

Dear parents and carers,

As another wonderful half term draws to a close at HSL, this edition of the newsletter allows us to look back on some of the highlights of the last eight weeks. And what a busy half term it has been! Our new Year 7 pupils have made a fantastic start to the school, making such a positive contribution to our clubs and engaging eagerly with their learning. It was great to accompany them to the literature festival recently, where they asked some very interesting questions.

This half term has also seen an array of sports fixtures with us making excellent use of our brand-new minibuses! If you do see them driving pass, please give us a wave! Please keep reading to learn more about our cross-country success, and netball and football fixtures! Our teams have been wearing the new kit, that was so kindly sponsored by the PTFA. We have added some new clubs to our extra-curricular offer, and I have enjoyed popping in to see our pupils working so positively with their teachers and teaching assistants. On World Mental Health Day, Ms Pike (Head of Isbourne) organised a wonderful activity where our pupils could share positive affirmations with each other and we also enjoyed a thought-provoking Enrichment Day, with our usual focus on Children's Rights. The Eco-Committee has been very active this term, with a Green Group meeting and another successful bat walk. We have also identified the two main charities we will be supporting this year, as well as hosting the very popular Macmillan bake sale. Auditions for our musical 'Annie' took place at the start of term, and rehearsals are well underway. The corridors are starting to buzz after school with those catchy tunes! Most recently, we enjoyed a brilliant musical recital, with pupils from every year group showcasing their musical prowess.

I hope the pupils have enjoyed the start of term and have a good rest over the holidays - they have worked very hard this term!

With warm wishes,

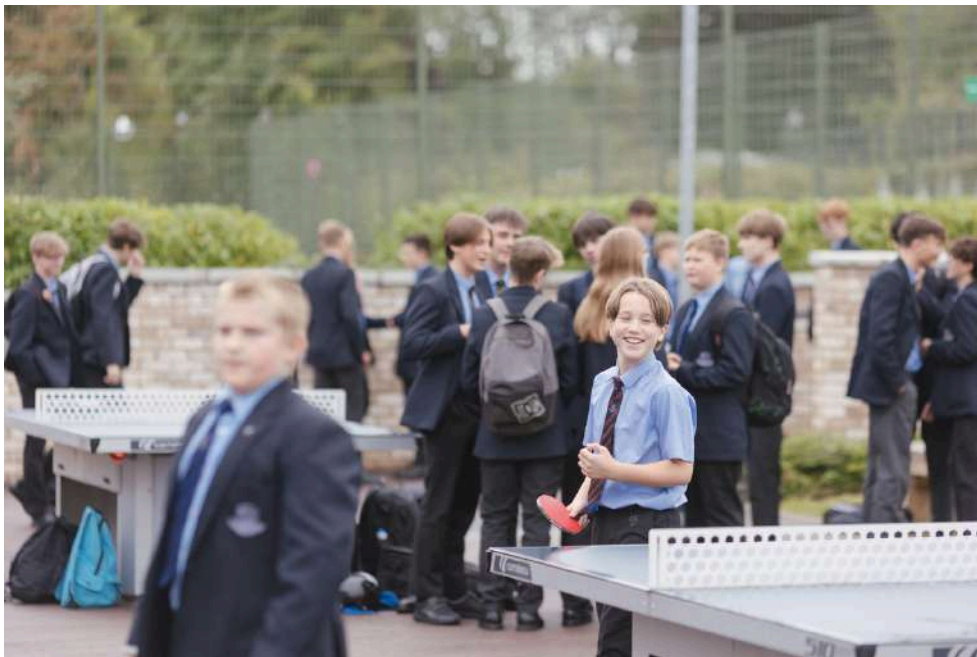
Helen Wood
Headteacher





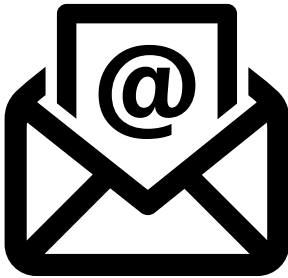
Key Dates - Autumn Term 2024

Monday 4th November	Pupils return to school
Friday 15th November	Eco-Committee Leckhampton Hill trip
Wednesday 20th November	Year 8 Geography and History trip to Bristol 1
Thursday 21st November	Year 8 Geography and History trip to Bristol 2
Friday 29th November	INSET day - school closed to pupils
Monday 2nd December	INSET day - school closed to pupils





Parent updates



Emails

It has come to our attention that some emails from 'admin@hsl' are being sent to junk inboxes. Please check your settings to ensure that you are receiving all communication from us.

Firefly and ePraise

Just a reminder that parents and carers are able to log in to Firefly - our virtual learning environment - and ePraise. Should you not yet be set up to do this, and you'd like to be able to view homework tasks and see when your child earns ePraise points for excellence, please do follow the instructions in the hand guides below.

[ePraise - Logging In]

- 1 Either log into the VLE and click on the ePraise link or go directly to the ePraise website:
epraise.co.uk
- 2 You may first need to search for The High School Leckhampton and select this from the drop down list.
- 3 Click on the 'Parents' tab.
- 4 Enter your email.
Leave the password field blank (unless you already have one).
- 5 Click Log in.
- 6 Click the link that you are sent via email (this takes a few minutes and may appear in junk folder).
- 7 Once you have entered a new password, you will be logged in

If you have trouble logging in, please scan the QR code to visit the ePraise help page, or contact the school.

[Parent Portal - Logging In]

- 1 In your browser, go to the VLE address:
hsl.fireflycloud.net
- 2 Select **New to Firefly? Activate your account.**
- 3 Enter the email address the school already holds on record for you, then select **Activate account.** An email is sent to you.
- 4 Check your email inbox. Make sure to check your spam filters if you don't find it anywhere.
- 5 Open the email and select **Activate account.**
- 6 Enter the password of your choice, then confirm it.
- 7 Choose **Activate account.**

Your account is activated and you're now logged in to the Parent Portal.

If you have trouble logging in, please get in touch with our friendly Support team at support@fireflylearning.com.



Safeguarding update

Online Safety

This month, our Safeguarding spotlight is focusing on Online Safety; particularly pertinent moving towards a half term, and as the nights draw in and phone use and gaming may be on the increase.

Online Safety in school

In school, we have a software system called Smoothwall. This software detects when a pupil types in inappropriate information into an internet search bar or documents on school computers. This is important to ensure pupils are using ICT in school in-line with our ICT policy, but even more importantly, it informs of us any online safeguarding concerns immediately. Smoothwall has been highly effective in ensuring we are able to keep our pupils safe and are able to educate them in addition to the PSHE programme, noticing any trends that arise.

Online Safety at home

The internet is a fantastic tool for connecting the world and empowering our young people to be more inquisitive learners and critical thinkers. It is also a great source of angst for many families as the young people try to navigate the world with a device.

For information on how to keep your child safe online and for age-appropriate tips please follow the link to the NSPCC page <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Key messages to remind your child of: -

Protect your online reputation

Know where to find help

Don't give in to pressure

Respect the law



Safeguarding update

Online Safety

For more information on current topics and how to address concerns with your child, please follow this link where it gives tips for parents and carers as well as for teachers.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/young-people/resources-for-11-19s>

Top tips to support young people online this half term

- Talk to your child about what they are playing/watching/sharing
- Encourage them to use their devices in open spaces and not to be secretive or in their rooms alone on devices for too long
 - Be a good digital role model
- Discuss the difficult content. What are their views and opinions? Where are they getting their information from?

Where to go if you have concerns about your child online

Speak to your child's tutor or Head of House for support and guidance

Use the NSPCC support page for online safety

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/>





Safeguarding update

yg Family Support

Supporting Parents to Understand their Children's Mental Health

A mix of virtual and face-to-face workshops designed to support parents through every stage of their child's journey. Gain confidence and practical skills to navigate challenging moments with ease.

Coping mechanisms for young people

12:30 - 3:30pm

25 July | 25 September | 21 November

Mental health and the online world

9:30 - 12:30pm

28 August | 9 October | 4 December

Mental Health and substance misuse

5 September 9.30 - 12.30pm

6 November 12.30 - 3.30pm

Strategies to support young people

24 October 12.30 - 3.30pm

12 December 9.30 - 12.30pm



LOTTERY FUNDED

getinvolved@youngglos.org.uk

www.youngglos.org.uk

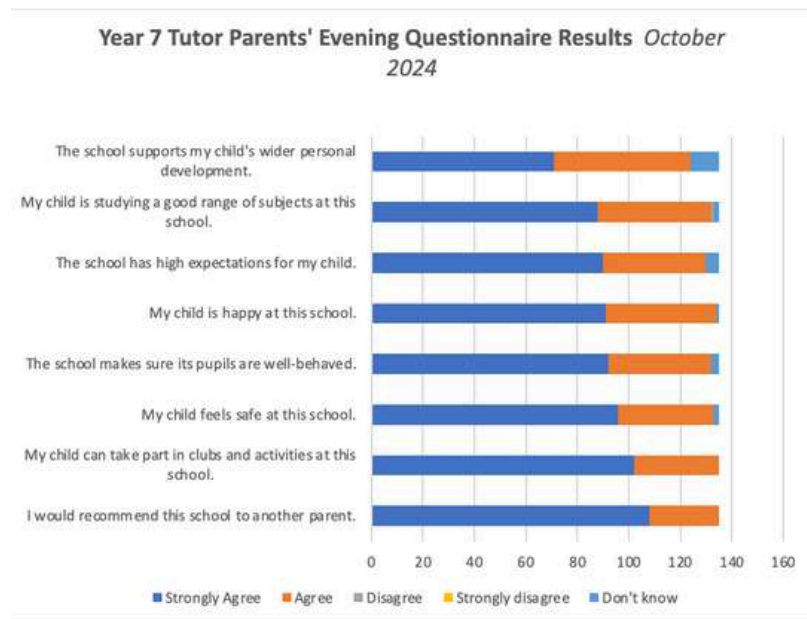
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Charity No. 281797



Year 7 Parent Questionnaire

At the very well attended Year 7 Parents’ Evening held on Thursday 10th October, we asked parents to complete a questionnaire about their child’s first weeks at HSL. The response rate was excellent, with 80% of parents attending the evening providing feedback to us.



We were pleased to find that 99% of parents who responded agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at school, and feels safe. 1% selected “I don’t know”. Additionally, 98% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school makes sure pupils are well behaved. Again, the remaining 2% stated “I don’t know”.

We were also delighted that 98% of parents feel their child is studying a good range of subjects, and that 100% of parents agree or strongly agree that their child can take part in a range of clubs and activities.

Finally, the parent questionnaire told us that 100% of respondents would recommend our school to other parents.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire during a busy evening meeting with your child’s tutor.

We value your feedback.



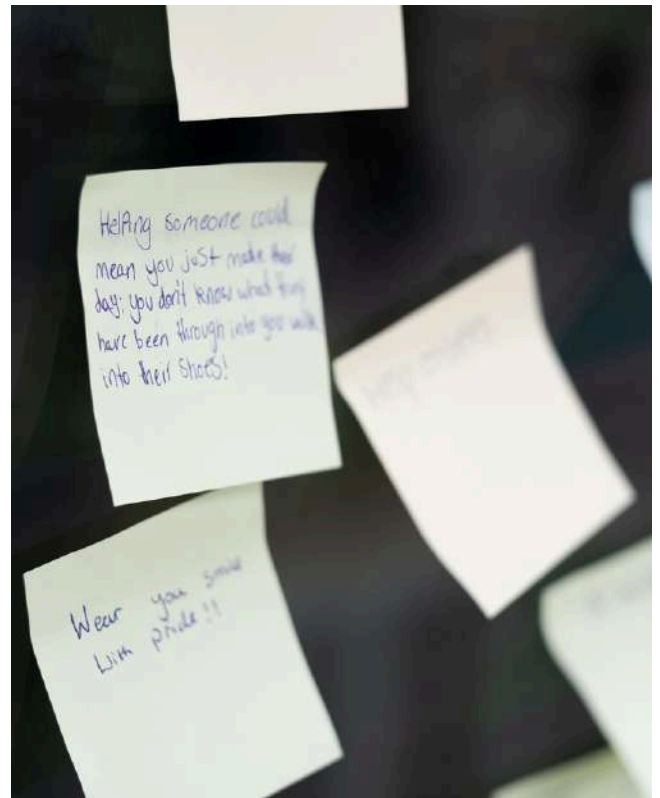
World Mental Health Day

On Thursday 10th October, our school proudly showed support for World Mental Health Day. Together, we created the HSL Talking Clock, a unique initiative aimed at raising awareness about mental health and emphasising the importance of taking time to talk, connect, and support one another. Pupils were invited to write short messages on post-it notes in their house colours, sparking discussions about mental health and signposting pupils on how we can help those who may be struggling. This activity fostered meaningful conversations and reinforced our commitment to supporting mental well-being.





World Mental Health Day



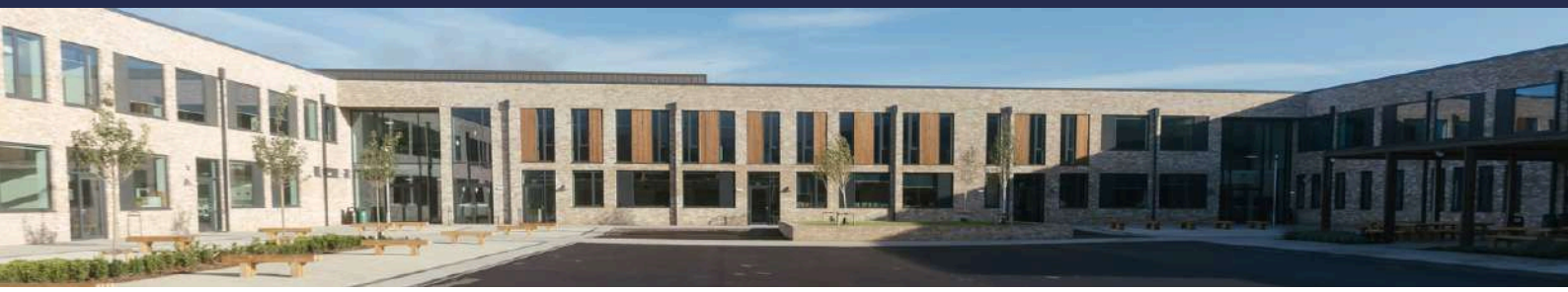


Enrichment Day

Dizzy heights and Children's Rights on the schedule for the first enrichment day of the school year! On Wednesday 2nd October all pupils stepped away from their usual timetables to explore something a little different during Enrichment Day. Enrichment Days are part of our wider personal development programme, and allow us, as a school, to delve into topics that support and extend our pupils' understanding of the wider world and complement their journey at HSL. Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 focused on children's rights, as part of our commitment to the Rights Respecting School Gold Award.

Year 7 focused on how the school and organisations in our local community uphold children's rights. They learned some of the key rights in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, they explored the right to education and how foodbanks contribute to the right to food. In their tutor groups they visited the 'marketplace', meeting and putting questions to members of the local community representing organisations that work with and for children. Our visiting organisations this year included the police service, No Child Left Behind, Gloucestershire Young Carers, Springbank Community Pantry and Gloucestershire Fire Service. Cheltenham East Black Watch were on duty that day, but we're grateful they were able to remain with us for the morning - and for bringing their fire fighting equipment for the pupils to try on!





Enrichment Day



Finn Newman Y7 - I really enjoyed the rights treasure hunt around the ground floor of the school as it was really fun. I also enjoyed trying Danish Long Ball as it was a mix of two of my favourite sports.

Year 8 pupils looked at the national issue of poverty, focusing in particular on the North-South divide and considering issues surrounding equality of opportunity. The day ended with a debate about HS2, and there were some excellent arguments put forward.



Flo Jardine, Y8 - I really enjoy the comparison between the North and South of England using Google Earth and Street View.



Enrichment Day

The Year 9 pupils looked at children's rights globally, with sessions centred on the world's refugee crisis. It was a thought-provoking day, with - at its centre - a powerful talk from Paddy Davie of Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees, supported by other speakers who spoke about their experiences of being a refugee. This was supported by a variety of workshop sessions: creating an infographic using data about refugees, participating in an immersive drama activity about the small boats crisis; and writing creatively to convey the experiences of refugees around the world.



Ella Lake Y9 - I enjoyed the Drama session, where we got to learn exactly how the journey for refugees is.



Enrichment Day

Year 10 pupils enjoyed a very different day, designed to support their current work on careers. We were joined by an excellent team from Safran, who ran a series of activities for students during the morning. Safran is a Gloucestershire company that is a world-leader in the manufacture of aircraft equipment. Pupils tackled a range of tasks including fixing and running a production line to make Lego planes to certain specifications, designing gliders and taking on a VR challenge to build an aircraft landing gear. In the afternoon, tutors worked with their groups to consolidate the learning, and link the day's activities to the careers work that has formed the basis of Personal Development this term.



Tillie Robinson Y10 - We did creative activities which linked to engineering. The Year 10s loved these as it showed teamwork and competitiveness! The Enrichment Day was filled with fun and excitement!

Thank you very much to our visitors from Safran, and our local community organisations.



House Maths



On Tuesday 1st October, during periods 3 and 4, Year 7 pupils undertook the annual House Maths Challenge. For this challenge, pupils competed in groups of 3 to solve a series of maths problems in a relay format. We had ten very helpful Year 10 pupils officiating the event, scoring the pupils' answers as they completed each problem. All students participated enthusiastically in the event, receiving an Epraise point each to acknowledge their excellent efforts.

The results are as follows:

4th Place: Chelt

3rd Place: Lilleybrook

2nd Place: Isbourne

1st Place: Windrush

Well done to all Year 7 pupils for getting involved in this fantastic house competition!





House Maths





Black History Month



At The High School Leckhampton, Black History Month (BHM) 2024 was marked with meaningful activities centered around this year's theme of "reclaiming narratives." Year 7 pupils had the special opportunity to attend a discussion led by Sharna Jackson, a distinguished author across multiple genres, including young adult fiction. Jackson emphasised the importance of understanding and amplifying Black stories and perspectives, aligning perfectly with this year's BHM theme. Her talk encouraged students to reflect on the richness of diverse narratives and how these shape a fuller understanding of history.



In collaboration, the History and English departments showcased a series of assemblies and a literary display in the LRC to further engage students with Black historical and cultural contributions. Assemblies focused on the importance of not allowing a single viewpoint to dominate the telling of history, ensuring that all voices are acknowledged, and none are silenced. The literary display celebrated the works of prominent authors like Patrice Lawrence and Alex Wheatle, featuring Lawrence's 'Divers' Daughter' and Wheatle's 'Cane Warriors' - books that provide unique Black perspectives on historical events. Students were encouraged to explore these works and then share their reflections with us, deepening their understanding of the significance of diverse voices in history.





Cheltenham Literature Festival

It was an exciting and inspirational week at The Cheltenham Literature Festival for HSL!

Year 7 pupils listened to a panel of authors discuss suspense writing, Year 8 pupils got to hear from Katherine Rundell about her inspiration for the exciting adventures she wrote about in 'Incredible Creatures', Year 9 pupils heard from Sarah Crossan about her new novel and how to make poetry relevant in their lives, and then Year 10 pupils listened to a panel of authors about how to use writing as a vehicle for change. Year 10 even got to meet the authors, discuss their books and got autographs from the authors!

Another fantastic year for HSL at the Literature Festival.



On Wednesday 9th October I went to the Cheltenham Literature Festival to see Katherine Rundell. I have read and enjoyed many of her books, particularly *The Explorer*.

In the talk that Katherine gave she shared a preview of her latest book *Impossible Creatures* and the challenge that she set herself. To research and include all of the mythical creatures that are found in texts. Katherine also shared that she always experiences tasks and places that she will write about. Including for *The Explorer*, eating a piranha!

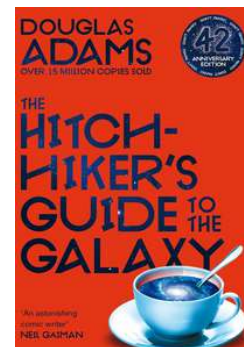
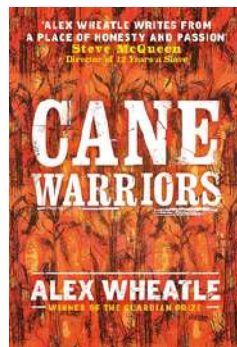
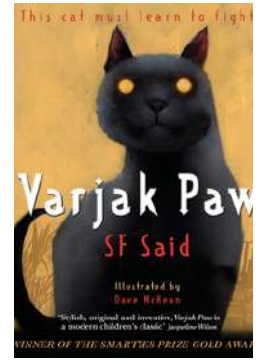
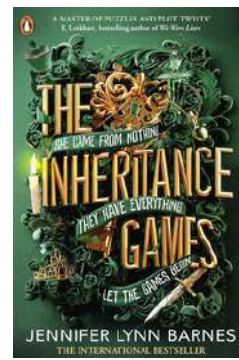
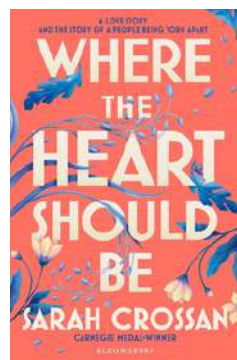
Huw Miles, Year 8



LRC update

We are proud of our library and encourage pupils to take care of the books they borrow. Occasionally books get damaged in bags and at home. If this happens, we ask for pupils to speak to either Miss Hayes or Mrs Horne in the library during lunchtime as it is important to acknowledge what has happened and how take care of our resources in future. We appreciate your help with this.

Some of the new books in the LRC this month:



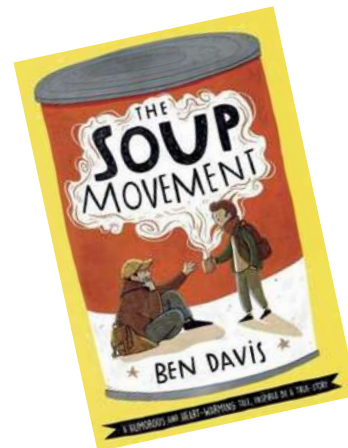
We are looking for donations of secondhand books suitable for Key Stages 3 and 4 to add to our ever-growing library collection. Both fiction and non-fiction books, including classics, would be most welcome. Donations are to be brought to the LRC please. Many thanks in advance and to those who have already helped us!



Tutor Group Reading Programme

Tutor group	Book
All of Year 7	When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle
Miss Leyland's pupils in 8CH1	Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell
Mrs Wright's pupils in 8CH2	Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah
Mrs Elliot-Squires's pupils in 8IS	Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson
Miss Hancock's pupils in 8W1	The Soup Movement by Ben Davis
Mr Doherty's pupils in 8LB	War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

This term, all pupils started their first tutor group reading book - a book they read twice a week in during tutor time. Please feel free to read along at home and share in discussions with your child about what they're reading!

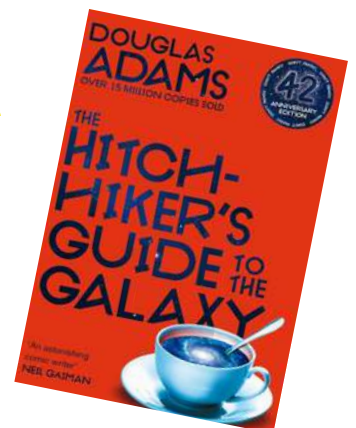


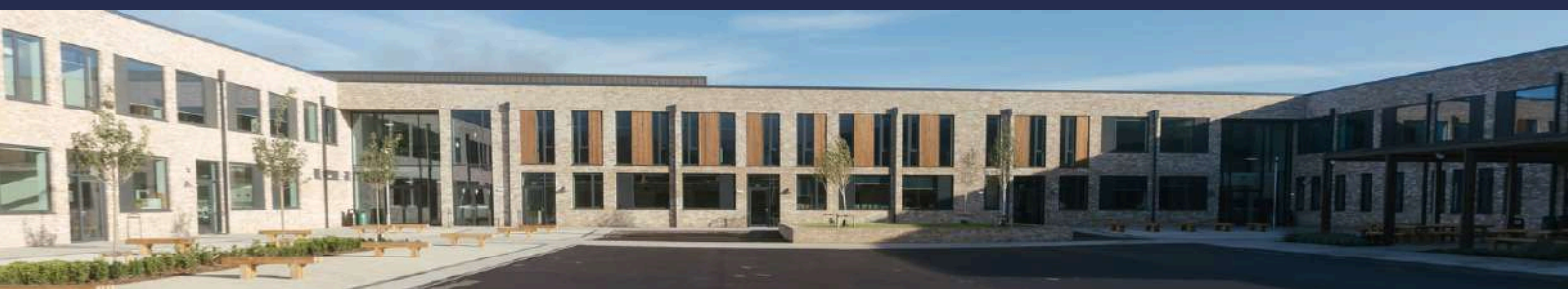


Tutor Group Reading Programme

Tutor group	Book
Mrs McAlpine's pupils in 9CH	Fight Back by AM Dassu
Mr Bunting pupil's in 9WI	Everest Files by Matt Dickinson
Miss Winters's pupils in 9LB	Kerb-stain Boys by Alex Wheatle
Mr Talbot's pupils in 9IS	Sisters of the Lost Marsh by Lucy Strange
Mrs Holland's pupils in 10CH	The Crossing by Manjeet Mann
Miss Kennedy's pupils in 10WI	Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah
Mrs Joice's pupils in 10LB	1984 by George Orwell
Mrs Williams's pupils in 10IS	The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

This term, all pupils started their first tutor group reading book - a book they read twice a week in during tutor time. Please feel free to read along at home and share in discussions with your child about what they're reading!





Book of the Month

This month, we are suggesting Year 10 pupils read *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam.

The story that I thought
was my life
didn't start on the day
I was born

Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighbourhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white.

The story that I think
will be my life
starts today

Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison.

Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it?

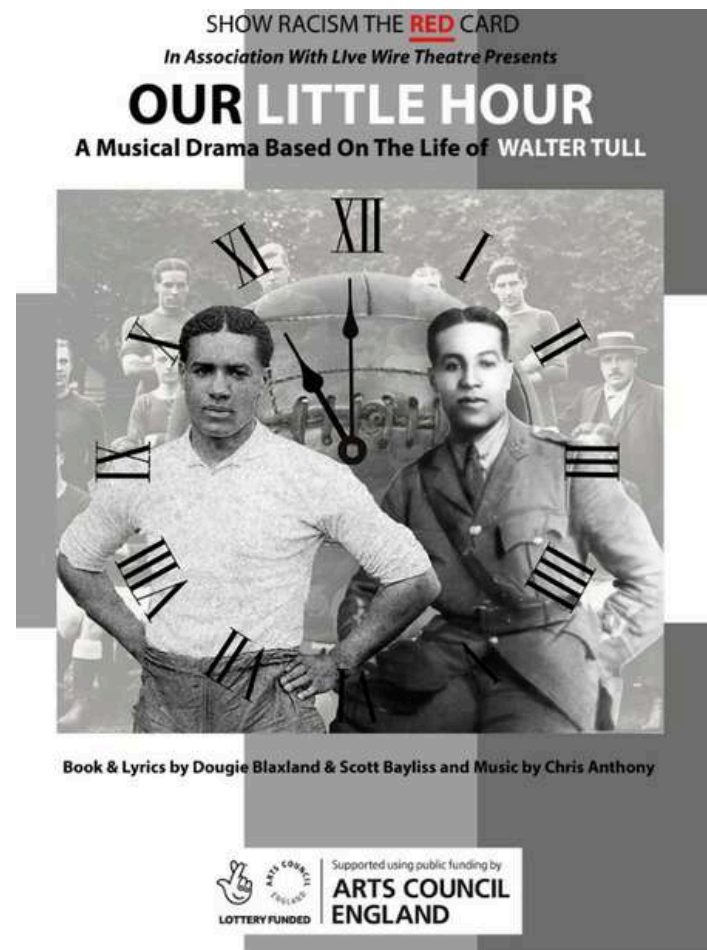
With spellbinding lyricism, award-winning author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam tell a moving and deeply profound story about how one boy is able to maintain his humanity and fight for the truth, in a system designed to strip him of both.





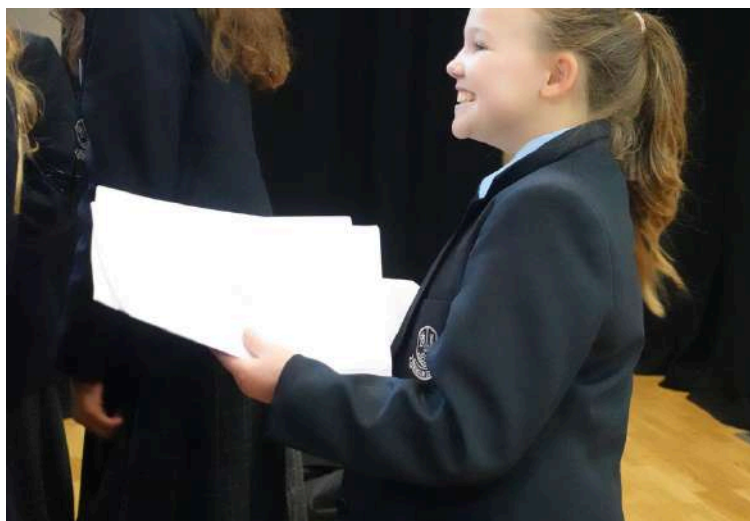
Drama trip

On Thursday 10th October, our GCSE Drama pupils had their first experience in the Irving Studio at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham where they watched the production 'Our Little Hour'. The pupils experienced an intimate production that has helped inspire them for their own work, particularly the impressive use of multi-roling - a concept our current Year 9 pupils are exploring in lessons. The pupils were impressed by the simple yet complex performance that utilised music and dialogue in an original and creative way. Following the show, the pupils had the opportunity to take part in a Q&A session with the writer - Dougie Blaxland - who joined the pupils through Teams to talk through the writing process and creation of devised theatre. They really enjoyed Dougie's dynamic and engaging talk which has given them lots of ideas to explore when they begin creating their own theatre later this year.





Annie rehearsals





Rights Respecting Round Up

This month our focus has been on charitable giving. In an assembly towards the end of September, Mrs Cox explored the long history of gift giving, and how giving to others in need plays an important role in different cultures around the world.

Following this, pupils were invited to nominate charities that they would like us as a school to raise money for this year. To link to our status as a rights respecting school we asked that the charities' work enabled young people to access their rights. The nominated charities could be either UK-based or global.

With more than 200 nominations, short-listing was a necessity and this was done through asking for more information about each charity. Four UK and four global charities were selected and pupils read a summary of each one and voted for their choices in tutor time.

Our chosen charities for this year are:

Young Minds, a UK charity that works to help all young people access mental health support.

Water Aid, a UK-based charity that works to provide clean water to communities around the world

We aim to raise as much money as possible for these two charities this year. In November, pupils from the RRSA steering group will be visiting each tutor group to gather ideas for fundraising activities, and support those who would like to organise an event for either charity. In addition to this there will be whole-school fundraisers throughout the year, so everyone can take part.

We look forward to updating you on the amounts raised throughout the year!

YOUNG
MiNDS





Bake Sale for Macmillan Cancer Support

Thank you to all who supported the bake sale that took place on Friday 27th September 2024.

We are delighted to announce that we raised a grand total of £300.20 for Macmillan Cancer Support!

You're the icing on the cake



The High School

Lockhampton

Thank you for everything you did to make Coffee Morning a huge success.

Together we raised

£300-20

to help Macmillan do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.





Bat Walk

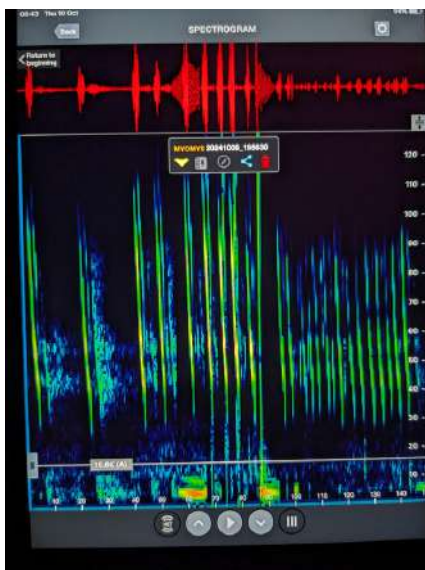
The first HSL bat walk of this academic year took place on Wednesday 9th October from 6:30pm until 8pm.

Steve Mason, Community Parks Officer at Cheltenham Borough Council, kindly ran the event alongside Miss Kennedy and brought along some bat detectors borrowed from the University of Gloucestershire.

The rain held off as the group of pupils, staff, families and friends of HSL walked a muddy route through Burrow's Field hoping for a sighting. After nearly giving up the detectors sprang into action as a couple of bats appeared and flew so close they were within 2 metres! One of the bats was a common pipistrelle, and the other was a whiskered myotis.

Miss Kennedy would like to thank all those who advertised and attended the event - it was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The next bat walk at HSL will take place on Thursday 13th March 2025 at 5:30pm. Hope to see you there!





ECO-COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2024-25

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

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

Now that the review is complete, our Eco-Committee have designed an Action Plan of changes they would like to make this academic year. Look out for more information in the months to come about these actions and how you can help.





ECO-COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2024-25

Action Plan

Topic 1

<p>Eco-Schools Topic</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p>
<p>Aim</p> <p>Write a short explanation of what you hope to achieve.</p>	<p>increase the biodiversity of the school and outside of the school and rivers and water</p>
<p>Action(s)</p> <p>Add actions you are going to take/projects you will deliver to achieve your aim. Include delivery dates to set yourself a timeline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local conservation projects • biodiversity around the school (inside) • helping increase the local wildlife etc - wood • plant up the fences pond • beavers - Plant more trees • wormery • natural enclosures ^{habitat} for the wildlife
<p>Informing & Involving</p> <p>Explain how you are going to advertise your activities and involve your school community in them.</p>	<p>addition at the eco workshops with Eco.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • green day fund raised for biodiversity • Big Bright posters • poster designing - Advertising -
<p>Monitoring & Evaluation</p> <p>Consider how you will monitor the impacts of your projects and evaluate their success.</p>	<p>or look every event</p> <p>Some weeks At lunch/break doing overbooks on whats happening</p>



ECO-COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2024-25

Action Plan

Topic 2

Eco-Schools Topic	Litter
Aim Write a short explanation of what you hope to achieve.	We hope to reduce the amount of litter on our school site.
Action(s) Add actions you are going to take/projects you will deliver to achieve your aim. Include delivery dates to set yourself a timeline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform pupils about the negatives of littering e.g. bats and gulls. • Have presentations and/or assemblies to spread our message. • Have litter picks during break/lunch - Use our composter to reduce food waste and litter.
Informing & Involving Explain how you are going to advertise your activities and involve your school, community in them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assemblies - Presentations during tutor period
Monitoring & Evaluation Consider how you will monitor the impacts of your projects and evaluate their success.	During litter picks, we could count or weigh the litter and record that. If the number decreases, the project is successful.



ECO-COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2024-25

Action Plan

Topic 3 Healthy living

Eco-Schools Topic	Healthy Living
Aim Write a short explanation of what you hope to achieve.	Help people live healthier to benefit the environment.
Action(s) Add actions you are going to take/projects you will deliver to achieve your aim. Include delivery dates to set yourself a timeline.	Encouraging more people to walk or cycle to school, Air quality monitoring, Designing healthy school meals, Serving smaller meal portions (optional) at a lower price, Promote car sharing - school trip letters ask you to car share, Walk to school week, Meat Monday, Fish Friday, veggie Tue, Wed, Thur.
Informing & Involving Explain how you are going to advertise your activities and involve your school community in them.	presentations, videos and posters, School Newsletter, The View
Monitoring & Evaluation Consider how you will monitor the impacts of your projects and evaluate their success.	Surveys



CUT YOUR CARBON CAMPAIGN

During their assemblies this month, the Eco-Committee launched the Cut Your Carbon campaign to every student at The High School Leckhampton.

Eco-Schools is challenging all young people in England to take action on their carbon footprint throughout the month of November by completing the six simple actions on the Cut Your Carbon checklist with friends and families. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness, change behaviours, and Cut Your Carbon (Dioxide) - the greenhouse gas responsible for driving climate change.

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

DITCH THE DRIVE

SHOWER POWER

WE'RE TAKING PART IN

CUT YOUR CARBON

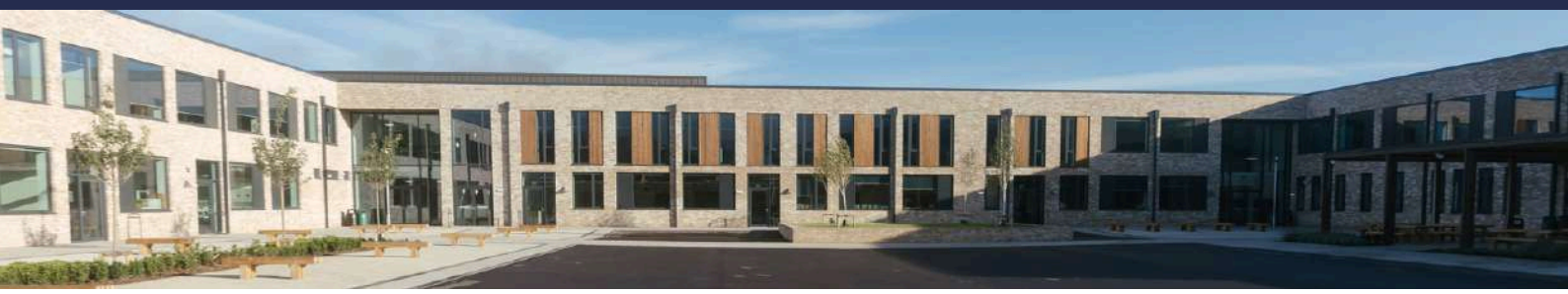
Throughout November, we're challenging pupils to complete 6 small carbon-cutting activities at home. These actions will reduce your emissions and benefit our planet.

To find out how you can get involved, speak to a member of the school's Eco-Committee or scan the QR code below.

IT'S TIME TO CUT YOUR CARBON!

Scan to find out more!

Eco-Schools | **KEEP BRITAIN TIDY** | **Bupa Foundation**



PE UPDATES

October: A Month of Running into Half-Term

House X Country

On a rare sunny day on October 4th, the whole school gathered in year groups in our sports hall ready to tackle Burrow Fields to represent their houses in the annual House Cross County event. Despite the muddy course, the atmosphere was electric. With enthusiastic cheers from staff, the PE department, and members of the public, every student gave it their all, finishing the course with smiles and a sense of personal achievement. Overall House winners were:

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

District Cross Country

This year's District Cross Country, held at St Edward's School, was a challenging but rewarding experience. Every student who represented the school did so with pride and determination. We had outstanding success, with high placings and a strong contingent selected to move on to the next round. Our Year 7 and Year 8/9 girls were placed 4th overall and our Year 7 Boys clinched 2nd place, which was an outstanding effort. The following were our top performing securing a place in the top 15 in their age categories:

Year 7:

Sam, Charlie, Charlotte, Millie,

Year 8/9:

Cameron, Ciara,

Year 10:

Lachie





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Netball Roundup: A Strong Finish Before Half-Term

Our netball teams have been busy this October with some exciting matches against Cleeve and Chosen Hill.

Y10 and Year 9 vs Cleeve

Our Year 10A team stepped out in style, sporting the new HSL Netball dresses, which clearly boosted their confidence as they secured a hard-fought 18-15 victory. The Year 10B team narrowly missed out on a win, losing by just one point, but their efforts were commendable. Our Year 9 A and B teams also took to the court for the first time this season. Despite their losses, they showed determination and promising strong performances for the rest of the season and the upcoming county tournament.



U12 & U13 vs Cleeve

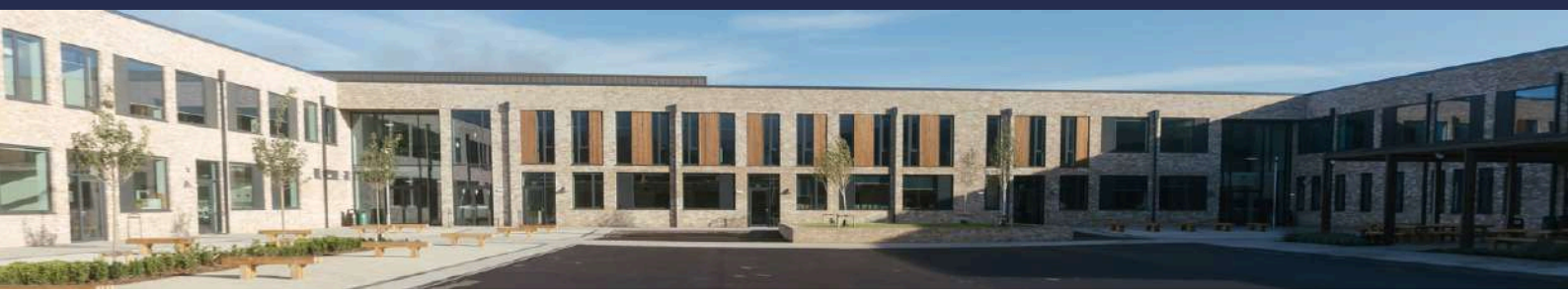
Our U12A and B teams put in stellar performances, earning two well-deserved wins.

Meanwhile, the U13A and B teams faced tougher opposition but displayed great passages of play, never giving up throughout their matches. The potential in these young squads is clear, and we're excited to see how they develop.

Block Fixtures vs Chosen Hill

To wrap up the half-term, we took four teams from each year group to Chosen Hill in our new minibuses—what an incredible experience for the girls! It was fantastic to see so many players getting involved in the block fixtures, capping off a busy term of netball.

A reminder to all girls to keep showing up to lunchtime netball club next half-term. Keep the momentum going!



PE UPDATES

Y8/9 Girls & Y10 Girls Football vs Cleeve

Our combined Y8/9 Girls Football Team played their first game together against strong opposition in Cleeve. In what was a very even first half, Bella G scored our goal to make the score 1-1. We used 17 players all together in this fixture and everyone played well making good contributions to the team. Cleeve showed their quality in the second half and scored three times to make the final score 4-1.

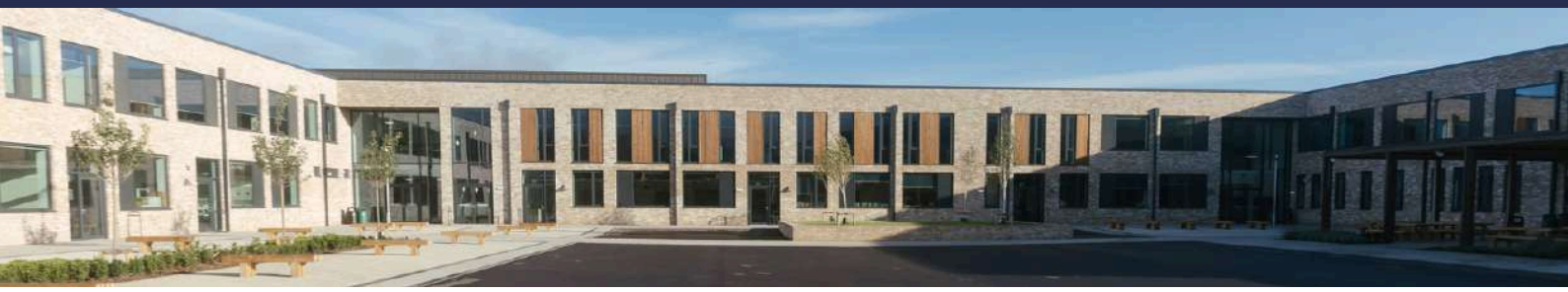
A good effort for our first match together. Well done girls.

The Y10s played a mixture of Cleeve Y10/11 in our first league match of the season. This was always going to be a difficult start due to Cleeve's talented and experienced squad. The girls played well and provided some moments of quality. The team won't have many harder games than that this season but can look forward to the next batch of games with confidence. Special mention to Jemima and Eva who took turns in goal due to an injury to Erin.

Y7 & Y8 Rugby vs All Saints Academy

The Y7s played in a development match vs ASA earlier this month. This was a great opportunity to play a match against similar opposition who are also learning the game. There were some really good patterns of play and we scored 5 fantastic tries. Our tackling was strong and we were quick to back our team mates up in the ruck. All Saints got the victory by scoring 7 of their own tries. This was a fantastic exercise and stands us in good stead ready for our next block of fixtures after half-term.

The Y8s ran out comfortable winners showing true quality in our rugby, dominating in all aspects of the game. Lots of tries were scored and the confidence to carry the ball is really beginning to shine through. Well done boys!



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Y10 Basketball vs Pates:

Our Y10 boys returned to Pates looking to avenge a heavy defeat last season. We played some fantastic basketball with good combinations ending in some great baskets scored. We started the first quarter a little slow and allowed Pates to build a lead. As the match progressed, we started converting some of our many chances and finished the game with 18 points for. We lost 37-18 however the improvement and confidence of the players was a huge success as the team continues to develop.

Thank You to the PTFA!

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the PTFA for funding our new netball dresses and athletics vests. The players are thrilled with the stunning new kit, which has created a wonderful buzz and fostered a sense of pride in representing our school. We look forward to seeing our teams shine in their new kit in the future.





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