



# The Howard School

## Newsletter

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

# welcome



Happy New Year to you all!

I'd like to share with you some of our reading interventions this term.

Year 7s have been working on decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension using an evidence-based programme called *Reading Wise*. Some pupils have completed a round of this and moved on to participate in morning reading sessions with our trained sixth-form volunteers in the library. Thank you to Year 12s and 13s who continue to give up their time for such a valuable experience for their younger peers.

Year 8s have been using a Literacy Box to tackle vocabulary, grammar, and comprehension through short stories. They, too, can access *Reading Wise*, where there are biographies on offer to provide additional opportunities to engage with wider

topics.

Year 9s have just started morning sessions to recap key comprehension strategies, practising their memory techniques to recall important information from the text.

Our Reading Tutors deliver these interventions with precision teaching and tracking methods to closely monitor progress. This information is used to inform how they plan sessions and support pupils in their small groups.

Across the rest of the school, our teachers have been receiving training on how to plan for and support the development of reading in their subjects by working together across departments to share best practices in line with current research and guidance.

Thank you for your ongoing support, whether it's encouraging your child(ren) to read books and magazines, listening to audiobooks, or discussing news articles of interest. These activities and many more help young people converse in increasingly demanding and diverse terminology. This, in turn, allows them to become more confident in using these skills in class, and as their abilities increase, in exams and in their futures.

Ms. Deakin

Assistant Principal/ SENCo

On Wednesday, 8th January, 36 of our Year 8 students had the exciting opportunity to take part in an **RE escape room event**. This unique experience was designed to get students thinking deeply, working as a team, and solving challenging puzzles inspired by some of history's greatest thinkers.

The event was packed with brain-teasing questions and thought-provoking discussions. Students debated big philosophical and ethical questions such as:

- **What is the soul?**
- **How do we know what is real?**
- **Can we define truth?**
- **Does morality matter?**

Using ideas from philosophers like **Plato**, **Plutarch**, and even Schrödinger's famous thought experiment, students explored how these concepts shape the way we think about ourselves and the world around us.

The escape room wasn't just about solving puzzles—it encouraged students to dive into big ideas, think critically, and challenge each other's perspectives. It was brilliant to see their curiosity and creativity shine as they worked together to crack the codes and solve the mysteries.

Team RE is incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and effort shown by all the students. The depth of their discussions and the excitement they brought to the activity were inspiring. We hope this is just the start of many more conversations about the big questions that shape our world.

Well done, Year 8—what a fantastic way to kick off the year!



# POETRY ESCAPE

COMPETITION FOR  
11-18 YEAR-OLDS

[WWW.YOUNGWRITERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.YOUNGWRITERS.CO.UK)

We are thrilled to announce an exciting **Poetry Competition** for all KS3 students this term! As part of your English lessons, you'll have the chance to unleash your creativity, play with words, and express yourself through poetry.

This is your opportunity to explore your imagination, share your unique perspective, and maybe even discover a love for writing! Whether you enjoy rhyming verses, free-flowing thoughts, or dramatic performance, this competition is for you.

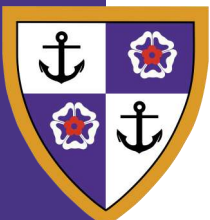
And the best part? The winning poet will take home a **brand-new iPad Mini!** That's right—your words could win you an amazing prize.

Your English teachers will guide you through the process, helping you craft, polish, and perfect your poems during lessons. Don't worry if poetry feels a bit new—this is all about having fun, trying something different, and showing your creative flair.

So, get ready to let your ideas shine and bring your best words to life! Who knows? You might just become the school's next poetry star.

We can't wait to read your amazing poems. Good luck, KS3 poets!

**Let the creativity begin!**





# OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Principal Mr J Johal

[safeguarding@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@thehowardschool.co.uk)

Scan Me



**MR S GREEN**

Vice Principal  
Designated Safeguarding  
Lead

01634 388765 Ext: 3015



**MS T MCCOMAS**

Pastoral Support Manager  
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

01634 388765 Ext: 3006

**MRS J DEAKIN**

Assistant Principal  
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

01634 388765 Ext: 3030



**MS A MULROONEY**

Assistant Principal  
Safeguarding Officer

01634 388765 Ext: 3038



**MR N LONGE**

Senior Head of Year  
Safeguarding Officer

01634 388765 Ext: 3036



**MR B DABURN**

Senior Head of Year  
Safeguarding Officer

01634 388765 Ext: 3046

**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 marked the exciting start of our school's Chess Club, and what a fantastic beginning it was! We were thrilled to see so many Year 7 students coming along to join in the fun. The room was buzzing with energy as everyone gathered around the chessboards, eager to learn, play, and share their passion for the game.

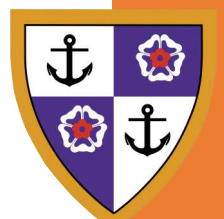
Chess is more than just a game – it's a chance to build confidence, sharpen our thinking, and have a great time with friends. Whether you're a complete beginner or already know how to castle and checkmate, Chess Club is a welcoming space for everyone. Some of our new players picked up the basics in no time, while others impressed us with their creative strategies and clever moves.

Each week, we'll dive deeper into this fascinating game. From learning tactics and strategies to enjoying friendly matches, there's something for everyone to enjoy. There might even be some tournaments on the horizon – who knows, we could have a future chess champion in the making!

If you missed the first session, don't worry – it's never too late to join. Chess Club meets every [insert day] after school in [insert location], and we'd love to see even more students getting involved.

A huge thank you to all our Year 7s who made this first session so special. We can't wait to see you back next week for more chess challenges, laughs, and, of course, checkmates!

See you next time – and remember, every move matters!



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

### 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerningly common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': browsing through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose. Instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

### 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

### 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

### 4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

### 5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when asked to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

### 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

### 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

### 8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

### 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

### 10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and issues they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

### Meet Our Expert

John Inley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 20 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



We're thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of **12B**, who have truly excelled in this year's Leadership Awards. The awards recognise outstanding leadership, teamwork, and commitment, and 12B have shown they have all of that in abundance!

A special congratulations goes to our **Gold winners: AD, JE, BH, and EO'B**. These students have gone above and beyond in their efforts, demonstrating the qualities of true leaders. As a reward for their amazing achievements, they've each received an **Amazon voucher**—well-deserved recognition for their hard work!

The Leadership Awards are a fantastic way to recognise the skills and talents of our students, and we couldn't be prouder of 12B's success. Whether it's supporting their peers, taking initiative, or showing resilience, this group has set a brilliant example for others to follow.

We're always inspired by the efforts of our students, and it's wonderful to see their contributions celebrated in such a meaningful way. It's moments like this that remind us how amazing our school community is.

Congratulations again to 12B and especially our Gold award winners! We can't wait to see what you achieve next.

Keep up the fantastic work—you're all stars!

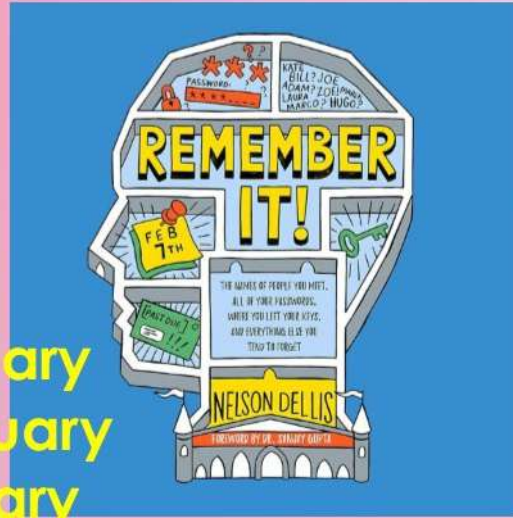


# House Events

## Term 3



1st - 50  
2nd - 40  
3rd - 30  
4th - 20  
5th - 10



Year 7 - 28th January  
Year 8 - 13th February  
Year 9 - 5th February  
Year 10 - 4th February  
Year 11 - 27th January



Year 7 - 22nd January  
Year 8 - 29th January  
Year 9 - 4th February  
Year 10 - 11th February

## HOUSE ROWING

To sign-up and represent your House on any event, head to your Google Classroom or see Mr. Hillier





## The Howard School's Jambo Kenya Expedition - Summer 2026



Following the huge success of our recent school trip to Tanzania with our fantastic partners at **Camps International**, we are thrilled to announce our next big adventure: **Kenya 2026!**

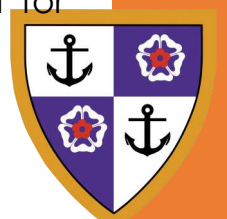
This amazing **four-week expedition** will take place during **Summer 2026** and is open to students currently in **Year 9 and Year 10**. It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to step out of your comfort zone, experience a new culture, and make a real difference in local communities.

During the trip, students will have the opportunity to take part in important community projects, such as building schools or improving access to clean water. There will also be time to explore Kenya's incredible natural beauty, from stunning landscapes to unique wildlife. Whether it's working together on projects or soaking up the breathtaking views, this trip is designed to inspire and challenge you.

Camps International has an outstanding reputation for running life-changing expeditions, and they'll be working closely with our school to prepare you for this exciting journey. Not only will you be making a positive impact, but you'll also develop key life skills like teamwork, leadership, and resilience.

We know there will be lots of questions, so we'll be sharing full details about the trip in **assemblies next week**. Make sure you're there to find out more about this incredible opportunity and how you can get involved.

If you're ready for an unforgettable adventure, keep your eyes peeled for more information. Kenya is waiting for you!



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

This week, a group of our Year 9 students have been making the most of their mornings with our **booster reading sessions**. These sessions are designed to give students a little extra time to focus on improving their reading skills, all in a relaxed and supportive environment.

The idea behind these boosters is simple: starting the day with a good book and a bit of quiet reading time helps sharpen minds, improve vocabulary, and build confidence in reading. Plus, it's a great way to discover new stories, ideas, and interests!

The sessions take place before lessons begin and are guided by our supportive team of teachers and staff. Students can explore a variety of books and reading materials, from gripping novels to thought-provoking non-fiction. Whether they're diving into the world of fantasy, solving mysteries, or learning about fascinating topics, there's something for everyone.

One student shared, "I wasn't sure about getting up early at first, but now I really enjoy it. It's a chill way to start the day, and I've found some books I really love."

These morning boosters are part of our commitment to helping students build strong literacy skills and a lifelong love of reading. Reading is such an important skill, not just for school, but for life – it opens doors to new opportunities and helps develop critical thinking.

We're incredibly proud of our students for embracing this opportunity. It's fantastic to see their enthusiasm and progress each day!

To our Year 9 readers: Keep up the great work, and remember – every page you turn takes you one step closer to becoming the best version of yourself. Keep reading, keep dreaming, and keep growing!





The Howard  
School

# Hire our facilities

Scan to book



- Table Tennis Centre
- Sports Hall
- Grass Pitches
- Gymnasium
- Dance/Drama Studios
- Changing Rooms
- School Hall/Classrooms

**Opening Hours:**

Mon to Fri: 16:30 - 22:00

Sat: 08:00 - 23:00

Sun: 08:00 - 20:00

**To Book**

[www.howard.schoolhire.co.uk](http://www.howard.schoolhire.co.uk)

This week, our Sixth Form students took on the wonderful role of reading mentors for some of our Year 7 students. The library was filled with a buzz of conversation and focus as our older pupils sat alongside their younger peers, helping them to build confidence and develop their reading skills.

The Year 7 students loved having someone to share a book with and appreciated the encouragement and tips from their mentors. Whether it was practising tricky words or chatting about what might happen next in the story, the pairs worked together beautifully.

Our Sixth Formers really embraced the opportunity to make a difference. They showed great patience and positivity, and their support made a big impact. It's inspiring to see how willing they are to step into leadership roles and act as role models for the younger students.

Reading is such an important skill, and it's fantastic to see our school community working together to help each other grow. A big well done and thank you to all involved – we're so proud of the way you've come together to support one another!

We hope to see even more students taking part in this brilliant initiative in the future.



# 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'.*



# Easter Music Courses 2025

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April

Rainham Mark Grammar School

For more details and to apply visit  
[www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk](http://www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk)

For any enquiries  
[info@medwaymusicassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@medwaymusicassociation.co.uk)



## MMA's Free Online Music Technology Sessions

Open to ages 9-18

Join our virtual sessions

Tuesday 16:30 - 17:30 (term time only)

For full details visit

[www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk](http://www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk)

MEDWAY MUSIC ASSOCIATION





# PE @ The Howard School



## Class of the week last week of term



For the final week in the build up to Christmas we have moved away from our 'Student of the Week' as we couldn't ignore the efforts and outstanding leadership skills of our Year 12 BTEC groups. They were in charge of leading a Primary event with a focus on indoor golf challenges to multiple schools across the day. Staff from primary schools left with lots of praise and REALLY positive feedback on how our 12s had engaged with the students and how natural they seemed at leading! Well done all! It truly was impressive with what looks to be a very keen set of leaders who will excel.

### What are we currently offering as extra curricular?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K54 Intervention	Year 8 Training 	Rugby Year 9 	Boxing All years 	Basketball Years 11 - 13 
Football Years 7 - 9 	Gym Years 10 - 13 	Gym Years 10 - 13 	Rugby Years 7 & 8 	Gym Years 10 - 13 
Gym Years 10 - 13 		Basketball Years 7 & 8 	Basketball Year 9 & 10 	
		Table Tennis All Years 	Gym Years 10 - 13 	



# PE @ The Howard School



Last week of half term in pictures





# PE @ The Howard School



Results and up coming fixtures



## Year 11 Cup Final v Rainham Mark

Our Year 11 side ended 2024 in great style winning the district cup in Medway. In a well contested battle in difficult conditions our boys went into their last game for the school in high spirits after many years of impressive performances and results. The boys came away from Rainham Mark with a 3 nil victory with a number of stand out performances. HL with 1 goal and AH with 2 goals gave the boys the end to their school footballing journey that we believed they deserved as they have truly represented the school well for 5 years.

## Year 10 Football v Hoo

Now for our Year 10s. They had a Medway League fixture against Hundred of Hoo who are a good side. Our boys battled well throughout with big performances at the back but also in attack where the Howard boys looked dangerous. Shout out to SG who scored a hat trick and MM who folled with a brace.



# PE @ The Howard School



Calling all Students in Yr 10 and above!  
Gym Club is open every night after school 3pm  
- 4pm in our brand new fitness suite!



Come up on a Wednesday after school to have  
your induction with Mr Cooper. You will then be  
provided with a Gym Membership Card and you  
can use the gym after school every night of  
the week!



# PE @ The Howard School



## Calling all Students, Parents and Guardians

We are always on the look out for kit donations. If you have any of the following at home that are old, don't fit or you simply don't use, we would love to add them to our spare kit selection.



- Trainers
- Astroturf trainers
- Football Boots



- Old PE Kit (Shorts, Polo, Purple Tops, Blue Jumpers)



Please feel free to  
drop them into the  
PE office or hand  
to your PE teacher





# Meet Your Head of House



Mr. Edwards

Ms. Samuels

Ms. Anglin

Mr. Dunn

Ms. Mulrooney

ATTENBOROUGH



ATTENBOROUGH

HAWKING

PANKHURST

TULL

TURING

HAWKING

DEEDS NOT WORDS

PANKHURST

TULL

TULL

TURING

TURING



The Howard School

# TWO WEEKS REMAINING TO APPLY





Mr. J Johal - Principal  
[johalj@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:johalj@thehowardschool.co.uk)  
01634 388765 ext. 3004