



# The Howard School

## Newsletter

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

# welcome

Our recent school trip to France was an experience none of us will forget. We arrived safely in La Rochelle after a late ferry journey across the Channel, and despite the long travel, everyone was excited and ready to explore. The beautiful old town welcomed us with its sun-soaked streets, historic towers, and lively atmosphere. After a wander through the town, we enjoyed a well-deserved ice cream and had time for a refreshing swim to cool off after our journey.

The next day was something truly special. We travelled to Le Puy du Fou, a historical theme park like no other. Throughout the day, we were amazed by live shows that brought history to life in the most exciting ways. We saw incredible sword fights with Les Mousquetaires, thrilling horse-riding displays, and even a gladiator battle inside a Roman arena. One of the highlights was a spectacular mime performance, followed by *L'Étoile*, a Broadway-style show that has been voted the best of 2024. The stage effects and storytelling were unlike anything we had seen before. It was the perfect mix of drama, history, and excitement.



Our final days were spent at Futuroscope and Aquascope, where fun and learning came together perfectly. At Aquascope, we cooled off in the pools, zoomed down water slides, and explored misty, magical zones. At Futuroscope, we stepped into the world of science and technology, experiencing 4D films, virtual reality adventures, and robotic exhibits. It felt like walking into the future, and for many of us, it was a great chance to see how STEM subjects can be brought to life in exciting ways.

To finish our trip, we watched a stunning night-time show filled with lights, fire, water, and music. It was a breathtaking performance and a fitting end to an amazing adventure.

We've returned home with tired feet, but also with full hearts and brilliant memories. From exploring history in the most dramatic ways to learning about the future through technology, this trip has given us stories to tell and experiences we'll treasure for a long time.



# 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





We were absolutely delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students to school this week for their Induction Day. It was fantastic to meet so many excited faces and give everyone a chance to experience a day in the life of secondary school before officially joining us in September.



The day began with a welcome assembly and the opportunity to meet form tutors, who will be a key part of each student's journey at our school. Pupils then had the chance to explore the school site, learn their way around, and get a feel for where everything is – from classrooms to the canteen.



Throughout the day, students took part in a range of taster lessons, including Maths, English and Science. These sessions were a great way for everyone to meet some of their new teachers and get a flavour of the exciting learning ahead. We were so impressed with the enthusiasm, curiosity and positive attitude shown by everyone.



There was also plenty of time to make new friends, ask questions, and start building confidence for the transition to Year 7. Staff across the school commented on how well the pupils conducted themselves and how quickly they settled in.

We're already looking forward to seeing our new Year 7s again in September and beginning this exciting new chapter together. Well done to everyone who attended – we can't wait to have you as part of our school community!





# 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

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Assistant Principal  
Safeguarding Officer

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**MR N LONGE**

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Safeguarding Officer

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**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 week, a group of our students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a poetry workshop led by published poet Daljit Nagra. Daljit is a well-known figure in the world of poetry, and having him visit our school was a real privilege.

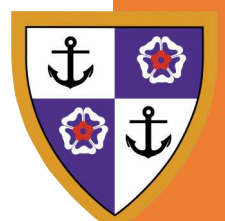
During the workshop, students explored different ways to express themselves through writing. Daljit shared some of his own poems, spoke about what inspires his work, and encouraged students to think creatively and write with confidence. He also answered lots of questions, giving a real insight into what life is like as a professional writer.

Students took part in a range of activities, including group discussions, writing exercises, and even reading some of their own work aloud. The atmosphere in the room was energetic and positive, with everyone eager to get involved and share their ideas.

By the end of the session, students said they felt more confident in their writing and had learned new techniques for developing their poetry. Many left the workshop feeling inspired to write more and explore poetry in their own time.

It was a fantastic day, and we are so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic our students were throughout the session. A huge thank you to Daljit Nagra for delivering such an inspiring and memorable experience.

We look forward to offering more opportunities like this in the future to help our students grow as writers and thinkers.



# 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!



Over the past week, we've had the absolute pleasure of celebrating our students' achievements at this year's Prize Giving Evenings. Each evening was dedicated to a different year group, and all were filled with proud moments, smiling faces, and a wonderful sense of community.



We kicked off the celebrations with Year 7 and Year 9, followed by a fantastic evening with Year 10. We ended the week on a high with our final event, celebrating the achievements of Year 8. Across all year groups, it was brilliant to see so many students being recognised for their hard work, progress, kindness, resilience, and commitment both inside and outside the classroom.

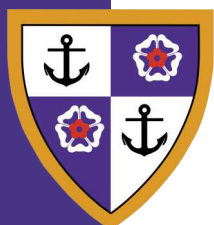


Prize Giving is always a special time in the school year, offering a chance to reflect on how far our students have come and to recognise those who have gone above and beyond. Whether it was for academic excellence, outstanding effort, leadership, or making a positive difference in school life, each award was well deserved.



We would like to say a huge well done to every student who received a prize, and a big thank you to all the families, carers, and staff who came along to support the events. Your support means a great deal and helps make these evenings so memorable.

We're incredibly proud of all our students, and we look forward to seeing what they go on to achieve next. A fantastic end to a fantastic year.



# 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.

A huge congratulations to the ten lucky students who won prizes in the final PE Club Raffle of the school year! With over 500 raffle tickets entered, each one earned by attending an extra-curricular PE club or representing a school sports team, the draw celebrated those who got involved and showed real commitment throughout the year.

Prizes included sports equipment, Amazon vouchers and, for our first prize winner, a sports shirt of their choice. This year's top prize went to CN, who chose the brand new Arsenal 2025/26 home shirt. A brilliant reward for all his efforts and participation!

The raffle is our way of saying thank you to everyone who has made the most of what PE has to offer beyond lessons. Whether you attended a weekly club, played in matches, or simply turned up regularly to improve your skills, your involvement has made a big difference.

It's been fantastic to see so many students getting active, trying new things and supporting one another in clubs and fixtures. We're really proud of everyone who's been part of extra-curricular PE this year.

If you didn't get involved this time, don't worry – there will be even more opportunities next year! Keep an eye out for the updated PE Club list at the start of term and come and join in.

Well done again to all our prize winners, and thank you to everyone who took part this year!



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

AGE RESTRICTION  
**4+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS

18  
CENSORED

YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.

### BE WARY OF ADVERTISING

BUY NOW!

Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features persuasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family-friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information about children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

### DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

### SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and enable the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

### AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading "scientific" videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

### DATA COLLECTION RISK

While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as "Preschool" or "Younger". You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

### CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the "Recommendations" icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's "My Activity" page.

### SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

### WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page or <https://nationalcollege.com/youtube-kids-2023>

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.06.2023

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DEFINITION OF A CHILD

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NO DISCRIMINATION

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# 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



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



The Howard School



KMT

QUALITY TEACHER TRAINING



TURING



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