



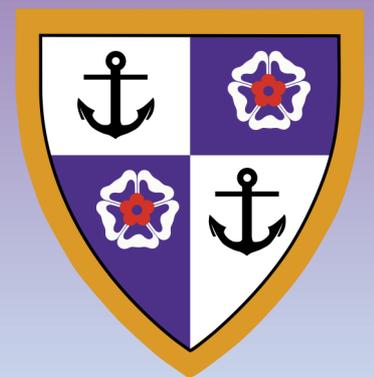
# The Howard School

## Newsletter

*Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication*

# *In this issue:*

- ◇ Introduction by Mr Knights, Rewards Lead
- ◇ Reading and DEAR
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# Welcome



## **Mr Knights Rewards Lead**

Welcome to our 10th edition of this year's school newsletter. We are thrilled to have you join us for another round of updates on the vibrant and dynamic happenings within our school community! I hope you are enjoying our weekly updates into the exciting and interesting things that go on in the various corners of the school! Since taking the helm of writing the newsletter, I've discovered some fantastic activities that our students get up to in their lessons and co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in and around school. From innovative classroom projects that showcase the creativity and intellect of our students to the wonderful world of arts, sports, and community service, the passion and dedication of our students shines through.

As part of my role as Rewards Lead I organise the various House Events that are on offer to our student body and ensure our students are getting rewarded for the fantastic things they do around school; from contributing excellently in their lessons, making fantastic progress, producing outstanding pieces of work, behaving consistently in and around school and contributing positively to their school and wider school community. Students are able to earn House Points and Golden Tickets within their lessons; students can redeem their House Points for a variety of prizes throughout a term and Golden tickets are placed in the boxes in main reception ready for the raffle that takes place at the end of terms two, four and six where twenty prizes are given out to up to twenty different students!

This week's House Events have included 'Beat the Teachers' which was outlined in a previous edition of the newsletter—students have the opportunity to pit their knowledge against that of some of their teachers and this week, our 6th form students were the first to have a go and yes, some of them did manage to BEAT THE TEACHERS!

*I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter, and I look forward to updating you on all things Howard again next week!*

# READING & DEAR

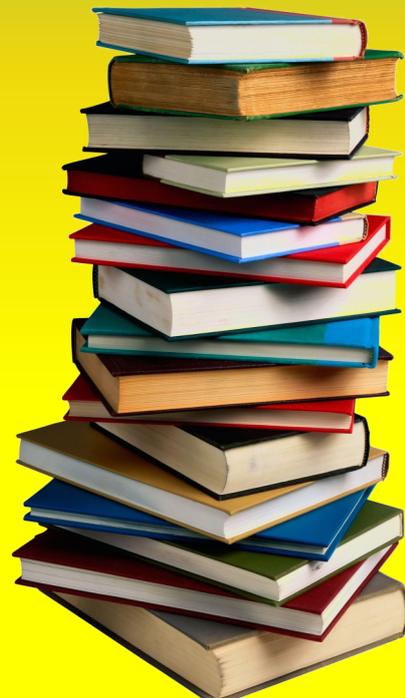
Here at The Howard, we firmly believe that the skills of reading are vital to academic achievement and personal development which is why we have time built into the school day dedicated to reading - the time known as DEAR (Drop Everything and Read). Through reading, individuals gain access to a wealth of knowledge, diverse perspectives, imaginative and real worlds that enrich their understanding of the world around them. Reading enhances critical thinking skills, fosters empathy and compassion, and cultivates a lifelong skill of questioning why: why anyone does what they do; why events happen and why people react the way they do. Moreover, it equips students with the necessary tools to navigate complex information, analyse texts, and communicate effectively in every part of their daily lives. In today's rapidly evolving society, where information is abundant and technology is everywhere, the ability to comprehend and evaluate written material is more crucial than ever. As educators, it is our responsibility to instil in our students the value of reading and empower them to become informed, engaged, and thoughtful members of society. By promoting a culture of reading in the classroom and beyond, we not only nurture intellectual curiosity but also lay the foundation for academic success and personal growth.



# WORLD BOOK DAY 2024



On Thursday 7th March we continued our World Book Day 2024 celebrations by gifting all our Year 7 and Year 8 students with a book each for them to take home to enjoy and keep! Once students have finished reading their book, they will have the opportunity to trade it in and swap for another book to read. Students can do this by popping into the Library when it is open every lunchtime (Monday to Thursday) and after school on Friday until 1.30. Every Year 7 and Year 8 student also received a WBD voucher that enables them to choose another free book from local participating bookstores until Sunday 31st March. Happy reading!



Young Writers  
presents

SURVIVAL SAGAS



# MISSION CATASTROPHE

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION FOR 11-18 YEAR-OLDS

**IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT**

▶ Win £25, a book series & a trophy!

▶ Opportunity to be published!

See this teacher for more information and inspiration:

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

Hand in by:



# MISSION CATASTROPHE

## STUDENT INFORMATION GUIDE

### Catastrophe hits. Chaos reigns...

Young Writers invites you to write a story in up to 100 words inspired by the theme of catastrophe. Will you write about a world-changing event or something on a much smaller scale? From earthquakes or tornados to lost items or missed appointments, the possibilities are endless. Will your catastrophe affect hundreds or even thousands of people, or ruin just one person's day? This is your opportunity to write a thrilling, dramatic tale.

Check out the fun video that introduces the activity: [www.youtu.be/8G03nCJ-2\\_I](http://www.youtu.be/8G03nCJ-2_I)

### STORY STARTERS

You can use one of these to start or inspire your work

- I didn't mean for this to happen...
- "Breaking news, the Prime Minister has declared..."
  - Was I the only one left?
- "Emergency! Evacuation plan activated."
- Everything went dark...
- The thick smoke was choking...
- I was having the worst day ever...
- One text changed everything...

### WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?

- An original storyline and characters
- A complete story with a satisfactory ending
- A story that provokes an emotion – amusement, sorrow, fear, anger, etc.
- Vocabulary that evokes imagery or atmosphere (but don't swallow the thesaurus!)
- A clever or unexpected twist or ending
- An unusual or unique use of a story prompt
- Clear narrative structure

To see some previous mini saga winners, go to [www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/winners/ks3-4](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/winners/ks3-4)

### IT'S EASY TO TAKE PART

1. Your teacher will give you an entry form to write your mini saga on, or a login link to your school's Online Writing Portal where you will type your entry.
2. Write your entry and your teacher will submit it!

### PRIZES FOR STUDENTS

Our favourite 5 writers will each win £25, a book series and a trophy.



**Plus** every entrant receives a bookmark and everyone chosen for publication will receive a certificate of merit. There are also prizes for schools and your school will receive a free copy of the book their students feature in.

(Winners will be chosen from entries submitted in the Spring Term 2024 and announced the following term.)

# FOOD TECHNOLOGY



In our bustling Food Tech kitchen, the aromatic scent of exotic spices filled the air as our talented year 9 students delved into the world of culinary exploration, crafting delectable Moroccan meatballs!



This hands-on experience not only ignited their passion for cooking but also served as a practical application of the skills they are honing for their coursework. The students enthusiastically engaged in the meticulous process of preparing, combining, and shaping their meatballs, skilfully utilizing eggs and breadcrumbs as binding agents.



Beyond the culinary techniques, this culinary adventure broadened their culinary horizons, offering a first-hand understanding of how ingredients vary across diverse international cuisines.



As the sizzling meatballs emerged from the ovens, the students revelled in the accomplishment of their creations.

This immersive experience not only equips them with essential kitchen skills but also instils a profound appreciation for the cultural diversity embedded in the world of food.

We look forward to more exciting food journeys as our students continue to embark on their culinary exploration in the weeks to come!





# SPORT at THS

Despite a hard-fought game, our Year 8 Basketball Team put up a fantastic effort against Beths Grammar School this week, ending with a score of 58-46. We made an incredible start, taking an early lead, but Beths resilience paid off as they came back stronger in the final stages. Huge shoutout to the entire team for their determination and hard work on the court! Special mention to *Miracle* for his tireless efforts throughout the game. You all did us proud!

Huge shoutout to our Year 10 Rugby Team at The Howard School for clinching the Swale Cup victory! Scoring 17 tries and conceding none over 4 games is no small feat. Drawing with Queen Elizabeth Grammar School was enough to secure first place overall - talk about consistency! Massive props to the team for their outstanding effort and dedication on the field. You've made us proud!



1  
-18  
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

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

19  
PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE

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CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES

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CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED

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REFUGEE CHILDREN

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CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT

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REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP

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FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME

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ACCESS TO EDUCATION

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AIMS OF EDUCATION

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MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

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REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS

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PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK

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PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS

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PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

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PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING

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PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION

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CHILDREN IN DETENTION

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CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW

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BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES

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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**

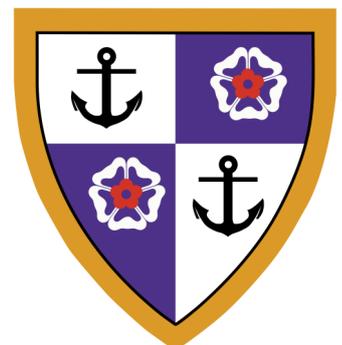
Safeguarding Officer

**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)

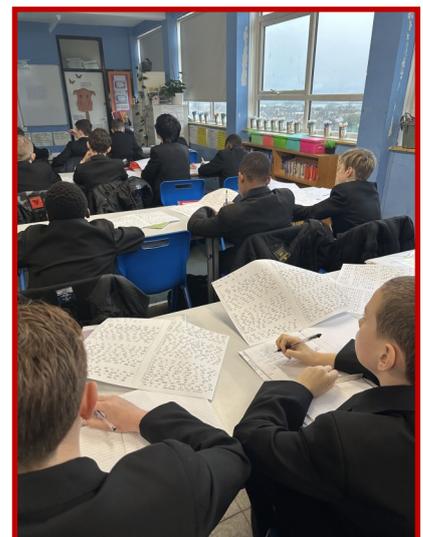
# Enhancing long-term memory

## What is Retrieval Practice?

Retrieval practice is a learning technique focused on using strategies that help students recall learned information that is not directly in front of them. It is about finding ways to help get stored information out of the brain when required by enabling and encouraging students to actively engage with their study material, not just memorise it. Retrieval practice is a move away from the passive 'cramming' technique to one that is participative.

In their lesson with Ms Martin this week, students were enhancing their long-term memories in preparation for their upcoming GCSE examinations. This was done in a very playful way by students throwing a beach ball to one another around the classroom to test each other's recall ability. Students were able to excellently recall the different assessment objectives for each of the questions within their GCSE English Language paper.

More wonderful work was happening in English in Mrs May's classroom this week using the aid of a visualiser. Our year 8 students have been working on their creative writing skills by story-writing—building anecdotal narratives—having been given the title 'The embarrassing day'. Together with Mrs May, students decided what a successful piece of writing looked like and built their success criteria from this. After some time, the visualiser was used to project a student's piece of work on the board and together, the class were able to offer some constructive feedback detailing where the success criteria had been effectively demonstrated in the work while also providing some helpful EBI ('Even Better If...') comments to develop the student's work further. Students then returned to their own work to refine their pieces of writing having revisited their success criteria and applying feedback given to others.



# ECO-FRIENDLY



## ***TREAD LIGHTLY PODCAST***

*“Join us as we sit down with Miss Ashbee, the driving force behind The Howard School's eco initiatives, and Ms. Hall, a geography teacher who is also passionate about environmental education. Hear about the school's commitment to sustainability and raising awareness of environmental issues locally and globally. Join Ben and Will, two enthusiastic student Eco Ambassadors, who are part of the Eco Club, as they share their experiences, leading the charge for positive change across year groups. Connect with The Howard School on social media to stay updated on our eco initiatives!”*



Our Year 13 Performing Arts students have been working on their devising theatre unit busily creating original performances inspired by the work of the official poet of the 2012 London Olympics, Lemn Sissay. Some students have taken further inspiration from the new West End musical, *Standing at the Sky's Edge*, to create a piece of movement.

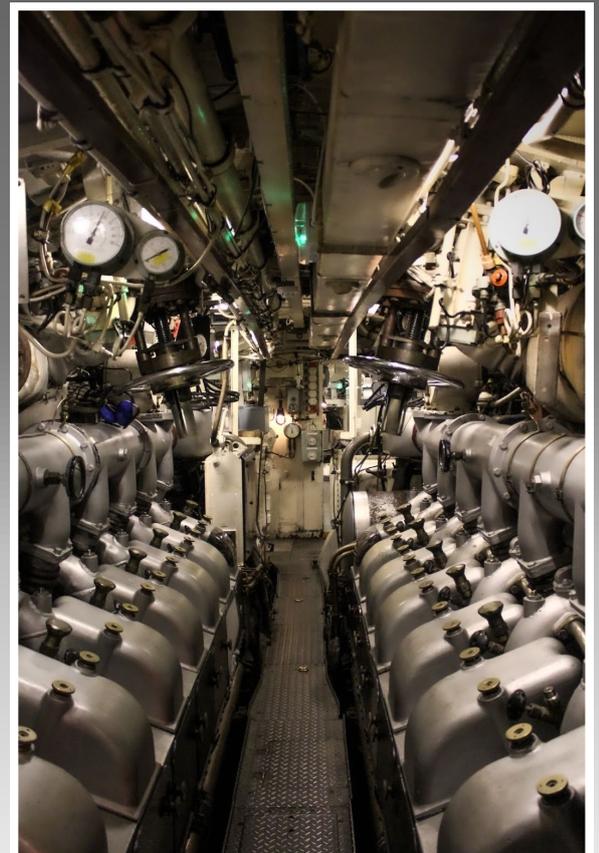
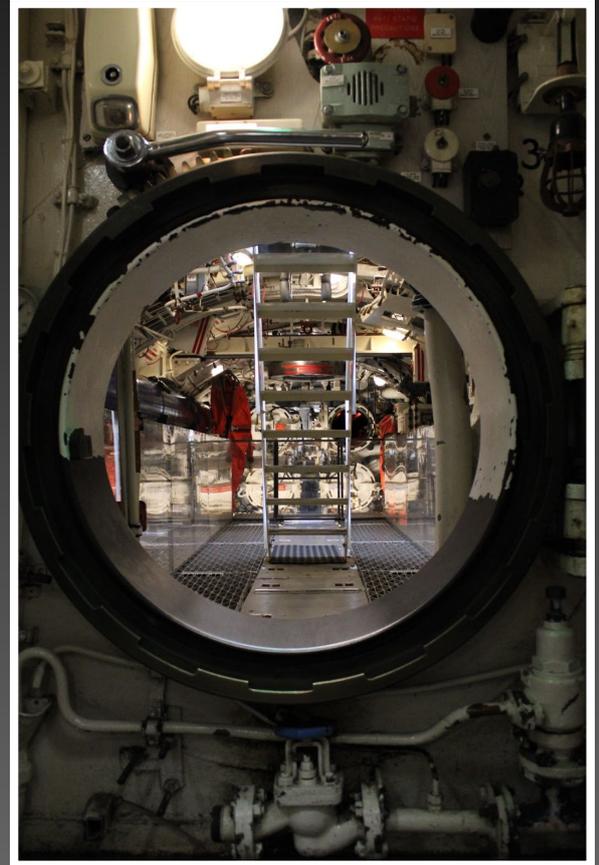


# Photography & Graphic Design

A group of year 12 Photography and Graphics students recently participated in two events at The Chatham Dockyard. They had an opportunity to explore Photography and Graphic Design and were able to achieve a "Discover level Arts Award" and an "Arts Award Explore" for their participation in both days.

During the seminar, students learned about how Graphic Design is used professionally in companies and businesses. The students were given challenges to design a logo for an attraction at the Dockyard.

The Arts Award is a recognised series of qualifications in the arts for young people under the age of 25. These qualifications are accredited by Trinity College London and they aim to help young people grow as artists and creatives and become inspired by the art world!







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