



HSL NEWS



Student Spotlight

Congratulations to Theo Mann, who had his artwork selected for the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show. His work has been chosen for the physical exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **INSET day - School closed to pupils**
Tuesday 1st September 2026
- * **Start of Autumn term for pupils**
Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- * **Year 7 Parent Information Talk**
Thursday 3rd September 2026
- * **PM INSET - Pupils depart at 12.20pm**
Friday 4th September 2026
- * **School Photographer Visit**
Friday 11th September 2026
- * **Year 7 Icebreaker Disco**
Friday 18th September 2026
- * **Open Week**
w/c Monday 21st September 2026
- * **School closes to pupils at 1.20pm**
Open Evening 6-8pm
Thursday 24th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for your support during the past fantastic few weeks at The High School Leckhampton. This edition of the newsletter captures just some of the wonderful opportunities and achievements our students have enjoyed. From our recent Enrichment Week—with trips to Thorpe Park, the Lido and the cinema, the World Cup football tournament, our sponsored walk, curriculum and careers days, and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions—to outstanding individual successes in music, drama, art, mathematics and languages.

One of the highlights of the term was our Sports Day at the Prince of Wales Stadium. It was wonderful to see so many parents and families there cheering on our students, creating a brilliant atmosphere where our pupils broke several school records. Events like these remind us that school is about creating experiences and memories that help build confidence, friendships and a strong sense of community.

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of our staff. The final weeks of term have brought some exceptionally hot weather, but throughout the heatwave colleagues have adapted plans, supported students and continued to ensure that learning and enrichment could take place safely. Their professionalism, flexibility and commitment have been remarkable, and I am incredibly grateful for everything they have done, not just over the past few weeks but throughout the year.

Finally, thank you to all of our parents and carers for your continued support.

I hope everyone has a well-deserved, restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September for another exciting year at HSL.

With best wishes,
Mrs Helen Wood
Headteacher

A Message from the Governors

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank all staff for all their hard work once again this past year. The staff team continues to grow year on year and work together to support the education and development of our students. This year, our first group of Year 11s took their GCSEs, well equipped, prepared and supported by the teaching and support staff and we wish our Year 11s all the best for the next steps in their journeys. I would also like to thank all members of the school community for their involvement in making our school such a great community.

The Governing Body also continues to grow and we would like to welcome two new governors, Liz Rowbotham and Byron Thomas who, between them, bring a wealth of experience in school governance, education, business and finance. There will be an opportunity later in the year for another member of our parent community to join the Governing Body.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I'd like to wish you all a refreshing summer.

Tim Callaghan
Chair of Governors

This Month in Pictures



Duke of Edinburgh Award
Expeditions



Loch Lomond Performance



Sports Day 2026



UKMT Junior Maths
Challenge

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

THANK YOU!

FOR RAISING £4,590 FOR THE HSL ALL-WEATHER SHELTER APPEAL

Well... that's the Summer Fair over for another year! With temperatures hitting 35°C, we weren't quite sure whether we'd be serving Pimms or melting into it, but thanks to an incredible team effort, the evening was a huge success. We raised an amazing £4,590!

To everyone who came along, bought raffle tickets, played the games, enjoyed the food and supported the students – thank you. Every penny raised is helping us get one step closer to making **The HSL All-Weather Shelter Appeal** a reality.

There are so many people we'd like to thank...

starting with **our amazing volunteers:**

The stock-shifters and washer-uppers.

The glass collectors and raffle promoters.

The bar and tuck shop servers.

The setter-uppers and tidy-aways.

The rubbish gatherers...

The jobs that aren't glamorous, but they keep everything running. You were absolute stars!

A huge thank you to the **brilliant HSL students, the Admin/Reception Team, Site & Facilities Team, and Mrs Cox** for all the help, support and behind-the-scenes magic that made the evening possible.

Finally, a huge thank you to the **small but mighty group of PTFA committee members who led on bringing the Summer Fair together.** Weeks of planning, collecting donations, organising volunteers and pulling together countless details all led to one fantastic evening.



Thank You to You for Supporting the PTFA All Year

While the Summer Fair may be over, we'd also like to **thank all our parents and carers for supporting the PTFA throughout the year.**

Whether you've attended an event, volunteered, donated, bought raffle tickets or simply shared our posts, you're helping us build something really special – a stronger HSL community.

Lastly, if you'd still like to support **The HSL All-Weather Shelter Appeal**, you can make a donation here: bit.ly/4hcNM5l.

Thank you for being part of another fantastic year. Have a wonderful summer!

The HSL PTFA Team ❤️

THANK YOU TO OUR VERY GENEROUS RAFFLE PRIZE DONORS!



Enrichment Week

One of the highlights of the school year, Enrichment Week, once again provided our students with the opportunity to step beyond their usual timetable and experience learning in a different way. Across the week, students took part in a wide range of activities, including curriculum projects, educational visits, careers experiences, creative workshops, sports events and creative workshops.

The week is an important part of our commitment to developing the whole child. While academic learning remains at the heart of what we do, experiences beyond the classroom help students to build confidence, develop resilience, discover new interests and strengthen relationships with their peers and teachers. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous efforts of our staff, who planned, organised and led such a diverse programme of activities, often behind the scenes. Their enthusiasm and commitment ensured that our students enjoyed a memorable and rewarding week, and we are grateful for everything they did to make it such a success. Over the following pages, you'll find a selection of photographs and highlights that capture just some of the experiences our students enjoyed during the week.

Year 7 Trip to Chepstow Castle



“Going to Chepstow castle was an amazing trip to help us develop our historical knowledge, but also to help us build our cardboard models the next day. I really enjoyed going up Martin's Tower and looking at how medieval people used to live and how much we, as a society, have developed. It was awesome to do it with my friends as well. The town was also really interesting. I was surprised by the condition of the castle and how it has stood, unfazed, for all those years. Eating lunch by the surrounding moat was so beautiful. Overall, it was really unique educational experience which I will never forget.”

By Kai, Year 7

Annie, Cardiff Theatre and Shopping:



“I enjoyed the Annie trip because we had the opportunity to have some freedom to go shopping and have lunch. I also enjoyed watching the show because everyone was so talented and it reminded me of the production we did in Year 7!”

Jessica, Year 8

Lido Trip

“I really enjoyed my trip to the Lido because it meant that I could spend time doing a hobby I love - swimming - while being with my friends. I also enjoyed the experience of walking there. It was a very enriching trip because we were also having to think about being in the community. I think the trip gave me more experience of the world outside HSL. I would love to do this trip again!”

Sian, Year 7

Year 10 Trip to Thorpe Park

“I really enjoyed my trip to Thorpe Park because it was a great opportunity to experience new things and be able to have fun with friends outside of school.

I also enjoyed having my friends try new. It was great to be able to have this memorable experience.”

Saoirse, Year 10

Y7 and 8 Trip to The Wave



Year 10 Poetry Film Project Day

“During Enrichment Week, me and my group filmed a short video about the poem Kamikaze that we studied in English. Our group made cardboard planes, boats and houses to show the effects of the poem and what it was about. We really enjoyed the day and loved being creative.”

Macie, Year 10

HSL Sponsored Walk



HSL World Cup 2026 - Year 8



Year 7 and 8 Trip to Go Ape, Forest of Dean



I went to Go Ape in the Forest of Dean. I really enjoyed it because we not only went on the high ropes in the trees but we also played a fun game combining teamwork and independence. The people who worked there were so kind and helpful. I enjoyed being put into a group as I made new friends. I loved this trip!

Olivia, Year 7

Visiting Speaker Anna McNuff, Year 9 Careers and Futures Day



Sports Day

We held our sports day at the Prince of Wales stadium this year and it was a huge success!

It was fantastic to see all of our students competing, supporting or officiating at the stadium and the atmosphere throughout the day was positive and vibrant. We had a huge amount of records broken.

This was partly due to the track itself, but more importantly due to the roar from the spectators throughout the day. The students were able to roam the stadium to watch and support their friends, and we were very proud of how our students conducted themselves throughout the day. We received some lovely feedback from the staff at the stadium about how polite our children are and they were also very grateful for our thorough litter pick of the stadium and its grounds.

Lilley Brook has once again been crowned as Champion - the 4th year in a row!

Well done to everyone involved and thank you to all the families that were able to spectate in the afternoon.



Sports Day



Sports Day



Individual Sporting Success

Congratulations to Theo Nock, in Year 10. Last weekend he competed at the English School Athletics Championships at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham in the U17 Javelin. Theo finished a very impressive 5th place, throwing a Personal Best distance of 53.44m. Well done to Theo - an incredible achievement.



Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show



Theo Mann has had his artwork selected for the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show and, We are delighted that his work has been chosen for the physical exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

This is a truly exceptional achievement. The exhibition received over 25,000 submissions, with only around 200 artworks selected for display. Many talented and established artists never have work accepted into a Royal Academy exhibition, making Theo's success all the more remarkable.

Theo and his family visited the exhibition this weekend to see his work on display alongside an inspiring collection of artwork from young artists across the country. It is a vibrant and prestigious exhibition, and Theo will be immensely proud of what he has achieved.

A huge thank you also goes to Miss Heron and Mrs Daniel, who have taught Theo this year and supported him throughout the application process.

Mrs McAlpine

Trust Choir Sings “Loch Lomond”

We are delighted to share an exciting collaboration across the Balcarras Trust. Some of our students recently joined together with students from Balcarras School and Winchcombe School to record a special cross-Trust version of “Loch Lomond”.

Bringing together talented singers from each school, this project celebrates the power of music to connect our communities and showcase the creativity and teamwork of our students. The recording has been a fantastic opportunity for students to work with peers from across the Trust, sharing their passion for performance and creating something truly memorable together.

The next stage of the project will be the filming of a music video in September, where we will bring the performance to life and celebrate the achievements of everyone involved. We look forward to sharing the finished video with our school communities later this year.



Year 10 GCSE Drama Exam

During Enrichment week, it was no rest for the wicked as our Year 10 GCSE Drama students completed their first practical exam. Based on a stimulus and created from scratch, these original pieces of Drama raised important questions on vital topics in our society. They were thought provoking, mature and extremely professional. The students spent the day doing their final rehearsals and tech runs with the help of three students in across Year 7 and 8 who have been learning the ropes of lighting and sound. The exams were a huge success, and we are so impressed with their effort and commitment to the exam, especially being so close to the end of term!



Balcarras Trust MFL

Spelling Bee



We were very excited to take part in the Balcarras Trust's inaugural MFL Spelling Bee competition in July, which marked an exciting milestone for language learning across the partnership. In the lead-up to the final held at Balcarras, our students competed in a number of qualifying rounds, demonstrating both determination and resilience to master French and Spanish vocabulary. Their hard work paid off as Alice (8WI2) finished 2nd in French and Megan (8WI2) finished 2nd in Spanish. We are incredibly proud of them both for delivering such calm and focused performances and demonstrating superb precision throughout the entire competition. Congratulations to all students who participated and we look forward to seeing how this new tradition grows moving forward.

Dr Clarke



German Club

German Club has had a fantastic year of language learning, with students focusing on building key vocabulary and growing their confidence with speaking skills. Each session has included short speaking activities, fun vocab games and plenty of opportunities to practise new structures. We have explored a range of topics, from talking about school to pets, food and drink to holidays. It has been brilliant to see the students throw themselves into each activity with enthusiasm whilst enjoying the challenge of learning a new language. To celebrate all their hard work, we finished the year with a relaxed end-of-year lunch, giving everyone a chance to enjoy some food together and reflect on a successful year of learning.



GCHQ Language Analyst Talk

This final week of term had one more treat in store for some of our outstanding year 8 linguists as we had a top secret presentation from GCHQ about careers as Language Analysts. We weren't even allowed to tell students or other members of staff in advance! 30 fantastic linguists were chosen (a very hard decision as all of our students are so talented and so enthusiastic about their language studies!) These students learned about what GCHQ does, what Language Analysts do, how to prepare for a career in languages, in which other jobs languages can be an advantage and then they even had a go at working on a fictional scenario as a Language Analyst intercepting, decoding and translating messages about drug shipments - exciting!

Some of our favourite quotes from the presenters were: "Languages open so many doors"; "Learning about languages and cultures create a more inclusive society"; "Languages are often used alongside other skills such as STEM."

What a great experience.... but shhhhhhh! Don't tell anyone!

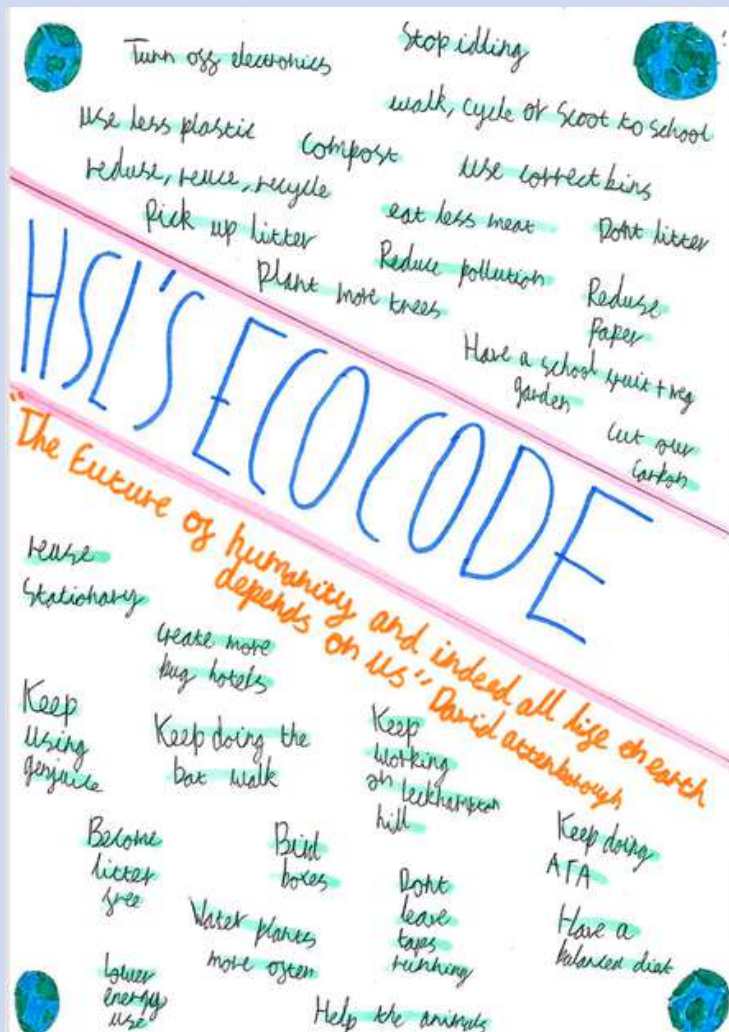


NEW HSL ECO-CODE FOR 2026!

We are proud to present HSL's new Eco-Code, designed by Lucy Elliott who is going into Year 8.

Creating an Eco-Code, a mission statement that acts as a call to action for all, is the seventh and final step of our application process for the Eco-Schools Green Flag; this is an accreditation that acknowledges, rewards and celebrates the ecological achievements of young people.

We are nearly ready to submit our application to renew our Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation for this academic year and will let you know in September whether we have been successful!



Summer Sustainability Checklist

- Go for a picnic, but remember to avoid using plastic
- Take a break from your electronics and go out for a walk looking for local wildlife
- Go visit some local attractions
- Go paddle boarding or surfing; they are the most eco-friendly water sports
- Go wildlife spotting - download a spotting sheet and see what you can find
- Try helping your local pollinators by planting some flowers or setting up a bee house or insect hotel
- Go camping, even if it's in your own garden
- Make a homemade light trap to attract insects
- Plant some fruit, veg or herbs in your garden or indoors
- Start composting or even go the worm bin route!
- Have a zero-waste food night - the rules are all ingredients must come in biodegradable packaging or no packaging
- Explore your community by cycling around
- Try plogging - a zero waste activity where you go for a jog as you normally would but bring a bag with you and collect as much litter as you can!
- Join in a community beach clean-up
- Upcycle an old t-shirt to wear on a sunny day
- Try out some eco-arts and crafts!
- Make a bird feeder from any bits and bobs you have lying around the house
- Have a conversation with a family member or friend about sustainability
- Listen to a sustainability podcast
- Read a book on sustainability
- Share an eco-tip with someone you don't know!

Sustainable Summer Activities

Summer is a great time to get creative and find exciting activities whilst reducing your carbon footprint and getting your kids engaged in nature.

Please see the links and the checklist below for some eco-inspiration!

https://www.carbonfootprint.com/summer_holidays.html

<https://www.livewest.co.uk/my-community/sustainable-summer-holiday-activities>

Maths Challenge success!

120 students from across Year 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. This challenge involves applying their

Maths knowledge to new and challenging contexts. We had some fantastic successes from students across both year groups!

Particular congratulations go to the students below who received certificates for their achievements:

Year 7 Results

Bronze certificates

Sian Edwards
Camilla Jones
Katie Lloyd
Harry Simkin
Rufus Billcliff
Miles McWilliam
Genevieve Thomson
Thomas Page
Theo Payton
Esme Williams
Zander Zasikowski
Solamon Joseph Sibi
Monty Cook
Melody Jones

Silver certificates

Joseph Madigan
Annabelle Aspinall
Sam Zurita
Hannah Hardiman
Maisy Little
Winston Pearce
Kai Valente
Anna Lee
Lawrence Jackson
Ethan Nevin
Charlie Sills

Gold certificates

Chloe Watts



Year 8 Results

Bronze certificates

Nika Bidram
Niamh Gleeson
Noah Slatter
Henry Swan
Dylan Cooper
Scarlett Scholes
Finn Newman
Tobey Roberts
Ava Collins
Bea Hay-Johnson
Megan Edwards
Jacob Long
Anna Cowen
Abi Taylor

Gold certificates

Declan Whelan
Onur Dincer

Silver certificates

Milly Human
Sam Juesas Castro
Amy Kemp
Charlotte Heap
Josh Nock
Zayn Suleiman
Adam O'Neill
Jasmine Jennings
Theo Allen
Daniel Chambers
Elena Palazuelos
Everly Sanders
Henry Costello
Isaac Cullen-Jones
Roisin Lemmy
Morgan Watkins
Noah Caulkin
Jacob Waddy
Milo Muncaster
Santiago Sharma-Cote
Liv Sheppard



Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions

In the last few weeks 30 of our Year 10 students and 115 Year 9 students have taken part in Silver and Bronze expeditions.

The Year 9 students faced the exceptional heat of the enrichment week - but still managed to impress us all with their perseverance and resilience in completing their expedition. A few adaptations had to be made because of the weather - shortening the route and having a water pistol fight (both popular) and waking up at 5.30am to avoid the heat (less popular). The Bronze expedition takes place locally. Starting at the Kilkenny Nature Reserve, the students walk to the Cowley Adventure campsite in Cockleford, and then walk on the second day via Upper Cobberley and Seven Springs back to HSL. It is a great opportunity for students to really test themselves out of the classroom, and it is fantastic to see so many of them thriving in the outdoors. We do hope that the current Year 8s will be excited to sign up to Bronze DofE in the Autumn, and that many of the current Year 9s will consider taking part in the Silver award in Y10.

The Silver Award students have also been out and about recently. The Silver expedition is a step up from Bronze - it is two expeditions both taking 3 days and 2 nights and is run by Ocean Rock, an external company that has many years of experience of running DofE expeditions with dozens of other local schools. Ocean Rock were so impressed by our Silver students last year, they were prepared to run an ambitious expedition programme for HSL this year - and as a result the students went to the Wiltshire/Oxfordshire border for their practice, but for their assessed expedition went to the Black Mountains. The highlight for many students was the high ridge walk and waterfalls they found there - a properly wild experience for them all. Congratulations to all those who took part, it was a real achievement to complete both the expeditions.



National Theatre Connections 2027 – An Incredible Opportunity!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that our school has secured a place on the prestigious **National Theatre Connections 2027** programme!

Connections is the National Theatre's nationwide youth theatre festival, bringing together schools and youth theatre groups from across the UK to perform brand-new plays written especially for young people. As part of the programme, our cast will work on a professionally commissioned script, developing their acting skills through rehearsals before performing the production to an audience. Participants will also become part of a wider national celebration of youth theatre, with opportunities to engage with the work of other groups and experience the excitement of being involved in a professionally supported theatre project.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to build confidence, develop performance skills, make new friendships and be part of something truly special. Whether you have lots of acting experience or are simply looking to challenge yourself and try something new, we would love to hear from you.

The programme will be open to students entering **Years 9, 10 and 11** in the new academic year. **You do not need to have chosen GCSE Drama to take part** – this opportunity is open to anyone with an interest in acting and performing in a straight play.

Further information about auditions, rehearsals and how to get involved will be shared at the start of the new academic year. We can't wait to begin this exciting journey and hope many of you will join us for what promises to be an unforgettable experience!





BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT
19TH JULY 2PM - 4:30PM
ALL WELCOME!

Daisybank CIC are delighted to be hosting their first Big Butterfly Count event with volunteers from the Gloucestershire branch of Butterfly Conservation.

There will be guided walks doing the Big Butterfly Count and help with identifying butterflies. There will also be a butterfly trail and other butterfly - related activities for children.

Daisybank field is over the stile at the end of Pilford Road. GL53 9AG
What Three Words - // thrilled.reflected.amazed
There is no car park, but there is road parking nearby on Old Bath Road.
Please do not park in Pilford Road as this is a private road
The L bus stops near the top of Old Bath Road.
Please come on foot if you can.

 Butterfly Conservation's **BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT**
www.daisybank.org.uk

 **DAISYBANK**
COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Big Butterfly Count
Sunday 19th July 2026
2.00pm - 4:30pm
Daisybank Field, GL53 9AG

Daisybank CIC is delighted to be hosting their first Big Butterfly Count event, with volunteers from the Gloucestershire branch of Butterfly Conservation. Daisybank Field is over the stile at the end of Pilford Road, GL53 9AG. There is no car park, but there is road parking nearby on Old Bath Road. Please do not park in Pilford Road as this is a private road. The L bus stops near the top of Old Bath Road so please come by bus or on foot if you can. There will be guided walks doing the Big Butterfly Count and help with identifying butterflies. There will also be a butterfly trail and other butterfly-related activities for children.

Bikeability Holiday Courses

Gloucestershire County Council is offering Bikeability courses during all 2026 school holidays. These courses help children aged 9-14 build cycling confidence and safety skills in small groups with qualified instructors.

Dates/Locations

•Summer Holidays at Skillzone

(2 sessions available)

Gloucester

•October Half-Term at Pineholt

Village Hall, Hucclecote

Details

Age: 9-14 years

Cost: £10 per course

Format: 2 x 2-hour sessions

Bikes: Available subject to availability

Scan to book



thinktravel
New sense of direction.



Living our values every day



 **Gloucestershire**
COUNTY COUNCIL



POP-UP SPORTS

**FUN FAMILY SPORTS DAY, DURING
THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS!**



Join us for some pop-up sports, packed with fun
games, exciting skill challenges, and bags of
energy!

Whether you're 8, 18 or 88 - there's something for
everyone!

Bring your family and get involved! ⚽

Leckhampton

Wednesday 12th August
10am - 1pm

**Burrows Field, Moorend Grove
Cheltenham,
GL53 0HA**



Our team of friendly, experienced sports coaches can't
wait to welcome you to our pop-up sports session!

For more information contact
kelsey.martyn@sportily.org.uk
sportily.org.uk


sportily
PLAY SPORTS, TALK LIFE



UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY 26 JULY | 10AM - 3PM

Park Campus, Cheltenham, GL50 2RH

ICE CREAM • GAMES • BOUNCY CASTLE

BAR • CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES

LIVE MUSIC • DANCE PERFORMANCES

OBSTACLE COURSE • ART EXHIBITION

STREET FOOD & MORE!

FREE ENTRY

Everyone is welcome!
Bring your family and friends for a fun day out

THIS IS CONNECTING. THIS IS UoG



CHARLTON KINGS CC



CRICKET SUMMER CAMPS

Fun, action-packed cricket days for all abilities!

WHERE:

CHARLTON KINGS CRICKET CLUB,
GREENWAY LANE, CHELTENHAM, GL52 6PN

WHEN:

WEEK 1 (13-16 JULY | 4 DAYS) - £145.00

WEEK 2 (27-29 JULY | 3 DAYS) - £110.00

WEEK 3 (3-6 AUGUST | 4 DAYS) - £145.00

WEEK 4 (10-13 AUGUST | 4 DAYS) - £145.00

PAY PER DAY OPTIONS AVAILABLE FROM £45 PER DAY

EACH SESSION RUNS FROM 10AM TO 3PM

DROP OFF FROM 9.30AM



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER AND BOOK!
OR VISIT [CHARLTONKINGS.PLAY-CRICKET.COM](https://charltonkings.play-cricket.com)

- Suitable for boys & girls aged 7 to 15
- Softball and Hardball experiences led by Overseas Professional all-rounder and ECB Qualified Coach Tawanda Maposa
- Games, Drills, Tactical Masterclasses all included
- Open to non-club members

Ryeworth Fields, Greenway Lane, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL52 6PN
charltonkings.play-cricket.com | ckcc1885@gmail.com



— Cheltenham —

Women's Circle

CONNECT
WITH
YOURSELF



SHARE
MEANINGFUL
CONVERSATION



REFLECT
AND
GROW



PRACTICE
SELF-CARE



FEEL
SUPPORTED



*A BEAUTIFUL
GARDEN AT*
NAUNTON
PARK
SCHOOL



Join us for our
brand new

Outdoor Circle



Friday 17th July



7.00 – 9.00pm

£25

Guided meditation, seasonal reflection, oracle cards,
self-care tools and meaningful connection in the company
of wonderful women – with a glass of Pimm's included.

Come exactly as you are.

Email to book your place:- vickielong@icloud.com

