

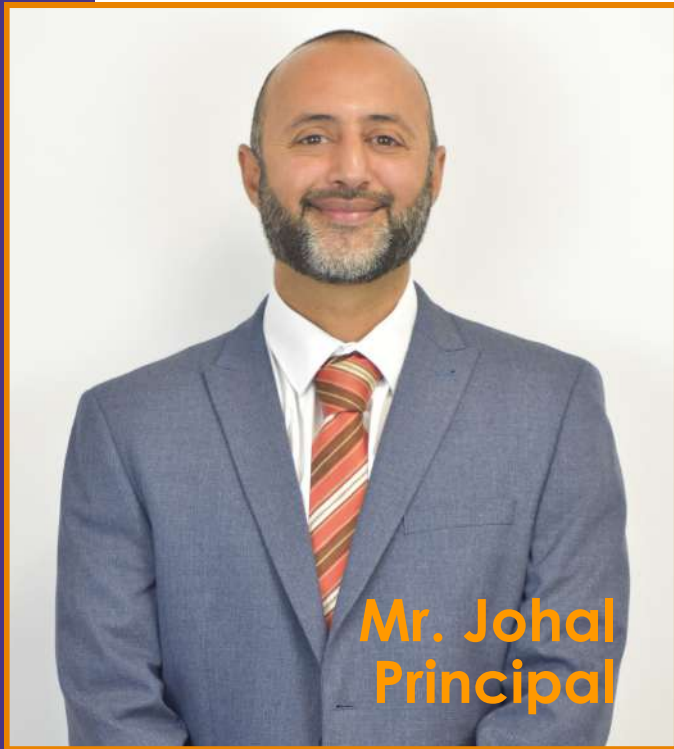


The Howard School

Newsletter

High Standards lead to High Achievement
Be Hardworking | Be Good | Be Kind

Welcome



**Mr. Johal
Principal**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the holiday season, our school is abuzz with festive cheer, and as the year draws to a close, we reflect on the joyous moments and accomplishments of our students throughout the term. We are delighted to share some highlights and extend our heartfelt wishes for the holiday season.

Academic Achievements

In the academic year of 2022/23, the Howard School Progress 8 score for Year 11s was +0.24, which placed the Howard School in the top 4 for boys' performance out of 72 non-selective schools across Kent and Medway. The Progress 8 figure that boys achieved nationally was -0.25, meaning that the boys at the Howard School achieved a Progress 8 figure which is +0.49 above the national average. This represented

'Outstanding Performance'.

This year, we again achieved a Progress 8 figure of +0.24. The results across Medway and Kent have been released, and we moved up from 4th out of 72 schools to 3rd. Furthermore, we are one of only two schools that have managed to be in the top 4 for two successive years. This sustained success demonstrates the stability of the Howard School and the positive impact of the new initiatives that we have introduced since I took on the leadership of the school.

Another pleasing aspect is that all groups of learners at the Howard School achieved progress that was either in line with national progress for the same groups of learners or well above.

For example, our students from disadvantaged backgrounds made the same progress as disadvantaged students nationally. Our students with SEND made progress of +0.30, which is higher than all other students in the school and well above how SEND students perform nationally and locally.

Please note that these are remarkable achievements and do not happen at most other schools.

With our growing success, we have had many school leaders visit us to try to unpick what makes the Howard School so successful. There is so much we have done and accomplished over the last four years. We say our success is based on the following four key themes:

1. **Quality of Education** - A high-quality, inclusive approach to teaching and learning.
2. **Behaviour and Attitudes** - Expecting high standards from our students and supporting them to achieve these.
3. **Personal Development** - A personal development curriculum which ensures that our students value themselves and teaches them to be a force for good.
4. **Leadership and Management** - Forward-thinking, basing all strategic decisions on what is in the best interests of the students.

Please follow the link for more information on our Vision and Values: <https://www.thehoward-that.org.uk/ethos>.

Rewards and Certificates

In the summer of 2024, the Ambassadors fed back to me from the wider student body:

“Sir, we do so much for the school, such as attend parents’ evenings and support wider school events, and we do get some recognition, but we feel we deserve more. Also, Sir, senior staff spend more time with students who behave badly than with the rest of us.”

We do insist on high standards and make every effort to ensure students behave. Although we had a rewards structure in place, it made the Senior Leadership Team think hard about ‘What more we could do for the vast majority of students who do everything that is asked of them’. As a result, we quadrupled our rewards budget and introduced a number of initiatives:

- **The 100% Club**
- **Termly Subject-Specific Recognition**
- **Stamp Books**

As a result, by the end of Term 1, we have:

- 253 students in the 100% Club who will attend a paid-for event at the end of the year.
- 950 students who have received subject certificates.
- 444 students who have received 120 stamps.
- 4,685 ‘Golden Tickets’ issued.

These accolades serve as a testament to the students’ perseverance and talent, and we look forward to celebrating more of their successes in the future.

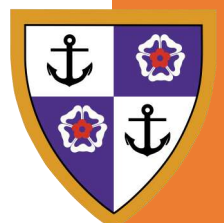
Staffing Changes

Miss Ali will be leaving us at the end of Term 1 to take on a pastoral role at another school in Kent. Miss Ali has made a huge contribution both in the Maths Department and to the pastoral care of students. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you—Miss Ali will be missed by both students and staff.

Mrs Burrows replaces Miss Ali and comes to us with a very good range of experiences, having worked at a number of very good non-selective schools in Kent.

Miss Kay will be leaving us at the end of term to take on a Second in Charge of a Science Department in another Kent school. Miss Kay has been a delight to work with, and we wish her success in her future role.

Mrs Stamp replaces Miss Kay and comes to us with a broad set of school experiences, including having worked as the Science lead in a primary school.



Mr Fernandez will be leaving us to relocate back closer to family and friends in Manchester. We would like to thank Mr Fernandez for his contribution to the MFL Department.

Mrs Brown replaces Mr Fernandez and comes to us with an excellent depth of knowledge, having worked in both non-selective and grammar schools.

Which brings me to our fourth member of staff who is leaving the Howard School. After an astounding 33 years of service, the iconic Ms Parish retires. Ms Parish has worn numerous hats whilst here with us at THS—she's first and foremost a teacher of English and Media/Film but has also been a Head of Year, Professional Mentor, our SENCO, and an Assistant Headteacher.

In her time, she's forged strong professional relationships with parents, students, external agencies, her colleagues, and the neighbours of the site! For those of you who know her, you will recall her kindness, her sense of humour, but most importantly, her passion for supporting and enriching the young people of our school community. The Howard School will forever be indebted to her for her pioneering contributions to the modern Howard. We will miss her greatly but wish her every happiness in the pleasures that her retirement will bring!

Looking Ahead to 2025

We look forward to another exciting term filled with new learning opportunities and experiences. Our commitment to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment remains steadfast, and we thank you for your continued support.

We wish all our students and their families a joyful and peaceful Christmas break. May the holiday season bring warmth, happiness, and cherished moments with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, refreshed and ready for more adventures.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Johal

MERRY
CHRISTMAS





OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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Scan Me



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Vice Principal
Designated Safeguarding
Lead

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MR B DABURN

Senior Head of Year
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MS J PARISH

Safeguarding Officer

01634 388765 Ext: 3020



MRS S KEEGAN

Safeguarding Officer

01634 388765 Ext: 3009



Medway Council Children's Social Care can be contacted on 01634 334466
Medway's First response Service is 01634 334466: 24 hour emergency number is 0300 041919
Alternative telephone numbers where you have concerns about a child:
NSPCC: 08088 005000 - ChildLine: 0800 1111



This week, we wrapped up our term with fantastic *Celebration Assemblies* for Years 7 and 8, and what a brilliant way to finish!

On Tuesday morning, we turned the spotlight on Year 8 to celebrate their **amazing attendance, outstanding behaviour**, and **incredible effort**. A huge congratulations to all the students who received awards—you've truly set the standard high this term!

And Wednesday, it was Year 7's turn to shine in our final assembly of the term. The enthusiasm and pride in the room were amazing as we celebrated students who have gone above and beyond in their first year of secondary school. Well done to all the award winners—you've made an excellent start to your journey with us!

For those who didn't get an award this time, don't worry—everything resets for Terms 3 and 4. There's plenty of time to work hard and show your best. We're already looking forward to our next round of awards at Easter.

A huge thank you to everyone who made these assemblies so special. To Years 7 and 8—keep up the fantastic work, and let's aim for even greater success next term!





We are bursting with pride for our Year 7 choir, who delivered a truly stunning performance at Rochester Cathedral this week. The concert was in support of the Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust, a cause close to many hearts, and our students rose to the occasion beautifully.



Under the expert guidance of Choir Director Mrs D'Amiral, the choir performed a variety of pieces that filled the historic cathedral with music and magic. The students' voices blended harmoniously, captivating the audience and leaving many moved by their talent and enthusiasm.

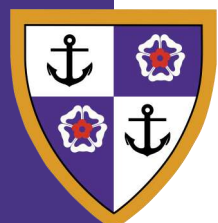


The evening was a wonderful celebration of music and community, and our students represented Howard with pride, professionalism, and passion. Events like this highlight the power of music to bring people together and make a difference—and our students certainly did just that.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs D'Amiral for her dedication to the choir and to everyone who supported the event. Well done to all the students involved—you were phenomenal!

It's moments like these that remind us why we are so proud of our Howard community. Here's to many more magical performances in the future!





We are thrilled to share that our recent Ambassador Breakfast of Celebration was a huge success! This special event was held to recognise the incredible efforts of our group, who have worked tirelessly to make a difference in our community.

Together, the group has achieved an amazing total of 154 hours of volunteering. That's a lot of time spent helping others, showing kindness, and spreading positivity. Whether it was lending a hand at events, supporting important causes, or simply being there for someone in need, every hour has made a real impact.

The breakfast gave us the perfect opportunity to come together, enjoy a delicious meal, and reflect on everything we've accomplished as a team. It was also a chance to say thank you to each ambassador for their hard work and dedication.

We're so proud of everything our ambassadors have done, and we can't wait to see what we can achieve together next. Thank you for your time, your effort, and your big hearts. You're showing us all how to make the world a better place!

Keep up the amazing work, everyone – you're making a difference!



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NO DISCRIMINATION

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BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

4

MAKING RIGHTS REAL

5

FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP

6

LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

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NAME AND NATIONALITY

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IDENTITY

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KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

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SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY

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HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

This week, we were delighted to hold our much-anticipated Carol Concerts, and what a wonderful celebration they were! After a successful performance earlier in the day for Year 7 students, the evening performance for parents and carers was equally fantastic.

The programme included a lovely blend of readings, which reflected a variety of beliefs and traditions, as well as some that were non-religious. These thoughtful readings set the tone for a warm and inclusive celebration. Alongside the readings, the audience enjoyed the timeless beauty of traditional carols, sung with enthusiasm and joy.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, our GCSE Music students treated everyone to a selection of Christmas pop tunes. Their performances brought energy and fun to the event and showcased their impressive musical talents.

We are so proud of all the students who took part. Their hard work, dedication, and passion made the concert a truly memorable experience for everyone in attendance. The evening was also a great reminder of the power of music and community to bring people together.

A big thank you goes out to the staff and students who helped organise the event and to the families who came along to support it. Your participation and encouragement mean so much.

We hope everyone left feeling full of festive cheer as we look forward to the rest of the holiday season!





This week, our Whole School Ambassadors, Eco-Ambassadors, and Photography Ambassadors were treated to an exciting day out at SOAR as a way to thank them for their incredible support during Term 1 and 2. The school covered the cost of the trip to show just how much their hard work and dedication are appreciated.

Our ambassadors play an essential role in making our school the wonderful place it is. Whether it's helping to run school events, ensuring everything runs

smoothly, or supporting their peers and teachers, their contributions are truly invaluable. From setting an excellent example for other students to offering creative ideas and solutions, they help make a big difference every day.

This special trip was a small token of appreciation for all that they do. At SOAR, the ambassadors had the chance to enjoy thrilling activities, build stronger bonds as a team, and have plenty of fun away from their usual school routine. It was great to see them laughing, enjoying themselves, and taking a well-earned break from their responsibilities.

We are so proud of everything they have achieved so far this year. Their energy, commitment, and willingness to go above and beyond make them role models for the entire school community. We are lucky to have such a fantastic group of students representing us as ambassadors.

Thank you once again to all of our ambassadors for the difference you make. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we hope this trip showed just how much you are valued by the entire school.





GOLDEN TICKET

During each lesson, our students have the opportunity to receive a Golden Ticket. This Golden Ticket can be received for going 'above-and-beyond' during the lesson. These Golden Tickets are collected in our Main Reception and a portion of the ticket is also taken home so parents/carers can recognise this immense achievement as well.

The tickets are collected in boxes in each of the students Houses and tallied at the end of the academic year. The House that collects the most gets points added to the House Championship total for their House as they compete for the Laurel Cup.

But it doesn't stop there!

At the end of the academic year, all of the Golden Tickets will also be collected by Year Group where a Prize Draw will take place. Each year group were asked what they would like the opportunity to win, and the prizes by year group are listed below. The more Golden Tickets each student receives, the greater their opportunity is to win! Good luck!

Year 7



£200 bike

2 x £100
Amazon
Vouchers



Year 8

*voted for 2 winners

Year 9



£200 JD
Voucher

£200
Amazon
Voucher



Year 10

Year 11



PlayStation 5

This initiative would not be possible without the support from our good friends at 'Camfil'.





Congratulations to our fantastic Sixth Form students, who successfully raised over **£300** through their bake sale on Friday! The event, held in the **Gallery Theatre**, was a resounding success, with staff and students coming together to enjoy a variety of delicious homemade treats – all in support of **Mind**, the mental health charity.

The team of Sixth Formers worked tirelessly to organise and run the sale, showcasing their baking skills, teamwork, and dedication to supporting mental health awareness. From cupcakes to cookies, there was something for everyone, and the option to pay by cash or card made it easy for everyone to get involved.

A huge well done to our Sixth Formers for their incredible effort and to everyone who supported the event. Together, you've made a difference for an important cause. Thank you!





As we come to the end of another successful term, we want to take a moment to reflect on the joy and community spirit that makes our school so special. Today's festivities were a brilliant way to wrap up the year. From the moment students arrived in their festive gear, greeted by cheerful Christmas music, to the heartwarming sight of Santa himself serving free hot chocolates, the day has been filled with laughter and excitement.

The Sixth Form Bake Sale added a delightful touch, with delicious treats on offer and a fantastic display of teamwork and creativity from our older students. It was wonderful to see everyone come together to celebrate the season in true festive style.

As we head into the Christmas break, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to our entire school community—parents, carers, students, and staff—for your continued support and dedication throughout the term. Together, we've achieved so much, and your contributions help make our school a vibrant, welcoming place for all.

We hope you have a restful and joyous holiday season filled with laughter, love, and perhaps a little too much chocolate! May the new year bring happiness and success to you and your families.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday, 7th January 2025**, ready to embrace new opportunities and challenges. Until then, stay safe, enjoy the break, and make cherished memories with your loved ones.

From all of us here, **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labeling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or epi-pens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognize dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasize hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College



Meet Your Head of House



Mr. Edwards

Ms. Samuels

Ms. Anglin

Mr. Dunn

Ms. Mulrooney



ATTENUBOROUGH



HAWKING



ATTENUBOROUGH



HAWKING



PANKHURST



TULL



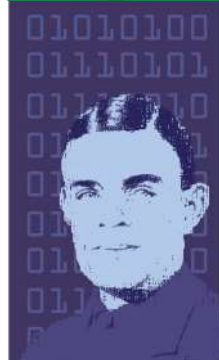
TURING



PANKHURST



TULL



TURING





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