

# NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's only been three weeks since the Easter holidays, but as always, the school has been a very busy place. Just as we were packing away the costumes from the brilliant Addams Family school production, many of our pupils set off for a very successful ski trip to Norway, enjoying seven days of snow and fun. I'd like to thank Mr Newman and the team of staff who organised this visit. The pupils really enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school in terms of their behaviour and resilience – learning to ski is pretty exhausting! When we arrived back at school after the holidays, we finally received our Ofsted report and it has been a pleasure to share it with the pupils and the wider community. Thank you for the many congratulatory emails that have been sent into school – as I said in my letter, it is a great achievement for everybody associated with the school and we couldn't have done it without the support of our fantastic parents and carers!

The month of April has also seen some brilliant events at the school, including a visit from Dave Short, ceramic artist, and finalist in The Great Pottery Showdown. Our summer sports fixtures have now started with rounders and basket ball fixtures, and for the first time we have full use of our fantastic playing fields, which are marked out for athletics, rounders and cricket. Some of our Year 8 pupils have recently helped lead a Primary School netball tournament at HSL, with another to follow soon. Year 8 also enjoyed a fantastic trip to Pitt Rivers, Oxford and over fifty pupils participated in a theatre trip to 'Come From Away' only last night!

Before you go on to read about these events, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Anderson for all her brilliant work in putting together our newsletters over the last few years. Sadly, Mrs Anderson is moving on from HSL next week and we will really miss her. Mrs Anderson joined the school when we opened and has since worked tirelessly on Reception, and behind the scenes on the newsletter and our website. We'd like to wish her the best of luck for the future.

With warm wishes  
Helen Wood  
Headteacher

## Key Dates - May 2024

6th May	Bank Holiday
7th May	Year 8 University of Gloucestershire Aspiration Day
8th May	Year 8 Interim Reports Issued
8th May	House Pickleball Year 7 (lunchtime)
8th May	Hamilton Trip
9th May	House Pickleball Year 8 (lunchtime)
10th May	House Pickleball Year 9 (lunchtime)
13th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
14th May	PSHE P2 and P3
14th May	'Coffee and Catch Up' for parents of students with SEND
16th May	Music Summer Recital (19:00 main hall)
17th May	Silly Sports Day
20th May	Walk To School Week
20th May	RRSA Steering Group Meeting (lunchtime)
20th May	Celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity
21st May	Empty Car Park Day
22nd May	Year 8 Parents Evening Online #3
22nd May	International Day for Biological Diversity
23rd May	Year 8 Parents Evening Online #4
24th May	Non Uniform Day/Last Day of Term
3rd June	Summer Term starts



## Easter 2024 - Ski Trip

The High School Leckhampton embarked on our inaugural Ski Trip during Easter 2024, taking 40 students from Year 8 and Year 9 to the Myrkdalen hotel and ski area in Norway.

We departed on Sunday 24th March, meeting at 4:15am at the High School Leckhampton. We arrived in Bergen following a 2-hour flight in the early afternoon and once our 3-hour transfer had commenced we were able to enjoy some beautiful scenery (with many Fjords) and many tunnels en-route to our fantastic hotel.

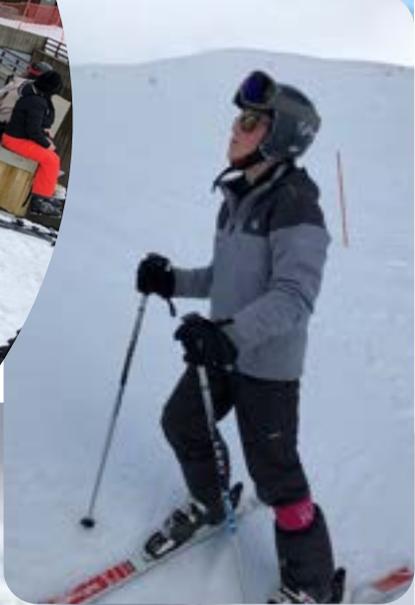
From Monday to Friday, our students challenged themselves by learning how to ski on some pristine slopes with plentiful snow. Starting by mastering the basic snow-plough to ensure that they could control their descent downslope, before advancing to basic turning, and stepping into parallel turns. There were a few mishaps on the way, with plenty of falls but all students were able to laugh and brush off the snow before showing resilience and starting again.

By the end of the week our students were able to ride the ski lifts to the top of the mountain and descend safely back to the hotel – no small achievement. For more experienced skiers, there were plenty of options to explore the mountain resort with their guide, with a snow-park allowing for some jumping, off-piste areas and snow-cross runs to get the blood pumping.

An early departure on Saturday 30th March saw the group re-trace their journey and return to the UK, safely with no accidents or injuries.

With excellent food, quick transfers and fantastic snow, this is a trip that will be long-remembered by all and hopefully many more will want to go on future trips. We hope to be able to travel to the same resort at Easter 2025, so keep your eyes open for the launch of the next trip.

Mr Newman  
Assistant Head



## HSL Book of the month - April

This month, we are recommending that our pupils and parents of the HSL community read: *You Are Awesome* by Matthew Syed.

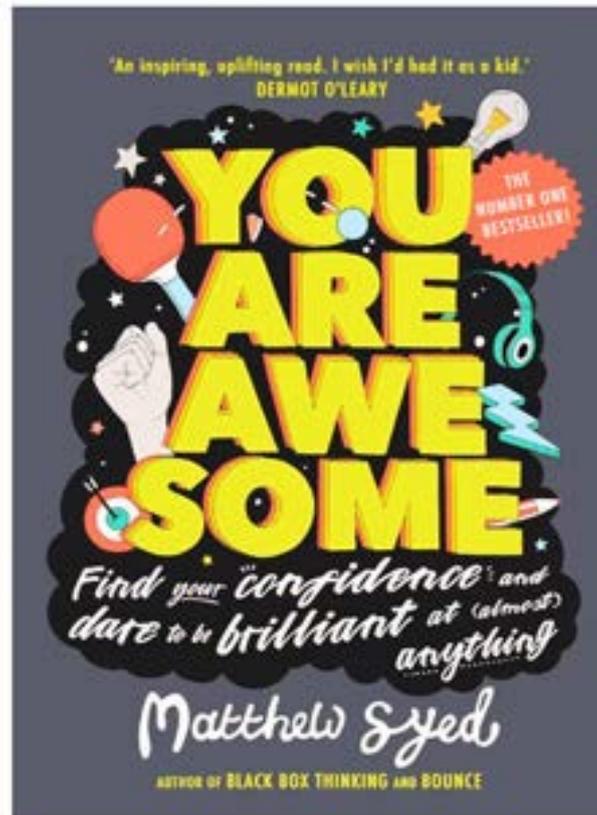
"I'm no good at PE."

"I can't do Maths."

"I really struggle with homework."

Sound familiar? If you believe you can't do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really could get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to? *You Are Awesome* can help you do just that, inspiring and empowering young readers to find the confidence to realise their potential. The first children's book from Times journalist, two-time Olympian and best-selling mindset author Matthew Syed, it uses examples of successful people from Mozart to Serena Williams to demonstrate that success really is earned rather than given, and that talent can be acquired. With hard work and determination, practice, self-belief and - most importantly - a Growth Mindset, there's no reason why anyone can't achieve anything.

If you want to read this book, please come and get it from the LRC!



## Ceramics Workshop with a TV Star



The Art & DT department are excited to share the highlights of our recent ceramics workshop at The High School Leckhampton. With over 50 students from Years 7, 8, and 9, along with some enthusiastic staff, we embarked on a creative journey guided by local ceramic artist Dave Short, a finalist on the latest series of the Channel 4 programme *The Big Pottery Throw Down*.



Our brief was to create a collaborative installation celebrating our local area. Each participant took on a segment of a Leckhampton map, crafting it from terracotta clay under Dave's expert and friendly guidance. It was a hands-on experience, with students and staff rolling, carving, and decorating their pieces with enthusiasm.

The art room buzzed with energy throughout the day as everyone took on the challenge. There were so many great designs and interpretations, no two were the same. Students had the chance to express themselves and respond to their local area, resulting in a cohesive piece that truly reflects our school's vibrant ethos and location.



Currently, our creations are being glazed and fired, so we can prepare the pieces for display somewhere within the school. Mr. Newman is eyeing the installation as a potential addition to the Geography department.

In the next edition of the school magazine, one of our Year 9 students will share their interview with Dave, delving into his ceramic practice, inspirations, and experiences on TV. Make sure you don't miss out on this insightful glimpse into the world of ceramics, celebrity and creativity.

We extend our thanks to Dave Short and all those involved for making this workshop a success. We know everyone will be pleased and impressed with what our students have been able to achieve. The work is going to look great and leave a lasting impression of our connection to the place we call home.

Mrs McAlpine  
Curriculum Lead for Art and DT



## Year 8 Art Trip to Pitt Rivers



Earlier this month, Year 8 spent a day at the Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museum in Oxford to support their work on natural forms, and upcoming investigations on art from around the world. The trip was a great experience for all involved, offering a unique opportunity to delve into both natural history and cultural heritage.

The Pitt Rivers Museum, renowned for its vast collection of archaeological and ethnographic objects from across the globe, provided a captivating backdrop for our explorations. With over half a million artefacts on display, ranging from ancient relics to contemporary cultural items, there was something to pique the interest of every visitor.

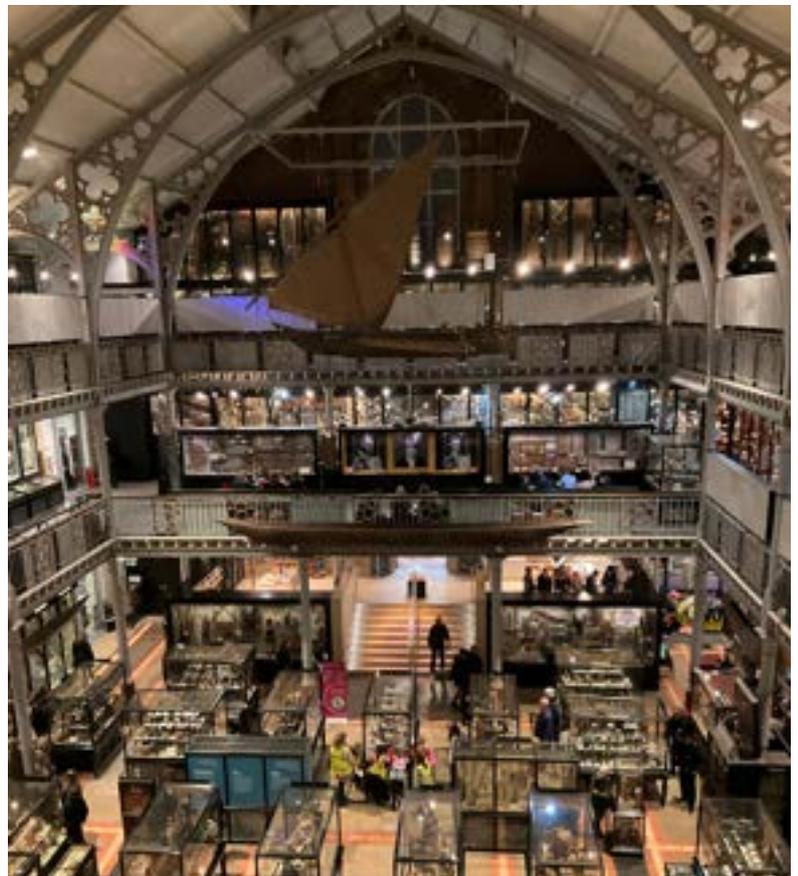
Equally enthralling was our visit to the Natural History Museum, where we were transported into the fascinating world of biodiversity and evolution. From the awe-inspiring remains of dinosaurs to the delicate intricacies of insects, and even glimpses of the last remaining dodo, the museum offered a comprehensive insight into the wonders of the natural world.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in both museums, participating in activities such as guided tours, as well as engaging in drawing and photography sessions with the exhibits. These activities not only enhanced their understanding of the subject matter but also served as valuable inspiration for their subsequent sketchbook work in the classroom.

The work produced on the trip is already beginning to take shape, with our students channelling their newfound inspiration into creative pieces. From intricate sketches to innovative designs, the trip has clearly ignited a spark of creativity within our artists and designers.

We eagerly anticipate sharing more of our students' creative endeavours in the coming weeks. For regular updates, be sure to follow the Art and DT department's Instagram account (@hsl.art.dt) to see their fantastic progress first-hand.

Mrs McAlpine  
Curriculum Lead for Art and DT



## Science Exam

### Year 8 Science Exam: 13th June 2024

The Year 8 Science Exam will take place during Science lessons on Thursday 13th June 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 8.

Please see the VLE task called SCIENCE ASSESSMENT: Year 8 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.

### Year 9 Science Exam: 5th June 2024

The Year 9 Science Exam will take place in the morning on Wednesday 5th June 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 9.

Please see the VLE task called SCIENCE ASSESSMENT: Year 9 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.



## PTFA Planters and Tutor Group Plants

Thank you so much to our fabulous PTFA who have raised and donated some funds to support our Eco-Committee this year. Our Eco-Committee (coordinated by Miss Kennedy and Mrs Agombar) works to raise awareness about protecting the environment and drive sustainable initiatives involving our whole school community as part of the Eco-Schools programme.

With the money kindly donated, the Eco-Committee has purchased planters for the wildlife area, painted and filled them with soil, and seeded them with wildflowers (also donated by our PTFA). The Eco-Committee has also purchased one plant for each tutor group to look after which will grow with them as they move up the school.



## 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.

Thank you to all students who took part, and parents who supported them at home in submitted their results online. All students who submitted their results received ePraise points and congratulations to 7LB who had the highest number of students take part.

Please see below for our plastic footprint using the data we collected as a school.

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.

### PLASTIC FOOTPRINT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON

IN ONE WEEK, THE HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON THREW AWAY:

**2,036**  
PIECES OF PLASTIC

OVER A YEAR THAT'S EQUIVALENT TO:

**105,872**  
PIECES OF PLASTIC

### WHAT WAS THE HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON'S PLASTIC PACKAGING WASTE USED FOR?



**79%**

FOOD & DRINK



**11%**

TOILETRIES & CLEANING



**10%**

EVERYTHING ELSE

### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON'S PLASTIC PACKAGING WASTE?



**18%**  
RECYCLED IN THE UK

Plastic waste that is sorted and processed in the UK then turned into new materials.



**15%**  
EXPORTED

Plastic waste that is shipped overseas for processing, but much of it also ends up being dumped or burned.



**56%**  
LANDFILLED

Plastic waste that is disposed of by burying it in the ground.



**11%**  
INCINERATED

Plastic waste that is disposed of by burning it. This releases carbon, toxins and pollutants.

Please remember - this is not about individual responsibility. Too much single-use plastic is produced without reusable alternatives that suit everyone's needs.





## THE PLASTIC FREE PLEDGE

We're creating the Plastic Free Community because to free where we live from single-use. Together we're tackling avoidable, throwaway plastic from beaches, rivers, and green spaces all the way back to the brands and businesses who create it. Wherever you live, whether you're on a shore or inland, urban or rural, high rise or high rise, we're joining communities in the fight against single-use plastics. It's not about removing all plastic from our lives. It's about kicking our addiction to avoidable single-use plastic, and changing the systems that produce it.

WE: The High School Leckhampton

**MAKE THE PLASTIC FREE COMMUNITIES PLEDGE TO:**

1. AGREE TO REMOVE AT LEAST THREE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS FROM OUR DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES
2. COMMIT TO INCLUDE OUR STANCE ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC IN COMMUNICATIONS.
3. RAISE AWARENESS AND SUPPORT PLASTIC FREE INITIATIVES IN THE COMMUNITY

You can contact our local Plastic Free Community here:

Farm Lane, Cheltenham, GL51 3FS

LET'S FREE WHERE WE LIVE FROM SINGLE-USE, ONE PLASTIC BOTTLE AT A TIME!



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

The Great British Spring Clean took place this year for the ninth time.

Thank you to all students who took action as a family or group of friends to pick up litter during this time to protect the neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces around us, making them places to be proud of.

Congratulations to all our #HSLitterHeroes who have received a certificate and ePraise points for taking part this year.



## Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust - Youth Rangers

**Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

Are you aged between 13-17, interested in nature and want to contribute to making positive changes for nature and wildlife?

**Why not join the Youth Rangers?**

**When?**  
Usually the third Saturday of each month from 12:30pm-4:30pm

**Where?**  
Robinswood Hill in Gloucester

**What?**  
Practical conservation; from scrub clearance to surveying, building bird boxes and habitat creation

**Why?**  
Learn about wildlife, conservation and gain new skills, meet new people, gain volunteering hours towards a qualification (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh award)

Please see the flyer advertising the Youth Rangers programme run by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

If your child is eligible and would like to take part, please register their interest at [Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust - Youth Rangers](#).

## Changemakers Project - Cheltenham Education Partnership

We are taking part in a Changemakers project run by the Cheltenham Education Partnership where each month we meet for an afternoon and discuss ways to make our school better for the environment. Each school taking part has taken one specific idea like air quality or recycling and turned it into a school-wide project. Once we see the change we have made then we are going to present our ideas and changes to our school at the Cheltenham Science Festival in June. Our Year 7s are going to visiting the Science Festival on the same day.

We have been preparing in our Changemakers sessions since September, coming up with ideas and writing down different topics we can explore as a group. We have chosen to have air quality as our group and school topic. We have been working hard to collect different types of data and facts to present at the Science Festival. We have decided as a group to choose data from our air quality data collector called Monty who stays at the school for a set amount of time and records the air quality during the day. We have lots of data across the weeks from him. We are planning to have Monty at our school again in May for a set amount of time so we can track more data.

We are planning on making an air quality strip which is similar to a temperature strip with different colours for the different air quality. To help us have some higher scores on our air quality strip, we need your help. Do you drive your child to school? Do you need to drive your child to school? If your child must be driven to school that is more than fine. However, if your child is cleverly persuading you to give a lift could you perhaps encourage them to walk, or even drive halfway and get them to walk the rest of the way? This will help then to get into a habit of walking and soon they will want to walk the whole way. If it is essential for you to drive you child, why not organise a car share with others in the same position?

Last week , some of our students took part in a survey talking about how they get to school . We saw that students who walk to school felt happier about it and students who drive to school that could walk felt more inspired to make a change , and walk to school , all students when asked knew and were happy to learn about air quality .

Thank you!

Written by Elijah and Constance 9WI



Cheltenham  
Education  
Partnership

## Walk to School Week: 20-24th May 2024

Walk to School Week is back this year, taking place from Monday 20th until Friday 24th May 2024.

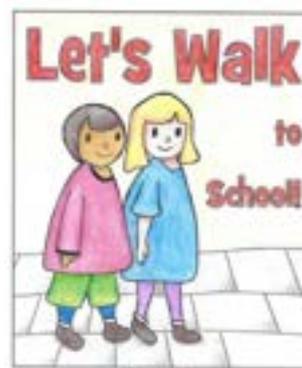
The Eco-Committee is requesting that everybody makes the effort this week to walk or cycle to school where possible.

Thank you to Charlotte Deacon (8IS) and Amelie Holloway (9CH) for producing a poster to raise awareness about Walk to School Week 2024.

### Walk to school week

Walk to school week is from Monday 20th May to Friday 24th May 2024.

It's an amazing opportunity to help the environment and reduce carbon emissions by trying to use the car less.....and you'll get lots of fresh air!



Made by  
Charlotte Deacon  
8IS and Amelie  
Holloway 9CH

## Road safety around the local area

Please be mindful when driving down Kidnappers Lane and the surrounding roads of our school, as they can be very narrow in places. Please be extra vigilant as children are cycling and walking to school so everyone is kept safe. Thank you



# April 2024: Grand Opening - Weavers Field Community Orchard

## WEAVERS FIELD COMMUNITY ORCHARD PROJECT

### GRAND OPENING AND BLOSSOM DAY EVENT

SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2024

From 2pm until 4pm



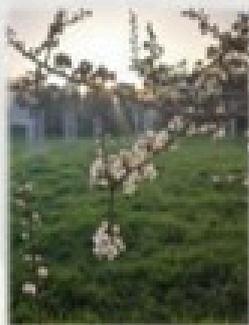
Join us for an afternoon of celebration to open our new community orchard at Weavers Field, Warden Hill.

Learn about the project so far, it's benefits and the plans for the future.

This will also be an opportunity to enjoy Orchard Blossom day, a new annual national celebration of fruit trees, flowers, and food!

Celebrate orchards as magical places for people and nature, but also a source of healthy local food.

**Refreshments and homemade cakes available**



For more information about the orchard please use this QR code



## PTFA Update

### 'The Addams Family' - What an Amazing Event!

What an utterly incredible production that ran over three nights in March. Every evening the audience was blown away by the talented actresses, actors, singers, dancers, orchestra and backstage team! The quality of the event from beginning to end was amazing and we cannot wait for next year's (neither can the children!)

*Massive congratulations to everyone involved!*

A HUGE thank you to everyone that supported the production; whether you were part of the team that donated items for the stage, helped on the evenings or if you purchased a drink, snack or raffle ticket, it really was a wonderful community effort.

**We are delighted to share that we raised an amazing £1,538 for the school!**



The fabulous Chui took wonderful pictures of children during the production.



Gallery Link!

If you would like to view or purchase images for your child's memory books, the gallery will be open until Sunday 28th April.

All funds raised from photos will be going directly back to the school. Thank you so much for your support!

[Chui King Li | Family & Newborn Photographer Cheltenham \(chuiphotography.co.uk\)](http://chuiphotography.co.uk)

Click here

**A HUGE thank you to the following local businesses for their generous support of donations for the raffle:**

- ✓ Lakeside Fish & Chip Shop
- ✓ Beauty & Tshop
- ✓ The Bell
- ✓ Paddy & Bear Coffee Shop
- ✓ Aquazone

- ✓ Finishing Touches
- ✓ Olive Chiropractic
- ✓ Infinite Balance
- ✓ Waitrose
- ✓ Rosieglo Yoga.

# PTFA Update

The Next PTFA Event is Approaching....



**QUIZ NIGHT**

**FRI 3RD MAY 7 – 10PM**  
 @ THE HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON

**ENTRIES CLOSE AT MIDDAY WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY**

**£14 per person**  
**Max 6 people per team**

**Book at**  
[bit.ly/THSLQuiz2024](https://bit.ly/THSLQuiz2024)

**FISH & CHIPS INCLUDED**

Parents | Teachers | Friends & Family  
 (no little ones, sorry)

SCAN ME



## Next PTFA Key Dates

- ✓ Next PTFA Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> June – 7pm - All Welcome
- ✓ Fish & Quiz Night: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 – 7-10pm



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.



 [www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk)

 01242 383351

 [admin@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk)

