

# NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have seen some wonderful achievements in the month of May, from individual pupils, teams, and the whole school HSL community, and I hope this newsletter captures some of these successes. We are very proud to have been awarded 'Gold' by [Unicef's Rights Respecting Schools](#) programme and we had a whole school assembly to announce the news to the pupils yesterday. Early in the month, many of our pupils achieved success at Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival, performed in our summer music recital and our Jazz Band made their debut at the Jazz Festival – which was an absolute highlight for all those who attended! Our sports teams have had some significant victories as we have moved into the summer sports season and of course our House competitions have been both incredibly competitive and well supported. Recently, our Silly Sports Day saw HSL pupils at their absolute best – getting involved and cheering each other to victory, whilst their teachers learnt the rules of welly wanging and the tug of war. It was tremendous fun.

Before we head off into May Half Term, I would like to thank you for supporting your children to get involved in all these activities. We really appreciate your efforts in encouraging them to practice and attend all our events and competitions. I am sure you are enormously proud of them – we certainly are.

With warm wishes,  
Helen Wood  
Headteacher

## Key Dates - June 2024

3rd June	Pupils return to school & Year 9 Assessment Fortnight commences
4th June	Y7 Science Festival Trip
	Governor's Community and Operations Committee Meeting
5th June	World Environment Day
7th June	Year 7 reports issued
10th June	Year 8 Science exam week
12th June	Year 7 House cricket (all day)
	Year 9 Vaccinations
13th June	Year 8 House cricket (all day)
14th June	Year 9 Assessment fortnight finishes
15th June	Year 9 House cricket (all day) and Year 9 no HW fortnight commences
18th June	Year 7 Rewards Assembly
	Year 7 House tennis (lunchtime)
19th June	PSHE p2 & 3
	Year 8 House tennis (lunchtime) and Year 8 Reward Assembly
	Parent Forum 4-5pm
20th June	Year 9 House tennis (lunchtime) and Year 9 Reward Assembly
21st June	None Uniform Day
25th June	House Assemblies (Chelt and Isbourne)
26th June	Key stage 3 Art and DT exhibition 5-8pm parents welcome
	House Assemblies (Windrush and Lilley Brook)
26-28th	House rounders (lunchtime)

# HSL IS A 'GOLD' RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL!

**WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD  
RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**



**Children's rights are learned, understood  
and lived in this school.**



We are very proud to announce that HSL has been awarded Gold by Unicef's Rights Respecting Schools programme!

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. In achieving our Gold Award, the highest accolade, we have shown that we have put the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of our school's planning, policies and practice. Our Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted. The assessor's report, which was shared with parents, students and governors earlier this week, reflects this - and the hard work and efforts of everyone at HSL to create a culture of respect.

Mrs Cox would like to thank all students and staff for their efforts every day to make HSL a successful rights respecting community, with the values of the Award underpinning everything we do. She would also like to thank those who took part in the panels on the assessment day, and shared with our assessor all of the excellent work that goes on day to day.

We are committed to continuing our work on children's rights. Please do follow our progress by reading about our latest activities in the monthly newsletters.

Mrs Cox



### Steering Group news:

On Monday 13th May, some members of the Steering Group visited Leckhampton Primary School to lead an assembly on children's rights. Nine students from Year 7 and Year 9 helped to plan an assembly focusing on an element of Article 27 - the right to food. The students addressed a packed hall and spoke eloquently about the topic, including everything from their favourite foods to our shared responsibility not to waste food.

All nine were wonderful ambassadors for HSL and we look forward to doing some more work on rights with other schools in our local area.

### Taking action - update on the OutRight campaign:

Unicef's annual OutRight campaign encourages and supports young people to take action about an issue related to the rights of children. The 2023-24 campaign has focused on climate change, and the Steering Group teamed up with the Eco-Committee to plan our actions. Over the last few weeks all students have researched individuals or organisations to write to, and have drafted letters aiming to persuade them to take action to stop climate change. Mrs Cox has started to read the letters, and once checked they will be sent to their recipients. We hope to share some of the replies with you in the next issue of the newsletter!



## HSL Book of the month - May



This month, we are recommending that our pupils and parents of the HSL community read: *The Disconnect* by Keren David.

Could you disconnect from your phone for six weeks? Six weeks without sharing photos, without group messages, without being kept in the social media loop?

An eccentric entrepreneur has challenged Esther's year group to do just that, and the winners will walk away with £1,000. For Esther, whose dad and sister live thousands of miles away in New York, the prize might be her only chance to afford flights for a visit...but can she really stay disconnected long enough to win?

If you want to read this book, please come and get it from the 'Supportive Reads' section of the LRC!



## 'Ellison's Fund - Bone Cancer Research Trust'

On Thursday 9th May, HSL hosted a bake sale in aid of supporting 'Ellison's Fund - Bone Cancer Research Trust'. Pupils were invited to bring in baked goods in order to raise as much money as possible for this fantastic cause. We were delighted with the culinary skills of our pupils and many fantastic, sweet treats were consumed at both break time and lunch time!

As a result, the school raised £253.30. We'd particularly like to thank Luther Hambling, Alexa Dawes and Emily Burrige for their efforts as it was their idea for HSL to get involved. We'd equally like to thank Mrs Agombar and Ms Hayes for their support too.

For more information, please do head to this justgiving page:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/casollieandfriendsrunfundraiser>





It was a short coach ride to the other side of Cheltenham, to GE Aviation. We were met by a group of lovely volunteers who took us into a big hall where we were given lanyards. We were joined by students from Bournside and Winchcombe Schools, and were given a presentation explaining what they do at GE aviation and what we would be doing throughout the day.

Four activities were planned and to encourage teamwork, we were all divided into 4 groups with children from the other schools. We were able to try each activity which included: Robot coding, Lego car building, Snap circuits and Pen drawing with no hands. The activities were interesting and lots of fun; we had many laughs and funny moments.

Well done to Chloe 8LB and Hattie 7LB for making the best Lego car the event organisers had ever seen.

We would also like to thank Mrs Elliott-Squire for planning the trip. We can't forget Mr Taylor and Mrs Fletcher, who also joined us.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone at GE Aviation for letting us come and spend the day seeing everything you do. Without your knowledge and expertise, we would not be able to go on aeroplanes. We all really enjoyed learning about the importance of what you do at GE Aviation.

## Musical Theatre Trips



At the end of April, 40 students from Year 8 and 9 travelled to the New Theatre in Oxford to see the award-winning musical 'Come From Away'. Inspired by the real stories of those affected by the 9/11 terror attack in 2001, Come From Away is a heartwarming show that restores your faith in humanity and for 100 minutes, is non-stop: with foot-tapping songs, tear jerking moments and plenty of laughs too. The students came away in awe of the talent they saw on stage from both the actors and musicians and were inspired by the stories that were told by those who were affected. It was also a fantastic way to see the style of Verbatim theatre used in a professional production - the same style they have been studying in class. The students represented The High School Leckhampton superbly and it was a joy to share this wonderful musical with them.

If you would like to see the show, the tour of Come From Away is heading to the Bristol Hippodrome at the end of the summer holidays!



Additionally, 107 of our Year 8 and 9 pupils travelled to watch Hamilton on stage in Bristol, accompanied by some enthusiastic teachers. The Musical narrates Alexander Hamilton's life in two acts, and details among other things his involvement in the American Revolutionary War as an aide-de-camp to George Washington, his marriage to Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, his career as a lawyer and secretary of the treasury, and his interactions with Aaron Burr which culminates in their duel at the end of Hamilton's life. It was fantastic!

CHELTHENHAM  
FESTIVAL OF  
PERFORMING  
ARTS

Music  
Drama  
Dance



Congratulations to all our fantastic HSL pupils who competed at Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. Our pupils competed in various forms of dancing, music, drama and prose, achieving some incredible scores. We are so very proud of them all!



CHELTHENHAM  
Jazz  
Festival



At the start of May our Jazz Band made a debut performance at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival. Performing amongst a selection of other schools in the area, HSL played a mix of jazz classics and funk renditions of pop songs. The set included Mack the Knife, Superstition, September, Take on Me, Crazy Little Thing Called Love and a favourite amongst the band, Uptown Jean (a blend of Uptown Funk and Billie Jean). The band opened the festival on Sunday and played to a packed tent despite having an early slot! For many of the group, this was their first performance outside school. They all played fantastically! We were also delighted to see so many of our students who came along to support; it was an occasion that really highlighted the HSL spirit!



## Summer Recital

Students had an opportunity to perform in our second recital evening of the year. Having previously hosted an evening of music for the Autumn Recital, we opened our doors to showcase some of the fabulous talents of Years 7, 8 and 9 in this year's Summer Recital. There was a great deal of variety on display across the 23 items, with a mix of singers, pianists, woodwind players, brass musicians and violinists. All students played to a supportive audience of friends and family.

We are now looking at preparations for our next performance opportunity; the Summer Fete on 12th July.

## House Lip Sync Battle Competition

On Tuesday 30th April, HSL hosted its first 'House Lip Sync Battle'! Each tutor group had to submit at least two entries into the competition, where pupils were to mime, dance and act along to a 'classic' song of their choice. Performances of Aqua's 'Barbie Girl', Spice Girls' 'Wannabe' and even a range of 'mash ups' were included to entertain the judging panel. This was a hotly contested competition, with the judging panel, Mr Bunting, Mr Ruxton, Miss Kennedy, Miss Winters and Mrs O'Riordan awarding points for accuracy, complexity and execution. The staff team were absolutely delighted with the spirit of the pupils who all had lots of fun!

A highlights show took place on Thursday 2nd May at lunch time, which saw the vast majority of the school cheer on their peers, before the final announcement of the overall winners of the competition. Whilst it was a challenge to decide, the results were as follows:

- 1st - Chelt
- 2nd - Lilley Brook
- 3rd - Isbourne
- 4th - Windrush

A huge congratulations to Chelt who were absolutely outstanding with their range of songs! From rap to cheesy pop, Chelt had a fantastic repertoire of performances. We look forward to seeing the performances from the Houses (as well the next staff performance) during next year's Lip Sync Battle Competition!



## Religious festival card competition



Congratulations to the following pupils for their super entries in the 'religious festival' card competition

### For beautiful cards:

- Emily Cornes
- Maya Smith
- the unnamed one that was on Holi...!

### For the most informative:

- Charlotte Deacon
- Aidan Lai
- Huw Miles

### Best staff entry:

- Ms Banton

### Best overall (effort, information and a lovely card)

- Charlotte Deacon



Our Silly Sports Day was yet again another spectacle of teamwork, house spirit and HSL competitiveness. With all four houses fiercely competing to be crowned Champions in the Egg and Spoon races, Sack races, Blind fold races, Welly Wanging and Tug of War. To add extra excitement to the day we changed each race to a relay, this saw more students competing for their house and more teamwork, organised chaos and laughter at each of the change overs.

As with the previous year, the Tug of War became the deciding event, where Isbourne had teams in every final and so were able to clinch the 2024 victory from Windrush in the last round of the day.

This is proving to be a real highlight of the HSL sporting calendar!

#### Year 7 results

1st Chelt

2nd Isbourne and Windrush

4th Lilley Brook

#### Year 8 results

1st Windrush

2nd Chelt and Isbourne

4th Lilley Brook

#### Year 9 results

1st Isbourne

2nd Windrush

3rd Chelt and Lilley Brook

#### Overall Results

1st Isbourne

2nd Windrush

3rd Chelt

4th Lilley Brook





We had a fantastic week for our recent House Pickleball event. All matches across the three years were played at a fast pace and the students showcased their excellent Pickleball skills throughout the week. The HSL students worked effortlessly as mixed pairs; showing determination and passion competing for their houses and the results in Year 7 were incredibly close. Chelt overcame the tough competition to finish first for the Year 7's, closely followed by Windrush in 2nd, Isbourne 3rd and Lilley Brook finishing in 4th place.

The Year 8 competition was equally competitive with some evenly matched contests on all courts. Windrush took the win closely followed by Lilley Brook, with Chelt and Isbourne both tied for 3rd place.

In Year 9 our students did not disappoint with ample tennis skills being transferred into an outstanding display of competitiveness and flair. All matches were tightly contested with everything riding on the final fixtures to determine the final placings. Windrush just pipped Lilley Brook to take the top spot, with Chelt and Isbourne coming in equal on points as joint 3rd again.

Taking all results into account, Windrush won the House Pickleball Event with 11 points.



## Athletics



The District Championships took place on Friday 10th May. This was an individual event where students had to achieve District qualification times and distances in order to compete. All HSL athletes in Year 8 and 9 competed very well at this prestigious Athletics event, but there were some notable performances from Zac Litman (1st in the 300m) Lachie Hart (2nd in the 800m) James Brown (3rd in the 100m) and Ben Sholly (3rd in the 1500m). All the boys have gained their County times and qualification to compete for the Cheltenham District Team at the County Championships in June.



Our Cricket season is well underway this term with all of the boys teams competing well in their League and Cup competitions. The Year 7's recently played Marling, The Cotswold School and Pates Grammar School; all matches proving to be positive learning curve for the squad, and a great opportunity for them to learn and progress as the season moves on.

The Year 8 boys' team have both County Cup matches and an official league format, in which they are unbeaten at this stage. In the first round of the County Cup we were victorious over Balcarras, and have drawn Pates Grammar School in the second round. They have also successfully navigated their way past both Bournside and The Cotswold School in the first two league matches of the season.

Newent School hosted our Year 9's at their local club ground, a fantastic venue for the team to demonstrate their ability as a year group. Credit should be given to the whole squad but ultimately there was an outstanding batting partnership in Harry Wallace and Oliver Freebury who scored 60 between them.

The Girls' Cricket teams are also developing well with their batting and fielding skills with their weekly net session and their club training session. There are fixtures in the calendar for the girls' teams after May Half Term.



Our students have been working very hard this term in Athletics, learning new techniques for each event and working on achieving their personal bests. We have been blessed with some good weather so far, and our students have been able to complete in the High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put, Discus, Javelin and all the running events from 100m up to 1500m. It is looking very promising for our Sports Day on Friday 5th July at The High School Leckhampton!



## Swimming & Rounders



The HSL school swimming team took part in the Annual Cheltenham District Swimming Gala recently at Cheltenham Ladies College. This was a great event for many of our swimmers who compete at both County and Regional level to showcase their talents after all their hours of training. As a school our Year 7 girls and Year 8 girls did particularly well as teams, both finishing 3rd.

Individually, we also had some very strong performances:-

Poppy Davis (Y8) winning the 50m butterfly by 2 seconds and finishing 2nd in the front crawl.

Fraser Warwick (Y8) winning the 50m front crawl by over 1 second, winning the 50m backstroke and coming 2nd in the butterfly.

Sophia Kania (Y7) finishing 3rd in the 25m frontcrawl, 3rd in the 25m breaststroke and 4th in the 25m butterfly.

Henry Cox (Y7) finishing 3rd in the 25m breaststroke, 4th in the 25m frontcrawl, 5th in the 25m butterfly.

Tillie-Mei Robinson (Y9) finishing 4th in the 50m backstroke.

Edward Nevin (Y7) finishing 5th in the 25m backstroke.

The Year 7 Girls relay team finished 2nd, and the Year 8 Girls relay team finished in 4th.

Congratulations to all who took part!

As with the cricket season, the rounders season has started with several promising results. Our mixed lunch time clubs prove to be very popular, and our school teams are going from strength to strength. So far this season we have played Chosen Hill, Winchcombe and The Cotswold School with a very impressive winning record and our Year 8's competed very well in their District Rounders Tournament in May, finishing 3rd in their section.

We look forward to some more impressive striking and fielding in our upcoming matches at the beginning of next term and the Year 7 and Year 9 District Tournaments in June.

## Bat Walk: 14th May 2024

Back by popular demand! The second HSL Bat Walk took place at dusk on Tuesday 14th March led by Dr Richard Rolfe, Senior Lecturer at the University of Gloucestershire, and Steve Mason, Community Parks Officer for Cheltenham Borough Council's Green Space Development Team.

Using university bat-detecting equipment, Rik and Steve led the group around Leckhampton and succeeded in finding some different species of bat, including the Common Pipistrelle species, in Burrow's Field off Kidnappers Lane.

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 have scheduled two more bat walks next academic year. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Upcoming Year 7 Science Trip to the Cheltenham Science Festival: Tuesday 4th June 2024

On Tuesday 4th June, The High School Leckhampton Science Department is running a science curriculum visit to the Cheltenham Science Festival. During the visit, all Year 7 students will have the opportunity to explore the interactive science zones that link to their KS3 Science Curriculum. In addition to this, we have secured places for every single Year 7 student to attend a spectacular science show and explore the discovery zone.

All Year 7 students should arrive at school as normal wearing school uniform and comfortable footwear for walking. They will need a lightweight rucksack containing any books or homework for lessons 1 and 2, a pencil case, water bottle, packed lunch, raincoat, hat, any medication they may require including sun cream and optional spending money. We will leave school at 11:20am and walk approximately 40 minutes to the Cheltenham Science Festival in Imperial Gardens. We will return to school at approximately 3:35pm.

We ask for a voluntary contribution of £8 per student for this visit, to be paid on Scopay. As this is a trip during the school day, no Year 7 student will be denied a place if you choose not to make this contribution, however, we may not be able to run the trip if insufficient funds are collected. Please contact Mrs Davis at [sed@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:sed@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk) for enquiries relating to your Scopay account. If you have further questions about this trip, including accessing financial support, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



## Year 9 CEP ChangeMakers at the Wilson Gallery: Wednesday 19th June 2024

This year, four Year 9 students (Elijah Callaghan, Constance Grant, Henry Taylor and Justin Collier) have been taking part in the Cheltenham Education Partnership's (CEP) ChangeMakers program. Together they have attended 5 workshops across this academic year which has supported them in planning, carrying out, and evaluating their own environmental project in school linked to Air Quality.

Our ChangeMakers are being given the opportunity to present the results of their Air Quality project to members of the public at the Wilson Gallery (51 Clarence St, Cheltenham GL50 3JT) between 6pm and 8pm on Wednesday 19th June. It is a fantastic opportunity for Year 9 students to take part in and they would like to invite everyone in our school community to come and see what they have been doing.



Cheltenham  
Education  
Partnership

## Writing Instruments Recycling

Shoe boxes have started appearing in classrooms this month serving as collection points for broken or used writing instruments.

To minimise the quantity of unrecycled waste that we are producing at school, HSL are going to begin collecting writing instruments which are then going to be taken to our nearest recycling point in town. To see which writing instruments we are collecting for recycling, please see the poster below.

### Recycle your writing instruments here



#### Accepted

All brands, made from rigid plastics or metal:

- ✓ Ballpoint, gel, fountain and eraser pens
- ✓ Mechanical pencils
- ✓ Refills and cartridges
- ✓ Correction instruments (bottles, tapes and pens)
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ Felt tips, whiteboard and permanent markers

#### Not accepted

- ✗ Wood, cardboard, bamboo and flexible plastics
- ✗ Glue sticks, rubbers & rulers
- ✗ Graphite and colouring pencils, chalk sticks
- ✗ Sharp objects

Scan QR code to learn more



## Year 8 and Year 9 Science Exams: June 2024

The Year 9 Science Exam will take place in the morning on Wednesday 5th June 2024.

The Year 8 Science Exam will take place during Science lessons on Thursday 13th June 2024.

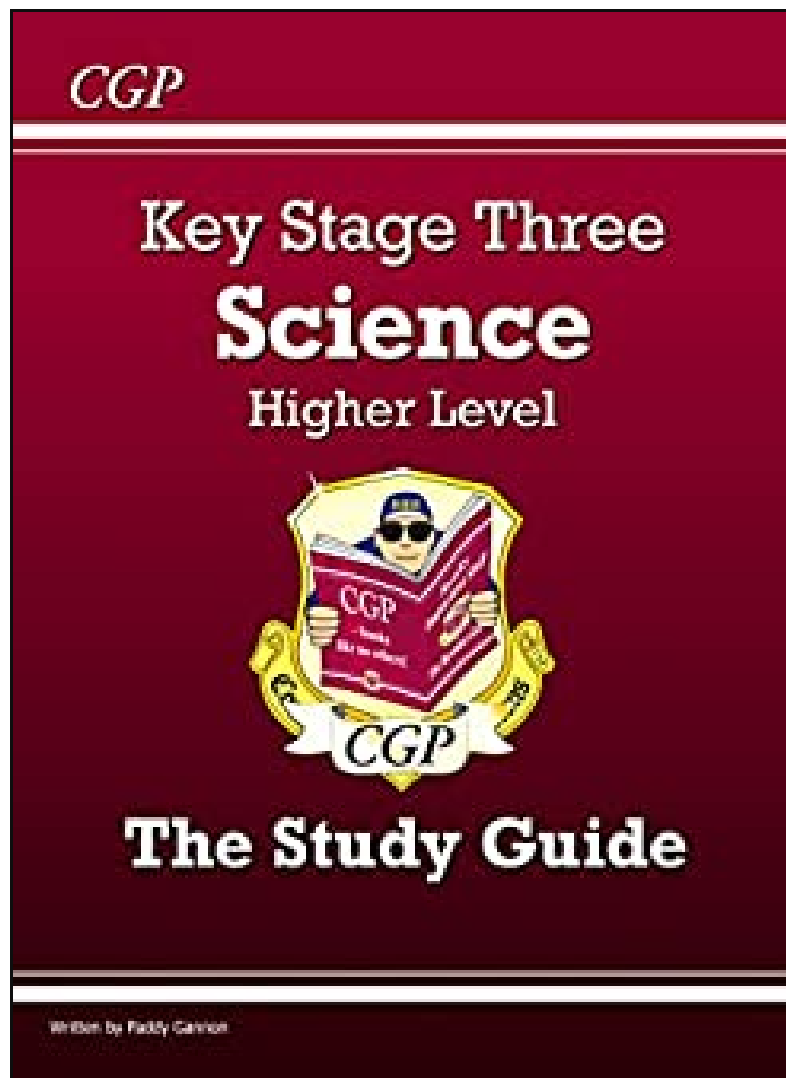
Students will need a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator for this assessment. The exam will contain questions on every topic that students have studied in Science in Year 8 or in Year 9.

Please see the VLE tasks called SCIENCE ASSESSMENT: Year 8 Science Exam or 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.



## Year 9 CGP KS3 Science Study Guide return

During Year 7, all Year 9 students were given a numbered copy of the CGP KS3 Science Study Guide for them to use for their Science classwork, homework, catch-up and revision. As Year 9 students have now finished the KS3 Science course the time has come to return these CGP Study Guides that we have loaned out so we can redistribute them to our new Year 7 students starting in September. Some parents selected to purchase their child's copy of the CGP KS3 Science Study Guide and so these purchased copies do not need to be returned. If any child has lost their CGP KS3 Science Study Guide, we politely request that parents pay £3.15 via Scopay so we can purchase a replacement copy. Thank you!



## Our Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA) Key Updates

### “Fish & Quiz Night” – Raising over £1,000 for the School!!

Dear Parents & Carers,

We wanted to extend a huge thank you to all the quiz teams and volunteers who made our evening of fun and friendly competition so memorable. A special congratulations to The Gateways Team for clinching 1st prize!

A big shoutout to our quizmasters, Rich Reader and Jon Manton, for their challenging questions and entertaining delivery – they kept everyone engaged and entertained throughout.

Thanks to your incredible support, we are proud to announce that we raised over £1,000 for the HSL PTFA. These funds will go towards enhancing our students' education by providing new and additional resources for the school. Your enthusiastic participation and generosity were key to the event's success.

We hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did and look forward to your continued support at future PTFA events. Thank you once again for making this event a tremendous success!

### Our PTFA is Now A Registered Charity!

We are delighted to share that after much hard work and preparation the HSL PTFA is now a registered charity. This is a big milestone achieved as it enables us to get much more support for the school as well as access to additional software and programs! Watch this space but we could not be more delighted.

### Pre – Loved Uniform Sale : Now ONLINE!

To make it easier to see what pre-loved uniform is available, we are pleased to share that the list of available stock is now available online found here: [The High School Leckhampton - Pre-Loved Uniform \(hsl.gloucs.sch.uk\)](https://www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk/pre-loved-uniform).

This list will be updated monthly. If you would like to purchase items, please email [thsl.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:thsl.ptfa@gmail.com) with orders and we will come back to you. Items will be available for collection from the HSL reception. Returns and refunds permitted should items not be suitable

**As always, we are always looking for new stock – if you have any donations, please drop them off with reception – thank you in advance.**

### Next PTFA Key Dates

- ✓ Next PTFA Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> June – 7pm- All Welcome
- ✓ Summer BBQ – 12<sup>th</sup> July - 6.00pm – 8.30pm



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.



The High School  
**Leckhampton**

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