



# HSL NEWS



## Student Spotlight

Well done to our Year 10s who headed out on Work Experience this month. They learned a huge amount, contributed to the local community and had a fantastic time!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* **Year 11 Prom**  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026
- \* **GCSE Art and Textiles Exhibition**  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- \* **Year 11 exam season commences**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- \* **Summer Recital**  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- \* **Silly Sports Day**  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter break. It has been a really positive and purposeful start to the summer term at The High School Leckhampton, and there is a real sense of energy and focus across the school since we returned. As you will see throughout this newsletter, our students have thrown themselves into a wide range of opportunities and, as always, we are very proud of all they have achieved.

I would like to wish our Year 11 students the very best of luck as they begin their GCSE examinations. This is such an important moment for them and a chance to show everything they have worked so hard towards. We are incredibly proud of their approach and wish them every success in the weeks ahead. The Year 11 Prom was a fantastic evening last Friday and a lovely opportunity to celebrate together – we look forward to sharing photographs with you in the next issue.

We are equally proud of our Year 10 students, who have had a busy and rewarding few weeks, completing their internal exams before heading out on work experience. We have received some wonderful feedback from employers, and it has been fantastic to see our students representing the school so confidently. Experiences like this really help students understand just how much hard work goes into the world of employment – I am sure many came home quite tired, but with a real sense of achievement. Thank you to all parents for your support in helping them to get to their placements and make the most of the opportunity.

There have been many other highlights across the school. Our Easter ski trip to Val Cenis was a memorable experience for all involved, and it was wonderful to see students building confidence and resilience in a new environment. We have also celebrated success beyond the classroom, including our Year 8 boys' football team reaching their district final and our golfers securing an impressive second place in the Gloucestershire Schools Championships. It is always a pleasure to see so many students getting involved and making the most of all that is on offer! Our Eco Enrichment Day and Earth Day activities were a great reminder of our shared commitment to sustainability, while the PTFA Quiz Night was a fantastic example of our supportive school community. The teachers came a very credible second place to strong competitors!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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).

19th-21st May  
23rd-25th June  
14th-16th July

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



The HSL ski trip had a fantastic time in Val Cenis!



Grace in Year 7 taking to The Everyman Theatre stage, cheered on by Miss Winters!



KS3 students being supported by members of the local community for our Eco Enrichment Day.



Year 8 boys football team working hard and demonstrating HSL team spirit!

## 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>



The High School  
Leckhampton



## 25 Teams, One Brilliant Quiz Night!

Our annual Fish and Chip Quiz Night was a fantastic success, with 25 teams taking part in a lively and competitive evening. Congratulations to team "Have You Packed Your Bag for Tomorrow?" for emerging as this year's winners!

A big thank you goes to **Rich Reader**, our brilliant quizmaster, for delivering a fun and challenging quiz, to **Lakeside Takeaway** for providing 139 delicious, hot meals and to **all the volunteers** who gave their time and energy to help the event run so smoothly.

At the time of printing, we are still finalising the total raised, but we're delighted with the incredible support shown. **THANK YOU!**



## Pre-Loved Uniform: £900 & Counting

Pre-Loved Uniform sales have raised nearly £900 since September, which is a fantastic achievement! Thank you to everyone who has donated and bought items.

We **urgently need sports kit, especially girls' skorts and P.E. tops**. As our Year 11s prepare to finish in a few months, we'd love to ask a small favour - if their uniform won't be needed for younger siblings, please consider donating it to our Pre-Loved Uniform Shop. **Donations can be dropped off at HSL Reception during school hours.**

Please keep the pre-loved items coming - your support really counts!



## Friday 10th July: HSL Summer Fair & BBQ, 6-8.30pm

Join us for an evening of delicious food, live music, student-run stalls, a tuck shop and plenty more!

**Keep an eye out – full details coming soon!**

DIARY DATES

9<sup>th</sup> June PTFA Committee Meeting 7.30pm

June/ July - Dates TBC Preloved Uniform Sale, 6-7pm

10th July Summer Fair & BBQ



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

## Ski trip

I am delighted to report that the Easter 2026 ski trip to Val Cenis, France was a tremendous success and a memorable experience for the 43 students involved. Students enjoyed a full week of skiing at the beginning of April in excellent conditions, with some snow and some beautiful sunny days. They were supported by professional instructors who helped them develop confidence, technique and resilience on the slopes. Whether beginners mastering their first turns or more experienced skiers refining their skills, every student made clear progress over the course of the trip and all came home without injury.

The trip also offered valuable cultural experiences. Students sampled French cuisine (tartiflette and cheese fondue were both popular!), practised basic language skills with the help of Miss Barratt and gained a greater appreciation of alpine life in the beautiful Maurienne Valley. Evenings were filled with a range of organised activities, helping to build friendships and create lasting memories.

We would like to thank the staff who gave their time and energy to make the trip such a success, as well as the parents and carers for their support in preparing students for the experience. Most importantly, we are proud of the students for their positive attitudes, enthusiasm and behaviour throughout the week.

The Val Cenis trip once again highlighted the importance of enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom, supporting personal development, confidence and wellbeing. We hope the students returned home tired but smiling, with stories they will be sharing for years to come.

Chris Newman, Trip Leader



# Ski trip



## Student Success

Over the Easter holidays, another one of our students graced The Everyman stage in the CODS production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang! Miss Winters went along to watch and met Grace from Year 7 at Stagedoor to congratulate her on a fantastic performance. Grace had been rehearsing for both this show and our school production at the same time and the commitment and dedication that takes should not be underestimated! Here is what Grace had to say about her experience on such an iconic stage:

“In April, 2026 I was honoured to be part of the ensemble in Cods production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. We performed seven sell out shows at the Everyman theatre. Things moved on so quickly from my first audition in September to the performance at Easter. I was nervous when rehearsals began, but made new friends quickly and my confidence grew.

Once we were rehearsing at the theatre we had dressing rooms allocated and it all started to feel very real. So many people were involved from lighting, and orchestra, to seamstresses and set designers. There were so many new experiences for me: including costume changes, hair and makeup and wearing a mic pack! I will never forget the mixture of excitement and fear that I felt when the curtains rose for the first time on opening night. I loved performing and the feeling of being on stage. My highlight was doing the bows to the standing ovation at the end of each show.

It was tiring but amazing to perform matinee and evening shows to an audience of varying ages. My first CODS show was a “fantasmogorical” experience that I will never forget.”

We are always so proud of what our students get involved in outside of school, especially large-scale productions like this with a professional adult team and also a vast range of ages of actors too.



## Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students have been all over the Cotswolds and beyond – including London, Ireland, France and Germany - spending the past week out in the workplace as part of HSL's Career's program.

The program is built around a series of core benchmarks and individualised learning goals, with work experience being one key element. We spent months building up to it and preparing students, but, of course, shifting from classroom to independent, real-world workspaces is where the magic happens!

Placements have included everything from practical roles such as dog grooming, farming and landscape management to offices including legal chambers, architects and marketing offices. Students have been creating content, designing interiors, and writing newspaper articles and we are incredibly proud of all that they have achieved. It's a huge range and really reflects the breadth of interests and skills of our Year 10.

Staff went to visit our young professionals, catching up on what they've been up to and hearing from employers about their impressions. Here's a little of what they've had to say!

'I'd hire her tomorrow if I could!'

'She has a real aptitude for this and should certainly consider it as a career.'

'He's been so brilliant, we're going to miss having him around.'

'He's an absolute superstar.'

'Are you sure she's only 14?!'

One member of staff commented: 'Driving around in the sunshine and popping in to see students has been an absolute pleasure. Yes, the weather helped, but the sunshine wasn't just outside - smiling students and placement leads greeted me wherever I went! What a treat to see our young people so confident and articulate, thriving in such a broad range of workplaces.'

Work experience really does bring out the best in so many. It's an opportunity to see how their learning applies in the real world, to build new relationships and transferrable skills, and possibly even gather references for future employment, but it's also much more than that. Work experience allows students to be really shine, and Year 10 certainly have this week.



# Year 10 Work Experience



## Gloucestershire Schools Championships 2026

A spectacular day at Stinchcombe Hill welcomed The High School Leckhampton and greeted us nicely. Thanks to all of the greenkeepers and committee for making this such a fantastic day - plus a special shout out to Mr Powell-Jones and my brilliant playing partner Noah Slatter. With two great rounds Noah shot nett 69 and myself ( Max ) nett 64, we were -3 overall with combined scoring that put us in 2nd place out of 25 schools. We did absolutely amazingly, especially because we only had 2 players whereas other schools had up to 8 players. With a three hour gap between our tee times, we got to watch each other play some great golf. We can't wait until next year already when we're going to take the trophy out of Balcarras' hands!

Report by Max Valentine 8WI2



## Year 8 Boys District Football

The Year 8 Boys started the campaign early January and in difficult conditions suffered a loss against Bournside school to start off a season that would prove to show their resilience and teamwork. For the next 4 games came the wins and with some strong individual performances and goals, the boys managed to top their group ending the league stage comfortably top of the group progressing to the final.

On Monday 20th, the only date that unfortunately the semi-final could be played and the day before the final, the boys ran out 3-0 winners against a strong All Saints Academy team who really pushed the boys to the end making it tough to try and rest players before the final the very next day.

The final can only be described as unlucky, every single one of the boys in the team gave everything to try and win the game and unfortunately on the day it just wasn't to be against a strong, well-organised Cleeve team which is why the 2-0 loss was hard to take. The boys in this team can be so proud of the achievement and the way they conducted themselves and played the game of football is a credit to them and the school I know that they will carry this through for the years they have left at HSL and I know they will only come back stronger.  
From Mr Gibney, a massive well-done!



## The Great Big School Clean 2026: 13th - 29th March

The Great Big School Clean took place this year between the 13th - 29th March.

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

Congratulations to all our #HSLitterHeroes who have received a certificate and 5 ePraise points for taking part this year.



## Year 8 Science Exam

The Year 8 Science Exam will take place during lessons on Tuesday 16th June.

Students will need a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator for this assessment. The exam will contain questions on every topic that students have studied in Science in Year 8.

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

## The Big Plastic Count 2026: 9th - 15th March

The Big Plastic Count, the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste, took place between Monday 9th and Sunday 15th March. We invited everyone at home to participate in positive change.

Thank you to all students who took part, and parents who supported them at home in submitting their results online. All students who submitted their results received 10 ePraise points and congratulations to 7W11 who had the highest number of students take part.

Please see below for our plastic footprint using the data we collected as a school.



## Eco-School Enrichment Day

On Tuesday 24th March, The High School Leckhampton hosted our second enrichment day of this academic year. All KS3 students spent the day learning about the sustainable work of various organisations and how we could all live more sustainably ourselves.

During the day, students had the opportunity to meet local individuals and organisations and learn about the work they do to protect our environment. We were very fortunate to have a number of visitors attending who ran an interactive session for our students.

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

Miss Kennedy would like to thank all those who ran sessions during the day, and all staff and students who took part for their support and enthusiasm.



## Earth Day 2026

To celebrate Earth Day 2026 on Wednesday 22nd April, The High School Leckhampton was visited by Harvey from move'n'smooth who brought in two Smoothie Bikes so students could have fun at lunchtime getting some exercise and making their own smoothies at the same time!

The Smoothie Bikes were very popular and the students enjoyed a tasty smoothie as a reward for all their hard pedaling.



## **DISCOVER. RECORD. PROTECT.**

Are you interested in nature, science, or the environment? This is a chance to take learning beyond the classroom/home and contribute to real UK conservation projects. A leading wildlife charity is inviting as many citizen scientists as possible to take part in national surveys to help monitor and protect wild mammals.

You can become citizen scientists by:

- Observing local green spaces such as school grounds, parks, riverbanks, or urban areas
- Recording sightings of mammals - or signs they've been present
- Submitting findings online as part of a nationwide dataset

Species to look out for include hedgehogs, foxes, grey squirrels, bats and mice

You may also record footprints, droppings and burrows

### **Fieldwork Opportunity: Water Vole Survey**

*15 April – 15 June 2026*

You can visit local waterways to search for evidence of water voles, a species in serious decline. This provides a valuable hands-on field study experience while contributing to national conservation efforts.



### **Why It Matters**

- Data collected helps scientists track population trends
- You can contribute to real research used by conservationists
- Even recording *no sightings* helps identify areas where species are declining

No prior experience is needed. Free resources are available, including:

- identification guides
- online training
- survey instructions.

### **Get Involved**

To take part, visit: [ptes.org/surveys](https://ptes.org/surveys)

# OPEN DAYS



UNIVERSITY OF  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE



**SAT 13 JUNE '26**

**SAT 17 OCTOBER '26**

**SUN 22 NOVEMBER '26**



[glos.ac.uk/open](https://glos.ac.uk/open)



# LECKHAMPTON BELLRINGERS

**Do you enjoy the sound of the  
bells ringing at St Peters Church,  
Leckhampton?**

***Can we appeal to you to help  
keep them sounding good for everyone?***

If this chimes with you – you can help us to raise  
£2,000 to buy eight new bell ropes by donating at:  
[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stpetersnewbellropes](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stpetersnewbellropes)

OR

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/7930#!/donationdetails>

And email [petermarlow@softcopy.co.uk](mailto:petermarlow@softcopy.co.uk) so that payment can be allocated to the Bellringers

People who want to use gift aid on their donations can do this here too

# Thank you!