



HSL NEWS



Student Spotlight

Well done to our Year 7 Speakers, Sarah, Edward, Anna and Theo, who did a fantastic job at presenting during Open Evening!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome a new cohort of Year 7 pupils, alongside our current pupils, to school for the new academic year. I am also delighted to welcome 12 new teachers and 2 new Teaching Assistants to our team. The term has started very positively, with all pupils settling quickly into routines and embracing the many opportunities on offer.

A particular highlight has been the arrival of our new Shepherd's Hut catering pod, which is already proving popular at break and lunchtimes. The new picnic tables – generously funded by our PTFA – have made it easier for more of our pupils to enjoy their lunches outside with their friends. Although we've had some days with particularly heavy rain, our pupils and staff have been making the most of these new facilities.

It has also been wonderful to see so many extra-curricular clubs starting up again. These activities are such an important part of school life, and I would encourage all pupils to take a look at the extensive list and try something new this year. Our staff give up a great deal of their own time to provide these opportunities, we hope they are both enjoyable and rewarding.

Rehearsals for our whole-school production *We Will Rock You* are already underway, with an impressive number of Year 7 pupils joining older pupils both on stage and as part of the backstage crew. The start of term has also seen Year 9 pupils venturing on a Design Technology trip to the Harry Potter Studios, and our Year 7 disco which was a brilliant way to welcome so many new families into the HSL community.

Last week's Open Mornings and Open Evening were another highlight, with hundreds of visitors to the school. I am especially proud of our Year 8 and Year 9 pupils, who acted as excellent tour guides, as well as our Year 11 House Captains, prefects and the many pupils who supported departments throughout the evening. Their maturity, enthusiasm and pride in the school were frequently commented on by our visitors!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter which includes updates on our Science revision guides, Eco-Schools achievements, PTFA fundraising milestones, and much more. We look forward to another busy, rewarding and successful year ahead.

Helen Wood, Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening**
Thursday 9th October
4-7pm
- * **Trips to Cheltenham Literature Festival**
Year 7 - Fri 10th October
Year 8 - Weds 15th October
Year 9 - Tues 14th October
Year 10 Friday 17th October
- * **Year 10 Drama Showcase**
Tuesday 21st October
6pm
- * **Autumn Recital**
Wednesday 22nd October
6pm

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):

- October 21st & 22nd
- November 25th & 26th
- December 16th & 17th

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



Welcoming our new Year 7 pupils to HSL!



Year 11 starting their final year at HSL and starting revision sessions ahead of their GCSEs.



Our new Shepherd's Hut has arrived! Serving hot food and snacks during break and lunchtime to our pupils and staff.



House Netball, our first House event of the school year!



Vacancies at HSL

Please do look at our website to see the vacancies that we currently have. We are advertising for Cleaners and Teaching Assistants

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

What's it like to work at HSL?

“It is an absolute privilege. School communities like this are incredibly rare and I genuinely feel so grateful that I get to work in this school, within this staff body and with such great pupils everyday.”

Pupil News: Aardam Workshop

On Monday the 22nd September, I had the privilege of being offered an opportunity to take part in an animation/modelling workshop at All Saints Academy being hosted by animators from Aardman Studios in Bristol. The workshop began with a premium screening of Shaun the Sheep, whilst also being served hot chocolate and cake. Afterwards we were accompanied upstairs to a modelling workshop, where we were shown how to create our own miniature figure of Shaun out of clay, the results being judged by teachers at All Saints and the animators themselves. The experience also gave me the opportunity to mix with students and teachers from All Saints Academy that shared a similar interest to me in the area of modelling and filmmaking, and I thoroughly enjoyed the interactions I had. Overall, it was a very productive experience, that really influenced my way of creating models for my own films and definitely an experience I'm going to look back fondly on in the future.

Seb Miles, 11CH



Pupil News: Mini Librarian applicants

If you would like to be a Mini-Librarian, please remember that your application needs to be with Ms Hayes by Friday 3rd October. As a Mini-Librarian, you will be able to:

- check books in and out
- organise the LRC
- support with displays
- run activities in the LRC

If you have any other questions, please speak to Ms Hayes in the LRC

Year 9 STEM Challenge Day

On 29th September, 41 of our Year 9 students took part in an exciting STEM activity, delivered by Stemworks and generously sponsored by the local aviation equipment company, Safran.

The day was led by Mr Rob Dorey, who set students the challenge of designing and building a vehicle that could be launched using compressed air and travel as far as possible. Working to a set budget, students had to carefully plan and purchase the materials they needed before constructing their first prototype.

After initial testing, teams moved into the improvement and refinement stage. Along the way, there were a few setbacks, but students showed impressive resilience and determination, working together to problem-solve and adapt their designs.

In the afternoon, each team delivered a short presentation about their vehicle before carrying out two final test launches to see whose creation would travel the furthest.



It was a fantastic day, helping students to develop key skills in teamwork, problem-solving, budgeting, and working to a clear brief.

We would like to extend our thanks to Mr Dorey from Stemworks and to Safran for supporting this opportunity.



We Will Rock You Rehearsals

Rehearsals are in full swing for our whole school production of We Will Rock You. With nearly 300 students involved, it is already looking like an absolute masterpiece! The merchandise team have started to design the cast hoody which will be released soon; set design and costume ideas are starting to happen with the Art and D.T department and the tech team are learning more about programming lighting states. Most importantly, however, there are some lovely friendships forming within the cast – particularly across year groups which is one of the best things about being in the show. If you wish you signed up but didn't, it is not too late – please speak to Miss Winters!



Languages Week at HSL

As part of our Language Week celebrations this year, our students who speak English as an additional language created a series of engaging presentations showcasing their languages and cultures. During tutor time, we were able to explore a range of unique traditions and customs from around the world, including Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Guyana, India, Iran, Poland, Slovakia, Turkey, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. The presentations included a wonderful mix of visuals, stories and fun facts, and it gave us all the opportunity to learn some new words, explore different cuisines and appreciate the richness of diverse cultures within our school community. A huge thank you to all the students for the incredible effort and creativity they put into their Language Week presentations. Their hard work, enthusiasm and pride in sharing their languages and cultures made the celebrations truly special. More information and highlights from our Language Week celebrations will be shared soon - so stay tuned!



Pupil Presentations

KEY FACTS:
 TEHRAN IS THE 22TH BIGGEST CITY IN THE WORLD WITH JUST UNDER 10 MILLION POPULATION.
 IT ALSO STOOD AT THE BIGGEST EMPIRE OF THE WORLD AT 550 BCE. NAME THE ACHAEEMENID EMPIRE OR THE ANCIENT PERSIAN EMPIRE.
 IT IS ALSO ONE OF THE OLDEST CIVILISATIONS AS A NATION AT OVER 5000 YEARS OF HISTORY.
LANGUAGE:
 THE LANGUAGE OF IRAN IS PERSIAN WHICH USES ALPHABETS CLOSE TO ARABIC. TWO OTHER COUNTRIES USEN RELATILIAN ALSO SPEAK PERSIAN IN DIFFERENT ACCENTS.
 THE FAVORITE PERSIAN WORD IS "ROOZGAR" WHICH IS THE NEW YEAR DAY TRANSLATING TO "NEW DAY" REPRESENTING A NEW START AND GOOD LUCK.

IRAN

Iran is known for its resources saffron, famous handmade persian rug and diversity of culture and amazing architecture, scientists and mathematicians and an

Fun fact: Iran has its own new year called Nowruz which has a special significance where you eat 7 different sweets starting with "S" which all have a special meaning.

La France

Key facts:

- Population approximately 67-68 million people
- The largest country in the European union
- Capital city is Paris

La Fete des Rois - January 6th.
 This is a festival where on this day, families make a cake called La Galette des Rois to celebrate the arrival of the three wise men. In this cake, a mini ceramic figurine is unknowingly placed. Once the cake is ready to serve, one person goes under the table and decides which slice will go to who. Whoever gets the slice with the figurine is crowned King or Queen for the day. This is one of my favourite celebrations!

Paris - (small recommendations)
 Some interesting things to take including: Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame.

Favorite words

- Saudade** - It is a word that only exists in Portuguese. It means the feeling of missing something or someone.
- Aconchego** - It is a word that describe how kind and close the people are to each other, it is a perfect match to how Brazilian people treat each other even if they don't know the person, and how people care about each other.
- Esquema** - It's the creative way that brazilian have to solve problems. "It doesn't have to be perfect, it just needs to work".
- Golazo** - It is used when a player (in football) score a beautiful goal.

HSL awarded Eco Schools Green Flag with Distinction!

HSL awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction!

We are delighted to announce that once again HSL has been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction!

Our application received the following feedback from our Eco-Schools assessor:

Your greatest overall success:

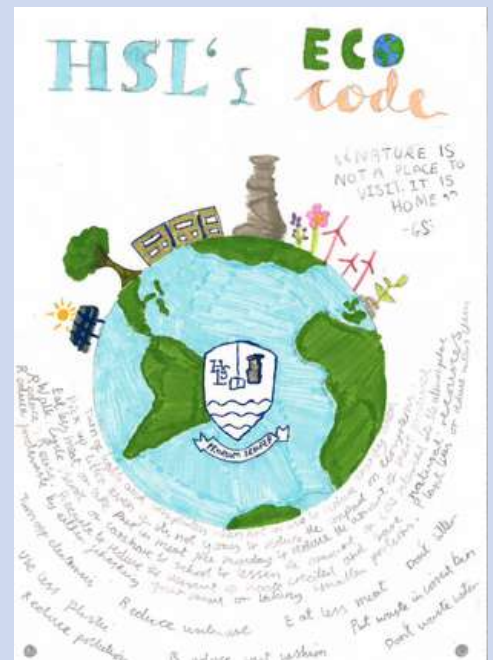
- Your Eco-Committee have developed skills in public speaking and teamwork through their brilliant efforts in raising awareness to the local council and the school community about the importance of cycling to school and its effect on the environment. The Leckhampton Gold campaign is a fantastic idea!

What we loved about your application...

- We love that your Eco-Committee's consistent hard work on their Action plan each week meant that you had such a success in meeting your project goals. From increasing biodiversity on your school site, reduced litter through litter picks and informing students on recycling, and increased the amount of students cycling or walking to school - you should all be very proud!
- Thanks to staff members incorporating environmental issues into the curriculum, pupils at your school are becoming more aware of sustainable living and the importance of being active in protecting our planet. The lessons on Eco-Churches and Air Quality sound like fantastic learning experiences.



Miss Kennedy would like to thank all who contributed to our application, especially Ms Agombar and the Eco-Committee. We look forward to achieving even more this academic year as we start work on our 2026 Green Flag application.



Our Eco-Code designed by Lauren Dege and Beatrice Barber in 10CH

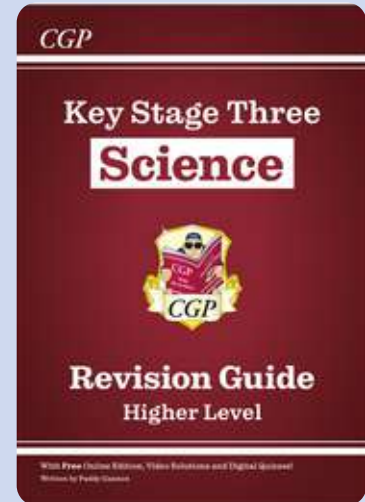
Science News

Every Year 7 student will soon be receiving a numbered red CGP KS3 Science Revision Guide from their Science teacher.

Every Year 10 student will soon be receiving a numbered red CGP GCSE AQA Combined Science Revision Guide from one of their Science teachers.

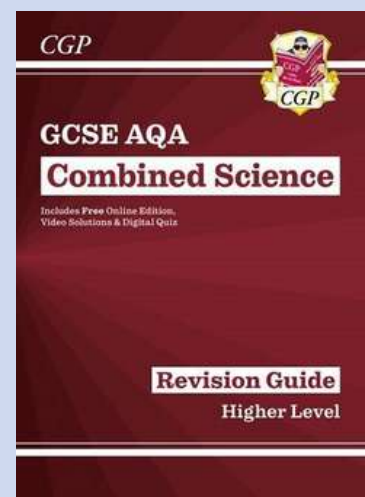
Please encourage your child to use their Revision Guide at home to complete their homework, review what they have learned in their lessons, and revise for their assessments. More information regarding how to revise and which page numbers to use can always be found on the VLE (Firefly) in the Task Description for the homework or assessment.

The school will collect these Revision Guides back at the end of Year 9 and Year 11 to pass on to the new cohort of Year 7 and Year 10 students. Students have been told to keep them safe and avoid writing in them at all.



If you would like to purchase your child's copy of the Revision Guide, you can do so via Scopay.

If your child has lost the Revision Guide and needs a replacement, please contact the school to let us know.



Get involved in our Eco-School!

At The High School Leckhampton, we are committed to looking after our environment and building a sustainable future for all. Please see below for a list of what we do at HSL to protect our environment:

- Walk or cycle to school
- Turn our engines off in our car park and drop-off zone
- Bring our own re-useable water bottle to school
- Finish every meal we eat
- Eat less meat
- Use less plastic
- Pick up any litter we see
- Recycle the correct items in the correct bins
- Avoid wasting paper, water and energy
- Turn off electrical appliances (e.g., lights, computers, monitors) when not needed

The Eco-Committee meets every Monday at 1:30 pm in GW3 if students would like to get involved.

All staff, students, parents and governors, and trust and community representatives are invited to attend Green Group Meetings once a term.

In Green Group Meetings we discuss the work we are doing to raise awareness about protecting the environment and drive sustainable initiatives involving our whole school community as part of the Eco-Schools programme.

The next Green Group Meeting will take place on Monday 6th October 2024 in the Library from 15:45 - 16:45.



HSL achieves the Modeshift STARS accreditation

The High School Leckhampton is delighted to have been accredited as a Modeshift STARS school and has been judged at a 'Very Good' level - this is the highest level available!

Modeshift STARS is a national accreditation scheme that recognises and rewards schools across the UK for their work to promote sustainable travel. Managed by Modeshift, this government-recognised initiative supports schools to create a travel plan which encourages students, staff, and parents to adopt greener, healthier, and safer ways to travel.

For more information about the award please see <https://modeshift.org.uk/modeshift-stars/>

Sporting Success at HSL

The PE Department are delighted to see the full extra-curricular programme up and running for the new academic year, with lots of new faces getting involved. We encourage all pupils to try as many different clubs as possible – not only to build new friendships, but also to enhance their skills and fitness, supporting what they learn in lessons. Our clubs provide a fun and supportive environment for everyone to enjoy.

We are pleased to share that our sports department is 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.

Please check out the website on the link below, or by putting 'HSL Sport' into Google.

<https://sport.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk/>



U14 Hockey Match Report – HSL vs Balcarras

On a sunny September evening, 16 girls turned out to represent HSL in their first experience of playing 11-a-side on a full-sized pitch.

Balcarras took an early lead with a goal that just crept through, but this only fuelled the determination of the HSL team. From that moment on, the girls dominated possession and grew into the game with confidence. The intensity lifted as HSL were awarded three short corners, but despite their strong efforts, the Balcarras goalkeeper produced some excellent saves to keep them out.

In the final five minutes, the persistence and teamwork paid off. After some excellent passages of play, Amber, our captain, found the back of the net with a well-deserved equaliser.

The game ended 1–1, a fair reflection of the girls' efforts. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout, with many new squad members stepping up to the challenge. Exciting things lie ahead as the season progresses!

Old Pats Rugby

The first session for the old pats training sessions started on Monday of last week and with an exceptional turn out of numbers both boys and girls we are hoping week by week this fantastic opportunity grows.

Across y7, y8 and y9 the keen rugby players here at HSL get access to some specialist coaching bringing a fun element to the game rugby which has been enjoyed already by all 3-year groups, and long may it continue for the 9 weeks we have left with this opportunity.

It's still available to book for anyone who wants to join!

Year 7 vs Bournside

On Wednesday 17th we took a Y7 A&B Team to play in a training match vs Bournside.

It was a tough start for our teams as we were playing off the back of one training session at school.

There were some real highlights as our players committed to the game with some big tackles and quick handling of the ball (in tricky conditions). Although both A&B lost their first game. The focus is very much on progressing as individuals and as a team whilst gaining a love for rugby as they progress through HSL.

Year 7 Girls Hockey

Our Year 7 Girls Hockey teams had their first fixture vs Pates Grammar School last week. We had both an A team and a B team competing, after only a couple of hockey club sessions. The standard was very high for their first game and the students all learnt a lot about the rules and tactics of the game. Lots of goals were scored on the night which kept the matches very exciting. The A team narrowly lost 4-5, and the B team missed out 1-2. A super first outing and we are excited to see their progress over the coming months.



House Netball

This week has seen the start of our House Netball event. Year 11's have set a very high standard for the other year groups to follow by playing with speed and flair in extremely competitive matches.

U16 County Challenge Netball Cup

On Tuesday 30th September, our U16 squad took part in the County Challenge Netball Cup at CLC in glorious sunshine. Our team of eight looked the part in their smart HSL dresses and approached the group matches with confidence and determination.

They faced Chosen Hill, Archway, Tewkesbury, and Ribston, securing three wins and two losses to finish 3rd in the group – just missing out on a place in the play-offs.

A highlight of the afternoon was a thrilling 5-4 victory over Chosen Hill, sealed by a last-second converted goal. Despite a tough match against a well-drilled Ribston squad, the girls never gave up and showed excellent resilience throughout.

It was a wonderful afternoon of netball, and the squad should be proud of their efforts and the way they represented HSL.



NEWS FROM HSL PTFA

parents • teachers • friends

PTFA Milestone - But we still need you!

We're proud to share that, thanks to your generosity and support, the PTFA has raised an incredible **£8,000 during the 2024/25 school year** - our highest total yet!

Just four years ago, we raised £1,000 in our first year, so this is a huge achievement. The Summer Fair alone brought in nearly £3,000 - **thank you to everyone who helped make it a success.**



Funds have already been put to good use, including new picnic benches near the catering hut, costing £2,560 school is looking at how best to use the remaining funds to benefit students.

But with a growing school, a growing 'wish list' and funding challenges, **every penny we raise is quickly put to** and we still need more help. Whether you can offer time, skills, or are interested in joining the PTFA committee to hear from you! Email hello@hslptfa.org.uk or scan the QR code below to join the Volunteers WhatsApp team

Thank you again for your continued support - **we couldn't do it without you!**



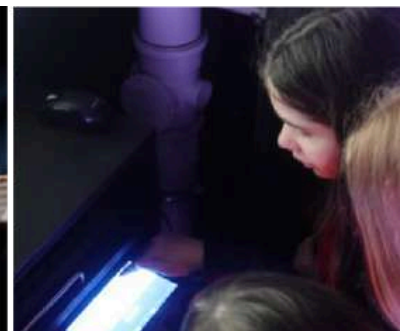
Other PTFA-funded purchases



Art - 16 Wacom Intuos (medium) drawing pads.



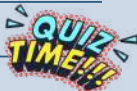


Music - 15 acoustic guitars and guitar stands.



Drama - Studio lighting board and installation.

DIARY DATES

- 30th PTFA AGM, Staff Room, 7.30-9pm
- Sept Preloved Uniform Sale, HSL Sports Hall Balcony, 6-8pm 
- 21st- Christmas Celebration Concert,
- 22nd Mince Pies and Mulled Wine, 7-9pm
- Oct School Production
- 11th-Dec "We Will Rock You", 7-9pm 
- 13th Feb Quiz & Chips Night, 7-10pm 
- 24th April Summer Fair & BBQ
- 10th July



Scan the QR code to join our friendly PTFA team!