



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

- * **INSET day - school closed to pupils**
Friday 27th March 2026
- * **Year 10 Mock Exams**
W/c Monday 13th April 2026
- * **Year 10 Work Experience**
W/c Monday 23rd April 2026
- * **Year 8 Parents' Evening**
Thursday 30th April 2026
- * **Year 11 Prom**
Friday 1st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, I am delighted to share with you this latest edition of our newsletter, which captures so much of what has been happening across the school.

It has been an exceptional term for sport at HSL, and we are really establishing ourselves as a school that can compete at the highest level in all sports. I want to begin by celebrating our Year 7 boys' hockey team, who competed in the Southwest Regional Finals at Millfield School and finished as the highest-placed state school in the region—a fantastic accomplishment! Alongside this, we have seen strong performances in football, netball and badminton, as well as individual successes in cross-country, gymnastics and swimming. It is also great to see so many students representing the school beyond the conventional school sports and fixtures. Our skiing team achieved an impressive 5th place in the National Schools Snow Sports Race League, with individual podium finishes and a national qualification. Our table and indoor cricket teams have also seen recent success. House basketball was very competitive indeed and at the time of writing, we also have a group of students and staff out in the Alps on the school ski trip, and we look forward to hearing all about it when they return.

Beyond sport, this newsletter highlights just how much is going on across the school. We have included photographs and student comments from the recent production of *We Will Rock You* - over 200 students were involved, and it is evident that they really enjoyed getting involved! British Science Week also provided a wide range of opportunities, from practical experiments to visiting speakers, and it was excellent to see such strong participation.

I would also like to mention the work of our Eco Committee and Active travel Ambassadors. From securing funding for the Walk 2 Win campaign to taking part in climate and conservation activities, students have been busy contributing to projects both in and beyond school.

We ended the term with an excellent INSET day for all staff, focused on continuing to improve teaching and learning across the school. What stood out most was the genuine sense of teamwork, professionalism and shared purpose amongst colleagues. I am incredibly proud of our staff; their dedication, hard work and commitment to our students are second to none, and I am confident you would be hard pressed to find a more committed team of teachers and support staff anywhere.

Finally, as we head into the holiday period, I would like to wish our Year 11 and Year 10 students the very best with their revision. With Year 10 mock exams and Year 11 examinations approaching, this is an important time to stay focused and make good use of the break. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and enjoy a lovely Easter break.

With warm wishes

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 Summer Term. This is a great opportunity to check for any missing items and to purchase good-quality, affordable uniform. Dates (6.00–8.00pm) will be available after the Easter Holidays.

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 8 UKMT Team Maths Challenge group represent the school and making us very proud!



Year 7 students taking part in British Science Week



Members of our Eco-Committee bidding for funding for their Walk 2 Win campaign - and winning!



Our wonderful cast of We Will Rock You!

HSL vacancies

We are currently recruiting for a range of positions at HSL.

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>





NEWS FROM HSL PTFA

parents • teachers • friends

Turn Your Everyday Shopping into School Funds

Just 35 families have already raised over £400 this school year — simply by shopping as usual!

By signing up to **Easyfundraising**, your everyday purchases (from groceries and uniforms to holidays and gifts) automatically generate donations for the school. It's quick to set up, completely free, and makes a real difference.

Imagine the difference if more of us joined. With over **8,000 retailers donating between 0.5% and 10%** (or fixed amounts), those small contributions quickly add up to meaningful support for our children.

Get started today:

- Sign up in a few minutes: [HSL PTFA EasyFundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thehighschoolleckhamptonptfa/)
- Shop as normal via Easyfundraising
- Watch your purchases turn into donations

Every click counts — and together, we can raise so much more.

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



	Amazon Up to £10.00 donation...
	JOHN LEWIS John Lewis & Partner... Up to 0.50% donation
	Etsy Up to 1.00% donation
	SPORTS DIRECT Sports Direct Up to 2.00% donation
	eBay Up to 0.50% donation
	Viking Up to 10.00% donation...
	WAITROSE & PARTNERS Waitrose & Partners Up to £6.00 donation
	H&M Up to 4.00% donation



Quiz & Chips Night: Friday 24th April!

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

Secure your place by signing up here!

<https://bit.ly/40CHOkD>

DIARY DATES

24th April	Quiz & Chips Night, 7-10pm
April/May/ June - Dates TBC	Preloved Uniform Sale, 6-7pm
9th June	PTFA Committee Meeting 7.30pm
10th July	Summer Fair & BBQ



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



We Will Rock You!

I can't believe it has already been over a month since the end of the show. From booking the show this time last year, to closing night on 13th February, it really has been a wonderful experience for all involved. Do not underestimate how much work goes into a production. From the leads to our front of house team and ushers, they all had such a fundamental role to play in the production and we are thrilled we had 196 students across the year groups involved this year. The endless hours of rehearsals and time sacrificed to produce this fantastic musical was all worth it and I can say without a doubt that the students had an absolute ball!

It was also a very special final show as we said goodbye to our Year 11 students. I wanted to do something to commemorate this and felt that a show mug would be a lovely keepsake to remind the students of the wonderful memories they've had being part of all 5 shows. I'd like to publicly thank Daisy, Megan, Henry, Elijah, Holly, Hannah, Ocean, Josie, Noah, Justin, Finley and Toby for 5 years of service to the productions. It is a very special thing to be part of the very first show HSL ever put on and then to continue to participate and set positive examples to our younger students year on year has been fantastic. I know that we are very sad to lose them (although, many have said they wish to return to help!)

Miss Winters



I wanted to give the students the opportunity to express their thoughts on being part of the show, so please see some of the wonderful comments that have been submitted by our cast:

What was your favourite part of doing the show?

Becoming friends with people I probably wouldn't have without it. - Milly

Making new friends, singing really good songs, people telling me I'd done a good job. I loved doing Seven Seas of Rhye and being Khashoggi - it was really fun terrorising the bohemians during my solo - being a villain, especially a funny one was the best. My sparkly jacket was good and my long leather coat and sunglasses too. I liked that lots of people were surprised at my performance, especially my friends and other teachers. I was one of the youngest leads so was mainly working with older students but this was actually brilliant and everyone really encouraged and supported each other, even when things didn't go to plan. I didn't want it to end! - Ruben

Getting to know the rest of the cast and celebrating the shows together – Henry

All of the people in it, the rehearsals and all of the songs, the effort that everyone puts into it. It was amazing! - Evie

I think it is that as you do it you make friends with people from all different year groups – Bella

Seeing everyone walk in and out with a smile on their face – Arthur

Have you noticed any changes in yourself by doing the show?

I like drama now after the show – Archie

Speaking to new people – Emily

It has made me want to do the show next year and maybe have a speaking part as it was all so fun! - Madeline

Being better in crowds – Lawrence

The realisation that not all friendships are built through those in your year – Isabella

I think I became more responsible with the responsibilities that come with participating in the show – Evie

Yes, more confidence! – Harry

If someone was debating whether to get involved next year, what would you say to them?

You won't regret it – Henry

I would say that if they are committed it's such a fun and enjoyable experience and will be something to be proud of by the last show night. - Ava

"If you're on the fence about getting involved, then absolutely give it a go! There's no harm in trying and I can guarantee that you're going to have an incredible time and make some of the best memories of your life" - Justin

It involves many key life skills; you should do it. - Lawrence

Totally do it. It's so much fun. It can be scary but that just means that you care. - Florence





There's no rest for the wicked – our next show is booked! Planning is already underway and rumours are rife amongst the students. Watch this space for the big reveal... !

Head of House Update

As we move further into the academic year, it is a pleasure to reflect on what has been another busy and successful period across all Houses. The continued enthusiasm, commitment and positivity shown by our students remain a real strength of our school community, and it has been fantastic to see so many students engaging fully with the opportunities available to them.

House life continues to thrive, with a wide range of competitions bringing energy and excitement to the school. Recent highlights have included House Basketball and House Football, where students demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. Alongside these, the ever-popular House Lip Sync event showcased creativity, confidence and a great sense of fun, with performances that truly captured House spirit.

Students have also had the opportunity to engage in academic competition, most notably through the History House competition, which this year has taken on particular significance as we commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. It has been encouraging to see students engaging thoughtfully with this important historical moment, combining knowledge with reflection and respect.

One of the most pleasing aspects of this term has been the continued rise in ePraise points across all Houses. Students are consistently being recognised for their effort, resilience, kindness and contribution to school life. This sustained momentum is a credit to their positive attitudes and commitment to doing their best in all areas.

Student voice remains a key focus, and House council meetings have once again provided a valuable platform for students to share ideas, raise issues and contribute to the ongoing development of the school. The quality of discussion and the sense of ownership shown by students in these meetings have been particularly impressive.

One of the most exciting moments in the school calendar took place recently with 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 are currently in the process of interviewing applicants. We are very much looking forward to seeing the next generation of student leaders step forward and make a positive impact across the school.

As we look ahead, there is still much to look forward to, with further House events, competitions and opportunities on the horizon. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are extremely proud of our students and all that they continue to achieve.



UKMT Team Maths Challenge

17 schools participated in this event which included a mix of state, grammar and private schools from Cheltenham and the surrounding area. A team of 4 students from HSL were selected to compete and participated in practice sessions to build the skills necessary to complete this challenge. These students were Daniel Chambers and Tessie Skinner from Year 8 and Millie Doobie and Chanuga Pathiraja from Year 9.

The day commenced with the Group round this round involved the whole team working together and combining wit to answer a series of questions each progressively harder than the last. In this round our combined total of 49/60 led us to become the third highest scoring school in the competition. Only beaten by the likes of Pate's and Dean Close.

Following this we completed the cross-number, which is exactly as it sounds however we were split into 2 teams of 2 and no direct communication was permitted between teams. One team had the across clue and the other had the downs each team relied on each other to gain the necessary clues as many clues formulated part of the answer of another clue.

We finished with an impressive score of 57/62.

The next round was the shuttle round, where the answer to the first question was used to form the answer to the next question. This round was tricky, as if one mistake was made it meant many mistakes were made. We then finished off with our favourite round, the relay round, where we were able to run around and answer maths problems.

Overall, we came 8th out of the 17 schools, which is an impressive result! We had an enjoyable and enriching day out and cannot wait for the competition next year.

Daniel Chambers 8WI



UKMT Team Maths Challenge practice question

“I have enough money to buy either six swizzles and 5 fizzles, or else nine swizzles and one fizzle, with no change left. If instead I buy only fizzles, how many can I buy?”



History House Competition

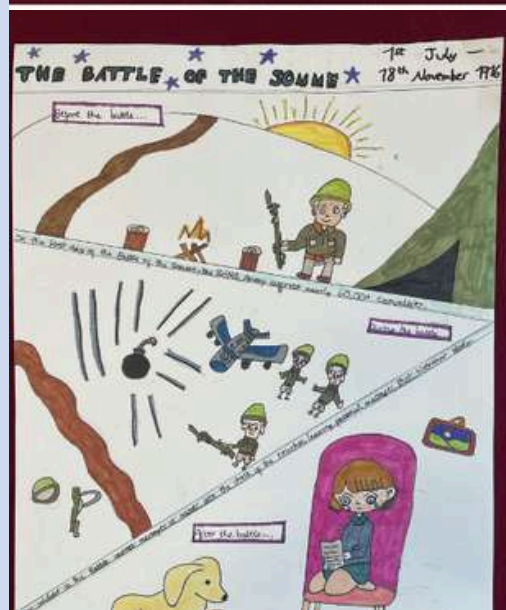
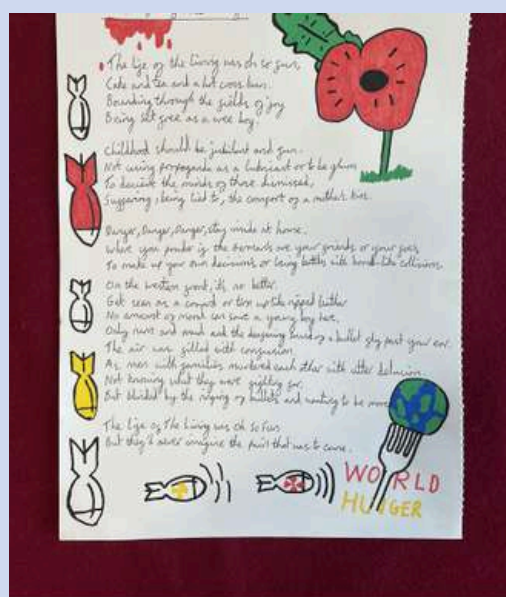
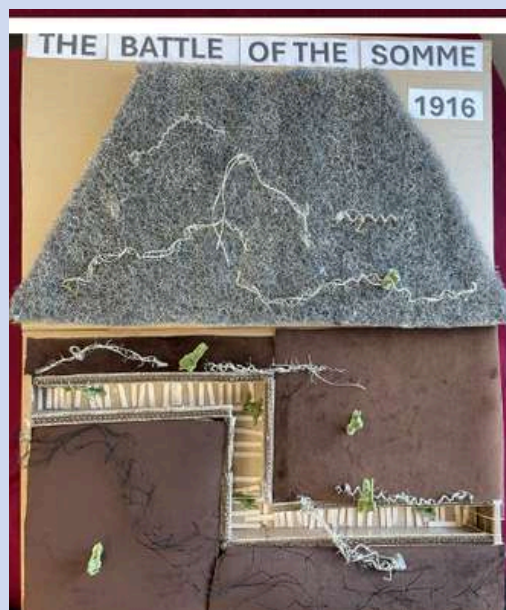
The History Department recently marked the 110th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme with a House Competition, inviting students to create thoughtful and creative commemorative pieces reflecting on this pivotal moment in the First World War. Entries took a variety of forms, showcasing not only students' historical knowledge but also their ability to engage imaginatively and sensitively with the past.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Down, one of our HSL governors, as judge. He praised the exceptionally high standard of work, highlighting the depth of understanding, originality, and care evident across all submissions. He also remarked on how challenging it was to choose between such strong entries.

Congratulations to our prize winners: Flo (9LB), who achieved first place, followed by Fred (9CH) in second place and Madeline (7WI1) in third place. Highly commended entries were awarded to Harry (8IS1) and Layla (9LB).

A huge thank you to all students who took part and contributed to such a reflective and engaging competition, helping to bring this important historical event to life.

Please enjoy some images of the entries we received this year!



Careers Education Update

As our school grows, we continue to audit provision to ensure all students receive the right support. As a result of this, we are pleased to share some updates to our careers team.

Ms Valente will be moving into the role of Careers Lead after the Easter holidays. She has already begun working with students and staff and, once in post full-time, will lead on all aspects of careers education. This includes overseeing our careers programme, coordinating work experience, and organising key events such as our Worlds of Work Fair and Post-16 Pathways Evening. We are delighted to have her leading this important area of school life.

Mrs Lewis will continue in her role as our independent careers adviser, now with a sole focus on providing high-quality, impartial guidance to students at key transition points. We are very grateful for the significant contribution she has made since the school opened, particularly in organising events and supporting students. As our school has grown and the demand for personalised careers guidance has increased, this change will ensure students receive the support they need at the right time.

We look forward to further updating you on our careers work in the next few months, including Year 10 work experience and the Pathways fair.



Extracurricular Opportunities – Something for Everyone

This term has seen excellent levels of engagement in our extracurricular programme, with students making the most of the wide range of opportunities available to them across the school day.

From sport before school, at lunchtime and after school, to a rich offer of creative and cultural activities, there has been something for everyone. Students have been taking part in Jazz band and orchestra, drama clubs, Studio Ghibli and manga groups, writers' workshops, British Sign Language, and many more. It has been wonderful to see students trying something new, developing their interests and building confidence beyond the classroom.

We are also proud of the opportunities available for students to engage with the wider world. Groups such as the Eco Committee allow students to contribute to both local and global issues, developing a sense of responsibility and community.

Looking ahead, next term's extracurricular brochure is now available on the school website. We strongly encourage all students to explore what's on offer and get involved—whether continuing with a favourite activity or trying something completely new. Our extracurricular programme is at the heart of our provision, helping students to develop skills, friendships and interests that will stay with them well beyond their time at school. We are proud of the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students this term and look forward to even more participation next term.



British Science Week 2026

From Monday 9th until Friday 13th March, HSL celebrated British Science Week 2026 and its theme for this year: Curiosity: what's your question?

There were plenty of events going on during the week for students to get involved with:

A bat walk on Monday evening with Stephen Mason from Cheltenham Borough Council

An eyeball dissection with Mrs Waterson

A spaghetti and marshmallow bridge building challenge with Mrs Collins

A talk from Lawrence Hurst, Professor of

Evolutionary Genetics at the University of Bath

A talk from Dr Georgia Woodburn about applying for and studying to be a GP

A space masterclass workshop with David Allden, Space Advocate for the National Space Academy

A talk on Mathsfinity and beyond with Miss Orsler

A series of experiments and demonstrations with Mr Talbot

A trip to Birmingham Thinktank Science Museum



Year 7 Science Exam

The Year 7 Science Exam will take place during lessons on Monday 11th May.

Students will need a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator for this assessment. The exam will contain questions on every topic that students have studied in Science in Year 7.

Please see the VLE task called **SCIENCE ASSESSMENT: Year 7 Science Exam** for more information on when the exam will take place for each tutor group, which topics will be assessed, and how the students can revise for it. If you have any questions please let us know.

CEP Climate Changemakers Workshop

On Thursday 5th March, our HSL Changemakers, Raffy, Joe and Daniel in Year 8, carried out conversation work on Leckhampton Hill along with fellow Climate Changemakers from other schools in the Cheltenham Education Partnership.

The weather was glorious and the Changemakers had a great time. The FOLK volunteers and rangers from the Green Space Development Team were really impressed with their enthusiasm and effort.



ATA Campaign Junction Event

On Friday 6th March our Active Travel Ambassadors journeyed to Gloucester Shire Hall and back by train to bid for £200 of funding for their Walk 2 Win project.

The students had a fantastic day; they were successfully awarded the grant of £200 plus an extra £50 and also received some positive feedback from Anne, our ATA Coordinator:

The team did an excellent campaign pitch and all came across as very confident, even though I know a few of them were quite nervous. A massive achievement on their part.

Also a big congratulations for attaining the £50 bonus. The panelists were very impressed with how you reflected and built on last year's campaign.





Year 7 Hockey Tournament

Following an early start at HSL on Friday 20th March, the Year 7 boys' hockey team, accompanied by Mr Powell-Jones and Mrs Vaughan, travelled to Millfield School to compete in the South West Regional Finals.

Drawn in a highly competitive group, the team faced five challenging fixtures, with only the top two sides progressing to the semi-finals. The boys set themselves high standards from the outset and rose to the occasion.

Their opening match against Exeter School saw the team concede early, but they responded with determination and composure, dominating possession and earning a well-deserved equaliser to secure a 1–1 draw. In the following game against Stonar School, the team delivered an outstanding performance, winning 2–0. A solid defensive unit, led by Harry, Monty and Jack, provided the foundation for effective distribution into midfield, where Will, Josh and Theo controlled play. Up front, Charlie and Charlie applied constant pressure, creating numerous attacking opportunities.

The team then faced Clifton College, who went on to win the tournament. In a hard-fought contest, HSL competed admirably and kept the scoreline close for much of the match before eventually losing 4–1.

The team continued their campaign with fixtures against Truro School, King's School Gloucester and Blundell's School, maintaining their determination and competitive spirit throughout. A particularly close encounter against King's School Gloucester saw HSL concede a last-minute equaliser, taking the match to a tense penalty shuffles. Despite a well-taken goal from Josh and some outstanding saves from both Carson and Charlie in goal, the team were narrowly defeated 2–1.

Across the tournament, the boys demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship against strong opposition. They finished in an impressive 8th place out of 16 teams, and notably as the highest-placed state school in the South West region for Year 7 hockey, a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work and commitment.

Year 10 Football vs Cleeve

The Year 10 side faced a tough test against Cleeve, ultimately falling to a 4–2 defeat in challenging conditions. The pitch was difficult to play on, with long grass making it hard to move the ball quickly and maintain control, although this was the same for both teams and not something we can use as an excuse.

Cleeve started the game strongly and took an early 2–0 lead, capitalising on a couple of defensive lapses. To our credit, the team responded well and began to settle into the game. Henry Johnson pulled a goal back to make it 2–1, finishing confidently after a positive attacking move.

However, Cleeve regained control and extended their lead to 4–1, punishing us when we switched off and struggled to deal with their direct style of play. Despite this, the boys continued to show resilience and kept working hard throughout.

Henry Johnson grabbed his second of the game to make it 4–2, giving us a late lift, but it wasn't enough to close the gap.

There were positive moments going forward, particularly through Henry Johnson's clinical finishing, alongside good play from Oliver Lister, who showed composure and intent in possession. However, we need to improve our concentration and defensive organisation if we are to compete more consistently. Overall, a disappointing result, but one we can learn from going forward.

Badminton

The Year 9, 10 and 11 Girls Badminton teams competed at CLC recently for the Gloucestershire County Finals, winning some great matches against very tough opposition of Denmark Road, CLC and Pates.



Student Success

Congratulations to Ivy Hodgkinson who competed at the Clubs Cross-Country Nationals competition last weekend.

Congratulations to Evan Watkins who competed in the South West gymnastics competition last weekend for Gloucestershire and has qualified for the English finals. We wish him the very best of luck!

Congratulations to Duygu Dincer, Year 8, who recently competed at the County Swimming Finals, she has qualified for a place at Regionals across several events in her age group and we look forward to hearing how she gets on at the next round.

U13s Indoor Cricket

The U13s made the district finals which was held at Clifton college sports facilities. The girls gave a really good account of themselves competing with private schools from around the district. Although they didn't achieve a win at this event they challenged throughout and finished 4th out of the 4 teams that attended after some late dropouts. Well done on the amazing achievement girls you played fantastic and did HSL Proud!



Skiing team results

Lucy Page, Thomas Page, Josh Copeland, Jack Boyd recently competed for HSL at the Gloucestershire Schools Ski competition.

As a team they came a very impressive 5th in the National Schools Snow Sports Race League, with Jack Boyd Yr 10 qualifying individually for the National Finals in May. Josh came 3rd, Lucy came 2nd, Thomas came 8th. Lucy and Thomas both got great times for their first competition.



Netball

Well done to all of our netball players this season. We have had some fantastic fixtures against Cheltenham and Gloucester Schools, and we are playing well-timed competitive netball across every year group. Our 7 to 10 netball teams all performed very well at their District Tournaments and our Year 11 team have been working hard for the GCSE PE moderation.





CHELTENHAM
PREP SCHOOL



Easter Eggstravaganza Chemistry Spectacular



With new
awe
inspiring
experiments
and
explosions!

Saturday 4 April 2026, Cheltenham Prep School

Adult - £5 | Ages 12-18 - £3 | Under 12 - Free
All proceeds will go to charity

4.00 pm Free Car Park Opens
4.30 pm Easter Egg Hunt
5.00 pm Chemistry Spectacular

[Book your
tickets
here](#)



CHELTENHAM TOWN WOMEN FC

Science Updates



FINAL HOME GAME OF THE SEASON

GET YOURS IN ADVANCE USING
THE QR CODE ABOVE,
OR BY HEADING TO
[CTWOMENFC.COM!](http://CTWOMENFC.COM)

ADULTS: £6

U18'S: £1

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR
FAMILIES TO ENJOY HIGH-QUALITY
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LOCALLY IN A
WELCOMING, FAMILY-FRIENDLY
ENVIRONMENT AT KAYTE LANE



V HASHTAG UNITED

12TH APRIL

2PM KICK OFF

*FIXTURE DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



IAN FLEMING'S
**CHITTY CHITTY
BANG BANG**

31st March - 4th April 2026

LICENSED SCRIPT ADAPTED BY
Ray Roderick

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY
Jeremy Sams

BASED ON THE MGM MOTION PICTURE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY

Richard M. Sherman &
Robert B. Sherman

MUSIC BY SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT WITH

Sony/ATV Publishing

CURTAINS UP

7.30pm evening - 2.30pm Thursday & Saturday matinee

TICKETS
£20.00 - £30.00



SCAN QR CODE
for box office

A special BSL interpreted performance on 2nd April @ 2.30pm

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.co.uk

SPRING STOCK NEEDED

50/50 commission basis

Have you had a Spring wardrobe clear out?

We're looking for varied, in season

pre-loved clothing in great condition from quality brands.



BETTY BOO
PRELOVED FASHION



preloved
FASHION

Please bring your items to JACKEROO Bath Road
T.07766250829 @bettyboopreloved