



The Howard School

Newsletter

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

welcome

On Monday, a group of enthusiastic Year 9 and Year 10 students were invited to take part in an exciting **Fire Cadets Challenge** with **Kent Fire and Rescue Service**. This incredible opportunity gave them the chance to step into the boots of real firefighters, learning essential life skills, working as a team, and having an unforgettable experience.

The **Fire Cadets programme** is designed to inspire young people, helping them develop confidence, leadership, and teamwork skills while also learning about fire safety. It's a fantastic way to experience what it's like to be a firefighter while building valuable life skills that can be used in the future.

A Day of Teamwork and Challenges

From the moment they arrived, our students were thrown into action! They tackled a range of practical and exciting challenges, putting their problem-solving, teamwork, and communication skills to the test. Whether it was handling firefighting equipment, learning rescue techniques, or working together to complete tasks under pressure, every student gave it their all.



One of the key parts of the day was learning how firefighters respond to emergencies. The students were shown how to think quickly, stay calm under pressure, and make decisions as a team—skills that are not only useful in a firefighting career but in everyday life too. They also gained a better understanding of the hard work and bravery that goes into protecting our communities.

Building Confidence and Having Fun!
Beyond the practical skills, the Fire Cadets Challenge was all about boosting confidence and self-belief. Many students stepped out of their comfort zones, trying new things and discovering strengths they didn't know they had. It was amazing to see them encouraging and supporting each other throughout the day.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part in this challenge. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination were clear to see, and they represented our school brilliantly.

A big thank you to **Kent Fire and Rescue Service** for organising such a fantastic experience and for inspiring the next generation. The Fire Cadets programme offers an amazing opportunity for young people to gain skills, meet new people, and be part of something truly rewarding.

For anyone who enjoyed the challenge and wants to get involved further, why not consider joining the **Kent Fire Cadets**? It's a brilliant way to continue developing new skills, make lifelong friends, and even explore a future career in the fire service!

Well done again to all the students—you smashed it!



EASTER BAKE SALE

FRIDAY 4TH APRIL
STARTS AT 9AM,

OPEN ALL PERIODS & BREAK!

THE GALLERY THEATRE

Cash and card!



The Howard
School

All profits go to...
CHARITY & YEAR 12 PROM



Our Year 9 students have been putting their creativity and photography skills to the test in an exciting **Traveling Cars Project!** Using Matchbox cars, they explored different areas of the school site, setting up their miniature vehicles to capture the best possible shots.



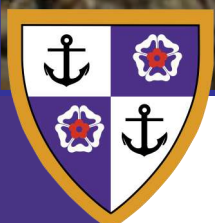
The challenge was to experiment with angles, lighting, and backgrounds to create realistic and artistic images. Some students played with perspective to make the cars look life-sized, while others focused on detail, reflections, and action shots. The results were **brilliant**, showing just how imaginative and skilled our students are behind the camera.



This project was a fantastic way for students to **think outside the box**, develop their photography techniques, and see everyday spaces in a new and creative way. It was also a great opportunity to work collaboratively, sharing ideas and learning from one another.

A huge **well done** to all of Year 9 for your hard work and enthusiasm—you should be really proud of your efforts! We are so impressed with the stunning photos you have produced.

Keep up the creativity, Year 9—we can't wait to see what you capture next!





OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Principal Mr J Johal

safeguarding@thehowardschool.co.uk

Scan Me



MR S GREEN

Vice Principal
Designated Safeguarding
Lead

01634 388765 Ext: 3015



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Deputy Safeguarding Lead

01634 388765 Ext: 3006

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Safeguarding Officer

01634 388765 Ext: 3036



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Senior Head of Year
Safeguarding Officer

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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



Ms Jones' Year 9 art class has been busy creating some incredible artwork inspired by the famous French artist Fernand Léger. Known for his bold colours, geometric shapes and industrial themes, Léger's style has influenced many artists – and now our talented students too!

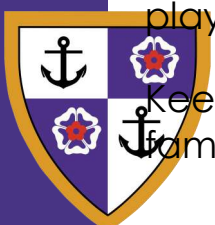
Over the past few weeks, Year 9 students have explored Léger's unique approach to art, learning how he combined Cubism with a modern, machine-like feel. Using this as inspiration, they have produced their own stunning pieces, experimenting with bright colours, strong lines and abstract shapes.

Ms Jones is incredibly proud of the creativity and effort shown by the students. "They've really embraced the style and made it their own," she said. "It's fantastic to see their confidence grow as they experiment with new techniques."

The finished artworks are now on display in the school's art corridor, where students and staff can admire the hard work and imagination that went into each piece. The vibrant designs have already received lots of positive comments, with many people impressed by the way students have captured the energy of Léger's style.

A huge well done to all the students involved! If you haven't seen the display yet, make sure to check it out – you won't be disappointed.

Keep up the great work, Year 9! Who knows, we may have some future famous artists in our midst!



House Events

Term 4



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

Say what you see!



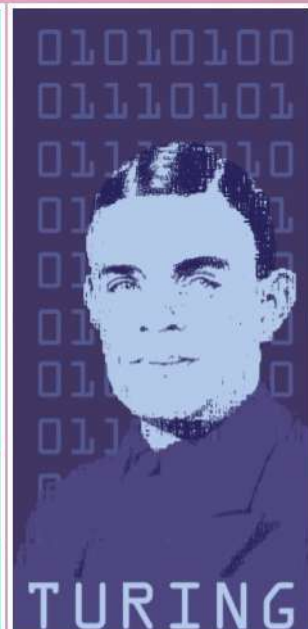
Year 7 - 18th March
Year 8 - 17th March
Year 9 - 19th March
Year 10 - 18th March



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



Photographer of the Month Competition

April: Celebrate the Rain

**Deadline:
28th April**

Celebrate the rain! Shots of puddles, raindrops on windows, umbrellas in the rain, or reflections in wet surfaces can create captivating images.

To participate, please send your photographs in JPEG format to bassantl@thehowardschool.co.uk

The successful photograph will be featured on our social media page and in our school newsletter.



After an April shower, you might catch a rainbow. Capturing rainbows adds colour and a sense of hope and magic to any photography competition.



CONGRATULATIONS ES, YEAR 11



'Light & Shadows' photographer of the month winner.



**The Howard
School**



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With an App Store rating of 13+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real names.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying stranger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the present environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are switched by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The advanced Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even nude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a safer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites. While this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much. It's highly likely that a child will eventually face something undesirable. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, TSM's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>

Our incredible Sixth Formers have been making a real impact by supporting younger students on their reading journey. Through our **Reading Buddy Programme**, they've been helping to build confidence, improve literacy skills, and most importantly, inspire a love for reading!

Each week, our Sixth Formers spend time with younger students, listening to them read, offering encouragement, and making books come to life. Whether it's discussing exciting plots, helping with tricky words, or simply sharing their own love of literature, their support is proving to be invaluable.

Not only does this programme benefit younger students, but our Sixth Formers are also gaining valuable skills themselves. They're developing leadership, patience, and communication skills, all while making a real difference in the school community. Many have found it a rewarding experience, with some even considering careers in teaching or mentoring as a result.

One Sixth Former shared: *"It's been such a great experience seeing the students grow in confidence each week. It's amazing how much difference a bit of encouragement can make."*

We're so proud of our Sixth Formers for their dedication and the positive impact they're having. If you're a Sixth Former and would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you!



1

DEFINITION OF A CHILD

2

NO DISCRIMINATION

3

BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

4

MAKING RIGHTS REAL

5

FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP

6

LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

7

NAME AND NATIONALITY

8

IDENTITY

9

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

10

CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES

11

PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING

12

RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS

13

SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY

14

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION

15

SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS

16

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

17

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

18

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

19

PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE

20

CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES

21

CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED

22

REFUGEE CHILDREN

23

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

24

HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT

25

REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT

26

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP

27

FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME

28

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

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AIMS OF EDUCATION

30

MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

31

REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS

32

PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK

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PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS

34

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

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PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING

36

PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION

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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

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



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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