

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to another bumper edition of our newsletter, capturing an action-packed March! This month's edition celebrates our fantastic school production of Annie, which saw our talented students shine on stage. We've included some wonderful photos to celebrate their hard work and dedication.

Our English, Science and Languages departments have had a busy month, with subject updates including a special focus on our Year 10 trip to The Globe Theatre, where students experienced Macbeth in an unforgettable setting. British Science Week brought exciting workshops led by external visitors, inspiring curiosity and exploration among our budding scientists. Our LRC has been busy with World Book Day activities and a fantastic author visit, whilst our MFL teachers have been running competitions, and this edition sees the announcement of our linguists of the month. Congratulations to them!

Our commitment to sustainability and active travel was also recognised this month, with our Travel Ambassadors securing £200 to promote cycling to school. Students have also been making a difference in the local area by planting trees at Westonbirt Arboretum, managing the landscape on Leckhampton Hill, and even taking part in a bat walk.

On the sports front, we've had an impressive month, from hosting primary netball tournaments and numerous football fixtures, to competing in regional hockey competitions. A special congratulations to our table cricket team for winning the Gloucestershire championship—an incredible achievement!

As many of us have watched the recent drama, 'Adolescence' we thought it timely to include some important advice and guidance about safeguarding, and understanding your child's online world. Do contact us if you have any questions about this important subject.

Looking ahead, we'd like to give you advanced notice of the brilliant PTFA Quiz Night, which this year is taking place on 9th May—it is always a fantastic evening of fun and friendly competition. Make sure to save the date! Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Best wishes,

Helen Wood

Headteacher





## Key Dates - Spring Term 2025

Wednesday 2nd April - GCSE Year 10 Music Recital at 6pm

Thursday 3rd April - Drama and Music trip to Romeo and Juliet

Tuesday 8th April - Eco Enrichment Day

Thursday 10th April - End of term for pupils. 3.35pm finish

Friday 11th April - INSET day. School closed to pupils

Monday 28th April - Start of Summer Term





# HSL - A Happy School!

## HSL ranked as one of the happiest schools in England and Wales by The Sunday Times!

I am absolutely delighted to share some wonderful news with you; The High School Leckhampton has been ranked as one of the happiest schools in England and Wales by The Sunday Times! Out of 1,934 secondary schools across England and Wales, HSL has been placed joint 15th—a truly outstanding achievement.

This ranking is based on five years (2020-2025) of 'Parent View' data, gathered from surveys that parents complete on Ofsted's website. These surveys assess various aspects of school life, including how happy children feel at school. We are incredibly proud that 98% of parents who responded to the survey said their child was happy at HSL. With only 14 schools in the entire country achieving a higher score (99%), and the national average standing at 83%, this is a testament to the positive environment we strive to create for our students every day.

At HSL, we believe that positive, respectful relationships form the foundation of a happy school. Our commitment to being a Rights Respecting School has helped us shape a culture where kindness, fairness, and integrity guide our expectations for pupil behaviour. We encourage our students to speak out against injustice and to treat one another with respect, fostering a safe and supportive atmosphere where every child can thrive.

Beyond the classroom, we place great importance on student leadership opportunities and offering an extensive range of extracurricular activities. With over 90 clubs running each week, we are dedicated to providing enriching experiences that help students forge friendships, develop new skills, and feel more connected to our school community.

I am incredibly grateful to our passionate and dedicated staff, who go above and beyond to offer such inspiring and inclusive opportunities. Schools are happiest when they reflect the values of the communities they serve, and we are fortunate to have such a strong, supportive network of parents, friends, and local partners. Your encouragement and engagement play a vital role in making HSL such a special place, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you all.

Together, we celebrate this achievement but of course, we recognise that school life isn't always easy. Adolescence brings its own challenges, and there may be times when your child feels less happy. Please know that we remain committed to supporting every student through their journey, ensuring that HSL continues to be a place where they feel valued, supported, and able to flourish.



# Safeguarding update

## Online Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. This month we are considering Online Safeguarding.

### What does your child's online life look like?

For many adults our online life is a natural extension of our physical life; it supplements how we live. However, we have unwittingly ventured into a world where a teenager's physical life may look quite different to their online life. The Netflix drama of 'Adolescence' has created quite a stir in recent weeks and has encouraged some much-needed discussion on the external influences our children face and encourages us to recognise the significant impact they have on all teenagers.

There have been some notable things that have come out of 'Adolescence', and it is useful for us as parents, carers and teachers to have a heightened awareness of some key terms and topics as we try to support our young people navigating the modern world; often one step behind.

The Manosphere - this term is used to classify a varied collection of websites, blogs, and online forums promoting masculinity, misogyny and opposition to feminism and female progression.

Incels - a sub-culture community of men who forge a sense of identity around their perceived inability to forge relationships. One of the central ideas is that 80% of women are attracted to 20% of men. Incels believe that society is stacked against them and that women hold all the power. The only way to change things, they say, is to change society.

### What do the Emoji's mean?

Whilst many of us will use an Emoji to end a text message, or to acknowledge something that we like. It turns out that there is a darker side to some Emojis. Not all teenagers will know the 'Emoji slang', but it is useful to know that there is another side to some images. Below is a link to an article that de-codes some of the terms and offers some useful tips on how we can support our children:

[https://ssslearning.co.uk/safeguarding-articles/manosphere-emojis?srsltid=AfmBOoqtDf7MOTHDiirpnH2UKcRfxrx-oPSxhXpfrWqGRhGD8nbBQ\\_0B](https://ssslearning.co.uk/safeguarding-articles/manosphere-emojis?srsltid=AfmBOoqtDf7MOTHDiirpnH2UKcRfxrx-oPSxhXpfrWqGRhGD8nbBQ_0B)



## Safeguarding update

If you've watched 'Adolescence' and would like some more support on these topics, The Wellbeing Hub has published an article about what we as parents and educators can learn from the series—and how we can better support our young people:

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/resources/netflixs-adolescence-what-can-we-as-parents-and-educators-learn-from-the-series-and-how-do-we-better-support-our-young-people/>

How much do you know about your child's online life?

As children get older, it can become more difficult to know what is happening in your child's online life. Despite this, it is even more important to have conversations and for us all to try to understand what their external influences are and how their thoughts and views being shaped.

Some questions that might be useful to discuss with your child:

1. What social media platforms are they on?
2. How many followers do they have?
3. What images are they sending or receiving?
4. Who are their online role models?
5. How much time are they spending connecting with the physical world?

What can we all do to support our children?

- We need to listen to our children and students to try to understand why certain messages are so alluring, especially that of the Manosphere.
- We need to provide our children with information to support the formation balanced thoughts and opinions.
- We need to help all our children recognise their self-worth and find their passion.
- We need open, sometimes uncomfortable, conversations about the benefits and risks of the internet so they can navigate their world safely and with confidence and resilience.



# Safeguarding update

## Let's talk about life online

Advice and conversation starters for supporting your child to stay safe online

Childnet International  
UK Safer Internet Centre  
Co-financed by the European Union  
Connecting Europe Facility

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### Keep it relevant

As they get older, children will use technology and the internet differently. The challenges they may face will change too. To get a sense of how much they know and what support they still need, ask open-ended questions to let your child lead the conversation you have.

Consider the purpose of any discussion you start with your child, and aim to guide the direction it takes. There are appropriate ways to approach all online safety topics with different ages. For example, with teenagers, nude images can be spoken about in wider conversations around consent and healthy relationships. For younger children, you could discuss what types of images are okay to share online, and what areas of our bodies are private.

You can find guidance on how to address different topics with children of all ages at [childnet.com/parents-help-topics](https://www.childnet.com/parents-help-topics).

### Tackling difficult conversations

Often, difficult topics of conversation can be planned for, but with online content being so accessible, occasionally they can be needed earlier than anticipated.

Seek support and information so that you feel prepared. This could be from family, friends, school staff, websites or helplines. Choose a time your child is relaxed, with no distractions nearby such as technology or siblings. Plan what you want to say and consider how your child might react to keep the conversation calm and positive.

You may wish to take a direct approach and explain the concerns that have led you to start the conversation. Alternatively, you might feel an indirect approach is more suitable - discussing young people in general to avoid additional pressure.

Whichever approach you take, give your child time to think, ask questions and share their thoughts without interruption or blame. Listen carefully to any confusion or concern. Praise them when you are always there to help and even if you don't know the answers, you can find these out together.

You can find helpful links to advice on difficult topics at [childnet.com/difficult-conversations](https://www.childnet.com/difficult-conversations).

### Why not try...

- How do you spend your time online?
- What have you heard about... online? (e.g. sharing photos, bullying)
- What worries you about life online?

### Open with...

- I'd like to talk about... with you, but first I'd like to hear your thoughts about it.
- What do you think young people your age think about...?
- Are there any questions you want to ask me about...?

## Supporting your child to be happy and healthy online

As a parent or carer, the best tool to support your child in leading a safe and positive life online is open conversation.

This leaflet includes practical advice and conversation starters to help you discuss the online world with your child.

Whether you are approaching these conversations for the first time, or you have already made a start, this advice can help you to support your child to use technology in a happy and healthy way.

This advice is part of Childnet's Parent & Carer Toolkit, designed to guide you in supporting all aspects of your child's online life. It also includes our Family Agreement and Parents & Carers Resource Sheet.

Find the whole toolkit at [childnet.com/parents-toolkit](https://www.childnet.com/parents-toolkit).

### What if something goes wrong?

If your child comes to you with a concern, try to remain calm and curious, rather than furious. Avoid blame or criticism, as this may close down the conversation if your child feels they have done something wrong or they are in trouble. Instead, remain non-judgmental, acknowledge the challenges they have overcome, and thank them for telling you.

If you find out your child is dealing with a worrying situation online, but is unwilling to speak about it, reassure them you want to help make things better. Avoid pressuring them to speak before they are ready. Curiosity by asking broad questions to open up a dialogue, and give them plenty of time to answer.

It's okay if you are unsure what to do next, the important thing is to let your child know you are there for them. There is a lot of further support out there to help you decide on your next steps.

You can find helpline numbers, further advice and information on reporting at [childnet.com/parents-help](https://www.childnet.com/parents-help).

### Let's talk...

- Can we talk about...? Remember, I'm always here to help no matter how big the problem might be.
- I can see that something is worrying you, can I help?
- Can you explain to me how it happened so we can fix the problem together?

### Start with the positives

The internet can be a fantastic place for children, providing them with exciting opportunities. Talking about the positives of going online, keeping the conversations broad and asking your child's opinion shows that you are interested in all aspects of their online world. Remain open-minded, and remember children use the internet differently to adults. To be dismissive of online apps, games or trends may put off your child from continuing any conversations.

Encouraging your child to discuss what they enjoy about going online can be a helpful bridge to talking about safety messages and more difficult issues in the future.

### Working together

Get your family together to discuss how you use technology and what you use it for. Come to a joint agreement on using it safely and responsibly, and work together to set clear expectations and boundaries. Let your child know what they can do if anything happens online that is worrying, upsetting or confusing, and remind them they can always talk to you about anything.

Make discussions with your child about their online experiences a regular part of family life. If your child mentions something you haven't heard of, ask them to show you, or explain in more detail. You could also do your own research, and discuss ways you can support your child to use technology safely together.

Use the Childnet Family Agreement to guide discussions around your family's internet use. Download a copy at [childnet.com/family-agreement](https://www.childnet.com/family-agreement).

### Have a chat...

- How do you find video/profiles/games you like online?
- What is it that you like about this...? (e.g. apps/websites/games)

### Talk it over...

- Are there any updates/new features to your favourite apps/games? Can you show me how they work?
- What can we do as a family to help keep each other safe online?
- What would you do if...? (e.g. you watched a worrying video, you were given a mean message)

### 10 Key messages to share with your child

However and whenever you have a conversation with your child, here are 10 top tips you can share to support them in staying safe online.

- Always always come forward** - If you're worried about something, this is the most important thing to let your child know, and a way to give them confidence to speak to you when they need support.
- What's what you can do** - Give your child strategies to deal with upsetting experiences online.
- Remember that not everyone who looks nice online is who they are** - Remind your child to always tell an adult if anyone they only know online makes them feel uncomfortable, or asks to meet up or share personal information or images.
- Keep your personal information safe, and don't give it to strangers** - This includes full names, contact details, and real-time locations.
- Remember to think before you post** - Remind them if it's not okay offline, it's not okay online.
- This is before you post** - Help your child to be aware that their online actions can have consequences for themselves and others.
- Remember to ask for help** - Asking for, and receiving permission from others online is important before sharing images, adding people to group chats, etc.
- Remember to not accept or be a critical thinker to find accurate information** - Help your child to be a critical thinker to find accurate information.
- Think before you speak** - Remind your child that nobody's life is as perfect as it may seem online, and judging yourself against others' online lives isn't a fair comparison.
- Remember how going online makes you feel and what you need to do** - Your child may need support in doing this, such as breaks and reminders.



## HSL Production: Annie



That's a wrap! Our annual school production went out with a bang in the last week of term and we could not be prouder of our students. From the moment the show launched, the students have put their heart and soul into every aspect of this show and we have loved seeing them grow. We welcomed a huge number of Year 7s into the show family this year, some were even brave enough to audition for lead roles! We are so pleased we can showcase a wide variety of talent across all year groups – and it is still growing!

Show week was an absolute triumph and the atmosphere in school was electric. The students were fueled with adrenaline and even though they were tired they brought their A game in every performance and quite literally went out with a bang each night!

We pride ourselves on HSL productions being student-led and we have valued every student's input from the onstage performers to all of those involved in backstage elements – the show literally wouldn't have happened without everyone doing their bit! It has also been so lovely to see our older students starting to teach our younger students certain roles as they start their journey of productions.

With next year's show already booked and planning meetings starting to happen, the students are already excited to know what it is going to be and have been making lots of guesses. Do you think they've guessed it right? Well, you'll be finding out sooner than you think....watch this space!

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a very heartfelt thanks to all of our parents, carers and wider HSL community for your support of the show. Whether you've helped with line learning, sourcing costumes, picking up from rehearsals, watching the show or have dealt with the soundtrack on repeat for the last 6 months, we are incredibly grateful! We know it can be very full on and tiring but the students have had an absolutely fantastic time, read their thoughts on the next page!



## HSL Production: Annie

### What was the best part about being in the show?

“I enjoyed the feel of everyone being a part of it and no matter what part we took we we’re all connected and happy during the production.” Joe, Year 9

“There is no possible way I can choose one bit. It was all amazing. Meeting many and many new people and making new friends. The show nights filled with constant excitement. The rehearsals that were so much fun to take part in! There is no way I can choose a favourite.”

Julie, Year 10

“Feeling like what you created ( the hoodies and program) were really appreciated and also looking at it as a final product!” Millie, Year 7

“I made so many friends across different years and tutor groups” Rubi, Year 8

“The MANY memories and laughter all throughout the show since September!” Emma, Year 8

“Having everyone support me and the same in return. We are a community in the Annie cast!”

Emily, Year 8

### If someone was unsure about doing the show next year, what advice would you give them?

“Honestly just go for it! It doesn’t matter what you do in the show whether you are a makeup artist, an actor or someone backstage, we could not do the show without you and trust me it is the most exciting experience in the school by far!” Emma, Year 8

“Make sure you understand the amount of commitment it takes to be in a show and make sure your prepared to give 110% commitment and energy. You need to be prepared to prioritise the show as you have made the commitments” Charlotte, Year 9

“If you are looking for fun and excitement then the show is perfect for you! Also, I think if everyone gave it a go, everyone would have the time of their lives!” Anna, Year 7

“I was terrified when I joined and I looked around and I wasn’t the only one. It is so easy to make friends and that is what helps to get through the hard times.” Freya, Year 7



# HSL Production: Annie





# HSL Production: Annie





# HSL Production: Annie





# HSL Production: Annie





## Spotlight on Subjects

# English

This term, pupils at The High School Leckhampton have been exploring a variety of engaging and challenging topics in their English lessons.

In their Literacy Toolkit lessons, Year 7 have been immersing themselves in the novel *Skellig* by David Almond, developing their analytical skills and exploring its themes of transformation and belonging. In their English lessons, they have also started their exciting journey into the Gothic genre, experimenting with dark and atmospheric writing techniques to create their own spine-chilling narratives.

Year 8 have been honing their persuasive writing skills by debating a topical issue: should screen time be banned? Pupils have been crafting balanced arguments and learning how to structure compelling, well-evidenced responses using rhetorical devices. They've now started their poetry topic and have been exploring WWI and how poetry was used to express feelings towards the war.

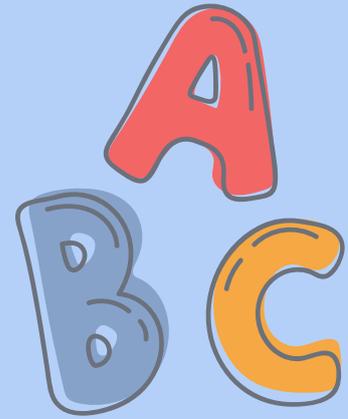
Year 9 have been exploring human rights and activism through the Words That Burn poetry scheme by Amnesty International. They have analysed Langston Hughes' *I Dream a World* and written their own poetry envisioning a fairer society, linking literature to real-world issues and identifying their Rights.





## Spotlight on Subjects

# English



Year 10 have just completed their study of A Christmas Carol and are now deep into revision for their upcoming mock exams. They have been refining their exam techniques for Language paper 2, practising timed responses, and deepening their understanding of key themes and characters in preparation for their assessments.

Across all year groups, pupils have been developing their confidence in reading, writing, and spoken communication, as well as thinking critically about the world around them. The English department is incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and hard work—we look forward to seeing their continued progress!





## Year 10 Visit to Macbeth at The Globe

Last week, all of Year 10 had the incredible opportunity to visit London and watch Macbeth at Shakespeare's Globe. As part of the Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank project, this specially adapted performance brought the tragedy to life in an engaging and accessible way.

Seeing their GCSE set text performed live on stage was an invaluable experience, helping students to deepen their understanding of Shakespeare's language, characters, and themes. Watching the play in its intended theatrical setting made the story feel more vivid and real, reinforcing their classroom studies in an unforgettable way.

Beyond the theatre, the trip was also a fantastic chance to take in some of London's most famous landmarks. Students were thrilled to see Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, and St Paul's Cathedral before walking across the iconic Millennium Bridge to reach The Globe.

This experience combined education with excitement, making it a truly memorable day. A huge thank you to the English department for organising the trip.

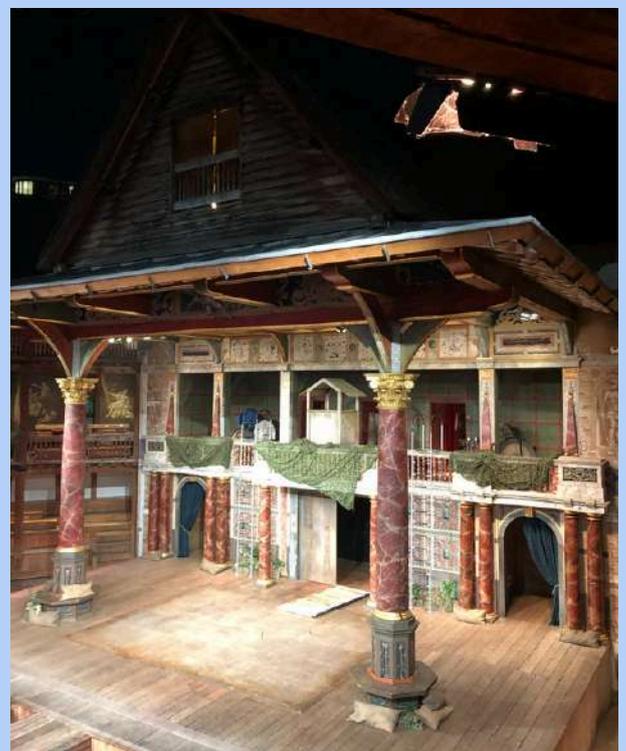
### What did you enjoy about the trip?

"The acting was great, especially the witches!"

"The open roof created a mysterious and exciting ambience."

"We liked how movement was used, including back flips and body contortion."

"There was audience participation from the groundlings!"





## MFL updates

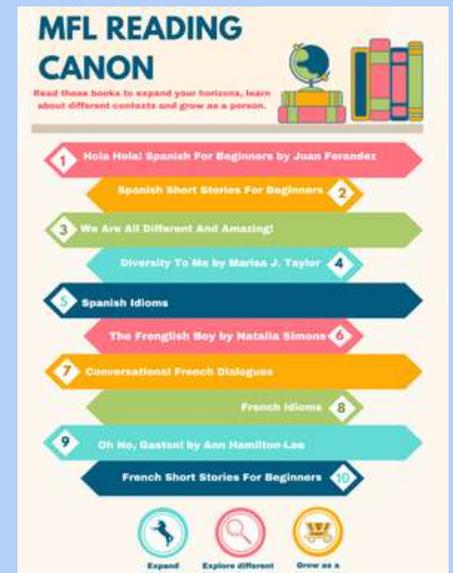
### Jour de la Francophonie

We have once again received some fantastic entries for this year's "Jour de la Francophonie" competition, where students and staff were asked to share their favourite French word. Some old favourites like "oiseau" and "oui" made a reappearance and food items also proved very popular this year. The longest French word "anticonstitutionnellement" made an entry for the first time this year too! Some lovely reasons were given for choices based on the meanings and sounds of the different French words. Congratulations to our winning entries from Theo Allen (7WI2) Santi Sharma-Cote (7WI1) and Opie Venn Smith (7WI1), as well as 7CH for their fantastic group entry. Staff entries were also very much appreciated and there will be a separate staff prize. Bon travail tout le monde!



### MFL Reading Canon

Have you seen our Reading Canon for MFL in the library yet? Year 7 have been researching what we have on offer and sharing their favourites. There has been some beautiful examples of work reviewing Oh no Gaston!, French Idioms and The Frenglish Boy. A special mention goes to Evan Harrison, Isla Kellie and Megan Edwards from 7WI2, as well as Phe Greening from 7CH, for their exceptional work.



### Linguists of the Month

We are pleased to announce our Linguists of the Month for March:

French – Millie Doobie (Y8)

Spanish – Nate Long (Y9)

Both students have displayed remarkable commitment to their language studies, consistently showcasing a love for learning and a strong work ethic. Congratulations to them both on their outstanding accomplishments – keep up the excellent work!

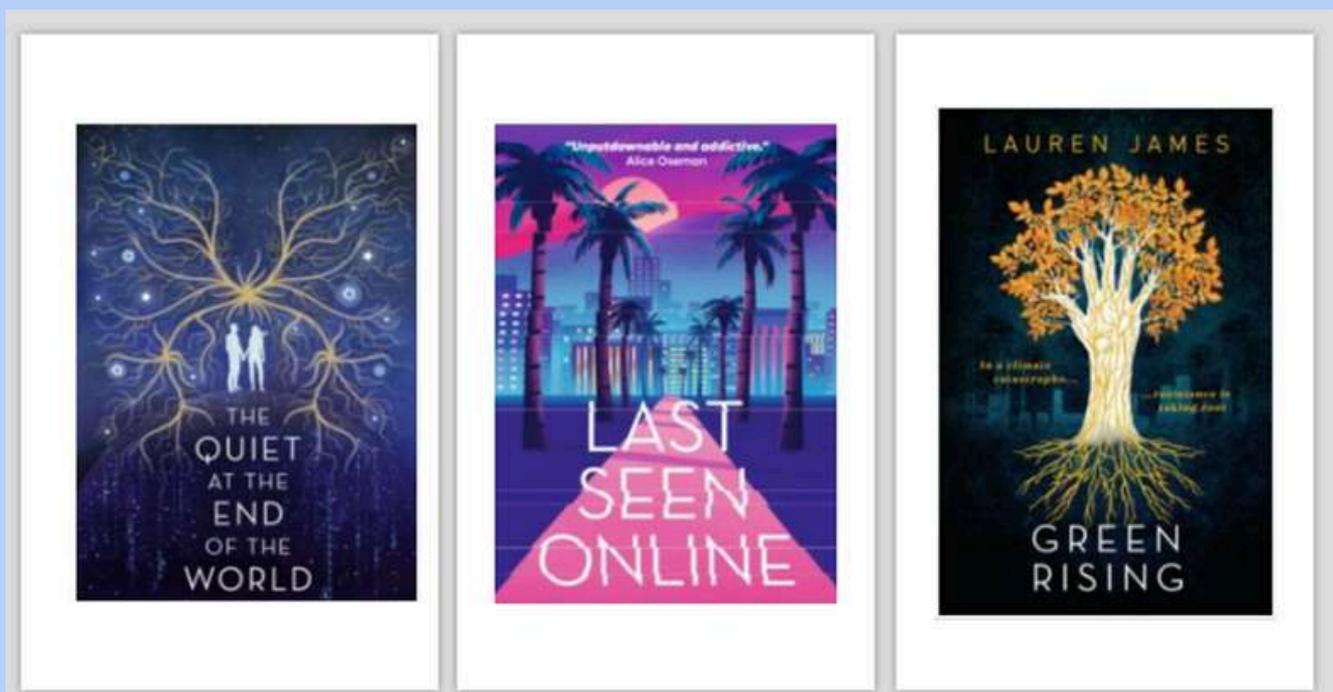


## LRC update

We've had a busy few weeks in the LRC. We enjoyed hosting author Lauren James for a writing workshop with some Year 9s. To celebrate World Book Day we invited students to recommend their favourite books through fun, crafty and mindful activities. We welcomed all Year 7s to a library skills session, learning how to organise books alphabetically by last name and completing a scavenger hunt. This has been well-received and given students an opportunity to further explore our wonderful resources.

Thank you to all those who have donated books so far. It is greatly appreciated. We would also be keen to receive any donations of teen magazines, so please keep us in mind if you are having a clear out.

Here is a selection of the Lauren James books we have in the library:





## Extra Curricular activities

### Macrame Club

Beth in Year 7 was the first to complete her pot hanger in macrame club this year and we are now moving on to make 3D hearts and heart coasters! Well done to Beth and all of the macrame group.



### ENGAGE council

Some members of the ENGAGE council met with our local councillor Emma Nelson last month to discuss some concerns students raised about lighting in Burrows Field, the shared cycleway and footway and the need for a pedestrian crossing on Church Road. Ms Nelson was really helpful and our petitions are being completed read to send to the local and borough councils. This is one way HSL encourage our students to be active participants in our local community.



## PE News

### Indoor Table Cricket

On Tuesday 18th March, HSL took a team of pupils to take part in the Regional Table Cricket Event at The University of Gloucestershire. We were making our debut in the competition which followed on from some coaching we received by Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation last term.

Our pupils made an excitable but tentative start and we unfortunately lost our first game by 4 runs. That didn't hold us back though as we won our next two games before lunch meaning that we went through to the semi finals as group runners up.

In the semi finals, we played a team from Bristol (former winners of the competition) so we knew that we were in for a challenging game. Going into the last over, we were chasing the game but we scored 19 runs meaning we propelled ourselves into the final.

With huge optimism and lots of energy, we played our best table cricket in the final. Fielders and batters were exceptional and the teamwork that we showed was a huge part of our success. We won the final and have been put forward to represent the county at Edgbaston Cricket Centre on Monday 12th May 2025!

What a great achievement for our pupils. The energy when we returned to school was a joy to witness. A thoroughly enjoyable day out which we can't wait to do all over again.





## PE News

### Netball Teams at District Tournaments

This month, our Year 7, Year 8, and Year 10 netball teams took part in the district tournaments held at Well Place. With the sun shining, all involved had a fantastic time playing competitive fixtures against both state and private schools.

Our Year 10 team, despite having a small squad, showed incredible determination and displayed some impressive netball throughout the tournament. Their resilience and teamwork were truly commendable.

The Year 7 team made an outstanding debut in district netball, representing the school with skill and enthusiasm. They narrowly missed out on qualifying for the semi-finals by just one goal, demonstrating their potential for future success.

Meanwhile, our Year 8 team faced a challenging pool, but their hard work on the court shone through as they showcased excellent netball skills. The team finished 3rd in their section and narrowly missed out on a semi-final spot. Their commitment and teamwork were evident in every match they played.

A huge well done to all the players for their dedication and sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing their continued progress in future competitions.





# PE News

## Sports Leaders Update

Well done to our Year 8 Sports Leaders. We had over 40 students involved in the running of the Cheltenham Primary District Netball Tournament, which we host at HSL. Our Sports Leaders took on roles of coaching local primary school students, umpiring matches and working with Primary School teachers to support in the organisation of the teams. They also ran the tournament for the day - organising the timings, the recording of results. Our leader each had to run a presentation for their team at the end of the day and then organised a full presentation to all participants and teachers.

Our leaders were excellent ambassadors for the school and we were very proud of their professionalism throughout the day.

### Girls football

Our Y7&8s hosted Cheltenham College earlier in the month. The match was played in great spirits and gave lots of opportunities for our girls to experience more football in preparation for the league fixtures. We won both games 8-0. Well done girls. On 22nd March, the Year 7 girls played against Chosen Hill in glorious sunshine. The game was well-matched, with end-to-end play. The scoreline could have gone in either team's favour, but the final result was a 0-0 draw.

### Y7 Boys Football

We have played two league fixtures this month and come away with two great victories. Firstly, we beat Bournside in a close encounter. We scored a late goal to win the game 2-1.

Towards the end of the month, we convincingly beat Balcarras 8-2. This was an incredible performance with every player showing huge amounts of skill, work-rate, desire and a high level of intensity. All key components we ask our footballers to play with.

This result was because of the team effort and willingness to overpower our opponents. The win has secured us first place in the division, meaning we go through to the knockout stages.

Well done boys!



## PE News

### Year 10 Boys Football Match Report: 1-1 Draw vs Balcarras

The Year 10 football team played out an exciting 1-1 draw in a tense match full of strong teamwork. After a solid first half, the team broke the deadlock with a powerful header from Josh Rudd. The opposition quickly responded, levelling the score with a powerful shot from outside the box. Both teams pressed for a winner in the final moments, but despite some close chances, neither side could find the net. Great defensive work and resilience were shown all round, and while a win was within reach, the draw was a fair reflection of a hard-fought game.

### Prince Henry's 2-0 HSL

We played an away fixture vs Prince Henry's for the first time. It was played on their brand new 4G Astro and ultimately we struggled to get to grips with the surface.

We dominate the first half without testing the opposition goalkeeper. The second half continued in similar fashion, with Prince Henry's scoring two late goals to win the game. There were some good individual performances but we will need to show more in the coming fixtures to pick up some more points in the group stage.

### Cricket

#### U13's & U15's Girls Indoor

The U13's team, a mixture of year 7's & 8's took part in a Round 1 Triangular at Bournside School, playing Churchdown too. The U13's were victorious due to some pin-point bowling from Daisy Mason in the final over. This put us through to Round 2, hosting Kings Gloucester in our sports hall at HSL. With Bella captaining the experienced and confident squad, they were well aware of the quality that Kings had, but HSL chased down the total of 76 set by Kings in 8 overs. Knowing this would be tough,

Hattie and Bella opened the batting, unfortunately we lost some wickets early on and the run rate wasn't where we needed to be. Impressive batting from Amber, Eden and Edie put us back on track. We got to the final over, Neve and Daisy needed to score 14 runs from 6 balls, not looking likely as they rotated their opening bowler back on. BUT, Neve was bowled a no-ball above her head which she absolutely smashed down the sportshall, along with picking up a few runs from the bat and a wide too. Daisy was left facing the last ball with 2 runs needed to win. The whole HSL team shouting "RUN!" as soon as she made contact with the ball. They did it! HSL won by 1 run, progressing to the finals day in a few weeks time.



## PE News

### HSL Boys' Hockey Tournament Report - February 2025

The HSL boys kicked off their tournament journey against Penir, with high hopes but facing an early challenge. Despite strong defensive efforts, particularly from Noah Guest, who was an absolute wall in defence and Lachie Hart in goal. The team fell short with a 0-2 loss. The defense worked tirelessly to keep the scoreline respectable, but Penir's sharp attack proved too much to handle.

Next up were Wells Cathedral College, and the boys unfortunately couldn't turn the tide, losing 0-3. The result stung, but it sparked a shift in mentality. The HSL boys weren't about to give up just yet. Their determination ignited, and they came out firing in their third match against Collyston.

The Collyston game saw a fantastic display of grit and teamwork. The match ended in a 0-0 draw, but the players were proud of their effort. Jake Harris and Seb Heather stood out with some exceptional play, battling relentlessly in midfield and defense. A particularly unfortunate moment for Oliver Freebury saw him hit the post, but the team didn't let it get them down. They kept pushing, working hard right until the final whistle, which undoubtedly boosted their morale for the rest of the day.

This new-found confidence showed in their next match against Leweston, where they earned a 2-0 win. The boys had fought hard and played with precision, finally reaping the rewards for their persistence. It was a well-deserved victory that showed the true spirit of the HSL team.





## PE News

Match report by Lachie Hart Year 10

Warminster proved another tough opponent, and despite some valiant efforts, the match ended in another 0-0 draw. The defense held strong once again, with solid performances across the field, but neither team could find the breakthrough.

To round off the day, the HSL boys faced Prior Park, who were the best in the pool. Despite a 0-3 loss, the HSL boys didn't go down quietly. Zac Litman, in particular, was a standout, making some fantastic tackles and ensuring Prior Park had to work hard for every inch of possession. Though the scoreline didn't reflect their effort, it was clear the HSL boys had given it their all.

The tournament may have started as an uphill battle, but the boys showed incredible resilience, teamwork, and determination. They fought hard, had fun, and gained valuable experience, which will undoubtedly serve them well as they head towards Millfield 2026. It may have been a tough day on the pitch, but the HSL boys proved that with heart and spirit, anything is possible. Bring on the next challenge!

- Lachie Hart, Year 10



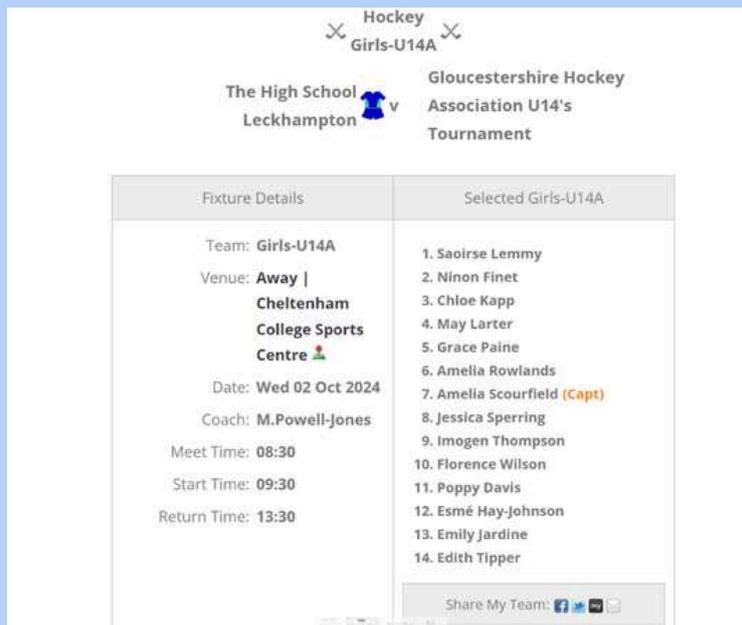
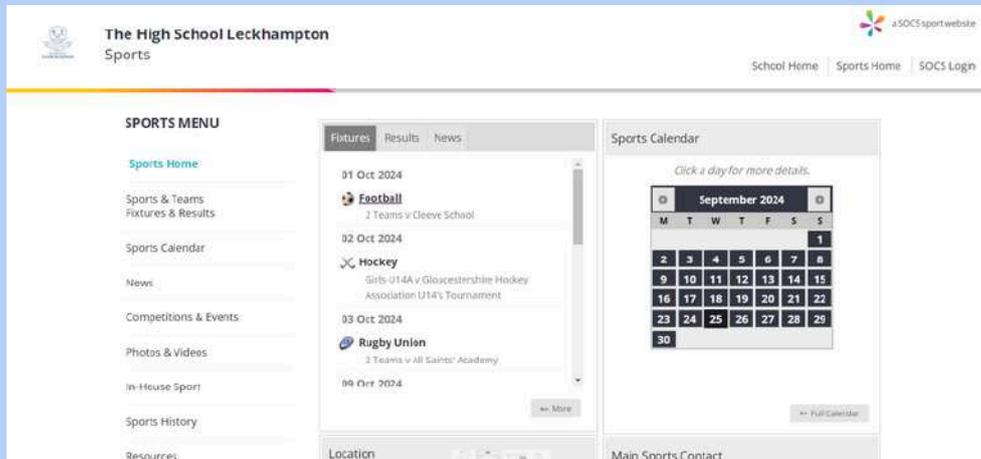


# PE News - SOCS reminder

A reminder that we are now working with the SOCS platform to streamline our fixtures and team sheets.

This platform allows us to post our latest sports calendars, giving parents access through the school website.

You will be able to view fixture lists, kick-off times, and return schedules. Emails will be sent to students and parents when they are selected for a school team, and we will continue to post paper copies on the fixture boards outside the PE office.





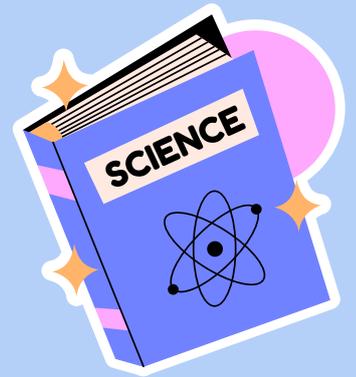
## Science Updates

British Science Week: 10th - 14th March 2025

From Monday 10th until Friday 14th March HSL celebrated British Science Week 2025!

On Thursday 13th March, two Year 7 tutor groups were lucky enough to be selected for a Space to Learn Masterclass delivered by the National Space Academy.

7IS1 and 7WI2 learned about forces in Space and got the opportunity to design and test their own rockets!



Every day during British Science Week students were introduced to a different person working in the STEM industry and the skills that are required to succeed in their job through having the opportunity to attend a session every lunchtime in the Science Department.

In total, there were 76 attendees across the five lunchtime events, with 9 students attending every single one!

Miss Kennedy would like to thank Eva Brunwin, Joe Harris, Adam Leach, Daniel Chambers, Elijah Callaghan, Freya Wall, Henry Taylor, Justin Collier and Archie Allen for supporting all five lunchtime events.



Joe Harris 7IS1 provided some feedback on why he enjoyed each lunchtime event:

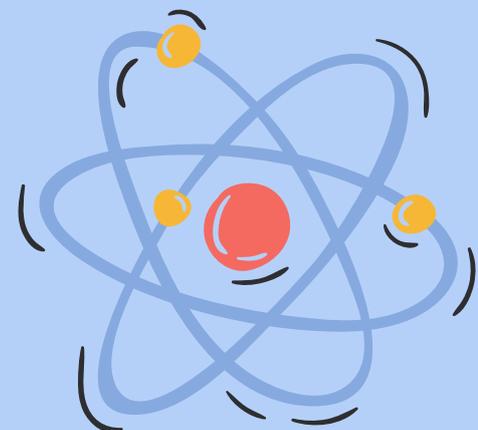
On Monday I particularly enjoyed getting all my questions answered by real life scientists and some of the discussions were great too.

On Tuesday the explosions were amazing and cool - I liked the one where all the purple light and smoke came out the top of the test tube.

On Wednesday I found it fascinating to learn a lot more about one of our dedicated charities WaterAid, and also the subject of plasma etching.

On Thursday it was fun to learn about nuclear power plants and how they are most likely the way forward energy-wise.

On Friday it was good to get to know little tips and tricks in the Oxbridge admission process and to have a taste of some of the projects you might encounter as an engineer.





# Year 7 Science Masterclass





## Science updates

**Year 7 Science Exam: 14th May 2025**

The Year 7 Science Exam will take place during lessons on Wednesday 14th May 2025.

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.



**The Eureka's Physics Competition**

Into music, sport, art, or something else? Whatever your thing – channel your creativity into something special with The Eureka's: <https://theeureka.co.uk/>

The Eureka's is an annual physics competition for students aged 11-16 in the United Kingdom and Ireland. It has been conceived by the Institute of Physics to broaden and diversify the range of people doing physics after age 16.

This year, we challenge entrants to answer the question:  
How can physics help you see the world differently?

Any student aged 11-16 can take part and all entries that meet the criteria will be accepted. Submissions should show students interacting with physics creatively and in a way that we might not expect. An inspiring judging panel will determine which entries demonstrate exceptional originality and creativity, with a number of prizes up for grabs for students and their schools including £1000.

The competition will close on 9 June 2025.

For more information please see the task on the VLE.





## Science updates

### CEP ChangeMakers Air Quality Project

We are delighted to announce that our HSL ChangeMakers were awarded £1000 from Cheltenham Borough Council to purchase air quality monitors to monitor and raise awareness of the air quality around our school.

Our HSL ChangeMakers care deeply about the environment and the impact that air pollution can have on our local area and on our own health. They have written the following message to share with you as part of their air quality project:

Air quality is the term we use to describe how polluted the air we breathe in is. Bad air quality contributes to ozone, regional haze, and global climate change. Bad air quality can cause many diseases including strokes, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, pneumonia, and cataracts - these are all caused because of bad air quality and pollution. Air quality varies around the world, but at our school it is our job to control the factors affecting it and making sure none of our students or staff must worry about our air quality. We can improve our air quality and make it safer for us by organising car shares, walking or cycling to school where possible and switching off the car engine when not in use (not idling). Thank you.

To help reward students and staff who cycle to school, the Eco-Committee are going to run a project called Lockhampton Gold next term.

### What is lockhamptonGold?

LOCKHAMPTON GOLD IS A PROJECT THAT ATA (ACTIVE TRAVEL AMBASSADOR) IS RUNNING

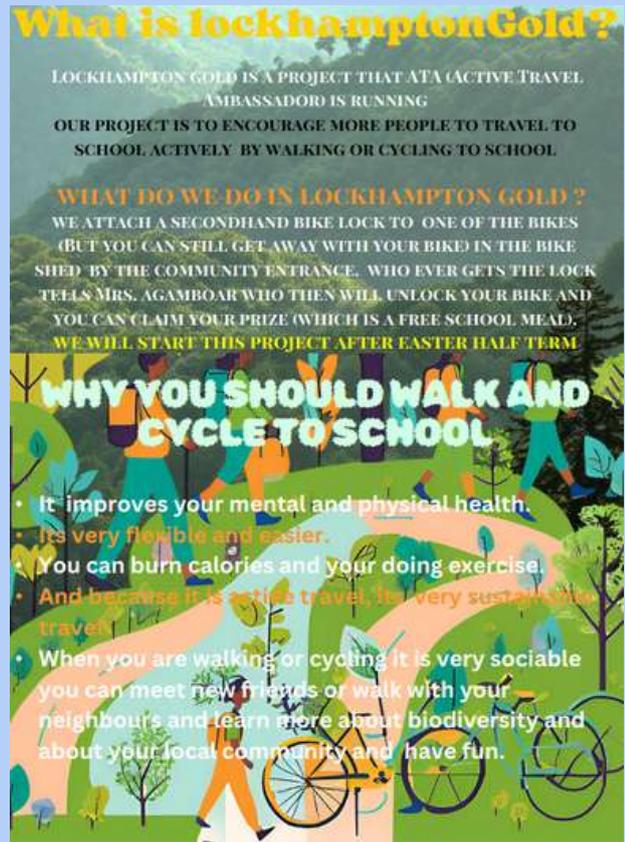
OUR PROJECT IS TO ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO TRAVEL TO SCHOOL ACTIVELY: BY WALKING OR CYCLING TO SCHOOL.

#### WHAT DO WE DO IN LOCKHAMPTON GOLD?

WE ATTACH A SECONDHAND BIKE LOCK TO ONE OF THE BIKES (BUT YOU CAN STILL GET AWAY WITH YOUR BIKE) IN THE BIKE SHED BY THE COMMUNITY ENTRANCE. WHO EVER GETS THE LOCK TELLS MRS. AGAMBOAR WHO THEN WILL UNLOCK YOUR BIKE AND YOU CAN CLAIM YOUR PRIZE (WHICH IS A FREE SCHOOL MEAL). WE WILL START THIS PROJECT AFTER EASTER HALF TERM.

### WHY YOU SHOULD WALK AND CYCLE TO SCHOOL

- It improves your mental and physical health.
- Its very flexible and easier.
- You can burn calories and your doing exercise.
- And because it's active travel, its very sustainable travel.
- When you are walking or cycling it is very sociable you can meet new friends or walk with your neighbour's and learn more about biodiversity and about your local community and have fun.





## Science updates

### ATA Campaign Junction Event: 5th March 2025

On Wednesday 5th March our Active Travel Ambassadors journeyed to Gloucester Shire Hall and back by train to bid for £200 of funding for their Lockhampton Gold project.

The students had a fantastic day; they were successfully awarded the grant of £200 and also received some amazing feedback from Steph, our ATA Coordinator:

What an event! Your ATAs were brilliant and should be really proud of themselves.

They spoke eloquently and communicated confidently during the pitch and while answering the experts' questions. Their enthusiasm really shone through, and I believe their high level of competency led to more in-depth questioning from the experts, which they handled superbly.





# Science updates

## Tree Planting at Westonbirt Arboretum: 7th March 2025

On Friday 7th March, 24 Year 9 students visited Westonbirt Arboretum to plant trees as part of the Silk Wood Community Planting Project: Silk Wood Community Planting Project | Forestry England. The students worked hard during the day to plant 110 trees including Italian alder, European pear, Holly and Field maple and really enjoyed their visit. We have received a certificate for our participation in the planting project and all students have received an individual certificate thanking them for their efforts.





## Science updates

### Bat Walk: 17th March 2025

At dusk on Monday 17th 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 searching for bats. Although it was too cold for the bats to be active the event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and Miss Kennedy would like to thank the students, staff and families who came along.

The next bat walk will take place in October 2025.





## Science updates

Green Space Development Trip to Leckhampton Hill: 21st March 2025

On Friday 21st March, a group of Eco-Committee members and other HSL students walking up and joined Cheltenham Borough Council's Green Space Development Team and FOLK (Friends of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common) volunteers on Leckhampton Hill to carry out conservation work.

The students had a fantastic time cutting back and burning gorse and tracking the cows roaming around the hill. There were no complaints and the volunteers were very impressed with how much our students achieved and enjoyed the experience.

Please see the feedback below from some students who came on the trip:

The trip involved going up Leckhampton Hill to do conservation work. We were split into two groups - one cleared away and burnt gorse (an invasive plant) and the other went searching for cows in order to count them. We then had lunch and afterwards the groups switched their roles so everybody had an opportunity to do both activities. Leckhampton Hill is iconic to our school as it's home to Devil's Chimney, a part of our school's crest. Justin Collier 10W1

I think this trip was so fun and was an awesome experience that many students would enjoy doing. I love how we got to do some work to help our local hill. Charlotte Heap 7W11

I think it's really important for HSL students to go on trips like this as it's very fun and it feels really good when you help the environment by clearing back the gorse. Overall, I really enjoyed the trip and think everyone should apply - it was so much fun. Elsie Stewart 7W12

I really enjoyed this trip and I learned lots of interesting facts about the trees and snakes; I also enjoyed cutting down the gorse as I found it very satisfying. Overall, I think these trips are a great opportunity to the students as they allow us to appreciate and explore nature and teach us lots of new things which will help us protect the environment. Tillie Robinson 10W1



# Science updates





## 2025 Young Science Writer of the Year Award

The deadline for the Young Science Writer of the Year Award was on Friday 7th March. This competition, open to students aged 14-16 from schools across the country, aims to inspire and uncover the next generation of talented science writers. With essay topics as far reaching as climate change and space exploration the competition encourages participants to think more deeply about science and its impact on the world around them. Whilst we wait to learn of any success in the fiercely fought national competition,

We'd like to share an extract from an entry by Justin Collier in 10WI:

'Today, we are more dependent on technology than ever before. With over 98% of UK adults aged 16-24 and over 50% of the global population owning a smartphone, one may question whether society can even function without it. A key example of our dependency on technology was the recent 2024 CrowdStrike incident, when a faulty security software update caused widespread IT outages, disabling approximately 8.5 million computers worldwide. This had catastrophic effects, such as GPs being unable to treat patients, planes being unable to take off and small businesses losing essential sales. This proves how integrated technology is into our society, and therefore, I believe it is important that we understand how it functions.

The most important part of any electronic device is the Central Processing Unit (CPU). This component can be described as the 'brain' of the device. It interprets (translates), processes (calculates) and executes (runs) instructions, which are given by programmers. The job of every other component is to either assist or allow the CPU to perform its many functions, meaning the CPU is the most complicated part of any device.

To comprehend how a CPU functions, we must first understand how it represents information. Everything to a CPU is '1s' and '0s'. We call this format, 'binary,' since 'bi' means 'two,' and a single binary digit (bit) is limited to representing two different values. CPUs work in binary because they run on electricity, meaning ones and zeros are the easiest and most efficient way to represent information. By brute-forcing enough ones and zeros in a specific order, a computer can represent anything.'





## Manchester Marathon

Next month, Mrs Holland is running Manchester Marathon to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Care and also Young Minds Trust. She has said "At the start of the year HSL students chose Water Aid and Young Minds Trust as two charities they wanted to help raise money for. We have encouraged them to raise money in a variety of different ways and so I decided to also do my part and fundraise for Young Minds by doing the Manchester Marathon. I am also raising money for Macmillan Cancer Care but I also recognise the important work Young Minds does for our students and how many people benefit from it. Training has gone well (so far) but there have been a few hiccups along the way and my legs are certainly looking forward to a rest. I am not bothered about the time, just finishing will be an accomplishment to be proud of. I just think it is really important to set yourself a challenge, plan for it, work for it and then (hopefully) complete your aim. Thank you so much for any support you can offer - believe me, it will help me complete it!"

If you would like to sponsor Mrs Holland please click on the links below:

For Young Minds Trust [https://www.justgiving.com/page/helen-holland-6?  
utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/helen-holland-6?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

For MacMillan Cancer Care [https://www.justgiving.com/page/helen-holland-4?  
utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=SM](https://www.justgiving.com/page/helen-holland-4?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=SM)

Best of luck to Mrs Holland from all at HSL!





## PTFA news

**ENTRIES  
CLOSE AT  
MIDDAY  
FRIDAY  
2ND MAY**



# QUIZ NIGHT



**WITH FISH & CHIP SUPPER**

**FRIDAY 9TH MAY 7-10PM**

**@ THE HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON**



**£15 per person  
Max 6 people per team**

**Book at  
<https://bit.ly/THSLQuiz2025>**

**FISH & CHIPS  
INCLUDED**



Parents | Teachers | Friends & Family  
Local Residents | (No Children, Sorry)



## Forest Green Rovers

FGR Community Soccer Camps are back this Easter half-term!

Taking place at The New Lawn Stadium on 16th, 17th, 23rd, and 24th April, our camps provide a fantastic chance for girls and boys of all abilities aged 5-13 to enjoy football in a fun, inclusive environment. Children will have the opportunity to stay active, learn new skills, make new friends, and develop their football knowledge, all under the guidance of our qualified and experienced coaches.

Parents can use the code Earlybird to receive a discount if they book within the next week - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fgr-community-soccer-camps-ages-5-13-nailsworth-april-tickets-1292652762209?aff=oddtcreator>

Also, FGR are taking part in Green Footballs Great Save - Did you know that an estimated 100,000 tonnes of sportswear ends up in UK landfill every year? That includes thousands of football shirts and boots that could have been re-used or re-homed. As the world's greenest football club, we need your help reducing waste. You can help by donating your old kit in exchange for a free match ticket in the North Stand!

We're opening up Reception as a Kit Donation Station in the lead-up to our next home game against Solihull Moors. Simply bring your unwanted football shirts, sports kit, or boots, and we'll exchange them for a free North Stand ticket for the match!

Don't worry if you can't make before the match on these dates, our Kit & Boot Donation Points will be in the Fan Zone before kick-off on Saturday 29th March. All information can be found here - <https://www.fgr.co.uk/news/be-part-of-the-great-save/>





## Local news



Springbank Community Group CiC, are providing a weekly youth club during term time of positive activities for children and young people.

Young people will be able to access a range of sessions including sports, arts and crafts, cooking, competitions and much more, as well as having a safe space to hang out with their friends.

These sessions are funded by Brizen Young Peoples Centre.

For more info contact:  
[youthwork@springbankcommunitygroup.org](mailto:youthwork@springbankcommunitygroup.org)

Sessions will be ran from:  
 Brizen Young Peoples Centre, Up  
 Hatherley Way, Cheltenham,  
 GL51 4BB

Monday  
 6-8pm  
 Ages  
 14-18

Friday  
 5-6.30pm  
 Ages  
 8-11

6.30-8pm  
 Ages  
 11-14

£2 entry



# JET AGE

launched by author

## MUSEUM

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# 84



84TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE JET AGE

## SATURDAY 26 APRIL 2025

WHITTLE - THE JET PIONEER (65 MINS)

SCREENED AT 1030 AND 1445

AN AUDIENCE WITH IAN WHITTLE

30 MINUTES OF TALK AND Q & A

1145 AND 1400

NO BOOKING NECESSARY

Every year Jet Age Museum commemorates the anniversary of the birth of the Jet Age celebrating the genius of Sir Frank Whittle whose pioneering work on the jet engine led to the first flight of the Gloster E28/39 aircraft which left the ground at Brockworth, near Gloucester, during taxi trials in April 1941 - and the world of air travel we know today. This year all are welcome to visit the Museum to see the film: Whittle - The Jet Pioneer and to meet our Patron, Ian Whittle, a retired RAF and commercial airline pilot and son of Sir Frank Whittle.

Meteor Business Park, Cheltenham Road East,  
Gloucester GL2 9QL. Tel 01452 260078  
[www.jetagemuseum.org](http://www.jetagemuseum.org)



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

 01242 383351

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