



# The Howard School

## Newsletter

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

# welcome

Our Year 7 and Year 9 rugby teams had an unforgettable day out at the Gallagher Premiership Final, where they watched Bath Rugby take on Leicester Tigers in a thrilling match. The trip was organised as a reward for the effort, dedication, and teamwork shown by the boys throughout the rugby season.

From start to finish, the students represented the school brilliantly. Their behaviour was outstanding, and we were proud to receive several compliments from members of the public who were impressed by how polite and respectful they were. It was clear that the boys were excellent ambassadors for the school.

The match itself was a nail-biter, with Bath Rugby just managing to edge out Leicester Tigers in a close 23-21 win. The atmosphere at the stadium was electric, and it was a fantastic experience for the students to see top-level rugby live.

We're incredibly proud of the way the boys have developed both on and off the pitch this year. This trip was a well-earned celebration of their hard work, and we look forward to seeing what they can achieve next season.

Well done to everyone involved – you've done the school proud.



To celebrate the end of their GCSE exams, our Year 11 students organised a brilliant football match as one last chance to play together before heading off on new adventures in September.

The game was completely student-led – they arranged everything themselves, from booking the pitch and assigning a referee to printing tickets and even creating their own trophy. The level of planning, teamwork and enthusiasm they showed was fantastic to see.

The match itself was full of energy, good humour and genuine sportsmanship. Both teams played with passion and gave it their all, with plenty of great goals, saves and celebrations along the way. Staff and students gathered on the sidelines to cheer them on, making it a real community event.

It was more than just a football match – it was a celebration of friendship, teamwork and the end of an important chapter. The effort and pride the students put into the day made it a truly memorable occasion for everyone involved.

We couldn't be prouder of our Year 11s. They've shown real maturity and creativity, and we wish them all the very best for what comes next. They've certainly finished with style!



# 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 Thursday, some students took part in our annual Festival of Languages, and each received a certificate to recognise their attendance and engagement. It was a fantastic day filled with activities celebrating not just languages, but also the cultures, traditions, and stories behind them.



As a Modern Foreign Languages department, we believe that learning a language is about much more than just vocabulary and grammar. It's about discovering how other people live, think, and express themselves. Through language, students build connections with the wider world and begin to understand what it means to be a global citizen.

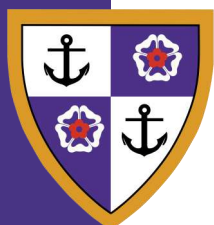


The Festival of Languages gave students the chance to explore different customs, try out new languages, and reflect on the importance of intercultural understanding. There were creative tasks, quizzes, and cultural experiences that helped bring languages to life in a fun and meaningful way.



We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm shown by our students and the positive attitude they brought to every activity. Their curiosity and openness are exactly what language learning is all about.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success. We look forward to celebrating even more linguistic and cultural diversity in the future!





# 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

This term, Year 8 have been working on a really exciting music project based around the world of video game soundtracks. Using GarageBand, students have been learning how to create original pieces of music that would fit into different parts of a video game – from intense action scenes to calming background music and everything in between.

The aim of the project has been to understand how music helps build atmosphere and emotion in games. Students were encouraged to think carefully about the kinds of sounds, instruments and effects that might match different game settings, characters or events. They've had full creative control over their compositions and have really risen to the challenge.

What has really stood out is how imaginative and experimental many of the students have been. Instead of just using the built-in loops and digital instruments, some students asked if they could use a microphone to record their own voices as part of their music. This led to some brilliant ideas – from voiceovers and sound effects to singing and spoken word samples. It was fantastic to see students thinking outside the box and bringing a personal touch to their work.

Throughout the project, students have developed key skills such as planning, editing, layering and working with different audio effects. They've also learned how to use digital tools to make music in a professional way, just like real game composers.

The creativity, teamwork and effort shown by the classes have been brilliant. It's clear that the students have enjoyed the freedom to explore their own ideas and bring their compositions to life in unique ways.

We're really proud of what Year 8 have achieved this term and are looking forward to sharing some of their final tracks soon. Well done to everyone involved – your hard work and imagination have truly impressed us!



# 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)



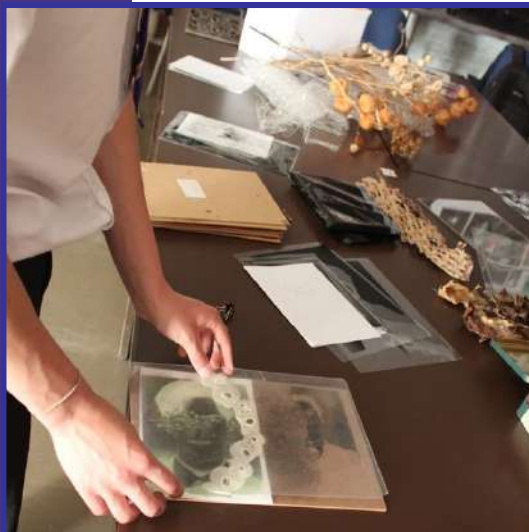
Please respond by 30th  
September!



Our Photography Ambassadors recently took part in an exciting workshop led by Emily Rose Parris at The Darkroom, based in Beach Creative. The day was a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the world of cyanotype photography – a historical and creative printing process that uses sunlight to develop images.



Throughout the day, students got hands-on with the materials, experimenting with natural objects, acetate designs, and coated paper to produce their own unique cyanotype prints. For many, it was their first time working with this process, and they were amazed by the results. Watching their images come to life after just a few minutes in the sun was a real highlight.



Emily guided the students through the steps with enthusiasm and expertise, sharing her knowledge of photographic history and alternative processes. Her passion for creative photography was truly inspiring, and our students really enjoyed learning from her. The session also included the chance to explore how cyanotypes can be used artistically, and students were encouraged to be bold and experimental in their approach.



We are incredibly proud of how engaged and enthusiastic our ambassadors were throughout the workshop. They asked thoughtful questions, supported one another, and embraced the chance to try something new. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they developed their ideas and produced a wide variety of work.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Emily and the team at Beach Creative for welcoming us so warmly and providing such an engaging learning experience. Opportunities like this are so valuable for our students, helping them build skills, discover new interests, and gain inspiration beyond the classroom.

We look forward to more creative collaborations in the future – and we're sure this won't be the last time our students get the cyanotype bug!



# DISCOVER 100's OF FREE ACTIVITIES DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



**MedwayGo**  
FREE ACTIVITIES DURING  
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

## Photographer of the Month Competition

### Golden Hour

Capture sunrise or sunset magic – rich colours, long shadows, and glowing light.

### Heatwave

Show the sizzle of summer – mirages, cracked earth, sun flares, and sweating drinks.



# Deadline : 15<sup>th</sup> July



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)

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

The theme for June's Photographer of the Month competition was "Colour," and we received lots of amazing photos from students across different year groups. Our judge, Mr Longe, had a tough time choosing because so many entries were creative and vibrant.

After careful consideration, the winning photograph was taken by Year 7 student JH. Their adventurous and colourful photo really impressed the judge and captured the spirit of the competition perfectly. We are very proud of JH for showing such creativity and skill.

Well done to everyone who took part in this month's competition! It's great to see so many students exploring photography and sharing their unique views through their pictures. We can't wait to see what the next competition brings and encourage all students to have a go.

Keep up the fantastic work, and remember, creativity comes in many colours!



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18  
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Halo Infinite* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

### IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

### UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 4* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

### GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 18 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

### CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

### POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

### REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

### REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of *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 tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including *IGN*, *TechRadar*, and plenty more.



#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

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



## 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](mailto:office@thehowardschool.co.uk)



ATTENBOROUGH

HAWKING

DEEDS NOT WORDS

PANKHURST

TULL

TURING



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