



# The Howard School

## Newsletter

*Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication*

# *In this issue:*

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**Kent  
Police**

### **Think before you buy:**

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit [www.kent.police.uk/road-safety](http://www.kent.police.uk/road-safety)



# Welcome

Welcome to first newsletter of term 6. My name is Mrs Cleall and I am Head of Religious Education and lead on the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC).

We are proud of the curriculum offer for RE, we have created a carefully considered learning journey covering religious beliefs, practices, philosophy and ethics. We believe in providing students with the opportunity to learn about different ways of life, debating how these beliefs and values impact on different moral issues, we hope to keep our subject relevant and impactful on students as they grow. Last term saw us debate 'Medical Ethics' in year 8 and 'War and Peace' in year 7. We have moved into term 6 to discuss 'Relationships' and 'Buddhism', and we continue to offer 'Debate society' every Thursday at lunch. Our year 7s also have the opportunity to come with us to Howlett's Zoo as part of their enrichment week, where our discussions about morality will continue beyond the classroom as we explore.

We have worked hard to ensure we meet our statutory requirements for RE at KS4 and KS5, with its delivery in our personal development calendar for several times a term. Each term sees different themes and issues discussed from animal rights to afterlife and beyond. Our year 11s have sat their exams and we are so proud of them. While other GCSE classes are completing units of study ready for mock exams.

With each term just as busy as the last, term 6 gives us the opportunity to bring together a year of learning and look ahead, in preparations for the next academic year. Change is inevitable and indeed necessary but that doesn't mean it comes easily. We can struggle to transition, struggle to accept that time is passing before us, we can be full of fear and anxiety at the unknown, mourn what we have had and have lost. Keeping the momentum going in term 6 can be difficult, as we approach the end of an important stage of our life, it can be tricky with many obstacles - which can impede our success. But we should consider what success means within each lesson, day, week and term. I have found that setting myself small goals can support, motivate and help me find a spark of joy, celebrate the "What Went Well" as we can often become despondent at the mountains we have to climb.

I look at the year 7 as they have embedded themselves into the life and culture of the school, with friendships formed and routines established, they are far from the little boys who arrived here in September. While at the other end of the scale we have year 11 who have grown into fine young men but forever a "Howard boy". They leave their mark, carrying their memories of their time here and taking away more than just the taught lessons.

Term 6 is an exciting term and I hope we all take a moment to appreciate the climb as we hurtle towards our new destinations, ready to be part of something amazing at The Howard School.



**Mrs Cleall**  
Head of RE



# Asia

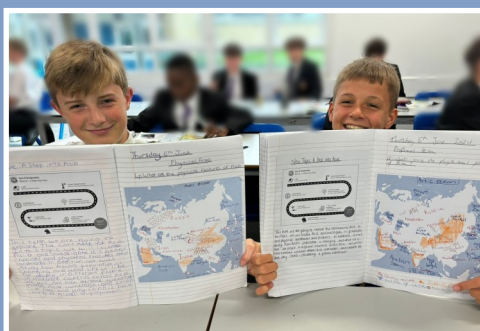
This term, Year 8 students are thoroughly engaged in an in-depth study of the vast and diverse continent of Asia. Their curriculum includes an exploration of the

continent's significant physical landmarks and natural features, such as the towering Himalayas, the expansive Gobi Desert, and the majestic Mekong River. They will also delve into the various climatic zones that characterize Asia, ranging from the frigid tundras of Siberia to the sweltering heat of the Indian subcontinent, and the unique challenges these climates present.

Additionally, students will examine the tectonic activity prevalent in the region, gaining an understanding of the geological forces that give rise to earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, particularly in areas like the Pacific Ring of Fire. This will provide them with a comprehensive view of the natural hazards that impact the lives and environments of millions of people across Asia.

Beyond the physical geography, the course will also address contemporary geopolitical issues, with a particular focus on China's emergence as a global superpower. Students will investigate China's economic growth, political influence, and its pivotal role in international affairs. This will involve discussions on trade, technology, and the socio-political strategies that underpin China's position on the world stage.

By the end of the term, Year 8 students will have gained a holistic understanding of Asia, encompassing both its natural wonders and the complex human dynamics that shape its role in the global community.



# E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



**Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?**

**No, it's Illegal...**

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

**Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?**

**No, it's Illegal...**

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

**What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?**

**The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.**

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent  
Police**

## **Think before you buy:**

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For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit [www.kent.police.uk/road-safety](http://www.kent.police.uk/road-safety)



# Clean Air For All



Camfil manufacture a wide range of ventilation and dust extraction filters designed to improve the air quality in all internal environments, for people, equipment, and the environment. We believe clean air is a human right, and all people should be entitled to breathe clean air and enjoy the health benefits that can bring, as well as ensuring damage to the environment from poor air quality is limited.

Camfil are proud to sponsor schools as part of our mission to improve the air quality for future generations.

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## Year 10 Sports Leadership

Year 10s have been running their Sports Leadership sessions this week to year 7 and 8s as part of their OCR sport qualification. It's safe to say the students have more of an appreciation for how hard it can be to plan, organise and effectively run sport sessions. They have worked very hard to prepare for these sessions and showed fantastic communication, organisation and adaptability in particular throughout these sessions.



HR in particular showed great maturity in running a near perfect session, where the kids were fully engaged, progressing and enjoying his session. JW, JF and LB have all done really well. We'll make a PE teacher of the, yet!

## Year 7 and 8 Cricket Vs HoH

After a late arrival due to Mr Coopers sat-nav diverting via Maidstone...

The Howard lost with a spirited performance against a well drilled Hundred of Hoo side. The Howard bowled first with some good bowling from AW and LE. The pick of the bowling were TP gaining 2 wickets and a wicket maiden over from JB, Hundred of Hoo finishing on a score of 98 off 14 overs. With the bat Howard batted valiantly completing all 14 overs. KV top scored with 19 and AW supported with a vibrant 18. The Howard unfortunately finished on 68-9 off of 14 overs but performed superbly in a game where several Year 7s featured in their first game such as HA and MC who bowled admirably.



## Year 9 Football Vs Creenacre

Not one for the history books today unfortunately. The year 9 Medway Cup Quarter Final ended badly for Howard against a determined Greenacre. A great start actually saw Howard hit the bar in the opening few minutes and forced their keeper to pull off two or three really good saves. Unfortunately that was as good as it got for the boys and it just clearly was not to be delivered. Despite all the hard work and near misses we went into the break 4-0 down.



After a big team talk and much needed morale boost, Howard again started lively but conceded early on in the half. A positive finish did however see Howard grab a late consolation goal. You can't win them all, at least the boys finished in high spirits asking about playing some more friendlies now we are out of the cup. MotM for the Howard was JF who battled hard throughout.





# STUBBERS

## ADVENTURE CENTRE

Just a reminder for all parents/carers whose children are coming to the Stubbers residential in July, the information evening is Thursday 13th July 4.30-5.30pm in the main school

hall. This is an opportunity to go through the three-day trip, talk about activities, food, travel and sleeping arrangements, as well as an opportunity to ask any questions.



## Drop-In

**Tuesday 11th June 10am-12pm**  
**at Woodlands Children and Family**  
**Hub Woodlands Road**  
**Gillingham ME7 2BX (opposite park)**

**Free refreshments provided**

**Come along, meet Small Steps, get advice, chat**  
**with parents and carers and relax with a**  
**tea/coffee**



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about PALWORLD

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In Palworld, players head out into an environment where they must craft items and survive alongside creatures called 'Pals'. In this sense, it's similar to Minecraft: fight monsters while maintaining a base. Palworld has sold more than six million copies and often has over two million people playing online simultaneously.



## MATURE CONTENT



While Palworld may look cute and cuddly, the game does have its more mature moments. For example, if you try to catch a Pal and don't succeed, the game displays a mild swear word. There are also minor references to inhumane acts like slavery when getting your Pals to perform certain tasks for you. While the presentation is intended to be humorous, this could still be seen as being in poor taste.

## VIOLENCE



Palworld has been referred to as "Pokémon with guns" and with good reason. As the game progresses, Pals can be given firearms, explosives and other weapons, allowing them to fight by the player's side. There are several moments where cute animals use these guns to kill other Pals or fight against bosses. The violence is cartoonish and bloodless, but it's present.

## SUGGESTIVE WRITING



Some of the Pals' descriptions – found in the game menu – can be very suggestive and adult in nature. The game makes a joke of balancing on the line between age-appropriate and mature content: playing on the contrast between the two while never being outright explicit. While it's possible that younger players won't notice this content, it's just as conceivable that they will.

## ONLINE PLAY



Palworld can be played with other people online. On Xbox, players can only play with people on their friends list. On PC, however, up to 32 players can share in the same game, playing in a large online world, and these players may not necessarily be known to the host beforehand. It can be quite complicated to set up these servers. However, it can be quite complicated to set up these servers (online worlds) and they cost money to keep active.

## DIFFICULTY



Despite its endearing visuals, Palworld is actually an extremely difficult game in places: defeating bosses, catching Pals and exploring the environment can all be very tricky. It takes a lot of skill – or working together with a friend – to be successful, which could be off-putting or even aggravating to a player expecting something more like Minecraft or Pokémon.

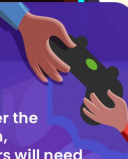
## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH GAMEPLAY



Watching gameplay and reviews for Palworld on sites like YouTube is the best available means of gathering information on it, second only to playing it for yourself. Currently, there are plenty of videos showing this game off to the internet at large, along with detailed breakdowns of what can be found or done within it.

### LEND A HAND



By learning the basics of the game – Pal catching, battling, crafting items and building up a base – you can help to lower the difficulty for younger players. This, in turn, decreases the likelihood that such players will need to look online for tips and tricks, where they could quite easily stumble across more violent and mature content associated with the game.

### SET CONTENT LIMITS



As Palworld is available on Xbox Game Pass, it's easy for players to access it. Any player subscribed to this service can simply find the title on Game Pass and hit the download button. If a child or young person isn't allowed to play Palworld, the best way to prevent them downloading it regardless is to enable age limits on their account. Setting the limit below 12 will not allow users to install Palworld.

### PLAY TOGETHER

By playing Palworld yourself, you'll have the best chance of catching any content that you don't think is suitable for children, as well as getting an idea of how violence is presented in the game. The conflict is cartoonish in nature – until players and Pals unlock the ability to use guns, at which point it can become more intense. It's likely best for you to give it a look and form your own opinion.



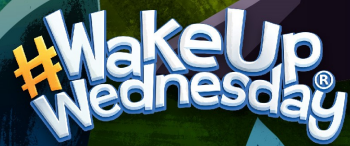
### PLACE BOUNDARIES

Limit options when it comes to online play. For players on PC, they'll still be able to cooperate with friends through the game's multiplayer option, much like Xbox users. Just because they have the option to run a dedicated server that's open to anyone doesn't mean they need to take it. The risks of interacting with strangers can be significantly lowered or even eliminated entirely by playing on servers which are restricted to friends only.



## Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



# A BIG THANK YOU!

This week, we received some lovely messages and wanted to share. Thank you so much for your very kind words.

"We just wanted to say thank you very much for all you've done for our sons, the youngest left today, we have loved being part of your community for over 11 years.

★ Every single member of your school staff ensures students are welcomed, valued, and taught at the highest level. We've had three very different boys with you and all your staff have made sure they have somewhere safe to learn, are welcomed by all staff, know where to go for support and have had teachers who have taken the time to tailor their education to support their needs and abilities to succeed. Your staff's dedication to the young people you support is apparent at all times.

The ethos and values of your school has always made us as parents (and our extended family), feel welcome and we have felt in partnership with you to support our sons for them to achieve to the best of their ability. As parents, thank you very much for guiding us too. I bet we can be harder than the students to support at times.

There is something very wonderful about The Howard School, students are lucky to be part of your community and have your staff 100% behind them. We will miss everything and everyone, you have prepared them extremely well for their next adventures. "

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the staff at The Howard School for the guidance and support you have given to my son over the last five years.

It has been a pleasure to watch him grow from that little boy in year 7 into a young man. I am so thankful we picked The Howard school for him as the staff work tirelessly to ensure the boys reach their full potential. The teachers are so dedicated and committed to teaching the boys to a high standard, gaining their respect and ensure that school is a safe, nurturing environment for all students.

What has struck me the most is (our son) wants to reward his teachers for the work they have put in to get the best out of him. (Our son) wants to not only do himself proud but his teachers and wants to get the results for them as much as for himself.

He always speaks so highly of his teachers and respects them to a high level, he feels that respect is mutual and that is what motivates him to work hard.

He wanted to send special mentions to Mr Webb, Mr Longe and Mr Dunn for the time they have taken to teach him the last few years and the support they have given him, which he said is above and beyond what he ever expected.

The Howard School should be very proud of themselves for the staff they have, the commitment they show and the work they do.

His brother is joining the school in September and I know he will be in the best hands at the Howard School.

As (our son) leaves The Howard School for his next chapter of football and A-levels, he leaves with fond memories and great friends.

Thank you everyone"



# YEAR 11 GOLDEN TICKET PRIZE DRAW!

Golden Ticket  
Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Subject: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Friendship, Organisation, Initiative, Initiative and Communication



Golden Ticket  
Congratulations! You have been selected to win an extraordinary prize and experience this year!



Golden Ticket  
Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Subject: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Friendship, Organisation, Initiative, Initiative and Communication

With a HUGE thank you to OXDEN FLOORS LTD., our year 11 students are in with a chance of winning a 50" LG Ultra HD smart TV at the Golden Ticket raffle at the end of the year!

All they need to do to win this amazing prize donated by Oxden Floors Ltd. is earn Golden Tickets in their lessons, put half of it in their House's box in main reception and put the other half in their Year 11 LG TV box in main reception!

The draw will take place in their year 11 leavers' assembly in term 6! Good luck to you all and once again, a huge thank you to Oxden Floors Ltd for their very generous donation!

<http://oxden-floors.co.uk/> - Professional suppliers and installers of high quality flooring.

*Oxden Floors Ltd are one of the UK's leading contract flooring specialists. Their rich near-40 year history brings a high level of professionalism, service and technical ability to every project they are involved with, and they are well respected within the industry.*

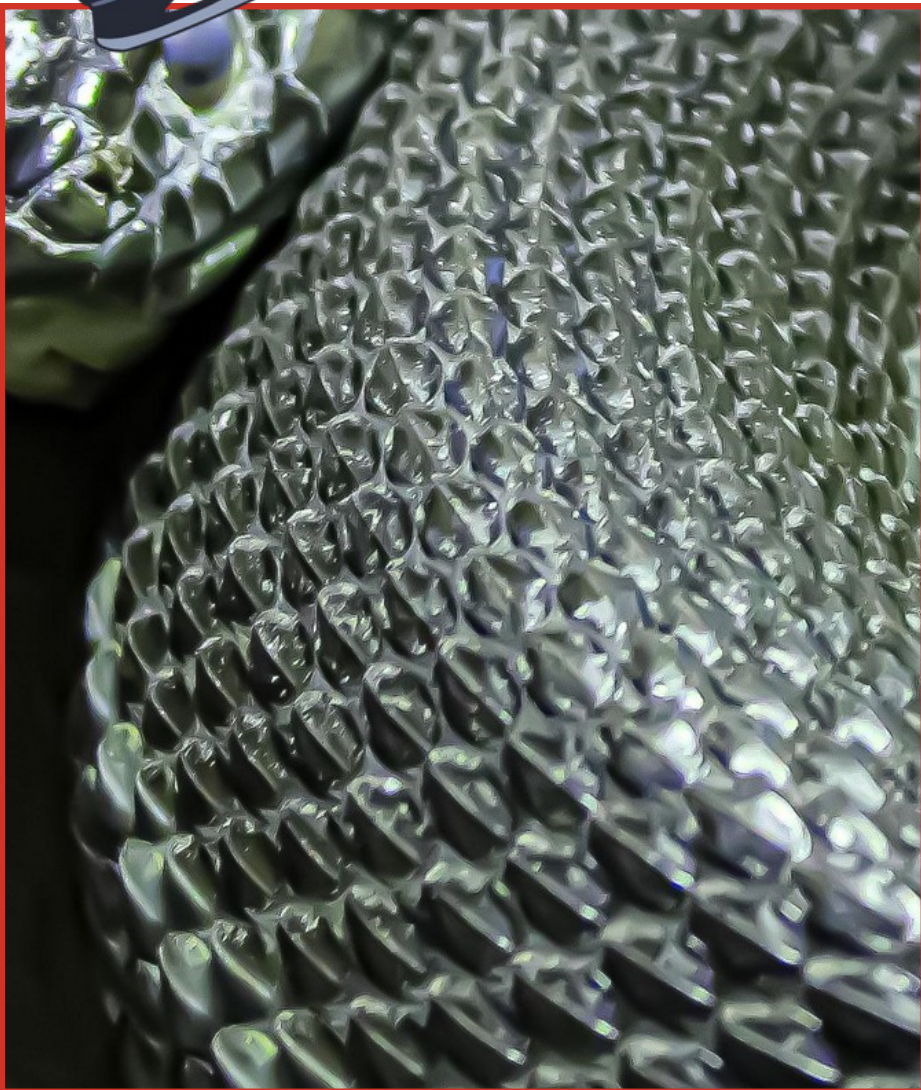
*They can supply and install an extensive range of high quality floor coverings for Industrial and Commercial applications. Their friendly, competent flooring team can offer advice and assistance to ensure the correct floor covering is used in the environment in which it is to be laid.*

*Family values are core to their professional team, and this is reflected in the service they provide. They always go the extra mile to ensure customers' flooring project is delivered and installed on time. Every time.*





TK had an incredible weekend in Scotland with the England team as he played for the U15s! Despite being one of the smallest and youngest on the team, he played with immense strength and skill. His smart and hard play earned him the Man of the Match title in the England vs. Scotland game. We couldn't be prouder!



This month's photography competition was expertly judged by our Deputy Head of School Ms Samuels, who selected ES from Year 9 as the winner for May. This exceptional interpretation of texture beautifully showcased the intricate details of a snake making him a deserving champion!



# August's Young People Sessions



## St Augustine's Church

192 Rock Avenue, Gillingham, ME7 DPW.

| When?                                   | What?                            |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Thursday 8th August<br>11:30am-12:30pm  | Exploring emotions               |
| Thursday 15th August<br>11:30am-12:30pm | Building self-esteem             |
| Thursday 22nd August<br>11:30am-12:30pm | Youth wellbeing & resilience     |
| Thursday 29th August<br>11:30am-12:30pm | Anxiety with creative relaxation |

North Kent Mind are running free, welcoming sessions for young people aged 12-18 to develop their understanding of mental health and wellbeing.

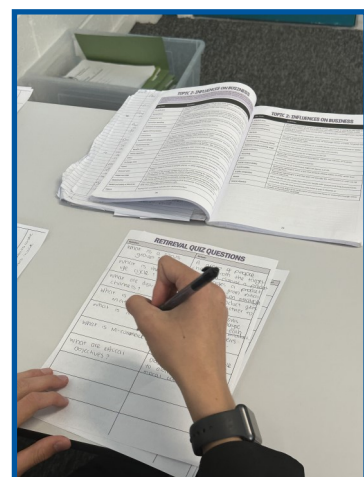
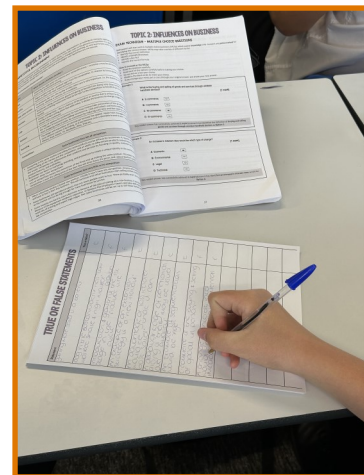
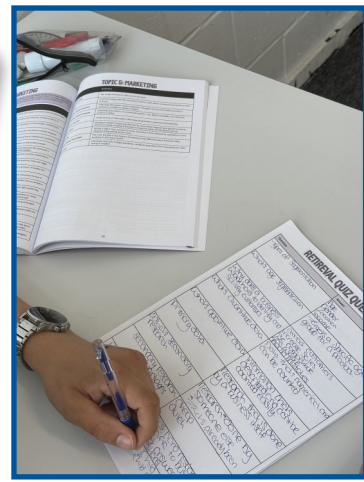
To book your space, please email  
[cyp@northkentmind.co.uk](mailto:cyp@northkentmind.co.uk)

**We're here to fight for mental health.  
For support. For respect. For you.**

# Year 10 - Revising Business Studies

This week our Year 10 Business Studies students have been busy in their lessons revising for their upcoming mock exams. Taking the knowledge and knowhow from their afternoon study skills sessions, students have been testing their recall ability, finding gaps in their knowledge and embedding taught content into their long-term memories in readiness for questions in their mock papers in two weeks' time!

During their lesson with Mr Knights, students engaged fantastically with the revision lesson and tasks asked of them using their Business Studies knowledge organisers to write their own exam style questions with the answers in the column next door. Additionally students wrote true or false statements and completed their own find-and-fix activities. Students spent time independently revising and writing for ten minutes before asking the class their questions for five minutes. This process was repeated to allow students time to revise and then be tested on their knowledge to highlight any further gaps in their learning and inform their next steps.



During break times and lunch times at The Howard students can spend time with friends and peers letting off steam and re-energising their minds in a variety of places including in the canteen, on the basketball courts, playing foursquare and playing football on our many fields and the 3G.





**Medway Music Association's  
Summer Music Courses 2024  
20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July  
Information Letter**

**Venue: Rainham Mark Grammar School, ME8 7AJ**

**Closing date for applications: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

We are delighted to announce our Summer Music Courses for 2024.

Please find below information on all courses and who they are suited to. *Please note, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.*

**Summer Holiday KS1 Music Courses: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

Our KS1 course is designed to introduce KS1 children to music through some exciting and engaging musical activities. The activities will include musical games, fun songs and the chance to perform together using a range of percussion instruments. We hope that your children will learn lots of new musical skills, which build and develop the foundations for learning instruments.

**Entry requirements:** No previous experience is necessary. For children in school years 1 and 2.

**Session 1 for children in Year 1 only: 09.45am – 11.45am.** (Please note applicants must be in Year 1 at the time of application).

**Session 2 for children in Year 2 only: 12.45pm – 2.45pm.** (Please note applicants must be in Year 2 at the time of application).

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Numbers will be limited so please apply early to avoid disappointment.

**Cost: £5.00 for a session**

\*\*\*\*\*

**FREE ONLINE Summer Music Technology Courses: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

**Deadline for Summer Music Technology Applications - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Beginners Course - 9:30am – 11:00am:** This session will offer you the chance to work with an online Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). You will learn how to create music electronically using loops and how to find and import loops to match sounds and styles.

**Entry requirements:** No previous experience necessary. For pupils in school years 5 to 13 inclusive (age 9-18). You will need a laptop or desktop computer for this course.

*Medway Music Association and Dynamics – The Medway Music Education Hub CIC*

Email: [info@medwaymusicassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@medwaymusicassociation.co.uk)

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

**Intermediate Course – 11:15am – 12:45pm:** During this session you will use a pre-existing MIDI file to re-imagine a song.

Using different MIDI instruments and the ability to cut/copy/paste sections you will create a new version of an existing piece of music changing not only the instrumentation but the style as well.

You will also use effects, automation and other DAW techniques to change the music.

**Entry requirements:** For pupils in school years 5 to 13 inclusive (age 9-18) who have had some experience using BandLab. You will need a laptop or desktop computer for this course.

**Cost: FREE!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Summer Holiday Beginner Music Course: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 09:45 - 15:00**

This one-day course gives opportunities to take part in a range of fun musical activities, such as bucket drumming, playing boom whackers, singing, body percussion and being part of a band.

**Entry requirements:** For those with no musical experience through to those who are learning an instrument and are at beginner to grade 1 standard. For pupils in school years 3 to 9 (age 7-14).

**Bring your own instrument** if you are learning one. **All instruments welcome.**

**Cost: £5**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Summer Holiday Instrumental Course: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 09:45 – 15:00**

Our 3-day Summer Instrumental Course will include opportunities for playing in small instrumental groups and a large ensemble. Fun musicianship activities will also be included. All instruments welcome.

**Participants must attend all three days.**

**Concert for Friends and Family: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2.30pm** (estimated finish time approx. 3.15pm). This is a free, non-ticketed concert. *\*Please note there will be an opportunity to donate on the day should you wish.*

**Entry requirements:** For those that are grade 2 through to grade 8 standard. **This is a suggested standard for the course, you do not need to have taken the exam.** For pupils in school years 4 to 13 (age 8-18).

**Bring your own instrument. All instruments welcome.**

**Cost: £15**

## **Returning Your Form and How to Pay**

**Paying by cheque** – Please send completed form and a cheque made payable to Medway Music Association to Medway Music Association, C/O Sarah Coole, 95 Weston Road, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3HB.

**Paying by Bank Transfer** – Please email completed form to [info@medwaymusicassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@medwaymusicassociation.co.uk) and ask for BACS details.

**Members of MMA's Music Centre** – Members can hand their forms in at the music centre and can pay by cheque/BACS or cash.

**It is hoped that all applicants will be accepted for the Music Courses, but places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Places are secured on receipt of payment and payments are non-refundable. \*please note, payment will not be taken from unsuccessful applicants.**

*Medway Music Association is passionate about making music available to all young people in Medway and that no one is excluded on financial grounds. If the cost of the Music Course is prohibitive, please write a letter explaining your situation to the Director, Derek Blease, and send it with your application form in order to be considered for bursary support for the Music Course. All will be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

If you have any questions, please email us at [info@medwaymusicassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@medwaymusicassociation.co.uk)

**Closing date for applications: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

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DEFINITION OF A CHILD

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NO DISCRIMINATION

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BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

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MAKING RIGHTS REAL

5

FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP

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LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

7

NAME AND NATIONALITY

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IDENTITY

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KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

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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**

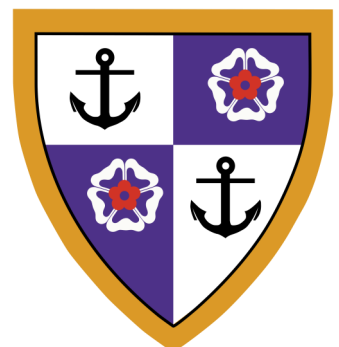
Safeguarding Officer

**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



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