



The Howard School

Newsletter

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

welcome

Last week, some of our Year 7 students took part in an exciting athletics lesson led by Mr Halsey. The main focus was learning how to pace themselves when running long distances. The big challenge was to see if groups of up to 10 boys could run the distance of a half marathon together.

The boys gave it their all and showed great determination. Some aimed to beat their personal best times, while others just wanted to finish the challenge. It was brilliant to see so many of them getting involved and pushing themselves.

In addition to running, many boys raised money for Mr Halsey's St John Ambulance fundraising page. Thanks to their efforts, the total amount raised went from £[previous amount] to nearly £[current amount]. This money will really help the charity continue its important work.

We want to thank MB, ZR, OS, DA, AE, LS, TF, TK, LW, HC, KR, DM, and all the other boys who donated and supported the cause. Your hard work is much appreciated.

Keep an eye out for a prize from Mr Halsey for everyone who took part.

Well done, Year 7! You did an amazing job.



This week, we are proud to celebrate three incredible acts of kindness and bravery by some of our students, who have been praised by members of the local community for their thoughtful actions.

Firstly, W.E., a Year 10 student, showed remarkable calm and compassion after coming across a vulnerable adult who had fallen in the local area. Staying reassuring and composed, W.E. ran home to get a towel to make the man more comfortable while waiting for the ambulance. He also shared his contact details with the paramedics to check in later. W.E.'s kindness did not go unnoticed, and he has been awarded a Character Award Badge and a voucher in recognition of his outstanding character.

In another heartwarming incident, two Year 10 students, JA and MM, were praised by a member of the public for their quick response and kindness. When a neighbour had fallen, JA and MM stepped in immediately to help lift her, showing politeness, respect, and genuine care. Their actions reflected the values we hold dear at The Howard, earning them both a Character Award Badge and a voucher as a thank you.

Finally, we want to highlight the brave and thoughtful actions of FH, a Year 8 student and school ambassador. FH acted quickly when Margret's puppy got stuck under some metal fencing at Ryetop Playing Fields. Without hesitation, FH lifted the fence, allowing the puppy to escape safely. His compassion and courage have been recognised with a Character Award Badge and a voucher.

These stories demonstrate how kindness and bravery can make a real difference in our community. We are incredibly proud of W.E., JA, MM, and FH for representing The Howard with such pride and positivity.



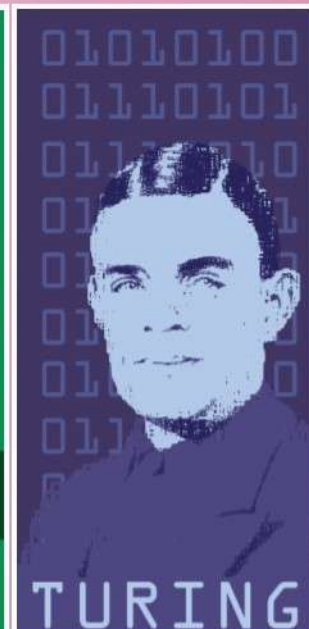
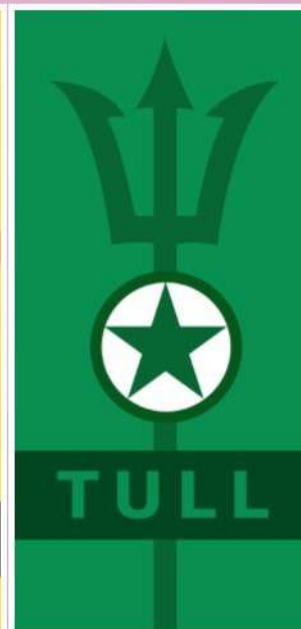
House Events

Term 5



Year 7 - 29th April
Year 8 - 6th May
Year 9 - 1st May
Year 10 - 29th April

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





Earlier this week, our Year 9 students had a fantastic opportunity to work with visitors from the Royal Artillery Engineers. The session was designed to challenge their teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills – and they certainly rose to the occasion.



The highlight of the morning was a hands-on team activity where students were tasked with retrieving a jerry can from a simulated minefield. Using only the equipment provided, and without stepping into the 'danger zone', students had to come up with a strategy and work together to successfully complete the task. It was brilliant to see them thinking creatively, supporting one another, and showing real determination under pressure.



The Engineers led the session with energy and encouragement, giving students a small taste of the kinds of challenges faced by those in the armed forces. Alongside the practical task, students also learned about the different roles within the Royal Artillery, the importance of teamwork in high-pressure environments, and how the skills they develop in school can be used in many different careers.

We were incredibly proud of how well our Year 9s conducted themselves throughout the morning. They listened carefully, engaged fully, and showed great respect to our visitors. The feedback from the Engineers was extremely positive, and it was clear they were impressed by the maturity and attitude of our students.

A huge thank you goes to the Royal Artillery Engineers for delivering such an engaging and inspiring session, and to Year 9 for representing the school so positively. We look forward to welcoming the team back in the future for more exciting opportunities.





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



MS T MCCOMAS

Pastoral Support Manager
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

01634 388765 Ext: 3006

MRS J DEAKIN

Assistant Principal
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

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MISS A MULROONEY

Assistant Principal
Safeguarding Officer

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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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase, which is typically around £15. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms, Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.



Interested in a Career in Teaching?

✓ Do you have a passion for supporting young people?
 ✓ Are you committed to the care and wellbeing of the children you teach?
 ✓ Do you have the skills to help young people overcome their learning difficulties and achieve their full potential?

At The National College, we have a range of courses available for you to explore. We offer a variety of courses, including a 3-year undergraduate programme in Education Studies, a 2-year postgraduate programme in Education Studies, and a 1-year postgraduate programme in Education Studies. For more information, please contact us at enquiries@nationalcollege.com.

The National College KMT

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor of the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.





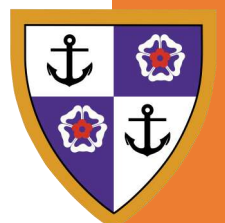
We are incredibly proud to share the fantastic news that AD recently attended a very special ceremony at Buckingham Palace to receive his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The award was presented by none other than the Duke of Edinburgh himself – a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a truly memorable moment.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is one of the most respected youth achievement programmes in the UK, and the Gold Award is the highest level a young person can achieve. To complete it, students must show dedication, resilience and a strong commitment across a number of challenging sections. These include volunteering, physical activity, developing a skill, a residential trip, and completing an expedition.

It takes a huge amount of time and effort to complete the Gold Award, and AD has shown great determination throughout the process. His achievement is a brilliant example of what can be accomplished through hard work, teamwork and a willingness to step outside your comfort zone.

We know that many of our students take part in exciting activities and reach fantastic milestones outside of school – whether that's through sport, music, volunteering, creative arts, or other personal achievements. We love hearing about your successes and celebrating them as a school community.

Congratulations again to AD on this well-deserved honour – we're all very proud!





MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

12 - 18 MAY 2025

10 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

From book club to art class, Swifties to gamers, volunteer groups to shooting hoops – community is good for our mental health. They help us to belong, feel supported, and have purpose.

Here are ten ways to get involved with your community and boost your mental health.

1. MAKE IT FUN

Choose an activity you enjoy. You could join a club or group centred around your interests.



2. GET OUTDOORS

Get out and moving in nature for more mental health benefits.



3. FIND LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE

Build connections with people who share your interests and values. But try to also meet people who are different from you, too.

4. SHOW KINDNESS TO OTHERS

Connect with your community through small acts of kindness, which will benefit both you and others.





PE @ The Howard School



Year 9s Cup Semi Final Success



The year 9s continue on their upwards trajectory as a team. Since the start of Year 7 they have always been a strong outfit but this year has seen them start to really show their true potential as well as the resilience required to win difficult games.

This week saw the boys take on St John Fisher who in previous games have made it very difficult for our Year 9 boys having only won the previous game 2-1. This game had a cup final spot on the line. A strong start from our boys saw us take a 2 goal lead in the first half with goals from NA and LW. NA with a tidy finish inside the 18 yard box and LW floating one above the goal keeper from 30 yards out. This put us in a commanding position but then SJF came at us and pulled the game back to 2-2. The boys demonstrated resilience and determination which saw their fortunes turn. A combination of the boys finding their composure and a tactical master class from Mr Halsey saw the boys run away with a 6-2 win. Special mention to MM who bagged 4 goals with a very impressive performance ! The boys continue to represent the school incredibly, now can we win the final next week? We face Victory Academy.



PE @ The Howard School



Year 8 Cricket Team Fall Agonisingly Short of Kent Cup Quarter Finals



The Year 8 Cricket team travelled away to last years semi-finalists Maidstone Grammar School. After 2 big wins in the competition the year 8s we're hoping to make it a third away win in a row and book their place in the QF.

For the 1st time this year The Howard took to the field with MGS batting 1st. A start like no other had the host 11-5 off 4 overs with wickets from ZB and AW things got better when it became 21-6 after 6 overs. However, a single manned batting fight back came from the MGS #7 scoring an impressive 60. The Howard sadly took their foot off the gas and MGS reached an impressive 119 off 19.2 over for 9 wickets. The Howard batters came out needing 120 to win.

Unfortunately the side never got going as MGS impressive openers took a collection of wickets and some rash batting from a Howard side who just looked as if the earlier disappointment had settled in. Finishing on 22 All Out it was a disappointing end to what has been a magnificent season so far. POTM - EVERYONE! Despite this result the boys have done themselves and the school proud. To have got to the third round in their first Kent Cup appearance and play in the manner they have they can be extremely proud of themselves. We go again next year 🙏🙏



PE @ The Howard School



Year 9s top group with back to back wins



In the 2nd of 4 Kent Cup group games, The Howard made it 2 wins from 2. Following up last weeks win against Gads Hill the boys travelled away to Meopham in a tough fixture.

The 9s were put into bat first on a small pitch which made wickets and runs fall at speed. Despite a solid start with the bat wickets did fall at timely intervals for the home side. However, good knocks from GS (14) and AW (19) supported top scorer CL (28) with some heavy hitting including 2 x massive 6s. The Howard ended their innings on 127-9 off 16 overs. A good score but some costly wickets took the shine off a good batting performance on a difficult pitch.

The home side made a strong start scoring big boundaries, taking advantage of the short pitch and the even shorter pitch bowling. Luckily, some tidy bowling from BP and both JS and JS brought the game back to The Howard. Despite a late flurry from Meopham, more good bowling from AW took the game away from Meopham, with The Howard winning the game by 13 runs.

Year 9 now top their Kent Cup group with 2 wins from 4 games. The 9s next game will be away to Gads Hill with a win giving a guaranteed top 2 finish. POTM - CL for a strong hitting score of 28 combined with great chat, energy and support in the field.

Up The Howard



PE @ The Howard School



Year 12s lock in for their Anatomy and Physiology exam!



This week saw our Year 12s lock in for their first exam of their sixth form journey! Anatomy and Physiology revision was on the agenda in Mr Cooper's lessons this week. The group took part in a great revision session which saw them testing each others knowledge on the human body. They went through multiple revision strategies including games like snakes and ladders where their knowledge was put to the test!

As with all of our students we wish them the best of luck in their exams and we hope you get out what you have put in this year! We are sure the hard work will pay off.

Year 10s test their skills as a coach!



This week has seen our Year 10s put their coaching skills to the test. As part of their KS4 course they have to plan, deliver and evaluate a coaching session of their choice that they have delivered to our KS3 games groups. The boys have showed excellent planning and leadership skills so far with lots of good knowledge being passed on. Well done boys!

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DEFINITION OF A CHILD

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NO DISCRIMINATION

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BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

4

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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PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING

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PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

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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



ATTENBOROUGH



HAWKING



PANKHURST



TULL



TURING

Interested in a Career in Teaching?



- ✓ Do you have a passion for supporting young people?
- ✓ Are you interested in what life as a teacher might be like?

If the answer is yes, we're happy to help!

We know how busy life can be so, if you're interested in spending some time in school (*a couple of hours, a day or even a longer period of time!*), exploring what 'school life' is like and speaking with experts about how to embark on a career in teaching, please contact us! We will happily arrange a convenient time for you to come in to school.

You can reach us directly on: office@thehowardschool.co.uk



The Howard School



KMT

QUALITY TEACHER TRAINING



TURING



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