



The Howard School

Newsletter

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

welcome



This week, we said a very special goodbye to our amazing Year 11 students as they celebrated the end of their time with us in true style.

The afternoon was filled with laughter, memories, and plenty of treats. Students were treated to free snacks and ice creams, and there was a fantastic buzz of energy as everyone got involved in the celebrations. Staff and families shared kind and encouraging messages, recognising the hard work, determination, and resilience Year 11 have shown throughout their time at school.



There were light-hearted awards handed out, celebrating everything from hidden talents to unforgettable moments. Of course, it wouldn't be a proper send-off without the traditional shirt-signing – a sea of permanent markers and creativity! A selfie mirror added even more fun to the day, giving students the chance to capture the moment with friends before heading off into their next chapter.



It was a day full of pride, joy, and just the right amount of nostalgia. We are so proud of everything our Year 11 students have achieved, both in and out of the classroom. They leave behind a lasting impression and plenty of brilliant memories.

We wish them all the very best as they move forward, whether to college, apprenticeships, or beyond. We look forward to seeing them again on results day and celebrating their achievements once more.

Until then, we hope they enjoy a well-earned break and a fantastic summer!

Fifty of our Year 9 Performing Arts students had the exciting opportunity to visit London this week to watch the award-winning musical *Hamilton* – and it's safe to say the trip was a huge success.

The day began bright and early as students boarded the train full of energy and excitement. For many, it was their first time seeing a professional West End show, and *Hamilton* certainly did not disappoint. From the moment the curtain went up, the students were completely immersed in the powerful storytelling, incredible choreography, and unforgettable music.

Set during the American Revolution, *Hamilton* tells the story of Alexander Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of the United States, using a unique blend of hip-hop, R&B, and traditional musical theatre. The students were particularly impressed by the fast-paced lyrics and how the cast managed to perform such complex songs while dancing with so much energy.

As well as enjoying the performance, students also had the chance to explore a little bit of central London and take in some of the city's iconic sights along the way. For many, this was a highlight of the day and added to the overall excitement of the trip.

Staff accompanying the trip praised the students for their excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, and respectful attitude throughout the day. They were fantastic ambassadors for the school and made the most of every opportunity the day had to offer.

Trips like this are a brilliant way to bring classroom learning to life and inspire students to explore the world of performing arts beyond the school walls. Watching live theatre, especially a production as powerful as *Hamilton*, gives students a real sense of what is possible in the arts industry.

A huge well done to all who took part – and thank you to the staff who made the day possible. We're already looking forward to the next theatre adventure!



House Events

Term 6



Year 7 - 1st July
Year 8 - 7th July
Year 9 - 2nd July
Year 10 - 8th July

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





On Monday 3rd June, our Year 13 Forensics students took part in a hands-on, simulated investigation of a serious road traffic collision between a Fiat 500 and a Kawasaki Ninja motorbike. The staged incident took place under very windy conditions, adding an extra layer of realism to the challenge.

The scenario involved a fatal outcome for the motorcyclist, giving students the opportunity to step into the role of real-life forensic investigators. They were tasked with examining the scene, gathering evidence, and using their knowledge to figure out what had happened and why.

As part of the investigation, students reviewed CCTV footage, measured skid marks to calculate vehicle speeds and braking distances, and looked at toxicology reports. Breath tests showed that the driver of the Fiat 500 was under the legal alcohol limit, while blood tests revealed that the motorcyclist had alcohol in their system at the time of the crash.

Working in teams, students pieced together all the available evidence to reconstruct the events leading up to the collision. This included careful analysis of the physical evidence at the scene, as well as interpreting scientific reports and footage to support their findings.

The activity was designed to give students a realistic experience of how forensic science is used in the real world, particularly in cases involving serious road traffic incidents. It allowed them to apply what they have learned in class to a practical situation, helping them to develop both their technical and teamwork skills.

Students said the simulation was challenging but highly engaging, and that it gave them a much clearer understanding of the processes involved in accident investigation. It also highlighted the importance of attention to detail, critical thinking, and using evidence to draw accurate conclusions.

Overall, it was a valuable and enjoyable learning experience that gave our students a real insight into the world of forensic science and the role it plays in helping to solve complex cases.





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

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Assistant Principal
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

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MISS A MULROONEY

Assistant Principal
Safeguarding Officer

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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

The Howard School



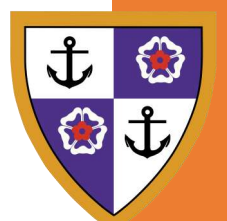
We are absolutely delighted to introduce our new Year 12 Sixth Form Student Leads for the 2025–26 academic year. Following a highly competitive application and interview process, seven outstanding students have been selected to represent and support the Sixth Form community in the year ahead.

Congratulations to L.A-L, O.F, F.H, T.H, I.H, A.M, and H.R for being appointed to this exciting leadership role. Each of them impressed us with their enthusiasm, thoughtful ideas, and clear commitment to making a positive difference within the school.

As Sixth Form Student Leads, they will be working closely with staff and students to help shape the Sixth Form experience, support key events, and represent the voice of their peers. Whether it's organising student-led initiatives, mentoring younger students, or contributing to school improvement projects, we know they'll do a fantastic job.

We are incredibly proud of their achievement and can't wait to see the impact they will make. We look forward to working alongside them as they develop their leadership skills and help create a strong, inclusive and inspiring Sixth Form environment.

Well done to all seven – we're so excited for what's to come!



Medway Japan Friendship Association Student Exchange Summer 2026



Supported
By



Want to experience
Japan?

If you live in Medway, are in
full-time education and will
be 16 to 18 in summer 2026,
here is your chance!

Please scan the QR code to
find out more and enter your
email address to receive the
application form!



Scan me or
[https://forms.gle/
9nMDcaapxgjRa9A3A](https://forms.gle/9nMDcaapxgjRa9A3A)



Please respond by 30th
September!



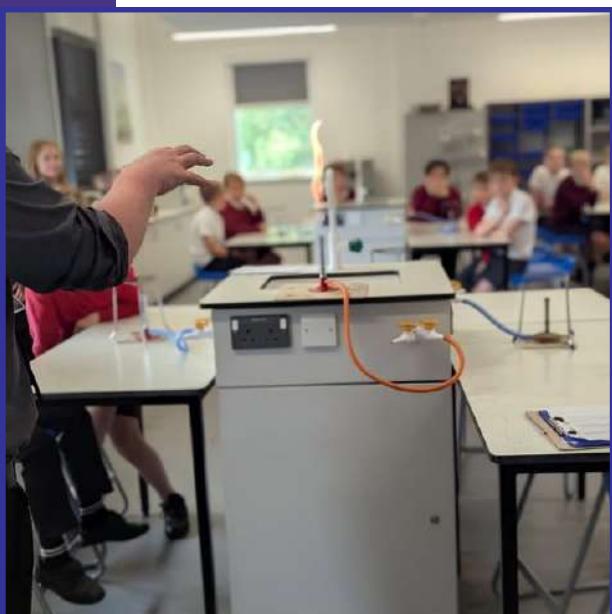
This week, we were excited to welcome 60 enthusiastic Year 5 pupils from our local feeder primary schools for a special day of workshops. This visit marked the beginning of an ongoing initiative running throughout the term, aimed at giving pupils a taste of secondary school life and helping them feel more confident about the transition.

The pupils took part in four engaging and hands-on workshops during their visit: PE, Science, Computing, and Design Technology. Each session was led by one of our specialist teachers and gave the pupils the chance to explore new skills, use our state-of-the-art facilities, and enjoy learning in a fun, supportive environment.



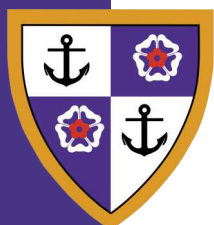
In PE, they got stuck into energetic games and activities that encouraged teamwork and movement. In Science, they explored exciting experiments and investigated fascinating reactions. During Computing, pupils had a go at coding and problem-solving using our modern ICT equipment. Design Technology offered the chance to get creative, with students designing and building while learning to safely use new tools.

It was brilliant to see how engaged and enthusiastic the pupils were throughout the day. Many shared how much they enjoyed the experience and how keen they are to come back.



We're proud to continue strengthening our links with local primary schools through initiatives like this. Over the course of the term, we'll be welcoming more groups of Year 5 pupils on a rolling basis, giving everyone a chance to take part in the same exciting rotation of workshops. These visits offer a valuable opportunity for pupils to explore a secondary school setting, meet some of our staff, and build their confidence.

We look forward to seeing these pupils again soon as their rotation continues – and to meeting even more Year 5s in the coming weeks!



Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed an exciting and inspiring visit to the University of Kent for a *Future Humans Research Day*. The trip was all about exploring what the future might look like for humans, especially as science and technology continue to evolve.

Throughout the day, students took part in workshops and discussions on some fascinating and challenging topics. These included *transhumanism* (the idea of enhancing human abilities through technology), *genetics* (and how it might shape future generations), and *the rise of robots and artificial intelligence*—including the big question of whether robots could eventually take over human jobs.

The visit gave students the chance to think deeply about how science is changing the world, and how it might affect our lives in the future. They were encouraged to consider not just the scientific possibilities, but also the ethical and social issues that come with them.

One of the highlights of the day was a seminar at the end, where students worked in groups to present their ideas on the question: “*Should humans live forever?*” This led to some lively and thoughtful debates, with students putting forward a range of arguments based on what they had learnt. Some explored the scientific potential of living forever through technology or medicine, while others raised concerns about overpopulation, inequality, and what it really means to be human.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience a taste of university life, meet academic researchers, and engage with big questions that don’t always have simple answers. The trip encouraged curiosity, critical thinking, and open-minded discussion—skills that are valuable both inside and outside the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of how our students represented the school and embraced such a complex and forward-thinking topic. A big thank you to the University of Kent for hosting us and providing such a memorable experience.



We are incredibly proud to share that several members of our brilliant staff team have been nominated for The Howard Academy Trust Awards this year. These awards recognise individuals and teams across the Trust who go above and beyond to make a real difference in school communities, and we are delighted to see our staff being celebrated in this way.

A huge congratulations to Ms Martin, who has been nominated for *Secondary Teacher of the Year*. Her dedication to her students and passion for teaching are truly inspiring.

Well done to Ms Samuels, who has been recognised with a nomination for the *Professional Growth Award*. This reflects her commitment to learning, development, and supporting others along the way.

We're also thrilled that the *Maths Department* has been nominated for *Team of the Year*. Their teamwork, creativity, and determination is exceptional!

Mrs Greening has been nominated for the *Lifetime Achievement Award*, which is a wonderful recognition of her many years of outstanding service and impact within education.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs Matthews, who has been nominated for *Governor of the Year*. Her support and dedication behind the scenes play a huge role in helping our school thrive.

We wish all our nominees the very best of luck and look forward to celebrating with them at the Awards Evening in July. Thank you to each and every one of you – we're so proud!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Meet Our Expert

Brandon O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brandon guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

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PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

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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

24
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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PROTECTION IN WAR

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RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION

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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

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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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