



The Howard School Newsletter

Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication

Welcome



**Mr. Johal
Head of School**

Dear Parents/ Carers

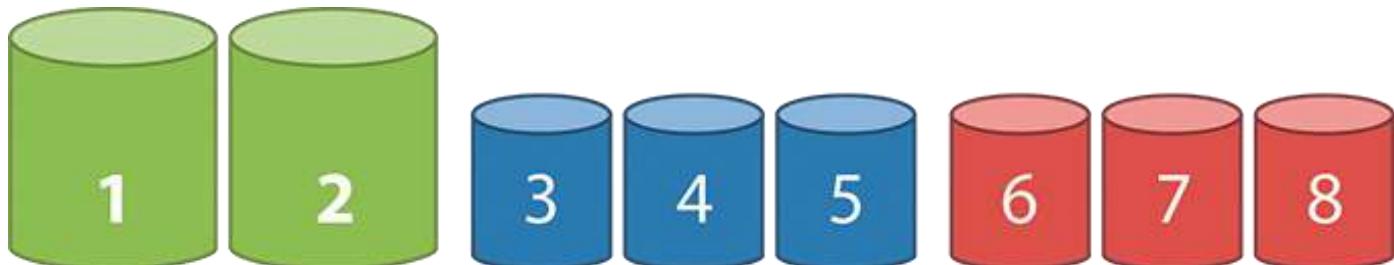
Welcome to our latest edition to the newsletter.

As we come near the end of term 2, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support since the beginning of the academic year. Term 1 and 2 so far have been excellent and I am proud to say the school continues to go from strength to strength and I am delighted to report that the academic performance for GCSE for 2022/23 was the best in the history of The Howard School.

In 2016 the government introduced a

new measure in which to measure the academic progress that a school makes called the 'Progress 8 measure'.

It is aimed at measuring the progress of pupils across a selected set of 8 subjects.



English Maths

EBacc qualifications

'Open group'

English is double-weighted if a student has taken both Language and Literature. Maths is double-weighted.

Sciences, computer science, geography, history and a foreign language.

Remaining EBacc qualifications and other approved GCSEs, academic, art or vocational qualifications (v.certs).

The average grade a student achieves at each school is measured against the average grade a student receives nationally with the same prior attainment. The difference is then calculated and it gives each school a value added measure.

Progress 8 for all students (Girls and Boys) nationally	Progress 8 for The Howard School	
+0.06	+0.24	
Progress 8 for all boys nationally	Progress 8 for The Howard School	Difference
-0.25	+0.24	+0.49

In summary the Boys at the Howard School were well above the national average and when you look at the difference between boys nationally and what The Howard achieves. The difference is significant:

Howard School Boys achieved

+0.49

Above the national average for all boys

=

'OUTSTANDING PROGRESS'



The most pleasing part of the results were that all groups of learners regardless of background did better than their peers nationally. Furthermore students from a Disadvantage background and those with SEND needs did significantly better than those with the same background in most other schools.

This places the school in the top 25% of schools for value added nationally.

These achievements are the culmination of:

- Meticulous school improvement planning from the Leadership at The Howard School
- High Quality Curriculum Planning and Delivery by Heads Of Department and teachers
- Dedicated and committed hardworking teachers and support staff
- A Caring, supportive and well-resourced pastoral structure
- Having high expectations of The Howard School students and supporting them to meet these

Outside of the Academic success we continue to work hard to develop our students more holistically via our Personal Development programme. We are in our 3rd year of 'Morning Meetings'. We now have Year 7, 8 and 9 working together in their respective year groups from 8.30am to 9.00am in 'Morning Meetings'. Having all forms together in morning enables the school to better:

- Strengthen a sense of community
- Relay key messages more consistently
- Ensure that the delivery of parts of the Personal Development curriculum are consistently high quality and enables key guest speakers to speak more frequently to whole year groups
- Acknowledge and Celebrate student successes more publicly and frequently
- Model our high expectations consistently every morning and every day

Another area that supports the wider development of students is our offer of school trips. So far since the beginning of the academic year we have provided trips to:

- Ypres
- Iceland
- Film Institute
- Paris
- Reculver
- Canterbury Court



As you will be aware our Trips offer is wide and extensive. In order for parents to be able to plan better for forthcoming trips we have put all the trips that we typically offer into the table on the back page of this newsletter. Please be aware that costs are approximate and can quite easily go up. Staff give up a huge amount of time to prepare and carry out the trips and are not obligated to run any trips as part of their contract and that it is completely voluntary. I am very thankful that I lead a school where staff want to and volunteer themselves to offer these as they genuinely want the very best for our students, your children. Also please be aware that this is what we are aiming to run in 2024/25 to but is subject to change depending on staff availability and student numbers. If you have any questions regarding any of these trips please contact our trips lead Mr Dunn. Some trips may not run next year as highlighted in the table, but run on a 2 year cycle and may run during the academic year 25/26.

Areas for further Improvement

Attendance

Attendance at The Howard School is very good and significantly above the National average. However Persistent absence, although better than the national average, is an area we can still improve on. Persistent Absence is when a student misses 10 school sessions in a 100 session period (5 days in a 10 week cycle).

We (the school and Parents/Carers) cannot control when our students or children are sick but Parents/Carers should not book holidays in term time. There is a direct correlation between school days missed and the achievement of students. It is very difficult for students to catch up if they have time out of school and we all need to work together to minimise this.

Mr Woolmer (Assistant Head Teacher) has been working closely with our attendance officer to improve this. As part of this plan The school will notify Parents and Carers if your child attendance has fallen and is at risk of falling into what the DFE calls as 'Persistent Absence'. This is important as sometimes we, Parents/Carers do not always remember how many days out of school our children have had. Equally the school will send out a thankyou and certificate for positive attendance.

Independent Study (Homework)

It's really pleasing to see more students than ever completing Independent Study. The research shows that Independent Study has a significant impact on a student's grades. In fact the impact of this increases the older a student becomes. So completing Independent Study is key to achieving at Secondary and 6th form level. Sparks Maths has been a great success and over the course of this year we will be looking at other online platforms for Independent Study.



School Environment

Although we are on the Department For Education list of schools for a School Rebuild/Refurbishment we will continue to upgrade areas of the school in line with our 5 year buildings and facilities improvement plan. We are investigating the feasibility of enlarging the Year 7 canteen and recalibrating a space in the PE block into a purpose built Gym/Crossfit area. Hopefully I will be able to share some good news on these during 2024.

The Howard School is doing very well and your child is in one of the highest achieving schools in Kent and Medway. As we move into 2024 please continue supporting us in ensuring that all students are:

- School '**Ready**' - are wearing their full school uniform smartly and have all the necessary equipment for the day. Full pencil case, Knowledge organisers, PE kit and other exercise books.
- School '**Ready**' - Attend school every day and are punctual to school and lessons
- School '**Ready**' - Complete all Independent Study set, to a high standard and on time.
- '**Respectful**' - Work quietly in lessons and as a minimum speak respectfully to others around the school.
- '**Safe**' - Travel to and from school being mindful of the wider local community. Parents and students communicate with the school where they feel they need further support so the school can help.

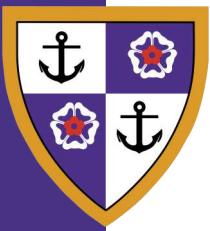
Finally I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the parents and carers for their unwavering support throughout the year. Your support has been invaluable in helping us navigate through the challenges of the past year. As we approach the end of the year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I am excited to welcome students back to school in the new year and look forward to working together to make this year a memorable one filled with learning, growth, and fun. We will continue to work hard to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our students to learn and thrive.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season. Here's to a great year ahead!

Kind regards

Mr Johal



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge-watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.



ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 8+, 12+ or 14+.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.



National
Online
Safety®

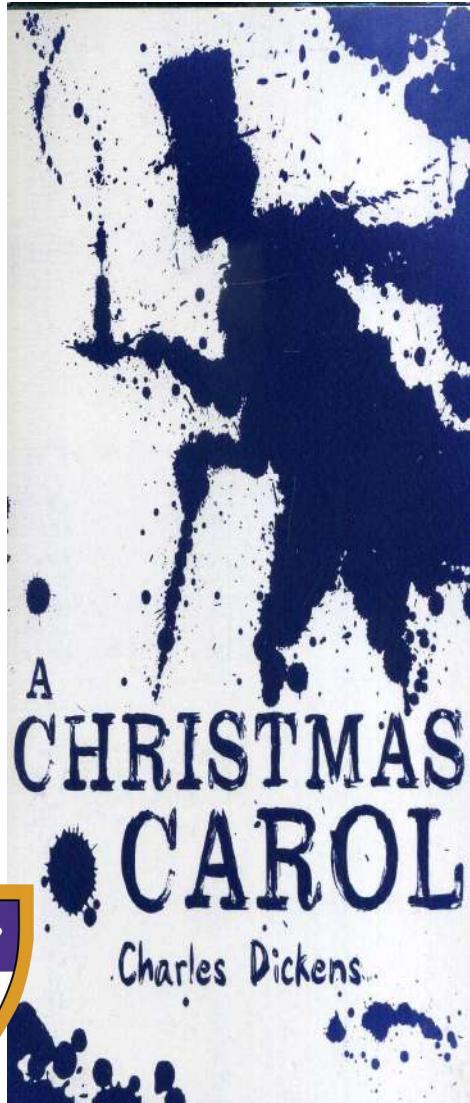
#WakeUpWednesday



Earlier this term, Mr. Julian was recognised at the Excellence Awards, along with his family, for their very quick thinking that ultimately contributed to saving a man's life. Mr. Julian and his family came upon a young man in distress and called 999. They were able to offer immediate care until the Police arrived to take over. The Julian family were commended for their care and courage that was shown on that day that allowed the Police to return the young man safely home to his family.



What an incredible achievement for our 'A Christmas Carol' cast earlier this term. Performing to all of year 7, then all of year 8 and finally to parents, friends and family On 2 separate occasions. As always, our students did themselves and the school very proud - well done!



We are thrilled to announce the successful grand re-opening of our school library at the start of this term! After months of anticipation, the library is now open for students to borrow books and bring them home to enjoy. This exciting development aims to foster a love for reading and provide a space for exploration.

Library Club Extravaganza

For all the book enthusiasts out there, we have fantastic news! The library is open every day for the Library Club during lunchtime. Students from every year group are invited to join in the fun, share their favourite reads, engage in lively discussions and simply enjoy the serenity of the library atmosphere.

Additionally, every Friday from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM, the library doors swing open for an afterschool Library Club session.

Books can be borrowed and returned at these times.

Beyond Books: Board Games and Puzzles

But wait, there's more! Our library isn't just a haven for book lovers; it's also a space for interactive fun. We have an array of board games and puzzles for students to enjoy. So, whether you're a chess master or a puzzle enthusiast, the library is the place to be during your free time.

Older Readers' Selection

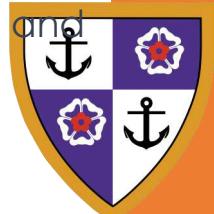
Recognising the diverse interests within our school community, we are pleased to introduce an older readers' selection of books. This curated collection is not only available to our esteemed staff members but also to our sixth formers. It's an opportunity for them to explore literature that aligns with their evolving tastes and interests.

We invite all students, teachers, and sixth formers to visit the library and make the most of this enriching resource.

Happy Reading!

OPEN

LIBRARY



 1 DEFINITION OF A CHILD	 2 NO DISCRIMINATION	 3 BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD	 4 MAKING RIGHTS REAL	 5 FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP	 6 LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT	 7 NAME AND NATIONALITY
 8 IDENTITY	 9 KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER	 10 CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES	 11 PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING	 12 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS	 13 SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY	 14 FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION
 15 SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS	 16 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY	 17 ACCESS TO INFORMATION	 18 RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS	 19 PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE	 20 CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES	 21 CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED
 22 REFUGEE CHILDREN	 23 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	 24 HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT	 25 REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT	 26 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP	 27 FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME	 28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION
 29 AIMS OF EDUCATION	 30 MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION	 31 REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS	 32 PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK	 33 PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS	 34 PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE	 35 PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING
 36 PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION	 37 CHILDREN IN DETENTION	 38 PROTECTION IN WAR	 39 RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION	 40 CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW	 41 BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES	 42 EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

43-54



HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Over the past term, The Howard School community, comprising students, parents, and staff, has demonstrated commendable generosity by actively participating in donation drives for One Big Family. This initiative aims to support the local community during the festive season by providing essential items to those experiencing homelessness.

The collective effort of students, parents, and staff in contributing items reflects a strong commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those in need as we donated over 125 Christmas boxes and bags! Huge thanks to everyone for their support! And a very Merry Christmas to everyone!



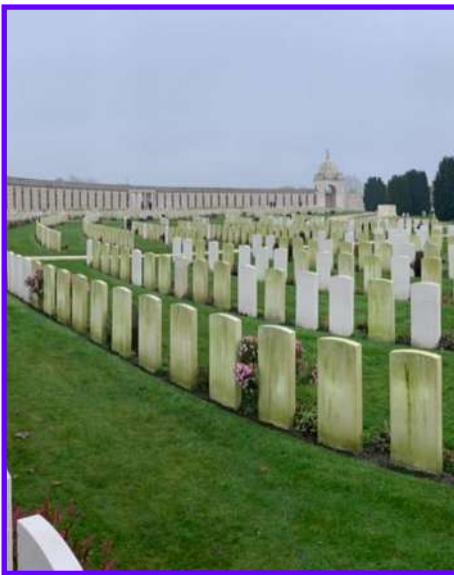
On Thursday 7 th December 36 year 8 students were invited to participate in an RE escape room inspired event.

It was an opportunity for students to work collaboratively to grapple with some challenging puzzles and questions. They debated and discussed some classic ethical issues and scenarios as well as some big philosophical questions, including "What is the soul? How do we know what is real? How can we define truth? And does morality matter?" The activities were based around some thought experiments and challenging thinkers such as Plato, Plutarch and Schrödinger.

Students loved the depth of the questioning and were supported by some A level Philosophy and Ethics students who encouraged them to think more deeply about language, definition and the influence of these concepts on themselves and others in society.

Team RE are so proud of the depth of discussion and look forward to seeing the seeds to today's discussions develop.





Our year 9 students travelled to Ypres earlier in the term on their History residential and are pictured here at the Hooge Crater Museum. Students are standing on a German trench system where the Germans stayed, on high ground, for 2 years so they could defend any attack from the allies.

Our students in Ypres visited Langemark - the German cemetery in the Ypres Salient, Flanders Field Museum in the centre of Ypres and a trench discovered in 1992 when a new industrial estate was built called Yorkshire trenches. Wonderful lunches (burger, pizza or sushi served by robots!) were had and there was of course the obligatory visit to Leonidas chocolate shop.

Another proud moment for The Howard School was when a student was selected to read “For the fallen” by Laurence Binyon at the Menin Gate memorial whilst on this residential. Head to The Howard School socials to see the video!

A fantastic trip was had by all!



Have a concern about a student?

Need some help or advice? People you can talk to:



Pastoral Manager

Ms. McComas

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Deputy Head Teacher

Mr. Green

Safeguarding Lead



Assistant Head Teacher SENCo

Mrs. Deakin

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Senior Head of Year

Ms. Ali
Safeguarding Officer



Mrs. Parish
Safeguarding Officer



Senior Head of Year

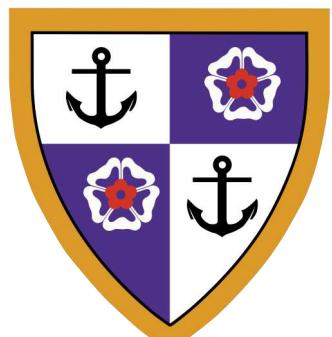
Mr. Longe
Safeguarding Officer

Have a concern you would like to raise or discuss?

Visitors: please email greens@thehowardschool.co.uk

Howard School Staff: report on our internal reporting system

Students: contact any member of the safeguarding team



The Art & Design Department organised a Graphics seminar which was delivered at The Historic Dockyard Chatham. Earlier our Year 12 students took part in a Photography workshop with us at The Historic Dockyard Chatham during which they received a Discover level Arts Award through their participation in the day. The Arts Award is a series of nationally recognised qualifications in the arts for young people under the age of 25. They are official qualifications accredited by Trinity College London, which aims to help young people grow as artists and creatives and become inspired by the art world. In the recent Graphics workshop year 12s had the opportunity to progress further and achieve the next level, Explore Art Award. Congratulations to everyone!



Congratulations to the incredible Year 7 and 8 students on delivering a spectacular Christmas carol concert that filled our hearts with joy and festive spirit! Your enthusiasm and talent shone brightly, creating a magical atmosphere that truly captured the essence of the holiday season. Your hard work and dedication to putting on such a wonderful performance did not go unnoticed, and we applaud each and every one of you for your outstanding contributions.

A special recognition goes to the music students from Year 9, 10, and 11 whose musical pieces added an extra layer of brilliance to the concert. Your skillful performances showcased not only your individual talents but also the collective strength of our school's music program. It's inspiring to witness the growth and proficiency of our older students, setting a high standard for the younger ones to aspire to.



Yr 7/8	Lead Department	NOS	Approx Cost	Term	Destination	Aiming to run in 2024/25
8	Geography	120	30	1	Port Lympne	Y
7	Religion	40	30	4	Canterbury Cathedral	Y
7	MFL			6	University of Kent Medway Campus	Y
7	History	WYG		6	Leeds Castle - Enrichment Week	Y
7	Religion	WYG	23	6	Howletts - Enrichment Week	N
7-8	MFL	40	700	1	Paris	Y
8	PE	100	255	6	Stubbers Residential	Y
8	Maths	78	26	6	Science	N
8	PD	24	0	3	University of Kent Outreach	Y
Yr 9-11	Department	NOS	£ PS	TW	Destination	
10	History	45	30	6	Old Operating Theatre	Y
9-11	MFL	40	700	6	La Rochelle	N
8-11	MFL	40	630	3	Madrid	N
8-11	MFL	40		3	Tenerife	Y
9	English	90	36	6	London Dungeon (trip varies each year) - Enrichment Week	Y
10	Geography				GCSE Fieldwork	Y
9	English	90	40	6	Harry Potter World (trip varies each year) - Enrichment Week	N
10-11	Geography	40	1200	1	Iceland	N
10-11	Geography	40	800	6	Italy	Y
11	Drama	15	26	2	Theatre Visit	Y
10-11	History	40	700	1	Krakow	Y
9	History	45	170	2	Ypres	Y
10	PD	24	0	3	University of Kent Outreach	Y
9	PD	25		4	DofE Practice Expedition	Y
9	PD	25		6	DofE Qualifying Expedition	Y
12 to 13	Department	NOS	£ PS	TW	Destination	
13	Geography	40	1200	1	Iceland	N
13	Geography	40	800	6	Italy	Y
12-13	Criminology/Law	40	6	2/3	Court visits - multiple	Y
12-13	Criminology	40		6	Forensics visit	Y
12	Photography	40	12	1	Dockyard visit	Y
13	Geography	20	20	1	A Level Fieldwork	Y
13	Film	10	20	2	Film Institute Visit	Y



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Mr. R. Hillier - Assistant Head Teacher

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From all at The Howard School, we wish you a lovely festive period and we look forward to welcoming our school community back on Thursday, 4th January

