



# The Howard School

## Newsletter

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

# welcome

World Book Day is always a special event in our school calendar, and this year was no exception. From creative costumes to artistic door designs, students and staff embraced the joy of reading in a truly memorable way. The entire school community came together to celebrate books, storytelling, and the power of imagination.

The day began with a sense of excitement as students arrived in a variety of imaginative costumes inspired by their favourite book characters. One of the standout efforts came from form 7H1 and the Pastoral Office, who dressed as Wally from *Where's Wally?*. The sea of red and white stripes was an impressive sight, and their enthusiasm set the tone for the rest of the day. Not to be outdone, our Main Office staff joined in the fun by dressing as Minions from *Despicable Me*, with Mr Doe taking on the role of Gru. The friendly competition between departments added to the lively atmosphere, and everyone appreciated the effort put into each costume.

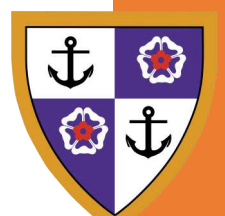
As well as dressing up, staff transformed their classroom doors into works of art inspired by their favourite books. The designs ranged from classic novels to modern favourites, showcasing a love of literature across all subjects. Walking through the corridors, students could see everything from magical fantasy worlds to detective mysteries brought to life through creative displays. The door decorating competition encouraged both students and teachers to think about the books that have shaped their lives and inspired their learning.



Throughout the day, lessons continued as usual, but with an extra literary twist. In English, students explored extracts from famous books, discussing themes, characters, and storytelling techniques. In science, they examined scientific discoveries through literature, and in history, they considered the importance of historical narratives. The connection between reading and learning was highlighted across all subjects, reinforcing the message that books open doors to new knowledge and understanding.

Break and lunchtimes provided opportunities for students to take part in additional activities. Many gathered in the library to take part in book-themed quizzes, short story challenges, and reading sessions. The library was a hive of activity, with students discussing their favourite books and discovering new titles to enjoy. The excitement around reading was evident, as students shared recommendations and spoke passionately about the stories that had captured their imaginations.

One of the highlights of the day was seeing the sheer variety of characters brought to life by students and staff. From historical figures to mythical creatures, the creativity on display was outstanding. It was a reminder that books allow us to step into different worlds, experience new perspectives, and see life through different eyes. Whether dressed as a villain, a hero, or a much-loved character from childhood, every participant contributed to the celebration of reading in their own unique way.





Our talented Photography Ambassadors played a key role in capturing the magic of the day. They worked throughout the event, taking photos of costumes, decorated doors, and engaged students in lessons. Their images will serve as a lasting reminder of a fantastic celebration and will be shared in upcoming school publications and on our website.



World Book Day is more than just an opportunity to dress up—it is a celebration of storytelling and the power of books to educate, entertain, and inspire. The enthusiasm shown by students and staff this year was truly wonderful, and we are already looking forward to next year's event. Whether through reading for pleasure, discovering a new favourite book, or simply enjoying the creativity of the day, everyone took something positive from the experience.

A huge well done to all who took part, and thank you to those who helped organise and bring the event to life. Keep reading, keep exploring stories, and remember that every book holds the potential to take you on an incredible journey.



# 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**



# 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



# FOOD TECH

A huge well done to our Year 11 Food Technology students, who have been showcasing their skills in their practical exams this week. The effort, creativity, and dedication they have put into their dishes have been truly impressive.

Unfortunately, we can't share any photos just yet, as we have to wait until all the grades are finalised. But trust us—every single dish looked incredible! From beautifully presented plates to mouth-watering flavour combinations, the standard has been amazing. And the smells coming from the kitchen each day? Absolutely next level!

It has been fantastic to see students applying everything they have learned, demonstrating their technical skills and creativity under exam conditions. The focus, hard work, and enthusiasm they have shown throughout the process have been brilliant.

A massive well done to all the students for their efforts—we are so proud of you! Whether you are aiming for a career in food or simply enjoy cooking, these skills will stay with you for life.

We can't wait to celebrate your achievements once all the results are in!



# FOOD TECH



# House Events

## Term 4



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

**Say what  
you see!**



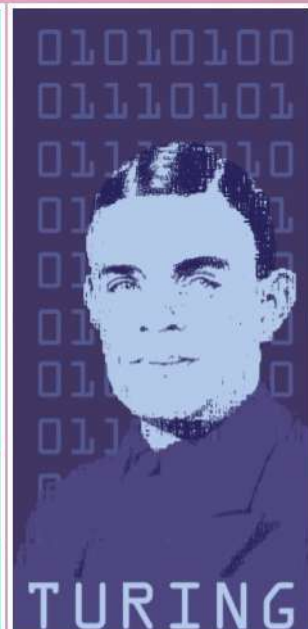
**Year 7 - 18th March**  
**Year 8 - 17th March**  
**Year 9 - 19th March**  
**Year 10 - 18th March**



**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



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALALS



ESRB advises 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.



Last Friday evening, our talented Sixth Form students took on the challenge of organising and running a fantastic quiz night for parents, carers, and staff. The event was a huge success, with £863 raised to support our chosen charities and fund the Sixth Form Prom.

The quiz, designed and hosted by our Sixth Formers, was a fun and engaging way for families and staff to come together, test their knowledge, and enjoy a lively evening. The students worked hard behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly, and their efforts certainly paid off. From setting up the venue to running the quiz rounds, they showed incredible teamwork and organisational skills.

We are extremely grateful to the local businesses that kindly supported the event through donations and sponsorship. A huge thank you goes to:

- **Bellkenn Communications**
- **Darland Carpets and Interiors**
- **Airs and Grazes**
- **Chatham Snowsport Centre**
- **Soar Trampoline**

Their generosity helped make the evening even more special, and we deeply appreciate their support.

A big thank you also goes to everyone who took part in the quiz. Your enthusiasm and friendly competition helped create a great atmosphere, and your support made a real difference in raising such an impressive total.

The funds raised will go towards both our charitable efforts and the organisation of the Sixth Form Prom, ensuring a memorable end to the school year. We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form students for putting together such a successful event and can't wait to see what they'll do next.

Thank you again to all who made the night such a success!



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



# PE @ The Howard School



## What's been going on?



What are we currently offering as extra curricular?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KS4 Intervention	Year 8 & 9 Football 	Rugby Year 9 	Boxing All years 	Basketball Years 11 - 13 
Football Years 7 	Gym Years 9 - 13 	Gym Years 9 - 13 	Rugby Years 7 & 8 	Gym Years 9 - 13 
Gym Years 9 - 13 		Basketball Years 7 & 8 	Basketball Year 9 & 10 	
		Table Tennis All Years 	Gym Years 9 - 13 	

## Special Mention - AG



Shout out to AG in Year 9 who has been an outstanding sportsman throughout his time at the Howard School. This year has seen him begin his KS4 journey in Sport as well as be an influential part of the successful year 9 team. AG represented the school in the recent Kent 7s Rugby competition and catch the eye of a number of spectators with his physicality, speed and ball handling skills. Well done Aaron, it has been great to see your attitude towards your school work and your devotion to the sports teams you've represented.



# PE @ The Howard School

## Recent Results



### Year 9 Football v ST John Fisher

Term 4 saw the return of football for our year 9 boys who are always eager to play. Considering we hadn't played a game in a while, the boys slipped straight back into their rhythm from the first minute. The football in the first half that we played saw us go in to half time 2-0 up. The first half display of football was brilliant to watch from the side line with the boys dictating the pace of the game, moving the ball around brilliantly and carving the opposition open on a number of occasions. Half time came, Mr Halsey switched formation and the second half saw us chasing the ball a lot. Individual battles started to be lost and the boys found it tough. Shout out to MM and MO for their goals and shout out to HN for his outstanding save in the last minutes to keep the score line in our favour. 2-1 win, well done boys.

Our year 8 boys, after winning a local handball event, had the opportunity to participate in a county wide competition down in Sandwich. Win this? National competition was the next stop.

Unfortunately, the boys came up just short, coming second having won 2 out of their 3 games. We are proud of these boys for the effort shown and how well they've taken to a sport they hadn't previously played! Well done boys.

### Year 8 Handball





# PE @ The Howard School

## Recent Results



### Year 9 Rugby – Kent 7s tournament

The rugby keeps coming for our Year 9 boys after an already successful year, reaching cup finals and dominating performances. Term 4 saw the opportunity to play in the Kent 7s tournament. The first group stage game saw a convincing win against Hayes School with the final score being 22-0. This set the boys up nicely for the day, the second game saw us take on Kings College where the boys disappointingly lost by 4 points!

This loss meant that progressing into the knockout stages was dependant on the boys winning their final group stage game.

Wilmington Grammar School were our opponents, the boys came away with an outstanding win with the score line being 47-7. Progression was confirmed. Our opponents in the quarter final were announced as Tunbridge Wells Grammar School, who we knew would be an extremely tough opponent. The boys put on a valiant display but sadly lost to the eventual winners of the competition 33 – 18. Shout out AG for a memorable tournament.



### Year 7/8 Rugby v Borden Grammar

An intense start to the game saw Borden take the lead in the first minute. It didn't let up and by half time Howard were trailing 6-3. A much better second half saw the score finish 9-7 to Borden with standout performances from JC and NT.



# PE @ The Howard School

## Rewards System still a hit!



We are now in term 2 of our new rewards system. The end of term 1 saw a fantastic uplift in attendance to our extra curricular clubs as the students looked to earn their golden tickets within PE.

At the end of term 1, Mr Cooper conducted the prize draw for those that had achieved within lessons/extra curricular clubs. The boys above were the lucky ones to be picked out of the box and they were all allowed to choose a prize out of our stock cupboard. As you can see, the boys went home happy and with a new piece of equipment that they can use at their own leisure.

Well done boys! Keep it up.





# PE @ The Howard School



Gym club is now open to Year 9s aswell! Same rules apply. Come up on a Wednesday after school, have your induction and then you can access the gym after school every day!





# 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





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

ATTENBOROUGH



ATTENBOROUGH



HAWKING



PANKHURST



TULL



TURING

HAWKING

DEEDS NOT WORDS



PANKHURST



TULL



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





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