



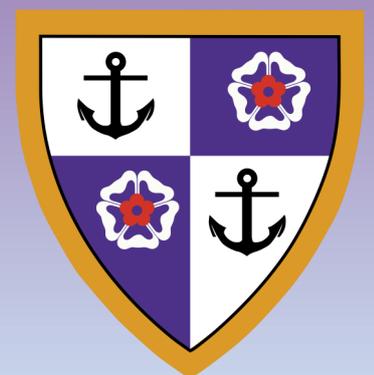
# The Howard School

## Newsletter

*Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication*

# *In this issue:*

- ◇ Introduction by Head of PE, Mr Cooper
- ◇ RE trip to Canterbury Cathedral
- ◇ Year 11 student's Cancer Research fundraiser
- ◇ THS's Big Tree Plant!
- ◇ Sports update
- ◇ *What parents and educators need to know about clickbait*
- ◇ Geography at THS
- ◇ Year 10 Macbeth performance
- ◇ Photography ambassadors
- ◇ Easter Holiday club opportunities
- ◇ Gym Club



# Welcome

This academic year has seen the arrival of three new members of staff join the PE department, all of which have settled in very well. As always it's been an incredibly busy term in PE in and out of the classroom. Year 10 intervention is in full swing with extra support sessions set up for the Easter half term in preparation for their coursework submission in May. Year 11s have also been hard at work in preparation for their upcoming final exam in May which we wish them the best of luck in.

Outside of the classroom, there has been some great success. In this year's Rugby Swale Cup, both the year 8s and year 10s won their retrospective competitions. Both teams going unbeaten showing fantastic determination and maturity to come out on top.

The year 7 Football Team has enjoyed continued success, although they were narrowly beaten in the Kent Cup 2-1 to Hurstmere, they have remained unbeaten this year in the Medway leagues, scoring 40 goals and conceding only 3.

SSG rowing and Dodgeball have also ensured more opportunities for students to represent the school in different sports. The year 7-9 teams in Rowing all did extremely well in their relay events with some podium finishes. The year 7 Medway SSG Dodgeball Event which was run by our exceptional 6th form Sport students, saw the Howard School come second, after narrowly losing the final.

A huge shout out to Alex Matthews, Geroge Clayton, Sophie Elson, Ephraim Omokaro and Max Thorne who showed outstanding leadership, notified by many staff from other schools in attendance.

Thanks to all the hard work from Claire Moore in particular, the continued OSF funding has seen club opportunities and participant numbers rise over the year. Table Tennis, Boxing, Gym and Breakfast clubs in particular have all had increased turnouts.

Looking forward to Easter, there are over 30 year 7-9 students heading to Barcelona for a Football tour, which promises to bring lots of competitive football, trips out and all enrichment for the students going.

Next term sees the start of the summer sports, and even more new clubs such as Golf with the support of one of our highly skilled sixth form golfers.

**Mr Cooper**  
**Head of PE**



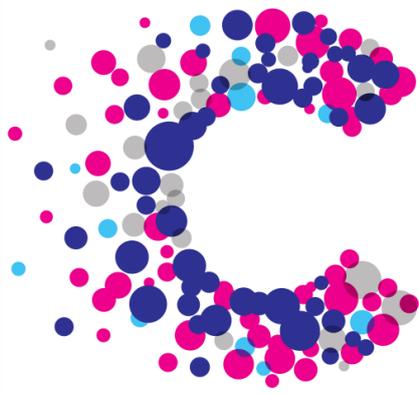
# RE TRIP TO CANTEBURY CATHEDRAL

This week the RE department had the privilege of returning to Canterbury Cathedral with 50 year 7 students to explore the site and learn about the important practice of pilgrimage as well as the historical significance of it being the location where Thomas Beckett was murdered. There was a lot of activity in the cathedral in the run up to Easter and it was an excellent opportunity for the students to ask questions and see the cathedral preparing for such an important event in Christianity.

The day started with a tour of the main cathedral, the cloisters and some of the gardens. Students had an opportunity to complete various activities including an information scavenger hunt, designing their own stained-glass window and exploring the difference between pilgrimage and tourism. Students were also able to listen to some of the midday prayers and engage in their own personal worship if they chose. The students had a peaceful lunch in the Friend's Garden where they were able to enjoy the sunshine and discuss what they had learned throughout the day.

Overall it was a very successful trip and we hope all the students were able to gain a deeper understanding into such a significant religious and historical building.





# CANCER RESEARCH UK



Total raised  
**£1,192.00**  
+ £231.75 Gift Aid

119% of the £1,000.00 target



£300

Cancer's weakness



£500

Providing cancer support



£1,000

Hunting innovations



£2,500

Delivering treatments



*"Thanks for visiting my fundraising page. I'm running 62 miles in March to help raise money for Cancer Research UK. Please show your support and help fund life-saving research by donating to my page. In June of 2022, my mum was diagnosed with a blood cancer called Multiple Myeloma. I am doing this run to help raise awareness for this life threatening condition and to help others understand just how serious it is. During the last 18 months of seeing my mum go through her treatments, it's inspired me to do as much as I can to help move forward the progress of stopping this horrible disease."*



**PLEASE DONATE WHAT YOU CAN BY CLICKING THE LINK BELOW :)**



<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/matthews-giving-page-2782>



# THE BIG TREE PLANT

What a wonderful morning we had at The Howard Saturday morning! Our amazing staff, students, families, and community members came together for The Big Plant event. Together, we planted hundreds of trees across our expansive site! Huge thanks to everyone who lent a hand. This fantastic initiative is part of our eco-project spear-headed by Ms. Ashbee and Ms. Hall. Let's continue to nurture our environment together!



# SPORT at THS



What a fantastic week at The Howard as we hosted the Annual Dodgeball Tournament welcoming 12 Secondary schools from across Medway! After an intense competition, we're proud to announce that The Howard School secured 2nd place, narrowly missing out to Robert Napier School in a thrilling shootout finale! Huge thanks to our incredible Year 12 Sports Leaders who spearheaded the event as part of their coursework, and to all the schools who participated!



## FIXTURES ACADEMIES LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP CENTRAL LEAGUE TABLE

Pos ▲	Association	Pl	W	D	L
1st	Howard School	15	12	0	3
2nd	Harris Academy Falconwood	12	10	0	2
3rd	Brompton Academy	16	10	0	6
4th	Cleeve Park School	12	7	3	2
5th	Wrotham School	15	7	3	5
6th	Ravens Wood School	15	6	1	8
7th	Hugh Christie School	13	6	1	6

The Howard School and PSA Kent Schools' FA U19 Academies League journey this year has been nothing short of brilliant! A huge shoutout to our incredible boys who've shown outstanding commitment, attitude, and talent throughout the season. With their hard work, we've achieved some fantastic results! The past week was no exception as we conquered two remarkable games: Wednesday: We dominated Tonbridge Angels FC on their home turf, securing a spectacular 5-0 victory! Friday: Our squad

travelled to Lenham School for a friendly match against a mix of Year 11 & Year 12 boys, and triumphed with a thrilling 4-2 win! A massive round of applause to our dedicated players and coaching staff for their relentless efforts and teamwork. Let's keep the momentum going!



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CLICKBAIT

Clickbait is a controversial online marketing strategy which uses sensationalist (and frequently misleading) headlines to encourage engagement with an article, image or video – often playing on users' emotions and curiosity, while much of the actual content is of questionable accuracy. Clickbait is also sometimes used to disguise scams, phishing sites and malware.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### HARMFUL MISINFORMATION

Clickbait tends to play fast and loose with the truth, opting for eye-catching content over objectivity. This is particularly dangerous for younger internet users, who are generally more susceptible to that type of material. A child could be presented with fake news, misleading articles and – in some cases – outright lies without fully understanding what they're viewing and why it's harmful.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Due to the misleading nature of many examples of clickbait, what may seem to be innocuous and child friendly could actually contain age-inappropriate material such as extremist political views or violent, pornographic or sexually explicit content. This is clearly a hazard for young people, who could be upset, disturbed or influenced by exposure to such subject matter.

### HIDDEN MALWARE

While most clickbait is simply trying to promote engagement to earn companies additional revenue, some of it does redirect to dubious sites with the potential to infect devices with viruses or malware. This could put a child's sensitive data – such as their name, their location and their date of birth – at risk of being accessed and exploited by malicious hackers.

### PRIVACY PROBLEMS

Some clickbait leads to sites which could coax a child into volunteering their personal data – using pop-ups to ask them for their email address and phone number, for example, in exchange for accessing additional content or subscribing to various services. Normally, this harvested information is then sold to third parties, who often utilise it for targeted adverts and other sales schemes.

### A DRAINING DISTRACTION

Clickbait encourages spiralling consumption of online content, which could easily result in a young person spending hours scrolling aimlessly instead of doing something productive or interacting with family and friends. This can leave them tired, asocial and lacking focus – and, in the long term, can negatively impact their social skills, education and mental wellbeing.

### IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR

Depending on the type of clickbait a child is interacting with, you might notice negative changes in their behaviour. Weight loss scams, for example, are common among clickbait and have the potential to influence eating habits and body image – while deliberately inflammatory 'rage bait' articles can leave impressionable young people feeling irritable, restless or argumentative.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START A CONVERSATION

The sheer volume of clickbait can make protecting children against it quite challenging. It's vital to talk to young people regularly about the types of content they encounter online, so that they understand the risks of engaging with clickbait. If you're still concerned, it may also be wise to keep an eye on children's online activity to ensure they're not being tempted by clickbait headlines.

### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Encouraging children to question the legitimacy of sensational headlines and too-good-to-be-true promises will help them to become savvier online – and far less likely to be drawn in by clickbait content. These critical thinking skills will also serve to protect them in other areas of the digital world where misinformation is becoming increasingly common.

### SPOT THE TELLTALE SIGNS

There are certain common elements in clickbait, including headlines and images that use shock and outrage to grab people's attention – as well as numbered lists, such as "8 Facts You Won't Believe Are True". Some clickbait combines several of these tactics to snag users' interest. Learn to recognise these techniques for yourself so you can teach children to notice them as well.

### TAKE CONTROL

Many parents opt to place limits on how long their children can spend online each day, which obviously reduces the chance of exposure to clickbait. Alternatively, most internet-enabled devices have built-in controls that allow parents to manage what sort of online content their child can access – including filtering by age, which can screen out a percentage of inappropriate material.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for *Forbes*, *TechRadar* and *Wired*, among others.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# GEOGRAPHY @ THE



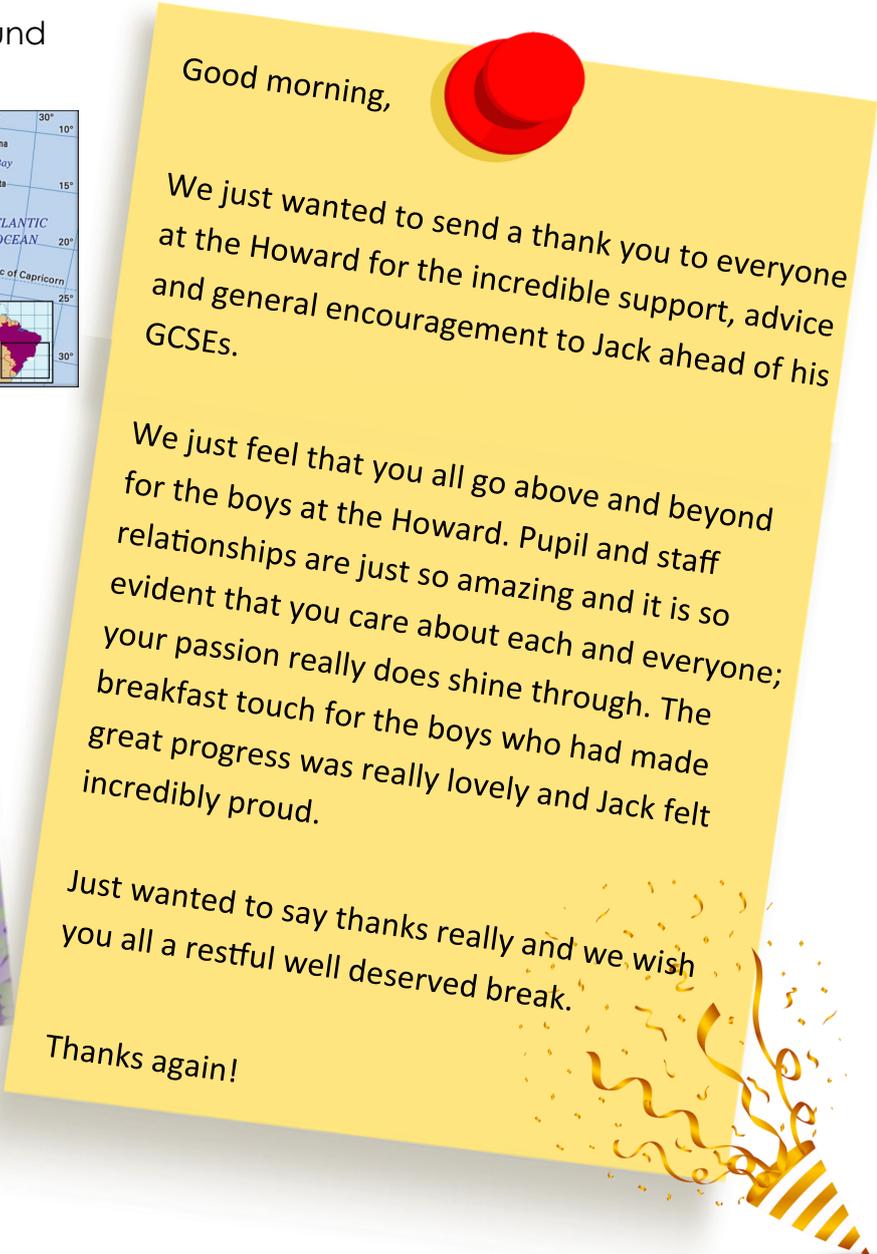
During Term 4 our Year 8 students have been learning about Global Cities in Geography from the global importance of London to the contemporary challenges associated with the favelas in Rio De Janeiro.

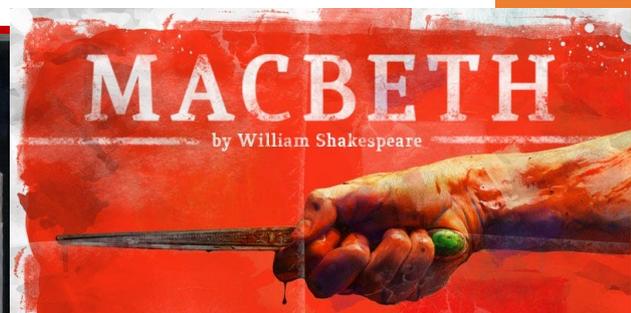
8H2 have been working hard on their independent study to create some fantastic individual favelas inspired by the unique appearance of the Rio mountainside communities.

This week, students created the final product which may be the best a favela has ever looked!

The project has been a great opportunity for students to get creative with their learning using their knowledge of favelas and the ways of life around the world.

We look forward to next term with Year 8 where they will look at 21st Century Challenges we face in Geography including health pandemics, conflict and the migration crisis!





This week, our year 10 students were given the opportunity to watch a professional production of Macbeth in readiness for their English Literature GCSE exam that they will be sitting next term. Students were given the chance to see the play in performance to enhance their understanding of the key characters, plot and relationships. Our students did us proud and were a respectful audience and hopefully it has inspired them to memorise more key quotes in preparation for their first exam on the 13th May.

# Photography

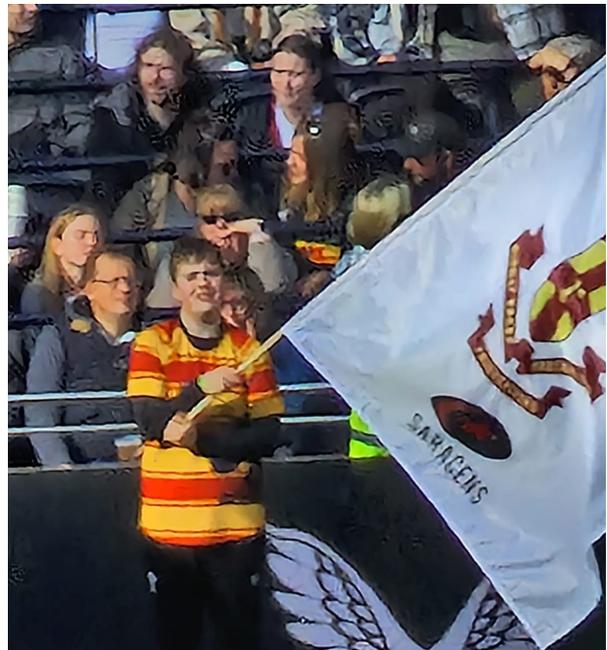
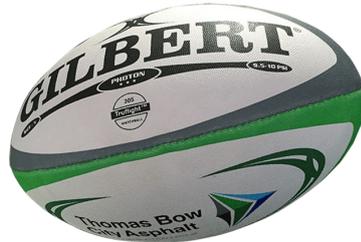
Three more students have been chosen as Photographer Ambassadors in recognition of their two-year commitment, passion, and past involvement in school events. We look forward to seeing them capture significant school events. Well done boys!



# Celebration Time

Our fantastic student pictured here represented his rugby club, Medway Rugby Club, recently waving the club's flag before the Saracens Vs Harlequins Showdown that took place at Tottenham Stadium!

What a fantastic experience—well done on representing your club so brilliantly!



Our second student pictured here received the Youth Lifesaver of the Year award last weekend from the Royal Lifesaving Society - Kent branch. "He is a very active part of the City of Rochester Swimming and lifeguard club. He qualified for the National life saving championships in Leeds in Nov 2023 but Unfortunately couldn't attend the championships. The club is always looking for new members and it's a bit of a different sport. Lots of team work and learning many life saving skills. They train at Medway Park on Thursday night."



ROYAL  
LIFE SAVING  
SOCIETY UK



# MedwayGo

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

for children aged 5-16 years old

For more information  
visit: [go.medway.gov.uk](https://go.medway.gov.uk)

A BETTER  
MEDWAY  
Easier ways to be healthy

Medway  
Serving You



Medway Council's Easter activities at MedwayGo are live, taking place between 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April, and are available to book.

They say,

"As always, we are offering a variety of activities from sports, to theatre, to coding and gaming. If any families would like to have a look and book onto any activities they would like to take part in, they can go to <https://go.medway.gov.uk/book/>

If anyone has any questions or needs help with booking, please contact us on [go@medway.gov.uk](mailto:go@medway.gov.uk)."



**Gym club, every week!**  
**Speak to any member of**  
**the PE department for more**  
**details!**



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

# 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**

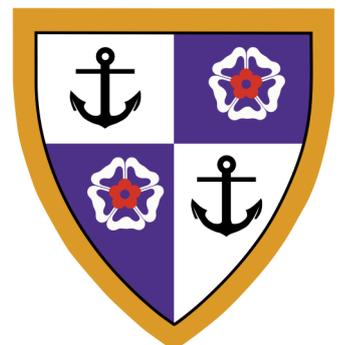
Safeguarding Officer

**Have a concern you would like to raise or discuss?**

**Visitors:** please email [greens@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:greens@thehowardschool.co.uk)

**Howard School Staff:** report on our internal reporting system

**Students:** contact any member of the safeguarding team



01634 388765 | [www.thehoward-that.org.uk](http://www.thehoward-that.org.uk) | [office@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:office@thehowardschool.co.uk)



Mr. J Johal - Head of School  
[johalj@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:johalj@thehowardschool.co.uk)

Mr. J Knights - Rewards Lead  
[knightsj@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:knightsj@thehowardschool.co.uk)

