



# HSL NEWS



## Student Spotlight

Well done to our huge cohort of students who performed and supported our school production, *We Will Rock You!* last term. What a spectacle!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* **Year 11 Mock Exams**  
W/C Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026
- \* **Non School Uniform Day**  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- \* **Year 7 Parents' Evening**  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- \* **Eco-Schools Enrichment Day**  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- \* **Year 11 Parents' Evening**  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- \* **INSET day - school closed to pupils**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a good rest over half term. The pupils have arrived back at school with a strong sense of purpose, particularly our Year 11 pupils and I'd like to wish them the best of luck as they work towards the submission of important NEAs this half term.

Last term's production of *We Will Rock You* was undoubtedly a highlight. With nearly 200 students involved and a packed audience each evening, it was a tremendous celebration of confidence, teamwork and performance. I am incredibly proud of everyone who took part on stage and behind the scenes. We will be sharing many more photographs and student reflections in our March newsletter, so do look out for those.

In this edition you will also read about our Year 7 hockey team reaching the regional finals, the U16 girls battling bravely on the football pitch, and our table cricket success. Alongside this, we have had pupils representing the school at the GCSE Science Live event, visiting industry through our Young Designers experience, taking part in the KS3 Careers Fair and contributing to environmental work on Leckhampton Hill. Each article reflects the breadth of opportunity here and the way our students rise to it.

In March, we will be launching "The Big Ask" — a survey for parents, pupils, staff and governors. This is an important opportunity for us to listen carefully to your views as we continue to develop the school. Your feedback will directly inform our development planning and help us consider thoughtful suggestions for the future. I would strongly encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the survey when it arrives.

Finally, thank you for your continued support with uniform, equipment and punctuality. These small, everyday details make a significant difference to the calm, purposeful atmosphere of the school and to your child's ability to feel confident, settled and ready to learn. When we get the small things right, the bigger successes follow.

As always, thank you for your support.

With best wishes,  
Mrs Helen Wood  
Headteacher



## PTFA Preloved Uniform & Lost Property

The PTFA Preloved Uniform team will be available at the same time as lost property viewings this Autumn Term. This is a great opportunity to check for any missing items and to purchase good-quality, affordable uniform. Dates (6.00–8.00pm):

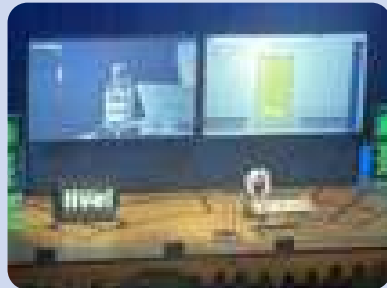
**24<sup>th</sup> March**

If you have any outgrown uniform in good condition, donations are very welcome and can be dropped off at school reception. All proceeds go back into supporting our school community.

## This Month in Pictures



Our Year 7 boys showing resilience and team work during the County Hockey Tournament!



Year 10 students experiencing GCSE Science Live!



Members of our community helping to clear Leckhampton Hill; great effort everyone!



Our Year 10 and 11 boys showing true HSL spirit at the Under 16's regional finals in Somerset!

## HSL vacancies

We are currently recruiting for the role of Invigilators.

We're also currently recruiting for the role of a Teaching Assistant.

If you're interested in finding out more information, please click the link below:

<https://www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=80>



## Young Designers

Last month, Elsa, Amelia, Daisy, Annabelle and Jessica were given the exciting opportunity to visit Superdry and meet with the design and marketing teams to preview and provide feedback on the upcoming SS27 range. During the visit, they were invited to select their favourite pieces, helping to influence the final choices for the Summer 2027 collection.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed meeting the team, asking thoughtful and insightful questions, and gaining a valuable understanding of the design, purchasing and marketing process behind bringing a collection to life.



## We Will Rock You!

The end of term finished with a literal bang (of confetti!) as we closed our school production of *We*

*Will Rock You* and what a spectacle it was. With a pretty much sold-out run, our cast took to the stage and rocked the audience with every element of the production from the singing and dancing to the haze and special effects.

With nearly 200 students involved, it was a truly fantastic display of talent at HSL and we can't wait to bring a full feature of the production next month.

If you haven't had chance yet, do take a look at our gallery of professional photos provided by Chui Photography. The gallery closes on the 1st March so be quick if you'd like to make any purchases! We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support of the show - keep your eyes peeled on next month's newsletter for student reviews, cast photos and more!

And so the planning begins for next year!

<https://chuiphotography.pic-time.com/rrMP63NTD9f7U>







# NEWS FROM HSL PTFA

parents • teachers • friends

## A Standing Ovation for Our “We Will Rock You” Volunteers!



**We would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who stepped up to support the recent production of “We Will Rock You”.**

Over three busy and brilliant nights, **more than 20 fantastic volunteers** helped us run the interval bar and tuck shop. Some evenings didn't wrap up until after 10pm, so for many of you it really was a full shift.

We know how much everyone juggles already. Work, family life, endless logistics — time is precious. That's exactly why your support meant so much. You made it possible for us to create a smooth, buzzing interval experience for hundreds of audience members.

And buzzing it certainly was! We took more drinks orders and served more refreshments than last year, with both intervals packed and full of energy. We're still counting up the final totals from the tuck shop and bar, but it's safe to say we've comfortably surpassed last year's fundraising — **and that simply wouldn't have happened without you.**



Thanks, as always, for your continued support ❤️  
The PTFA Team

## Save the Date: Quiz & Chips Night Returns on Friday 24th April!



One for your diaries! Our much-loved Quiz & Chips Night returns on 24th April — a firm favourite in the PTFA social calendar. Expect a fantastically fun evening of quizzing, fish and chips, and great company.

Pop the date in your calendar now and keep an eye out for more details coming soon.

### DIARY DATES

24 <sup>th</sup> March	Preloved Uniform Sale, 6-7pm PTFA Committee Meeting 7.30pm
24th April	Quiz & Chips Night, 7-10pm
April/May/ June - Dates TBC	Preloved Uniform Sale, 6-7pm
10th July	Summer Fair & BBQ



Scan the QR code to join our friendly PTFA Volunteers team!



## Parent Forum Update

Thank you to the parents and carers who joined our Year 7 Parent Forum on 4th February. The meeting focused on two key themes: supporting student organisation and the transition from Year 6 to Year 7. The discussion was constructive and full of helpful insights.

### Supporting Student Organisation

Parents reflected on how students adapt to the increased independence of secondary school, particularly around managing homework. While planners are issued to all Year 7 and 8 students, families felt there was real potential to make even better use of them to help students plan their time and stay organised.

Parents also noted that loose homework sheets can easily become lost or damaged. In response, the school will explore providing a “get started” pack for new students, including a planner and a plastic wallet, to help establish strong organisational habits from the beginning of Year 7.



### Transition from Year 6 to Year 7

Parents were positive about the purpose of the transition booklet and the way it helps families talk about secondary school over the summer. They also shared helpful suggestions about how we as a school can give feedback on the booklets and about reviewing the content. We will explore these ideas as we plan for the next transition cycle, including the possibility of a menu-style approach.

Families were very complimentary about the PTFA's ice-breaker disco and the social opportunities it provides for new students and parents. They also appreciated the concise information sheet issued during transition and suggested that including start and finish times for the school day would make it even more useful for families navigating new routines.

Thank you once again to all who attended for your thoughtful contributions. We will share updates on the action points in a future newsletter as we begin planning for the next transition cycle.



## KS3 Worlds of Work Career Fair

As part of the HSL Careers programme, students across KS3 were invited to visit the Worlds of Work career sectors fair this week. Now in its second year, the event was generously supported by professionals who spent the morning answering students' questions and providing insights into their sector, the range of roles within it, and possible pathways to access careers within their industry. For many of our young people this is a first taste of the many options available to them.

The hall was abuzz with conversation as classes visited throughout the morning. Students were encouraged to interact and explore, and we were proud of the positive interactions and excellent questions that were raised.

“It was really interesting to have the chance to meet someone who actually does the job that I might want to do.” Year 8 student.

“I didn't know there were so many choices!” Year 7 student.

This year's event included representatives from industries including hospitality, STEM, finance and business services, building and construction, health and social care, pharmacy, the armed forces and tech/sales.

The fair is now an established and important part of our students' exposure to the world of work as they begin their journeys towards GSCE selections and beyond, into their post-16 options. We look forward to seeing it grow and develop in future so that we can continue to build students' aspirations.

We would like to thank all the companies and individuals that supported this very busy morning – over 500 students benefitted from their time and expertise. Many of the professionals were parents, reflecting – once again – just how valuable our amazing school community is.



## Year 7 County Hockey Tournament

Match Report from Monty Gibbons

On Friday 27th February, ten Year 7 boys set off on a mission. They were Charlie, Jack, Charlie F, Monty, Josh, Theo, Carson, Will, Harry and Charlie - the destination Dean Close School. Task to reach the regional finals of the Year 7 boys hockey tournament. accompanied by Mr Powell-Jones the squad were well prepared for the task in hand.

Everyone in the squad knew their role and the team played confidently demonstrating skill, resilience and determination. A good start saw the team beating Bournside 2-0. Followed by a second win against Cleeve School.

The team stayed focused but remaining were KLB and Kings. Two tough teams to beat. A hard-fought win over Katherine Lady Berkely 1-0 scored by Josh Hay ensured that HSL was through now it was just deciding how hard our next match would be at Millfield.

One match to go against Kings. Both teams unbeaten. HSL played exceptionally well with many great shots saved by the outstanding Kings keeper.

A breakaway goal against the run of play meant that Kings were the eventually winners. However, mission accomplished. HSL were runners up and had secured a place in the regional finals at Millfield.

When we were on the minibus on the way Mr Powell-Jones said "keep calm, listen to me and give it your absolute best today and we will get through to regionals" and that is exactly what we did.



## U16 Girls Football vs Balcarras

The U16 squad stepped up brilliantly on a claggy, heavy pitch following recent wet weather. The girls showed real determination and put up a strong fight throughout the match.

When we moved the ball forward with pace, the speed of Jemima, Yas and Kitty up front caused problems for the opposition defence and created several shots on target. Unfortunately, we just couldn't find the back of the net.

Balcarras' strong formation created gaps that were difficult to close, and despite tremendous defensive efforts from Beth, Ninon, Eva and Bo, who tracked players superbly and used their bodies well to protect the goal, Balcarras managed to find the top corners on a number of occasions. Saoirse and Grace worked tirelessly tracking back and supporting both attack and defence, while the whole squad linked up well at times and played some excellent football.

A great effort from all the girls in challenging conditions.





## Year 9 Football

Year 9 Match Report – 8–0 Victory vs Pate's Grammar School

Year 9 delivered an outstanding all-round performance to secure an emphatic 8–0 win in a dominant display from first whistle to last.

From the outset, the team controlled possession and dictated the tempo, moving the ball with confidence and purpose. The opening goal settled any early nerves, and from that point onward the boys played with real composure and attacking intent.

Konnie T was in exceptional form, claiming a superb hat-trick with three well-taken finishes that showcased both clinical edge and intelligent movement. Joe P also made a huge impact in front of goal, netting twice with confident strikes to reward the team's sustained pressure.

Beyond the goals, this was a complete football performance across the full 60 minutes. Defensively, the team remained organised and disciplined, limiting Pates to very few opportunities. The midfield worked tirelessly to win second balls and link play, while the forwards pressed effectively to force turnovers high up the pitch. The final whistle confirmed a thoroughly deserved 8–0 victory — a performance built on teamwork, intensity, and quality throughout. A brilliant effort from the entire squad.



## U12 District Netball Tournament

The U12 girls took part in their first ever competitive netball tournament this week, travelling to Well Place for a fantastic afternoon of sport in the sunshine. Placed in a challenging group of six, the team faced Winchcombe, Bournside, Pate's, Cotswold, and Cleeve—all strong and well-established competitors.

Despite it being their debut outing, the 11 players in attendance showed exceptional enthusiasm, teamwork and versatility throughout the afternoon. The girls rotated positions confidently, supported one another brilliantly, and embraced every challenge with determination and smiles. The atmosphere was energetic, fun, and full of learning moments—everything you could hope for from a first tournament experience.

### Group Stage Results

vs Cleeve: 3–6

vs Cotswold: 5–6

vs Winchcombe: 9–0

vs Bournside: 8–3

vs Pate's: 7–4

With three strong wins and two losses, the team finished 3rd in their group, just missing out on progressing to the semi-finals. While the girls were understandably disappointed, this experience has only made them hungrier for future fixtures. Their progress, attitude, and team spirit were a real credit to the school.

The squad left Well Place eager to build on what they've learned, and they are already looking forward to the upcoming matches this half term.

A brilliant start to their competitive netball journey—well done, U12s!



## U16's Regional Hockey Finals

Match report by Lachie Hart

There it is. The final Millfield for the Year 11s! After a very early start to make it over there on time, the squad faced Prior Park who were very energetic right from the start. Even after having a very strong line up, the boys slipped 3 goals under them in the first half.

However, kept their balance in the second half with some strong saves from Lachlan Hart and brilliant plays from Finn Allen. After our hardest game, the boys played Mount Kelly who looked very intimidating. Even with some very tricky plays from Kelly, the squad held strong and kept the game 0-0 until the very end. A special shoutout to Joe Sheppard who was playing outstanding in his defensive position whilst encouraging the rest of the boys.

With hope in our hearts, we move onto Queens College who got a cheeky goal in the first half making the game 0-1. Zac Litman and Ollie Freebury were playing very strong in the mid and up field but unfortunately it wasn't enough for us to crawl back a goal and we lost that match.

With a long break we all had time to reset our mind ready to give it all in the final game against Poole Grammar School. Noah Guest really upped his game followed by Jake Harris, both playing some beautiful hockey showing what the HSL Hockey team really has in their locker.

Unfortunately, James Birt was unable to make it to the tournament meaning we were weakened in our defence causing Poole to score 2 goals in the first half. Even with this setback, Jake Harris managed to gain a legendary goal for the boys with a splendid celebration from Seb Heather. Overall, it was a great final day out for the HSL Hockey Team of 2026. Well played boys!



## Table Cricket District Tournament

Match report by Leo Gardner-Collins

Overall we got 3 wins that were great but we were sad that we had 2 losses.

The people who we played against were.

Match 1=HSL vs Severn Vale

Match 2=HSL vs Belmont

Match 3 = HSL vs heart of the forest

Match 4 = HSL vs the Shrubberies

Match 5= HSL vs Severn Vale

The winners of the table cricket competition were Severn Vale and HSL came second and I am really pleased because I am in HSL.

I am in year 7 and it was my first time doing the table cricket competition and it was so fun even though we came second in the whole competition across the whole of the county of Gloucestershire.

Our team name was called the Waffles and the people on are team were Leo, Daniel, Dani, Lola, Tom and Ev.

I am really proud of our efforts and being 2<sup>nd</sup> in the whole tournament!

## Student Success

Fraser Warwick, Year 10, recently competed in the Gloucestershire County Swimming Championships in Bristol.

He did exceptionally well during the event and has qualified for the 50m freestyle at the South West Regional Championships in May,

Fraser is currently ranked 4th in 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke, 6th in the 100m backstroke and 8th in the 50m butterfly and 100m freestyle.

On top of Fraser's County swimming he is also part of the Gloucester Rugby U15 PDP squad – well done Fraser!

## Green Space Development Day

On Friday 13th February, a group of Eco-Committee members and other HSL students walked 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. Despite the wind and rain there were no complaints and the volunteers were very impressed with how much our students achieved and enjoyed the experience.



## Big Plastic Count

The Big Plastic Count, the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste, is taking place between 9th - 15th March 2026. We are inviting everyone at home to participate in positive change. Together, we can build even more evidence about what happens to our plastic waste to help put a stop to the plastic crisis. With enough evidence we can convince UK ministers, supermarkets and big brands to lead the way at the global talks that could finally phase out plastic production for good.

How to take part in The Big Plastic Count? By Friday 6th March, every student at HSL will receive a Let's Count Tally Sheet to take home and put up on the fridge or near your bin.

Using the Let's Count Tally Sheet, record the different types of household plastic packaging waste you use for one week. This includes plastic going in your bin and plastic you put out for recycling. From Monday morning until Sunday evening, count as you throw!

Use the Plastic ID Tool to look up plastic items if you need to (QR code on the Let's Count Tally Sheet).

Remember to write down any piece of plastic packaging you use while out and about, then mark it on your tally sheet when you get back home.

Once your household has completed the survey, your child can record their results online at home via the unique class link that will be available on the VLE.







## British Science Week


Get excited for British Science Week 2026! A celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths.


Every day from Monday 9th - Friday 13th March, The High School Leckhampton will be hosting a lunchtime event which all students and staff are welcome to attend.





British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that will take place between 6-15 March 2026!

 **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - 1:30 pm in GW4**  
**Mrs Waterson**  
The eye is one of the most complex organs after the brain. To come and dissect an eyeball and learn more, please sign up on the sheet on the door of GW4.

 **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March - 1:30 pm in GW2**  
**Mrs Collins**  
Challenge your engineering skills in GW2 by trying to build the tallest, strongest tower out of spaghetti!

 **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - 1:30 pm in GW4**  
**Dr Georgia Woodburn**  
Dr Woodburn is a local GP who will be coming to talk about the process of applying to medical school and her experiences through university and beyond. She now specialises in women's medicine. Priority will be given to Year 11 students considering medicine.

 **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - 1:30 pm room to be confirmed**  
**Miss Orsler**  
Miss Orsler will be delivering a session on Mathsfinity and Beyond! Curious to know more about Black Holes and Calculating the Schwarzschild Radius? Come along and find out more.

 **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - 1:30 pm in GW4**  
**Mr Talbot**  
Mr Talbot will be talking more about his favourite chemical reactions and showing you some fiery Science experiments and demonstrations.

**Earn ePraise for every event you attend. Attend all five lunchtime events this British Science Week to earn 10 ePraise points and a limited-edition STEM sticker!**

## The Great Big School Clean

The Great Big School Clean is back for 2026, taking place from 13th - 29th March, and once again HSL has pledged to take part.

Litter-picking is a great way to provide fresh air and exercise and contribute to the physical fitness and well-being of our young people. It also helps them to connect with nature and develop a sense of responsibility for their surroundings and community.

If every child who attended school in the UK pledged to pick up just one bag of litter during the Great Big School Clean, we could remove a colossal 10.3 million bags of litter from our natural environment!

As in previous years, there will be a VLE task where students can record how much litter they have collected and submit evidence of their litter pick to receive Eco ePraise points and a special certificate.



## GCSE Science Live!

On Monday 9th February 80 Year 10 students attended the GCSE Science Live! event at Bristol Beacon.

Throughout the day five different scientists gave interesting and engaging talks about their research, and examiner Stewart Chenery presented two sessions on how to prepare for and answer the varied types of question on the GCSE Science exam papers.

- 1: Professor Sophie Scott's talk about the neuroscience of laughter
- 2: Professor Robert Winston's talk about fertility
- 3: Professor Andrea Sella's talk about patterns in beetroots
- 4: Professor Jim Al-Khalili's talk about time travel

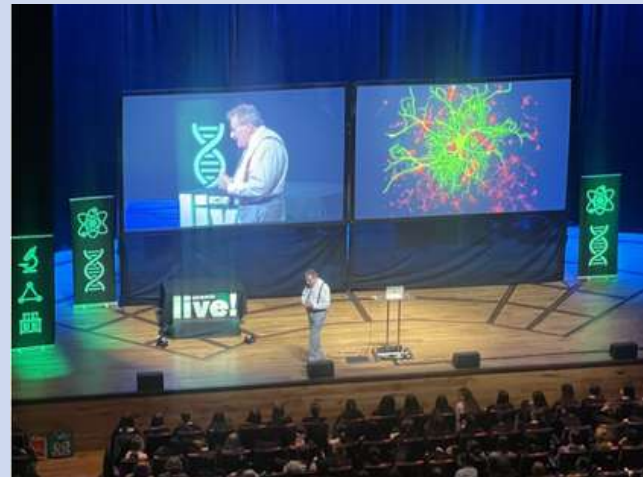
Our students really enjoyed the event, and each had an opinion about which talk they enjoyed the most:

Saoirse: My favourite talk Professor Jim Al-Khalili's, as I found it fascinating to learn about such incredible scientific discoveries.

Adelaide: My favourite talk was Professor Robert Winston's. He spoke about fertility and embryo development and it was very engaging and humorous.

Seb: I especially enjoyed the talk on time travel, as I found the ideas discussed thought-provoking and interesting.

Mrs Leyland would like to thank the students who attended the trip for conducting themselves so well and representing the school with pride.





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# Easter Extravaganza

**GAMES  
FACE  
PAINTING  
STALLS**

**SATURDAY 28TH MARCH  
1:00-5:00PM**

**ABBEYDALE COMMUNITY  
CENTRE**

**CAKES  
RAFFLE  
SPECIAL  
GUESTS**



**SPONSORED BY**



## The Church Road Pedestrian Crossing Appeal

The brainwave of local pupil Amalie Harris who began a campaign with a petition, this crossing is urgently needed to protect all pedestrians, particularly schoolchildren and those with limited mobility.

Its installation will encourage walking or cycling for shorter journeys, reducing the amount of traffic on this small road, and create a hazard-free passage for generations to come. But we need your help!

Please scan the QR code or visit <https://www.gofundme.com//churchroadcrossing> to donate.

SCAN ME



**Total cost of project: £75,000      Total to raise: £7,000\***

***Thank you for contributing to a safer community!***

\*£68,000 provided by Gloucestershire County Council, Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council, Community Infrastructure Levy, Highways Local Fund, Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund. Should Gloucestershire County Council determine that the project cannot go ahead, all donations will be gifted to Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council to support local initiatives.