



The Howard School



A Specialist Sports College
"To Strive and Achieve is to Succeed"

28th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a good term despite facing challenges around Covid. Covid has not stopped The Howard School moving forward at pace and we look forward to term six and then September 2021.

We remain a very high achieving school and we have achieved excellent things this year and have exciting things planned for our future. We want our young people to have the very best education possible and to have the maximum life opportunities, as well as being happy and healthy. We are very aware of our obligation to grow the next generation and equip them to live good lives.

This newsletter contains information about things we want to share and celebrate, as well as changes from the 7th June 2021 and some of the great things happening from September 2021. We do not include our sporting celebrations in this newsletter- as there is so much going on, it merits its own newsletter. We are looking to run a summer school further details of which will follow in due course next term.

Things to celebrate:

The Howard School House Championship

The school's House Championship will soon be coming to an end as one of our Houses is crowned 'Howard School House Champions'. The House Championship will culminate in the Festival of Sports and all students of the winning House will be invited to a 'House Champions BBQ' that will take place on the last day of term! With a number of events still to take place and Festival of Sports around the corner, it is all still to play for. Currently, the House championship league table looks like this:

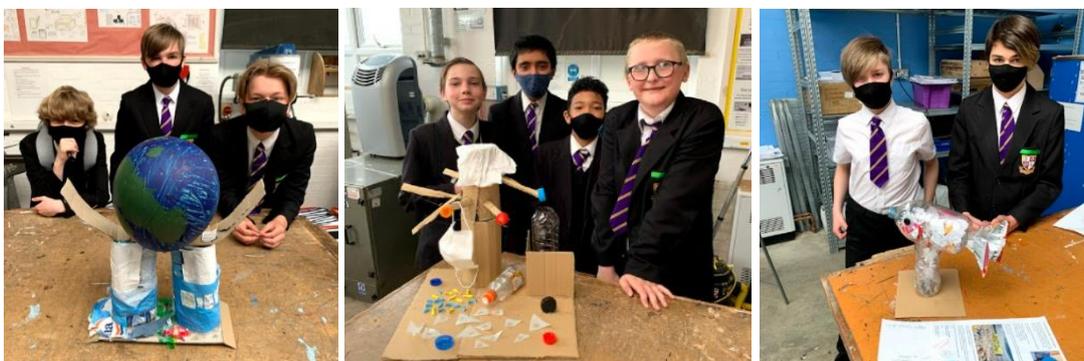
Ranking	House	Champ. Points
1st	Attenborough	170
2nd	Turing	110
3rd	Pankhurst	90
4th	Hawking	70
5th	Tull	60

Earth Day House Events

To celebrate Earth Day 2021 and to raise awareness about the current climate emergency, students in years 7 and 8 have taken part in two House Events. Year 7 are currently growing giant sunflowers thanks to B&Q Rainham and their kind donations of sunflower seeds, compost and a wooden planter. The winner of the year 7 sunflower project will be announced in the last week of term 6!



Year 8 were tasked with designing and creating Earth Day-inspired models of recyclable plastic. All of the designs and creations by all of the students who took part in the event were fantastic but there could only be one winner. Placing first and earning 50 Championship Points for their House was Attenborough, keeping them in the lead... for now!

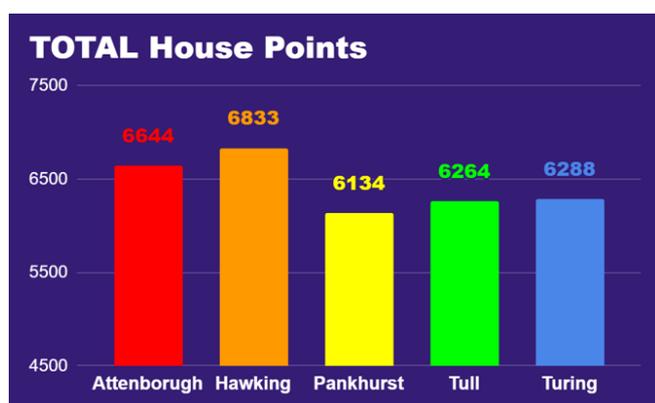


House Points

More than 14,000 House Points have been awarded this term. A huge well done to all students who have earned themselves House Points in recognition for their good work, excellent effort and demonstration of school values. The competition for House Points is the same as any other House Event but it's a year-long event. At the end of the year, each House will be ranked from 1st to 5th depending on how many House Points they've earned and just like any other event, they'll be awarded Championship Points but there's a difference... it's worth double.

Keep up to date with your son's acquisition of House Points via the *Arbor parent app*!

The school's current House Points totals are:



House Charities

The Howard School is delighted to be partnered with six wonderful and important charities. Throughout the year, each House will have a number of opportunities to raise money for their partnered charity. Just like any other House Event, the year-long Charity Event will earn Houses Championship Points. Each of our five school Houses are partnered with either a local, national or international charity. Our charities are: Rainham Eco Hub, RSPCA Medway West, Medway Foodbank, The Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust, Mind and Pencils of Promise. Our 6th Form is partnered with Pencils of Promise.

We are very excited and privileged to be working with these charities and look forward to the positive impact we know our fantastic students and wider school community will make during times of fundraising and raising of awareness.

Changes from the 7th June 2021

Start and End of School Day for Term 6

As Year 11 and year 13 students are no longer in school, we are now able to alter our staggered start and end times to increase learning time for the remaining year groups. From Monday 7th June, the times outlined below will apply:

Yr	Start time Mon - Fri	End time Mon - Thu	End time Fri
7	8.30am	2.50pm	12.40pm
8	8.30am	2.50pm	12.40pm
9	8.35am	2.55pm	12.45pm
10	8.35am	3pm	12.50pm
12	8.40am	3pm	12.50pm

Mobile Phones, Electronic devices and other banned items

The Howard School already has a ban on mobile phones and electronic devices and we will enforce this ban from the 7th June 2021. Research shows the negative impact that the overuse of mobile phones has on young people. We are finding that some students are checking their phones, receiving or sending messages or accessing social media sites during the school day. This is a distraction from the core purpose of being at school- which is to learn- and it is a safeguarding risk for students as we don't know who or what they are accessing.

At The Howard School, mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the school site, unless a teacher specifically gives permission to use the phone in a lesson. This means that if a mobile phone is seen, including at lunch-time or turned off or sticking out of a pocket, it will be confiscated. Similarly, headphones (including Bluetooth earbuds) should not be used and both items will be confiscated. Students should turn these items off and put them away before the

green gate from the A2 bridge and the front black gate from Derwent Way.

Should any student need to contact home, they can go to the pastoral support and ask the staff there to make or receive a call. This way, we can be sure that devices are being used responsibly and that we are fulfilling our statutory safeguarding obligations.

Caps, inappropriate headwear or clothing such as hoodies, which are also not allowed, will be confiscated and placed with pastoral support too. These items should be removed and put away at the green and black gates before entering the school site.

When an item is confiscated for the first time, it can be collected from pastoral support at the end of the day by the student. Any time after the first confiscation, the school will hold the item until parents/carers can come into school to collect it.

Expectations outside of lessons

From the 7th June 2021, to encourage community mindedness and taking care of our school site, all students will be expected on a rota basis to support litter picking in the year group areas they use. Litter pickers and plastic gloves will be provided to ensure safe hygiene.

Curriculum

This year has seen the successful roll out of Knowledge Organisers for years 7, 8 and 9. Each term, students have had a new Knowledge Organiser which includes the most important knowledge for students to learn. Alongside the Knowledge Organiser, students have been taught specific 'study skills' on how to revise and remember this knowledge.

All of our departments have been busy refining their visual Curriculum Journeys which show what students learn and when they will learn it. These will be in classrooms for students and teachers to reference. They are also on THS website for you to peruse.

Year 6 transition to The Howard School

We are looking forward to being able to meet our year 6 students in July before they join us in September.

There will be two opportunities for them to visit us at The Howard School. On their first day, they will arrive in small groups to meet with a number of key staff and the Pastoral Team. They will also complete some short tests on this day. These tests will mean that we can prepare fully for their arrival in September, making sure that they are placed in the right groups to make excellent progress. On their second visit to us, they will have a number of taster lessons across the curriculum. These may include PE, Drama, Design Technology, Geography, History, English, Maths, French or Spanish.

We want our new Year 6 students to enjoy the last term at their Primary School and we look forward to seeing them soon.

The Howard School Sixth Form

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our current Year 11 students and our external applicants to our Sixth Form Induction event between the 16th -18th June 2021. If your son/daughter has applied to the 6th form, you will have already received an invite to this event, however, the invitation is open to all Howard Year 11 students and we really look forward to seeing them over these three days.

Keep an eye on social media and our school website for our induction promotional video, which will explain the event in more detail and answer many of the questions you may have. In the

meantime, enjoy the well-deserved summer break and should you need to contact us at the school, the email is loftuss@thehowardschool.co.uk (Mr Loftus - Head of Sixth Form).

Launch of the Pixl Edge qualification

At The Howard School, we believe that our students' academic success is really important but we also believe that personal development is essential. We want our young people to leave education feeling confident not only in their knowledge but in themselves and their abilities too.

The PiXL Edge programme aims to help young people discover the following skills and attributes in themselves:

- Leadership
- Organisation
- Resilience
- Initiative
- Communication

These skills, known as LORIC, are essential for life beyond school, and can also help students fulfil their potential in their studies. This is why we are delighted to introduce this qualification from September 2021 to Year 7s, 8s and selected groups in 9s & 10s. Students will have the opportunity to complete a number of activities which will contribute towards this nationally recognised award. Further information will be provided through term six.

Projects in and out of the classroom

Departments have been busier than ever since our return to the classroom. In Modern Foreign Languages, the students have been learning about food - specifically 'La Chandeur' in French (Pancake Day) - and how to order in a Spanish restaurant. Let's hope that the students can put this knowledge to practical use at some point in the near future.

In very exciting news from Mr Hillier, the school has been awarded over £20,000 to engage in the Erasmus project. This will provide an opportunity for students from The Howard to visit our partnering schools in Spain, Germany and Croatia as well as for us to play host and welcome students from these countries to us. We look forward to resuming our project once travel restrictions are lifted.

The Business Studies department has been busy as usual. The London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF) gave a virtual presentation on future career pathways and Levi Roots gave a virtual assembly for year 9. He stressed the importance of working hard and following your dreams.

The RE department launched its ever popular and successful debating society this term; students have been delving into complex moral issues including animal rights, the use of nuclear weapons and capital punishment.

In sporting news, the PE department is pleased to announce the return of after school clubs, including basketball, boxing club, gym and cricket. The World Challenge to Africa has sadly had to be postponed until 2022 - but this does mean that current year 11s and 12s are eligible to participate. Please see Mr Cooper for details. In other positive news, the year 8 residential to Yorkshire is due to go ahead this July, restrictions permitting. We are really hoping this is able to go ahead after the tough year our students have had.

Tāne our School dog

Tāne has recently passed his first level of training achieving 100%!

Tāne's training level has now allowed him to start interactions with more Howard school pupils and, although it's a new experience for him, he has taken to our students very quickly. Tāne has been engaging with 6th form and some of our upper years as well as engaging with walks in and around classrooms to visit students and give everyone a boost to their day.



Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a happy half term.

C. Reid

Ms C Reid
Executive Headteacher