



Newsletter

JUNE 2025- ISSUE 21

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the final stretch of the academic year, I'm delighted to share with you another packed edition of our newsletter – a celebration of the many activities that define our school community.

June has been a month filled with learning, exploration, and achievement. Our students have thrown themselves into a wide range of opportunities both inside and beyond the classroom. From the Year 10's inspiring Art and Design Technology trip to St. Ives, or the creativity shown by our GCSE Drama students in their devising workshops, there is a real sense of momentum and purpose across the school.

We also extend huge congratulations to the 33 Year 10 students who successfully completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Wiltshire countryside – an impressive feat of endurance, teamwork, and resilience, especially in the summer heat. Beyond the curriculum, June also saw the celebration of science at the Cheltenham Science Festival, a very well attended Post-16 Pathways Fair to help Year 10 decide their next steps, and continued effort from our Eco-Committee through initiatives such as Walk to School Week and 'Lockhampton Gold'. These events are reminders of how our students are being prepared and preparing us all for the future. I think we are in safe hands!

Looking ahead, July promises yet more highlights: Transition Day for our incoming Year 6 students, Sports Day, Enrichment Week, and the ever-popular Summer BBQ. Our Iceland trip is also on the horizon, providing an unforgettable experience for our Year 10 students to close the year.

I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of the pride we feel in our students and the opportunities they embrace. Thank you for your continued support throughout this incredibly full and fruitful term.

With warm regards,

Helen Wood

Headteacher





Key Dates - Summer Term 2025

Monday 30th June - GCSE Geography field work day

Tuesday 1st July - GCSE Geography field work day

Wednesday 2nd July - Year 6 Transition Day

Thursday 3rd July - Sports Day

Monday 7th - Friday 11th July - Enrichment Week

Friday 11th July - Summer BBQ

Friday 18th July - end of term. School closes for pupils at 12:20pm

Saturday 19th - Thursday 24th July - Iceland trip





Lockers

Lockers

As the year begins to draw to a close, we will be requiring all lockers to be emptied and padlocks returned so that lockers can be cleaned and re issued for September. All students are asked to empty their locker and return the lock (with the 4 digit code) to their tutor by the end of enrichment week (Friday 11th July) at the latest.

Any lockers not emptied by then risk having property lost as we need all of the lockers empty and ready before the end of term. Padlocks of any non emptied lockers will be removed with cutters and items put in lost property so please ensure you support all pupils to meet the deadline.

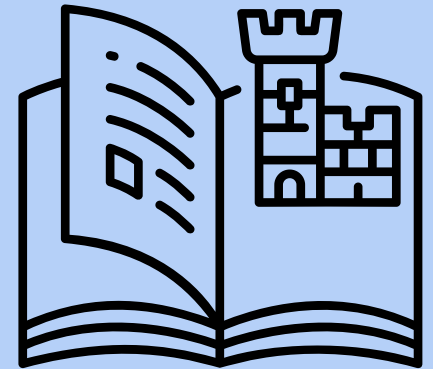
Next year as the school grows demand for lockers will be under pressure. The allocation will be to give all of the new year 7 a locker and then each tutor group will have a number of lockers allocated to them. This will be coordinated by each tutor in September and some pupils will have to share. We ask that parents are prepared for this in September and support pupils to bring what they need to school each day.





Subject Spotlight

History



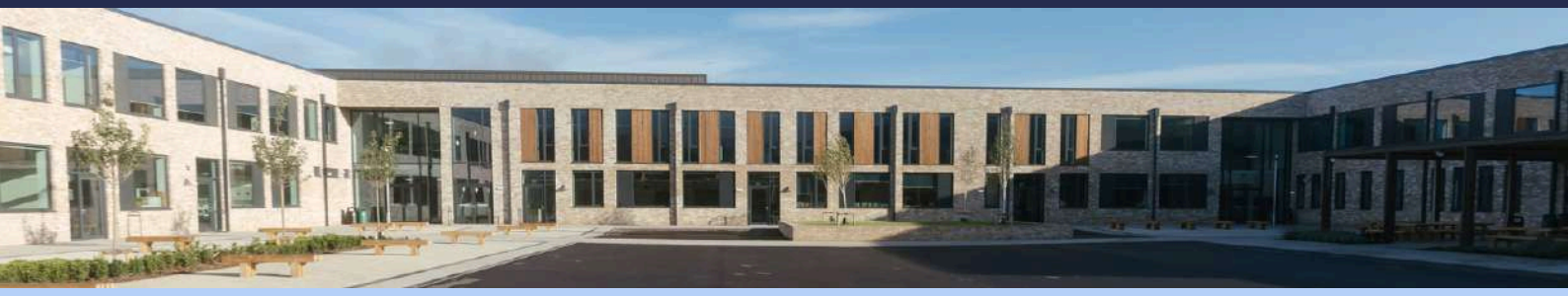
This term in History, students across all year groups have been engaging with a wide range of rich and thought-provoking topics. Our curriculum aims to be diverse, inclusive and relevant – helping students make meaningful connections between the past and the present. We want them not only to learn about history, but to develop important skills: asking questions, thinking critically, and understanding how to judge the truth and reliability of what they read and hear – vital tools in today’s world.

Year 7: Life in Medieval England

Year 7 have been diving into the complexities of life in medieval England. Their lessons have looked at religion and belief, the impact of the Black Death, and the dramatic events of the Peasants’ Revolt. Students have also explored what it was like to be part of a minority group, through a study of the Jewish community in medieval Gloucester, and have discussed how people with disabilities were treated in the period. It’s been brilliant to see Year 7 engaging so thoughtfully with big ideas – and starting to question how much has really changed over time.

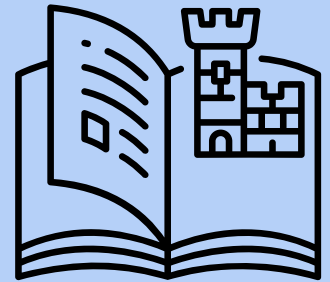
Year 8: Slavery and Its Legacy

Year 8 began their studies of the transatlantic slave trade with a visit to the M Shed Museum in Bristol – a powerful and thought-provoking starting point. This unit asks students not just to understand the facts of the slave trade, but to think about its long-term impact on the world today. Their recent assessment, inspired by the toppling of the Colston statue, asked: What should we do with the physical legacy of slavery? Students explored ideas from both Bristol and Gloucester and produced some incredibly thoughtful, creative work – including designs for new memorials. They’ve now moved on to the Industrial Revolution, with a focus on child labour and life in the fast-changing industrial towns.



Subject Spotlight

History



Year 9: A World Transformed by War

Year 9 have recently completed their end-of-year exams, and we've been really pleased with their effort and focus throughout the process. Before this, they explored how the First World War became a turning point in global history, looking at its long-term political, social, and cultural consequences. Their assessments and exam responses have shown real depth and maturity, with many students making powerful links between past events and today's world. The skills they've been developing – critical thinking, evaluation, and extended writing – will stand them in good stead as they prepare to begin their GCSE courses in September.

Year 10: Cold War and Conflict

Year 10 have been learning about the Cold War – a topic that's really captured students' interest. From the Berlin Blockade to the Cuban Missile Crisis, they've explored how close the world came to disaster, and how those events still shape international relations today.

Alongside this, they've been working hard to improve their exam technique and analytical writing. Next up: Elizabethan England – a new challenge that we're looking forward to exploring with them.

History Beyond the Classroom

History learning this year hasn't stopped at the classroom door. Students have taken part in a number of exciting activities, including:

- A joint History and Geography trip to the M Shed in Bristol
- A remembrance reflection activity, with handmade bunting displayed in the café
- Assemblies on Black History Month and VE Day
- A historical re-enactment that brought the trenches of WWI to life
- A Chepstow Castle visit coming up for Year 7

And the return of our much-loved "50 Objects" competition – where students choose an item they think best represents the school year and their HSL experience. We've had some brilliant entries, and we'll be revealing the winner very soon!

It's been a busy, inspiring term in History. Our students continue to show real curiosity, empathy and insight – and we can't wait to see where their learning takes them next.



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

We are proud to celebrate the success of 33 of our Year 10 students who have completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition, which took place over the weekend of 20th–22nd June in the beautiful Marlborough area of Wiltshire. The students showed outstanding resilience and teamwork as they hiked and camped their way through the countryside, facing a particular challenge on Friday – the hottest day of the year so far! Despite the heat and long days on foot, every one of our participants rose to the occasion and completed the expedition successfully, a fantastic achievement that reflects their determination and commitment.

A big thank you goes to our Activity Provider, Ocean Rock, for their expert guidance and support throughout the weekend.

Well done to all involved – a real credit to the school and a great milestone in their DofE journey!





Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition





Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition





Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition





GCSE Drama

Our GCSE Drama students welcomed Kylie from The Paper Birds this term who ran an incredible Devising workshop. The Paper Birds are renowned for their innovative and creative approach to devising theatre on social and political topics that hope to inspire change and this is something our GCSE students hope to achieve with their pieces. Despite an earlier start than normal, the students arrived at 8am ready for 2 hours of non-stop activities to spark movement and dialogue. Kylie was energetic, inspiring and full of ideas that has helped propel their pieces forward and gave them the tools and confidence to get up, explore and not fear failure. The students learnt so much from the short, quick tasks that then allowed them to add their own creative spin and incorporate them into their pieces.

It was an absolute pleasure to have Kylie deliver the workshop, here is what the students had to say:

“I thought the Paper Birds workshop was great. It provoked great ideas for our group; and ones we will use in our final piece. This workshop really helped our group to think outside the box.”

“I really enjoyed The Paper Birds workshop, as I found it very inspiring for my current project of devising and my group has used the ideas in our piece. It also really motivated my group and has influenced me and given me ideas for future work.”

I think the Paper Birds Workshop was very useful for creating ideas and concepts for our devising pieces, prompting us to have new ideas and thoughts towards this topic. I think that it was very entertaining and enjoyable to do in our groups, developing team working skills, communication skills and performance skills. I also really liked how the workshop wasn't just about the students listening to the teacher, but it was about the initial ideas and thoughts that the students worked on their own, later sharing it with the rest of their group, then the rest of the class.





GCSE Drama





LRC Update

We've had a busy time in the LRC with our volunteers sorting books into genres and labelling them. The magazine rack is now on the wall and we are deciding which magazines to subscribe to from September. Any magazine donations or suggestions are most welcome. Thanks for all the donations received so far!

We have added several new supportive reading books to our collection. Barrington Stoke publish, "Super-readable, dyslexia-friendly fiction to help every child become a reader." They have already proved popular and we hope students will consider choosing them. Here is a selection of those available in the LRC:





Post-16 Pathways Fair

On Wednesday 21st May, we held our first-ever Post-16 Pathways Fair at HSL. The event welcomed a wide range of local providers, including sixth forms such as Bournside and our trust partner Balcarras, as well as colleges like Cirencester and SGS.

As this was our first time running the event, we were especially pleased with how well it went. Year 10 students showed great enthusiasm—engaging fully, asking insightful questions, and making the most of the opportunity to explore their options for life after Year 11.

Feedback from the providers was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on how well-prepared and interested our students were.

Following the fair, our independent careers adviser, Mrs Lewis, began one-to-one guidance sessions with students. These meetings will be an important part of helping them make informed choices about their next steps.

A big thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support.



Art and D+T trip to St. Ives, Cornwall

The Year 10 Art trip to St Ives was a chance for students to fully unleash their creativity, explore different techniques we don't get a chance to try at school and record, record, record!

In preparation for the trip, students made a homemade sketch book which slowly over the weekend filled up with sketches of the landscape, pieces from workshops and notes on ideas they wanted to explore more of later.

On day one we travelled to the Eden Project to take photos and draw the extraordinary range of nature. Whilst it was hot and humid, students could travel to the top of the biomes and immerse themselves in a rainforest. On day two, we visited the Tate Museum and the Barbara Hepworth Museum (someone who students had studied and taken inspiration from earlier on in the year). The museums were a chance to observe art we never normally see with pieces made from just lines, to showcases of complex but intricate sculptures. Day 3 was a walking tour of St Ives to look at a landscape from different perspectives using local artists techniques. For example, Alfred Walls paints from memory and changes the scale of different subject matter in a setting depending on the importance to him. Students painted on a beach and whilst the conditions were not something we typically experience in the art room, it allowed the recordings we made to mirror our experiences.

During the final morning, students had the choice between a monoprinting workshop to experiment with the patterns and texture seaweed could create or a mark-making workshop to create abstract and expressive pieces.

The Art Trip enabled students to enhance their portfolio, create joyful memories with friends and learn from artists local to St Ives.

By Amelie Coates, 101S





Art and D+T trip to St. Ives, Cornwall





Art and D+T trip to St. Ives, Cornwall



Student success - Work Experience

A letter from work experience student, Harry

We were recently joined by Harry Wallace from The High School Leckhampton. The Year 10 student was with us for a week and spent time across numerous departments and with various colleagues, who he has kindly mentioned in his letter below:



My work experience started with an introduction to the People Team where I, along with two new employees, was then shown around the Attivo office by Kim Boskett. After this, we had a welcome presentation from Alix Scott, which is given to all new employees. It was a great oversight of the qualities and structure of Attivo and how it functions, and I was thankful to be shown the same respect and opportunities to me, despite my age and qualifications. I was then given a debrief by Victoria Llewellyn about work experience, who I would be working with and the confidentiality agreement. Victoria was very polite and caring throughout my experience at Attivo.

After lunch, I got a laptop from IT and was taught basic rules and guidance to ensure cyber security and confidentiality by Ethan Robinson. To finish off the day, I did some shadowing of client services (Teona Champion) and the post team (Georgia McCool). It was very useful because they showed me the plethora of different aspects of finance and how they all interlink.

On Wednesday, I spent the day learning about paraplanning; the function it has in Attivo and how it takes place. This was run by Victoria Nixon, who talked me through her choices and actions to ensure I understood what was happening. This was a very detailed and interesting day and really revealed the core of what makes up Attivo.

On Thursday, I spent the day with the Finance Team, learning more about the difference between finance and financial planning. I spent the day plotting data and ensuring all statistics/data were accurate and up-to-date. It was a thorough task, yet felt quite rewarding.

Finally, on Friday, I spend most of my day with Alex White (Proposition Analyst) in which I was set tasks, such as creating a presentation to demonstrate the best-performing multi-asset fund from January 2015 to 2025. It was an enjoyable experience forming my argument and thesis, as well as providing evidence for it. Alex set a great example of what I want to work towards and was a good-hearted individual. I then concluded my work experience with the Vic Burke in the People Team, who was particularly caring and lovely.

Doing my work experience with Attivo has helped me have a better understanding of finance and which parts I enjoy. I have loved my experience at Attivo and would be happy to come back here in the future.

Yours sincerely,
Harry

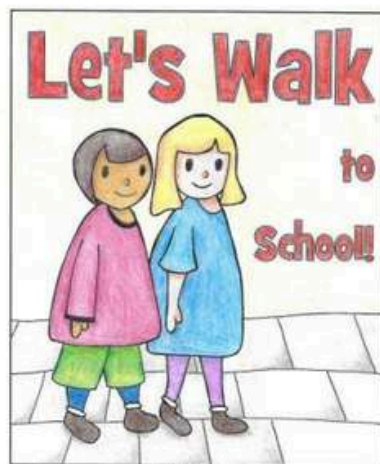


Science Updates

Walk to school week

Walk to school week is from Monday 19th May to Friday 23rd May 2025.

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



Made by
Charlotte Deacon
9IS and Amelie
Holloway 10CH

Walk to School Week 2025

Walk to School Week took place from Monday 19th until Friday 23rd May this year.

Thank you to Charlotte (9IS) and Amelie (10CH) for producing the poster to advertise Walk to School Week.

Thank you to all who made the effort to walk or cycle to school during Walk to School Week, especially staff who live far from school but still made the effort to shorten their drive and walk part of the way.

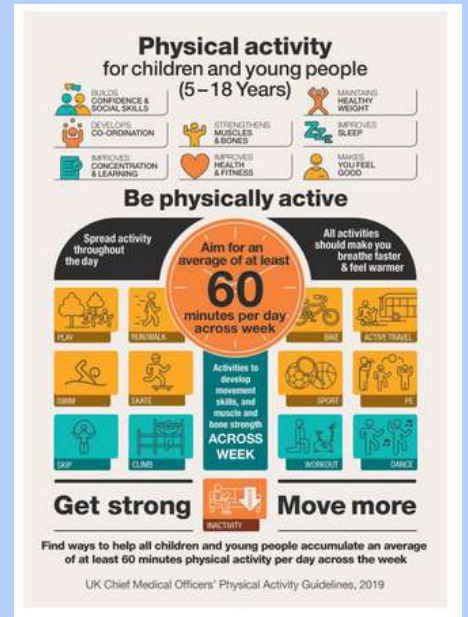


Science Updates

HSL Summer Travel Survey 2025

During Walk to School Week, all students and staff had the opportunity to participate in our Summer Travel Survey. This was our third travel survey of the academic year and we were interested to see whether more or fewer students and staff were walking, cycling or scooting to school. Please see the results below:

Although the number of staff walking and cycling to school has increased, the number of students walking, cycling or scooting to school has decreased despite the longer days and better weather. The Eco-Committee will continue to educate and encourage all students about the personal and environmental benefits of traveling to school actively using government advice from the UK Chief Medical Officers and ask that parents and carers do this at home too!



Travel Survey	Winter 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
% of students walking, cycling or scooting to school	79.6	73.8	73.2
% of staff walking, cycling or scooting to school	17.1	N/A	29.0

Lockhampton Gold

To reward students who cycle to school, the Eco-Committee launched the Lockhampton Gold campaign this half term. Once or twice a week a bike is chosen at random to receive the golden lock. The winner of the golden lock then receives a golden ticket which they can use in the canteen to receive one free school meal!

Driving in a car exposes a person to 8 times more pollution than if they were to cycle instead. Riding a bike to school is healthier, better for the Earth, and overall a more pleasant experience.





Science Updates

Year 7 Trip to Cheltenham Science Festival

On Tuesday 3rd June, Year 7 walked to the Cheltenham Science Festival in Imperial Gardens. During their visit, all Year 7 students attended a science show and spent time in either The Arcade or the Discover Zone before walking back to HSL.

Josh in 7CH really enjoyed the science show:

" One particularly good part of the festival for me came from listening to Grace Harvey, a Paralympian and with her was a sports scientist. They told us that success in sports isn't just about practice but also about proper nutrition and additional training outside the sport itself. This practical advice was useful for me as I like sport."

Anna in 7LB was very impressed by the world records in certain sports:

"A fact that really amazed me was that the strongest weight someone can overhead press is the same as: one toaster, two tumble dryers and two American style fridges!"

Issy in 7CH thought the interactive zones were really fun:

"In The Arcade there were lots of fun games to do whilst we were still learning, including things like:

- Practising CPR on a dummy.

- Using water to create electricity.

- Mixing different colours of slime to create organs in the body.

- Making a bookmark with the letters of your name, also on the periodic table.

- Spinning a wheel to create music.

- Riding a bike versus an opponent to see how fast they can get creating electricity etc. and many more."

Dexter in 7LB thinks science trips are very important:

"I had an amazing day and I learned lots during the talk. I think it is really important to go on science trips because it inspires people to take more interest in science and it gives you opportunities to take knowledge in first hand from scientists and specialists."



Science Updates





Science Updates

Year 9 CGP KS3 Science Revision Guide return

When they started at HSL, all Year 9 students were given a numbered copy of the CGP KS3 Science Revision Guide to use for their Science classwork, homework, catch-up and revision.

As Year 9 students have now finished the KS3 Science course the time has come to return these CGP Revision Guides that we have loaned out so we can redistribute them to our new Year 7 students starting in September. Some parents and carers selected to purchase their child's copy of the CGP KS3 Science Revision Guide and so these purchased copies do not need to be returned.

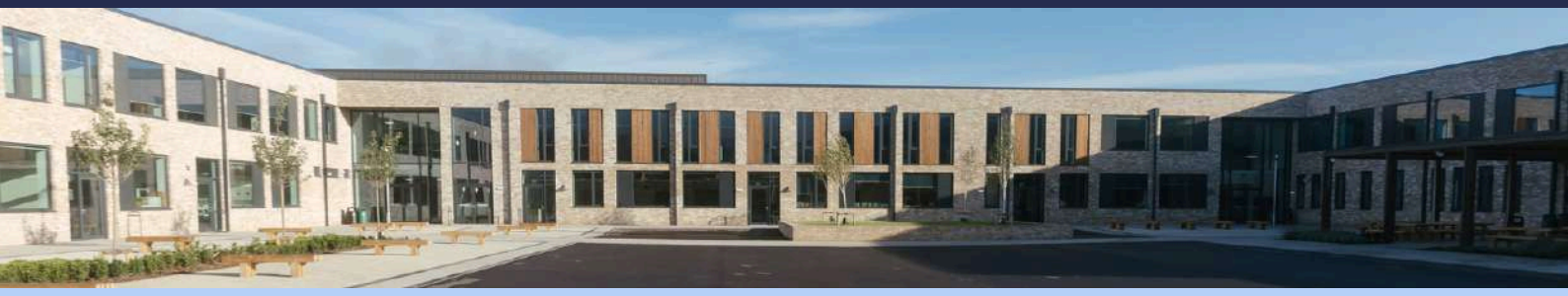
If any Year 9 student has lost their CGP KS3 Science Revision Guide, or if it is too damaged to be given to another student, we politely request that parents and carers pay £3.25 via Scopay so we can purchase a replacement copy. Thank you!

Key Stage Three Science



Revision Guide Higher Level

With **Free** Online Edition, Video Solutions and Digital Quizzes!
Written by Paddy Gannon



Parent Forum Update

Thank you to all parents who attended the special Parent Forum in May, which focused on the new Personal Development programme and proposed changes to the PSHE curriculum. The discussion generated a number of helpful suggestions about topics that could be added or given greater emphasis, and these have now been incorporated into the updated schemes of learning.

The new Personal Development policy was approved later that month, and students will begin following the new programme from September.

We aim for this to become a strong and distinctive part of our curriculum, supporting students' personal growth alongside their academic progress.

We also thank those who attended the June Parent Forum, where the agenda was set entirely by parents. Discussions focused on several key areas, including the communication of test and assessment results, the use of AI in education, and the school's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). There was also interest in the possibility of the school hosting external speakers on topics such as AI, internet safety and mental health.

School uniform was also raised during the meeting. While no changes are planned at this stage, we will revisit this topic once the government's review of school uniform is published in the next academic year.

Actions are now underway across all topics discussed, and we will provide updates on progress in September.

Thank you again to all those who took part. Your feedback continues to play an important role in shaping school priorities.



THIS SUMMER FAIR & BBQ

Friday 11th July, 6–8.30pm

- BAR & DELICIOUS FOOD
(BBQ, PIZZA, ICE CREAM)
- AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES
- LIVE MUSIC
- STUDENT-RUN STALLS
- TUCK SHOP & PLENTY MORE!



**GRAND
PRIZE**

**GENUINE BMW
CHILDREN'S RIDE-ON
ELECTRIC TOY CAR
WORTH £345**



Organised by The High School Leckhampton
Parents Teachers & Friends Association (PTFA)



Please note there are a number of vacancies for our school.
please look at the Balcarras trust website for more
information.



Vacancies AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

An application form is available below for any
vacancy (in Microsoft Word and PDF formats)....

 The Balcarras Trust /



INVIGILATORS Term-time only

Casual hours by negotiation Salary: £12.21 per hour plus £1.77 per hour
holiday pay

Required for mock and external exams throughout the academic year, especially during
May/June, after successful interview and subject to satisfactory references.

We are looking for a team of enthusiastic, professional and committed colleagues
to join our growing and ambitious school, in a supportive environment.

Invigilators are the people in examination rooms responsible for conducting examinations
in the presence of the candidates.

Invigilators have a key role in upholding the integrity of the external
examination/assessment process.

For further information about the main duties and responsibilities of the post, please

_____ contact:

Rachel Heppenstall (Exams Officer) on: exams@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk 01242 383351
*The High School Leckhampton is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of
children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share
this commitment. We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups
including ethnicity, gender, transgender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion. Please
also read the Recruitment Selection and Disclosure Policy within "How to apply" which
includes our policy on recruiting ex-offenders. All posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check
and receipt of two satisfactory references.*





INTRO TO LACROSSE

*Fun and inclusive 5-week course to start
learning the newest Olympic sport*

**All genders welcome
Aged 11 years +
Lacrosse sticks provided**



Starting (running bi-weekly)

26th June 2025



8.00 - 9.15 pm



**CACSSA, Cheltenham
GL51 9SL**



**Sessions £5
£20 for all 5 sessions**



Contact us for more information

cheltenhamlacrosse@gmail.com

*Cafe open
until 7pm*

[@cheltenhamlax](https://www.instagram.com/cheltenhamlax)

BRIZEN

SUMMER HOLIDAY

Safeguarding update

AGES
10-17

FREE SESSIONS
INCLUDES LUNCH

ACTIVITIES:

FUN CRAFTS,

SPORTS, COOKING,

CANVAS PAINTING & MORE

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY
21ST JULY-27TH AUGUST

9-3PM

BRIZEN YOUNG PEOPLES
CENTRE
GL51 4BB



**SIGN UP AND
REGISTER ONLINE:**



Brizen Youth Club



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

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





 www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk

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