with insight and information about careers they may already be interested in, or they may discover that they like the sound of certain careers that they may never have heard of and they may go on to pursue this career".

Miss Kennedy would like to thank all the students who attended the event for how well they represented the school throughout the afternoon.



Cheltenham
Education
Partnership

Year 7 Science Exam: 8th - 9th May 2024



The Year 7 Science Exam will take place during lessons on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th May 2024.

Students will need a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator for this assessment. The exam will contain questions on every topic that students have studied in Science in Year 7.

Please see the VLE task called SCIENCE ASSESSMENT: Year 7 Science Exam for more information on when the exam will take place for each tutor group, which topics will be assessed, and how the students can revise for it. If you have any questions please let us know.

British Science Week: 11th - 15th March 2024

From Monday 11th until Friday 15th March, HSL celebrated British Science Week 2024.

Every day students were introduced to a different person working in the STEM industry and the skills that are required to succeed in their job, as well as having the opportunity to attend a different session every lunchtime to find out more about STEM careers.


In total, there were 86 attendees across the five lunchtime events, with 10 students attending every single one!

Miss Kennedy would like to thank Dani Cox, Toby Corbet, Leo Jones, Adam Rhodes, Tom Barnett, Alex Moore, Rufus McWilliam, Charlotte Deacon, Justin Collier and Archie Allen for supporting all five lunchtime events.



8-17 March **British Science Week 2024**

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. This year's theme - time!

	<p>Monday 11th March - 1:30 pm in GW4 Mr Meyrick Mr Meyrick is the IT Technician at The High School Leckhampton and used to work as a drone engineer. Come and find out more about unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and life as a systems engineer and drone pilot!</p>	
	<p>Tuesday 12th March - 1:30 pm in GW4 Jamie Thompson Jamie is Head of Project Management and Facility Design at Extracellular in Bristol. He has a Masters in Chemical Engineering and is working to research, develop and manufacture cultivated meat as a form of sustainable biotechnology. His team could change our future!</p>	
	<p>Wednesday 13th March - 1:30 pm in GW4 Dr John Jones Dr Jones was the lead engineer for the assessment of nuclear fuel safety at the Office for Nuclear Regulation. He has also advised government departments on climate change and ways to calculate how complex fluids flow. Come learn about energy policy and storage.</p>	
	<p>Thursday 14th March - 1:30 pm in GW4 Mr Ruxton Mr Ruxton has a chemistry degree and teaches Science at The High School Leckhampton. He will be talking more about his chemistry background and showing you his favourite Science experiments and demonstrations.</p>	
	<p>Friday 15th March - 1:30 pm in GW4 Dr Isobel Webb Izzy is a senior adviser in the U.K. Government Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, which leads U.K. policy on biotechnology, robotics and materials. She has worked across government in science roles including in the Prime Ministers Office. Before this she did a PhD at Oxford and an undergraduate degree at Cambridge, both in Biology. Come hear about her fascinating career!</p>	

The Big Plastic Count: 11th - 17th March 2024

The Big Plastic Count: 11th - 17th March 2024

The Big Plastic Count, the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste, took place between Monday 11th and Sunday 17th March 2024. We invited everyone at home to participate in positive change.

If you took part, please encourage your child to record their results online at home via the unique class link available on the VLE. There will be prizes and ePraise points awarded to the tutor group with the most entries.



Fairtrade Fruity Treats Sale: Friday 8th March 2024



At brektime on Friday 8th March, the HSL community came together to raise money for the Fairtrade Foundation at the Fairtrade Fruity Treats Sale.

The Eco-Committee worked hard to showcase their best selling skills and managed to raise over £70 in 20 minutes!

Miss Kennedy would like to thank everyone who baked and brought in items for the sale made using fairtrade ingredients, and the students who bought the fruity treats.

InterClimate Network Climate Action Survey Results

We are delighted to share the results from the InterClimate Network (ICN) Climate Action Survey that students were invited to complete during the Eco-Schools Environment Enrichment Day on Tuesday 6th February.

ICN, who processed our survey results and created our report, said it was the highest response rate they've ever had to their survey! The report clearly shows lots of engagement from HSL students and higher than other schools surveyed is that HSL students know what our school is doing to become more sustainable and feel there is a clear way to get involved in school action.

Climate Action Survey overview

A fantastic **97% of students** at The High School Leckhampton completed InterClimate Network's online Climate Action Survey sharing information about their climate action. These student insights can positively influence climate action planning in school, especially with such a strong indication of what will motivate more action.

Key messages




-  **3 in 4** expressed concern regarding climate change.
-  **3 in 5** thought the Government should be doing more to tackle climate change.
-  **Over 8 in 10** are taking some form of climate action: action was highest in the home with their families involved.
-  Student action was **most inspired by**:
 1. School
 2. Charities
 3. Communities.
-  **Over 8 in 10** are aware of what the school is doing to become more sustainable.



Barriers to action

-  Top reasons preventing students' involvement in specific actions:
 - Perceived lack of time
 - Not caring strongly enough
 - Lack of equipment or facilities.
-  **1 in 2** felt included in school decision making.
-  **4 in 10** don't feel they are given enough time to carry out climate action in school.
-  Students had **different starting points** and views on climate change and these impact action. See segmentation of student groups (p. 4).

Students want action

-  **40%** would like to get more involved in school climate action.
-  **1 in 2** would like school to prioritise:
 - Energy reduction
 - Helping protect and improve nature
 - Reducing use, reusing and recycling.
-  **Over 7 in 10** would be further motivated to act by:
 - Rewards and competitions
 - Stronger rules to support change
 - Linking climate action to other campaigns.

Students are willing to act

The survey presented students with eight potential actions - at home, school and whilst out and about - towards reducing greenhouse gases and the restoration of biodiversity. **Over 4 in 5 students (84%) were already taking some form of climate action**, showing their commitment to contribute. Significantly, almost 9 in 10 were trying to **reduce waste, reuse and recycle** and **reduce their impact in how they travel**. There was an interest by many of those not yet under-taking specific actions to start, notably willing to: **help protect and improve nature, reduce energy use, and reduce waste, reuse and recycle more.**



Of the 84% who are already taking action, what are they doing?

-  **84%** Reduce their energy use
-  **15%** Campaigning (including online)/climate strikes
-  **49%** Think about the impact of what I buy
-  **35%** Make their diet more environmentally friendly
-  **42%** Help protect and improve nature
-  **36%** Try to influence family and friends to take action
-  **87%** Less impact in how they travel
-  **88%** Reduce waste, reuse and recycle



How willing are students to start actions?

Here are the total percentages and preferences for students who don't yet do the action but say they are willing to start.



InterClimate Network Climate Action Survey Results

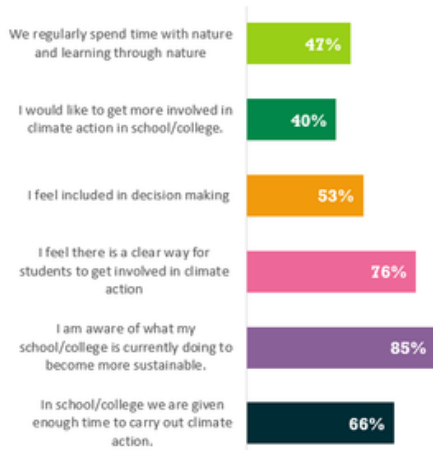
Students' view of school action

It is very positive that over 4 in 5 (85%) of students are aware of what their school is doing to become more sustainable. Including students in decision making, engaging with nature, and giving students more time to carry out climate action in school would serve as good places to focus on going forward.

Strong priorities emerged for more action in school, with energy use, nature and waste key areas of focus. More than half of the students felt that each of these three actions should be prioritised.



How do students see climate action in school?



Which actions do students think should be most prioritised in school?



Appendix 1: Open comments

Students were given the opportunity to openly respond to two questions saying who most inspires them to act on climate change and who they believed had the most power to change the course of climate change for the better. Here is a selection of their comments.



Students' greatest influences for climate action

- "School has as we get many reminders to reduce plastic and make small changes for the better. They help us to get involved."
- "Our school has inspired me a lot. I recycle more and try to go litter picking outside of school! We have daily talks about climate change, global warming etc. We also have competitions etc and we get prizes! We also have talks from people who really care and we get our voices heard!!! This inspires me a lot! :)"
- "Listening to people talk about what their doing to help it gives me ideas of what I am able to do to make an impact and tackle climate change."
- "My parents have been trying to save energy and it has had a big impact on how I get involved."
- "David Attenborough throughout his whole life has dedicated it to showing us the beautiful world but also the destruction we have caused. Without huge protests that could be dangerous, he has quietly and politely protested through his whole life with his gentle voice and courage."
- "I am often inspired by Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough."
- "Greta Thunberg, because she is inspirational and a powerful teenage girl who fights for climate change against powerful leaders across the world."



Students told us how they feel climate change should be tackled

- "I think everyone has power and can impact climate change for the better, businesses should make it more eco-friendly I think the age does not matter but younger people needed to learn this because it will impact them."
- "The government and big companies because they have the money to help tackle climate change. They should invest more in recycling and people who have ideas on ways to help. I think more people my age should start to be eco-friendly."
- "I think that everyone should try to do something, regardless of whether they are a government or business or individual, even if it is only a small change."
- "I think big brands have a lot of power to make packaging more eco-friendly and the wealthy."
- "Leaders and the government should listen and make a stand with other nations to defeat the obstacles and cut down the worlds carbon footprint."
- "The people or groups with the most power to make a positive impact are fossil fuel companies and the wealthiest in society. I think fossil fuel companies could be more aware about how much they are impacting the environment. I think children need to be better educated about things to do with climate change and the environment."

The Great British Spring Clean: 15th - 31st March 2024

This Spring, join Keep Britain Tidy as the Great British Spring Clean returns for its ninth year.

Take action as a family to protect the neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces around us, making them places to be proud of.

Please see the VLE task for more information and we look forward to celebrating all our #HSLitterHeroes next term.



Bat Walk: 12th March 2024

At dusk on Tuesday 12th March, a few members of the HSL community and their families attended a Bat Walk led by Steve Mason, Community Parks Officer for Cheltenham Borough Council's Green Space Development Team.

Using university bat-detecting equipment, Steve led the group around Leckhampton and succeeded in finding some Common Pipistrelle bats at the entrance to Burrow's Field off Kidnappers Lane. The bats were calling loudest at 45-50 kHz and were identified by their "hockey stick" trace shown on Steve's bat-detecting app.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and Miss Kennedy would like to thank the students, staff and families who came along.

We hope to organise another bat walk for May so watch this space!



Sue Ryder - Spring Fayre

Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice Spring Fayre: 23rd March 2024

The team at Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice wish to invite all HSL students, staff, parents and governors to their Spring Fayre taking place on Saturday 23rd March from 10am until 5pm in the beautiful Leckhampton Court Hospice grounds.

Please see the flyer for more information.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Join us at our **Spring Fayre**

Saturday 23 March
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

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

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