

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been wonderful to welcome pupils back to school, especially in this glorious sunshine, and we've been pleased with the positive start to the summer term.

A special mention goes to our Year 10 students, who are currently sitting their Year 10 mock exams. They have approached this busy time with maturity and focus—well done to them all. We also wish them the very best as they head off on their work experience placements next week. We look forward to sharing more about their experiences in our next newsletter.

This month's edition highlights some of the fantastic events that the HSL community supported in the month of April in school, including our recent Eco Enrichment Day, the Cyber Explorers Club, and a huge congratulations to Mrs Holland on completing the Manchester Marathon—an incredible achievement!

We are also incredibly proud of Liv Lea and Freddie Hyde, who had leading roles in the Easter production of Wonka the Musical at the Everyman Theatre. They played to sold-out audiences, and having had the pleasure of attending myself, I can honestly say the performance was worthy of the West End.

Looking ahead, please don't miss the upcoming PTFA Fish and Chip Quiz Night—a fun-filled evening that raises important funds for the school. I would encourage as many of you as possible to come along and get involved!

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

Warm regards,

Helen Wood





Key Dates - Spring Term 2025

Monday 5 th May	Early May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6 th May	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Wednesday 7 th May	Year 8 Pitt Rivers trip - 8CH1, 8IS and 8LB
Friday 9 th May	Year 8 Pitt Rivers trip - 8WI and 8CH2
Friday 9 th May	PTFA quiz at 7pm
Wednesday 14 th May	Summer Recital at 6pm
Thursday 15 th May	GCSE Geography Fieldwork Day
Friday 16 th May	Silly Sports Day
Wednesday 21 st May	Post 16 Information Evening
Friday 23 rd -26 th May	GCSE Art trip to St. Ives





Safeguarding update

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility at HSL

How to report a concern:

- Speak directly to the DSL or DDSL
- Speak to a trusted adult
- Use the Safeguarding Flag on the VLE page to report anonymously

HSL Safeguarding team



Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Rebecca Vaughan
rkv@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Heads of House



DDSL: Vicky Bull (Windrush)



DDSL: George Collins (Lilley Brook)



DDSL: Kathrynne Nelmes (Chell)



DDSL: Laura Pike (Isbourne)



Hover over the flag on the front screen, it will come up as 'Safeguarding'. Click on the flag and complete the 'Safeguarding Report'.

Safeguarding Report

This is an anonymous form. If you have any concerns about a pupil at HSL, please fill this in. We'd like to thank you all for your support with keeping our pupils safe from harm.

* Required

1. What is the name of the pupil you are concerned about? *

2. What is your concern? *



Heads of House updates



As we move into the final term of the school year, we want to take a moment to reflect and celebrate the incredible energy, enthusiasm, and achievements of our students. It has been a fantastic few months at HSL, with our House spirit shining through in every competition, assembly, and daily interaction.

House Competitions: the battle for glory continues!

The House system at HSL has been buzzing with excitement as students have showcased their talents across a range of competitions. From the intensity of House Football and Basketball to the strategic duels of Mario Kart, the musical brilliance displayed in the House Music competition, and the agility and skill of House Badminton – our students have demonstrated outstanding teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship.

A Celebration of Achievement – ePraise points soaring!

We are incredibly proud of the sheer number of ePraise points being awarded across all year groups and all Houses. Whether it's for academic excellence, kindness, leadership, or determination, our students continue to impress with their commitment to being the best versions of themselves. The race for the top spot is close – who will finish the year as the leading House for ePraise points? Only time will tell, but we know our students will continue the good work.



Heads of House updates



House Assemblies - healthy mind, healthy future

This term, our House assemblies have focused on the importance of keeping our brains healthy. From managing stress to getting enough sleep, staying active, and fostering a positive mindset, students have been able to consider how to look after their mental and cognitive well-being.

Year 10 Prefect applications - a new generation of leaders

One of the most exciting moments in the school calendar happened just before Easter – the Year 10 Prefect application process. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to take on leadership roles, inspire younger peers, and contribute to the school community in meaningful ways. The standard of applications has been outstanding, and we cannot wait to see who will be stepping up to lead. In addition, Year 10 students are preparing for their work experience placements, which will provide them with invaluable insights into the world of work. We know they will represent HSL with pride and make the most of this incredible opportunity.

Looking Ahead - the final term awaits!

As we head into the last stretch of the academic year, there is still so much to achieve. With exams, House competitions, and summer events on the horizon, we are excited to see our students continue to challenge themselves and embrace new opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support – let's make this final term the best one yet!

The Heads of House, HSL



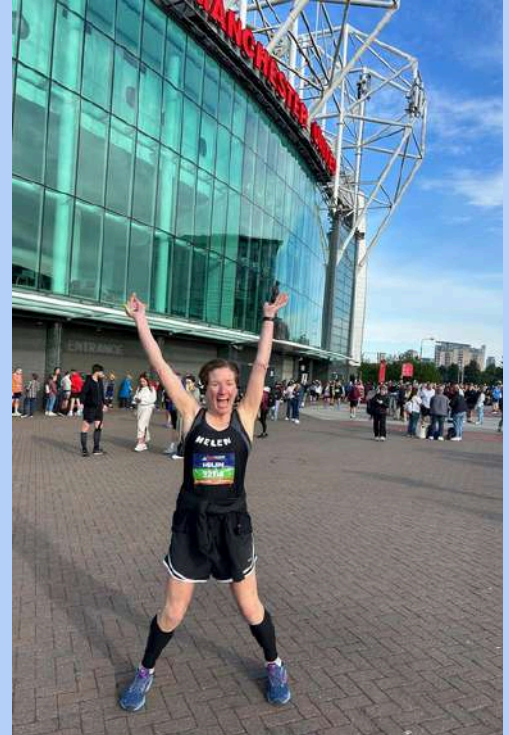
Manchester Marathon

At the end of April Mrs Holland completed the Manchester Marathon; raising money for both Macmillan Cancer Care and the school's nominated charity, Young Minds. It was a hot day, but she completed in a PB and is incredibly thankful for all the sponsorship people have pledged.

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

For MacMillan Cancer Care https://www.justgiving.com/page/helen-holland-4?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=SM





Cyber Explorers Cup

Six of our talented pupils recently took on an exciting and fast-paced national challenge as part of the Cyber Explorers Cup – and they did us proud! Charlie Perkins, Jacob Waddy, Isaac Cullen Jones, Dylan Cooper, Dylan Sutherland, and Henry Costello stepped up to represent our school in this year's competition, which tested students' problem-solving abilities and cybersecurity knowledge in a high-stakes scenario.

The competition followed a thrilling capture-the-flag format, where each challenge unlocked further puzzles and tasks, pushing the team's teamwork, critical thinking, and tech skills to the limit.

Our team showed exceptional skills and teamwork throughout, tackling complex problems with determination and creativity. Their brilliant performance left us hopeful for what's to come – with official results expected next week, we're all eagerly waiting to see if we're in with a chance of winning one of the incredible classroom prizes!

A huge well done to all involved – your hard work and dedication have made us extremely proud!





Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

If you were lucky enough to get tickets during the Easter break, you'd have seen our very own Freddie and Liv as two of the children in COD's sold-out production of Charlie and The Chocolate Factory at The Everyman Theatre. Both Freddie and Liv have worked tirelessly at rehearsals, completing a day at school and then heading into several hours of rehearsals ahead of opening night in the holidays. Taking on the roles of Mike and Violet, Freddie and Liv shone on stage and were incredibly convincing, funny and engaging in their roles. It is truly remarkable to watch our students flourish in the wider community and to perform at The Everyman is a huge achievement, especially with the rigorous audition process and competition for parts that naturally comes from getting involved in the theatre industry. Freddie and Liv are both valued members of our HSL production family and we love watching them perform on our stage but it was so inspiring to see them holding their own and performing to such a high standard with a very adult cast.

Miss Winters went along to support Freddie and Liv and met them at stage door to offer a huge congratulations and hear from them what the experience has been like:

Performing at the Everyman as a lead in an adult cast has been the most difficult, yet most rewarding experience of my theatre career so far. From the auditions to the final performance, the pressure has been at 110%. Despite that, I'm incredibly grateful to have had this opportunity. I truly wouldn't be at this level without the support of my peers—and especially Miss Winters, who constantly pushed me to pursue my dreams, even when I doubted myself. If you have a dream, go for it wholeheartedly—you never know where it might lead. I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't taken a chance on that audition.

Liv Lea, Year 8

Playing Mike Teevee was so fun! I got to play a character the complete opposite of me. I think my favourite part of the whole experience is stepping on the Everyman stage for the first time, it felt so magical. The rehearsal period was so great as we got to see the show just come together throughout the whole experience. On the show dates everyone was buzzing and so excited to do that show, it was tiring but we still pushed through and had an amazing time. All of the cast was so nice and helped throughout. I think this might be my favourite show I have done.

Freddie Hyde, Year 9





Science Updates

Year 8 Science Exam: 11th June 2025

The Year 8 Science Exam will take place during lessons on Wednesday 11th June 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 8.

Please see the VLE task called SCIENCE ASSESSMENT: Year 8 Science Exam for more information on when the exam will take place for each tutor group, which topics will be assessed, and how the students can revise for it. If you have any questions please let us know



The Great British Spring Clean: 21st March - 6th April 2025

The Great British Spring Clean took place this year between the 21st March and the 6th April.

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

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



Science Updates

Year 7 Science Trip to the Cheltenham Science Festival: Tuesday 3rd June 2025

On Tuesday 3rd June, The High School Leckhampton Science Department is running a science curriculum visit to the Cheltenham Science Festival. During the visit, all Year 7 students will have the opportunity to explore the interactive science zones that link to their KS3 Science Curriculum. In addition to this, we have secured places for every single student to attend a spectacular science show in Cheltenham Town Hall.

All Year 7 students should arrive at school as normal wearing school uniform and comfortable footwear for walking. They will need a lightweight rucksack containing any books or homework for lessons 1, 2 and 3, a pencil case, water bottle, packed lunch, raincoat, hat, any medication they may require including sun cream and optional spending money.

We will leave school between 11:30am and 12:00pm and walk approximately 40 minutes to the Cheltenham Science Festival in Imperial Gardens. We will walk back from Imperial Gardens and return to school at approximately 3:35pm.

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



Science Updates

Year 7 and Year 8 Science Trips to We the Curious

The Science Department ran trips to the We the Curious science centre in Bristol. As We the Curious was closed last year, the trip for Year 8 was rescheduled for this year along with the Year 7 trip.

During their visit, all Year 7 and Year 8 students were treated to an immersive session in the planetarium, an interactive science show, and plenty of time to explore the interactive exhibits linking to their KS3 Science Curriculum and beyond!

The students really enjoyed their visit to We the Curious and represented the school very positively and with pride.





Eco School Enrichment Day

On Tuesday 8th April, The High School Leckhampton hosted our second enrichment day of this academic year. All staff and students spent the day learning about the sustainable work of various organisations and how we could all live more sustainably ourselves.



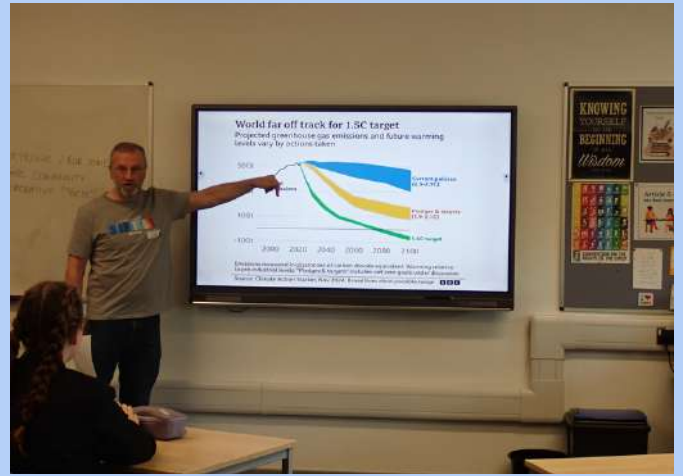
During the day, students had the opportunity to meet local individuals and organisations and learn about the work they do to protect our environment. We were very fortunate to have a number of visitors attending who ran an activity for our students including: Charlton Kings Home Energy, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cheltenham Zero, Cotswolds National Landscape, Forest Green Rovers Community, Gloucestershire Butterfly Conservation, Gloucestershire Community Energy Co-op, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Leckhampton Rovers Football Club, Planet Cheltenham, Plastic-Free Cheltenham, Severn Wye Energy Agency, Skateboard Academy UK, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, ThinkTravel - Gloucestershire County Council and WaterAid UK.

It was an important day for the school to raise awareness of a global issue, inspire our students to take action, and to reassure individuals who are worried about the impact of climate change that so much fantastic work is being done already by many people in our local community.

Miss Kennedy would like to thank all those who ran sessions during the day, and all staff and students who took part for their support and enthusiasm. You may have seen some of our students in the Gloucestershire Echo newspaper [attached] over the holidays as part of an article celebrating local efforts in planting hedges on Burrow's Field with Leckhampton Rovers Football Club!



Science Updates





Science Updates





Science Updates




PTFA News

The High School Leckhampton Parents Teachers & Friends Association

DIARY DATES



Friday 9th May: Quiz and Fish & Chips Night




 **HURRY!** Entries close at midday on Friday 2nd May!

 Submit your team here: <https://bit.ly/THSLQuiz2025>

Tuesday 20th May 6-8pm: Preloved Uniform Shop

Come and view a range of preloved uniform. More details below 

Friday 11th July: THSL Summer Fair/BBQ

Join us for delicious food, live music, student-run stalls, tuck shop, ice-cream and more! Let's hope the sun shines   

Preloved Uniform – On Display Monthly!

Each month, lost property will be available to view on the sports hall balcony for three days. On one of those days, **our Preloved Uniform Shop will also be open 6-8pm**, run by our fantastic PTFA volunteers.

Missing something? Need uniform? Want to donate? Come along on **Tuesday 20th May** and take a look!

Or email: uniform@hslptfa.org.uk and our amazing uniform team will respond about availability, payment and collection. We're looking for friendly faces to **join our PTFA team!**

Whether you can spare an hour at an event or help behind the scenes, every bit of help makes a big difference. **It's a great way to support our school, meet others and have fun!** Scan the QR code to join the team!



Volunteers
needed



Coaching at CKTP

with
Denisa Davis,
LTA Level 3
Coach

Adults

- * Rusty racquets & improvers weekly course
- * Cardio tennis on Fridays
- * £10 discount per course for CKTP members

Juniors

- * Fun & friendly courses
- * Weekly course for ages 6-16, starting in May
- * TOTS tennis for ages 3-5 year olds
- * Weekly Friday club for CKTP members
- * Summer camp
- * £10 discount per course for CKTP members

**Book early
to avoid
disappointment!**

Scan for more details
and contact information



Charlton Kings Tennis Place
Located at Balcarras School
East End Rd, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

Leckhampton Scout Hut

VE Day Cake and
Coffee Morning

Monday 5th May, 10am-12pm



All proceeds go to the Scout
Hut redevelopment fund

207 Leckhampton Road,
Cheltenham GL53 0AL



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