



# The Howard School

## Newsletter

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

# welcome

World Book Week is Almost Here!

We are looking forward to celebrating **World Book Week** next week with a host of exciting activities designed to inspire a love of reading across the school community. There's something for everyone, with opportunities to get creative, test your knowledge, and raise money for a great cause.

The week will kick off with the **Classroom Door Competition** for Year 7-9 forms. Each form is invited to decorate their classroom door as the cover of a book – whether it's a timeless classic or a modern favourite. The best designs will win prizes, so start planning your ideas now!

Throughout the week, the Library will be hosting our **Readathon** to raise money for books for children in hospital. Students are encouraged to read as much as they can while collecting sponsorship to support this important cause. Every page read makes a difference.

On Thursday, all forms will take part in our **Annual World Book Day Quiz**. This friendly competition will challenge your book knowledge – will your form take this year's title?

Finally, the week will culminate in **Character Dress-Up Day** on Friday. Students and staff are invited to dress as their favourite book characters, bringing the world of books to life. Don't forget to join in the **staff character hunt** – how many book characters will you be able to spot around school?

World Book Week is always a highlight of the year, celebrating the joy of reading, imagination, and creativity. We can't wait to see everyone get involved and make this year's event the best yet.

Let's get reading!



# RAMADAN MUBARAK

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**A MESSAGE FROM TEAM RE  
TO OUR MUSLIM STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES  
YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO U23 FOR**

- PRAYER
- RESPITE

**AT BREAK AND LUNCH**

A huge **congratulations** to **12C** for successfully completing their **leadership programme!** Over the past few weeks, they have taken on new challenges, stepped up as leaders, and developed some incredible skills that will stay with them for life.

Throughout the programme, students have worked on important skills like **teamwork, confidence, problem-solving, and communication.** They have pushed themselves outside their comfort zones, taken on responsibilities, and learned what it really means to **be a leader.** Whether it was organising tasks, supporting their peers, or making tough decisions, they have all shown real dedication and enthusiasm.

One of the key lessons from this programme has been understanding that leadership isn't just about having a title – it's about **inspiring others, making a difference, and setting a great example.** Leadership comes in many forms, whether it's leading a group project, helping a classmate, or staying calm under pressure. 12C have demonstrated these qualities time and time again, proving they are more than ready to take on new responsibilities.

This experience has also encouraged students to reflect on their own strengths and areas for growth. By working together, supporting one another, and embracing challenges, they have built the confidence needed to tackle future opportunities. These skills will benefit them far beyond the classroom, whether in further education, careers, or personal ambitions.

As they move forward, we encourage **12C to keep applying what they have learned.** Leadership isn't just about one programme – it's a lifelong journey. The skills and qualities they have developed will help them in all areas of life, from academic success to future job opportunities.

We are incredibly **proud** of each and every student for their hard work, commitment, and positive attitude throughout the programme. This is just the beginning of their leadership journey, and we can't wait to see where it takes them next.





# 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



**MISS 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



**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

Photography students from The Howard School recently took part in the **"Wonderful Water" Competition**, organised by the **Medway Sunlight Rotary Club**. As part of the competition, they were invited to a special **celebration afternoon** at **The Chatham Dockyard**, where they proudly received certificates for their incredible entries.



This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their creative talents and gain valuable experience in the world of photography. During the event, they had the chance to meet the **Mayor of Medway** and speak with two professional photographers who judged their work. Discussing their photographs with experts gave them a unique insight into the industry and provided inspiration for their future artistic journeys.



Although we did not win the competition, being recognised for their artistic abilities is a significant achievement. The students' work has already been **exhibited at Rochester Cathedral**, a prestigious location that has welcomed thousands of visitors. Now, their stunning photographs are on display at **The Chatham Dockyard**, offering another wonderful opportunity for people to appreciate their talent.

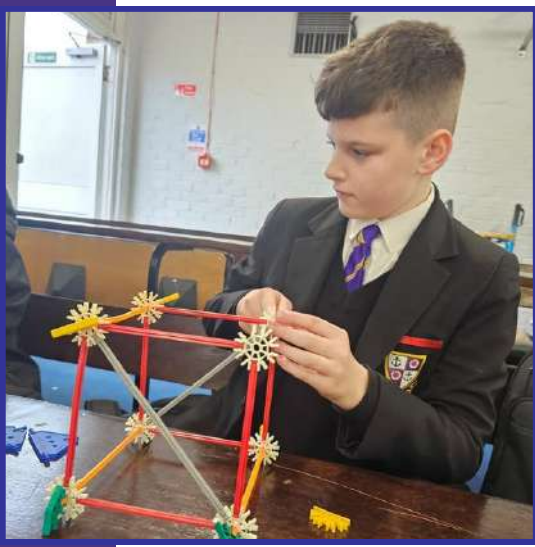


Taking part in competitions like this helps students develop their skills, gain confidence, and experience what it is like to exhibit their work to the public. It also encourages them to explore their creativity and consider future careers in photography or the arts.

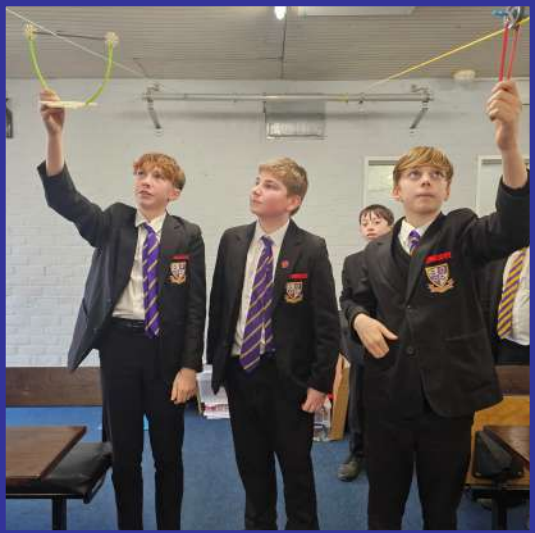
We are incredibly proud of our students for their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm throughout this competition. Their achievements highlight the fantastic talent we have at The Howard School, and we look forward to seeing how their photography develops in the future.



We encourage everyone to visit The Chatham Dockyard to see the exhibition and celebrate the achievements of our young photographers. Well done to all involved!



This week, some of our Year 8 students took part in an exciting STEM challenge run by MEBP, where they put their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills to the test. The challenge required them to transport the heaviest weight possible down a rope using only the techniques and materials provided.



The activity encouraged students to think like engineers, applying principles of physics and mechanics to come up with the most effective solutions. Working in small teams, they had to experiment with different methods, test their ideas, and refine their designs to improve efficiency. Throughout the session, students demonstrated resilience and adaptability, quickly learning from mistakes and making adjustments to their approaches.



One of the key aspects of the challenge was teamwork. Each group had to communicate effectively, share ideas, and delegate tasks to achieve the best result. It was fantastic to see students supporting each other, discussing different strategies, and celebrating their successes. Some teams managed to transport impressively heavy weights, while others came up with particularly creative solutions that demonstrated innovative thinking.



The challenge not only reinforced key STEM concepts but also helped students develop essential life skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and perseverance. These are the same skills that engineers and scientists use in real-world problem-solving, making this experience both educational and inspiring.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part. Their enthusiasm, determination, and ability to think outside the box made the event a great success. A big thank you to MEBP for organising such a brilliant activity and giving our students the opportunity to engage in hands-on STEM learning.

We look forward to taking part in more STEM challenges in the future and continuing to inspire the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers. Well done to everyone involved!

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALALS

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
12

ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

### IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chat is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a \$30 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

### VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is compositively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and super-villains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

### FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

### MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



### DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods curbs impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new titles, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including iOH, Techradar and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Our Year 10 GCSE Food students showcased their impressive culinary skills this week as they took on the challenge of making ravioli from scratch. From mixing and rolling their own fresh pasta dough to creating a delicious homemade tomato sauce, they truly embraced the art of Italian cooking.

Making fresh pasta is no easy task, but our students rose to the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. They carefully kneaded and rolled out their dough, ensuring it was the perfect thickness before filling and shaping their ravioli. Each student had the opportunity to experiment with different fillings, adding their own creative twist to the dish.

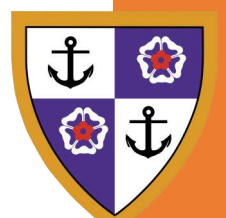
The homemade tomato sauce was just as impressive. Using fresh ingredients, students learned essential techniques such as chopping, sautéing, and seasoning to bring out the best flavours. The food room was filled with the mouth-watering aroma of garlic, herbs, and simmering tomatoes, creating a truly authentic experience.

This hands-on lesson not only developed practical cooking skills but also deepened students' understanding of food preparation, nutrition, and the importance of using fresh ingredients. Many students were surprised at how straightforward it was to make pasta from scratch and were excited to try it again at home.

Food teacher [insert teacher's name] was incredibly proud of the students' efforts. "It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they worked through each step. Making fresh pasta can seem daunting at first, but they all did an amazing job. The end results looked and tasted fantastic!"

This lesson is just one example of the exciting and practical experiences students enjoy in GCSE Food. Whether they go on to study food further or simply develop a lifelong love for cooking, these skills will stay with them for years to come.

Well done to all our Year 10 students for their hard work and creativity. We can't wait to see what delicious dishes they cook up next!





Huge congratulations to MN for winning the Photography Competition last month with this rather beautiful photo.

## Photography Competition

Theme is

### Light and Shadows

Deadline:

Friday 21st March

Every month, we set a photography challenge to a theme.

To participate, please send your photographs in JPEG format to

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



Experimenting with the unique lighting conditions in February and March as daylight hours increase. Morning or evening light casting long shadows in parks or streets.

# House Events

## Term 4



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

**Say what you see!**



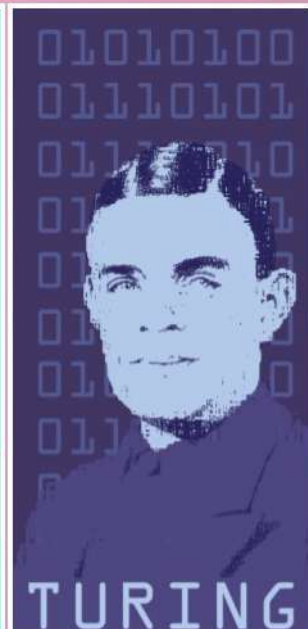
Year 7 - 18th March  
Year 8 - 17th March  
Year 9 - 19th March  
Year 10 - 18th March



Year 7 - 26th February  
Year 8 - 5th March  
Year 9 - 12th March  
Year 10 - 19th March

### HOUSE ROWING

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



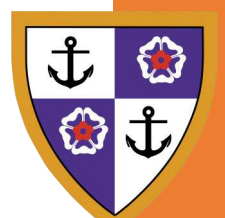
This week, our KS4 students took on the challenge of High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) in their BTEC PE lessons, and we couldn't be more impressed with their effort and determination. HIIT is a tough workout that involves short bursts of intense exercise followed by brief rest periods, designed to build strength, stamina, and endurance.

From the very start, the students approached the session with an incredible amount of energy and focus. Whether sprinting at full speed, completing strength exercises, or pushing themselves through challenging drills, each student gave their absolute best. It was clear to see that everyone was fully committed to the session, and the atmosphere was one of teamwork, motivation, and hard work. The sense of community and support between students was inspiring, with everyone encouraging each other to keep going, no matter how tough things got.

One of the most exciting aspects of this session was seeing students push past their own limits. It's always impressive to witness students challenge themselves and achieve things they didn't think were possible, and that's exactly what happened in this HIIT workout. Many students showed a real improvement in their fitness levels and left the session feeling proud of what they had accomplished.

At the heart of BTEC PE is not just about developing physical skills, but also teaching students the value of hard work, perseverance, and discipline. This session was a perfect example of that. It was also a fantastic opportunity for students to work together, support each other, and have fun while staying fit and active.

Well done to all the KS4 students who took part in the HIIT session. You have set a great example of dedication and determination. We look forward to seeing even more progress and success in future lessons!



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

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



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)

# 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'.*





# Meet Your Head of House



Mr. Edwards

Ms. Samuels

Ms. Anglin

Mr. Dunn

Ms. Mulrooney



ATTBOROUGH



HAWKING



PANKHURST



TULL



TURING

ATTBOROUGH

HAWKING

DEEDS NOT WORDS

PANKHURST

TULL

TULL

TURING

TURING

## MedwayGo Easter Programme

Book a range of activities, from sports, swimming, theatre workshops, outdoor pursuits and more!

Monday, 14 April  
Tuesday, 15 April  
Wednesday, 16 April  
Thursday, 17 April

Bookings open on  
Monday, 17 March



GO.MEDWAY.GOV.UK

MedwayGo

A BETTER MEDWAY

Medway  
Serving You





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