



# The Howard School

## Newsletter

# welcome

Howard made a brilliant start to their Kent Shield campaign with a commanding 55–5 victory over Hurstmere in the first round. From the first whistle, the team set the pace, moving the ball quickly and showing excellent teamwork across the pitch. Early tries from AG, KM and DA gave the squad the momentum, while the forwards worked tirelessly to secure possession and create opportunities for the backs to shine.

Hurstmere's pack brought a strong physical challenge, but Howard's control at the breakdown and organisation in defence meant they stayed on top throughout the first half. After the break, the team continued to play with confidence and precision, stretching the opposition and building sustained attacking phases that led to further scores, pushing the lead out to 48–0.

Hurstmere's perseverance was rewarded with a late try, but Howard responded immediately, scoring again to finish the game in style. The 55–5 result reflected a well-rounded performance, combining sharp attacking play with solid defensive work.

The squad can now look forward to the next round of the competition with confidence, having set a high standard in this opening fixture. With this level of teamwork and commitment, Howard will be a tough side to beat.



# PARENTS' VOICE

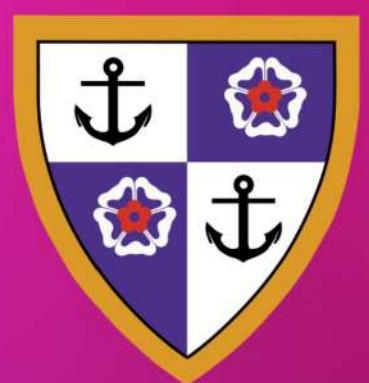
Along with taking our Students' Voice, we also want to hear from our Parents and Carers and we will be looking to take their voice throughout the year. We will be emailing an electronic survey for all parents/ carers to complete as well as providing questionnaires at Consultation Evenings.

The feedback we receive is invaluable to make improvements to our school and we are incredibly grateful to all parents and carers for their time in completing this survey.

The responses we received were overwhelmingly positive with 91.5% stating that their child is happy at the school, 92.8% saying that their child feels safe at the school, and 92.2% saying that our students are well behaved.

There were, however, 2 areas that were raised that require our attention. Parents/ Carers said we could make you better aware of what your child is learning. To address this, we will be adding a section to our newsletter that details what we will be taught in each subject to each year group. Our parents and carers also mentioned that we could provide more detail on the clubs and extra-curricular activities we offer. Again, a dedicated page will be created for our newsletter to promote all of this to keep our parents and carers fully up to date with everything that we provide.

**We did want to share that 9 out of 10 parents and carers would recommend the Howard School to their friends and family! Thank you so much for your support; we really do greatly appreciate it.**



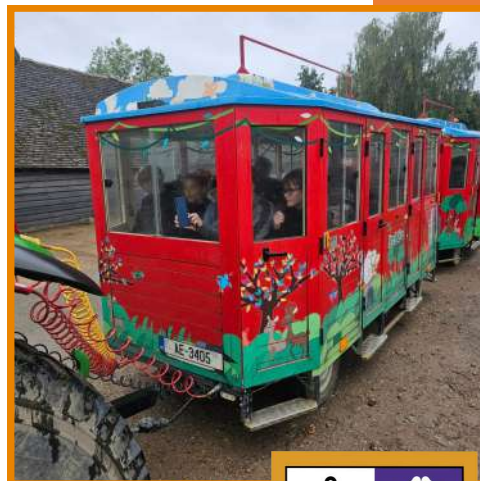
Earlier this week, some of our Year 8 students had the chance to visit Kent Life for a fun and educational day out. Despite a little drizzle in the morning, the weather did not dampen the students' excitement, and everyone arrived eager to explore and learn.

The day was packed with hands-on experiences, allowing students to get up close and personal with a variety of animals. They enjoyed feeding sheep, goats, alpacas, and pigs, as well as spending time with rabbits and guinea pigs. For many, it was the first time they had interacted with some of these animals, making the experience both exciting and memorable. Students were encouraged to approach the animals gently and responsibly, learning about animal care and behaviour in a practical setting.

Beyond the animal encounters, the trip offered opportunities for teamwork and friendship. Students explored the farm together, shared tasks, and supported one another as they navigated the different areas of the site. There was plenty of laughter and chatter as students compared their experiences and enjoyed the fresh air.

The staff at Kent Life were welcoming and informative, ensuring that the day was both safe and enjoyable. Students returned to school with muddy boots, happy faces, and lots of stories to share. The visit not only gave them a chance to connect with nature but also encouraged curiosity, responsibility, and respect for animals.

Overall, it was a wonderful experience that combined learning, fun, and friendship. The Year 8 students made the most of the opportunity, and it was a day that they will remember for a long time. A truly brilliant day had by all.



# House Events

## Term 1



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

# NAME THAT TUNE

- Year 7 - 14th October
- Year 8 - 13th October
- Year 9 - 8th October
- Year 10 - 30th September
- Year 11 - 22nd September
- Year 12 - 2nd October
- Year 13 - 2nd October

To sign-up and represent your House on any event,  
see your Form Tutor or Ms. Ali



# Student Voice

Collecting 'Student Voice' is really important to us here at The Howard School; we want to hear what you have to say about YOUR school.

As well as providing an opportunity for our entire cohort of students to complete an electronic survey at Christmas and Easter, we also adopt the following procedure for collecting our students' voice;

**FORM CAPTAINS COLLECT STUDENT VOICE FROM THEIR FORMS**



**TERMLY MEETINGS FOR FORM CAPTAINS TO MEET WITH THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM**



**SENIOR STUDNETS MEET WITH SENIOR LEADERS**



**SENIOR LEADERS DISCUSS THE ISSUES RAISED BY STUDENTS**

The outcomes of the discussions had by the Senior Leadership Team will be relayed to our Student Leadership Team with actions based on their comments. These actions will also be detailed in our newsletters for all students, parents, carers and staff to read.





Our school recently had the pleasure of welcoming **Rich**, an African drumming expert, who ran some truly unforgettable workshops for our students. Over the course of the day, each class took part in a 45 to 60-minute session, exploring rhythm, teamwork, and creativity through the exciting world of African drumming.



Rich brought along up to fifty djembes, so even the largest classes could join in and play together. The sessions were lively and engaging, with students quickly picking up the rhythms and enjoying the chance to perform as part of a group. It wasn't just the students who joined in — staff had the opportunity to take part too, making it a fantastic shared experience for the whole school community.



During the workshops, students learned how to follow complex rhythms, listen carefully to each other, and create music as a team. The energy in the room was incredible, with laughter and concentration in equal measure. Many students commented on how much fun it was to try something completely new and to see how drumming can bring people together.

Workshops like these are more than just fun — they help students develop teamwork, confidence, and creativity. We are extremely grateful to Rich for sharing his talent and passion with our school and look forward to welcoming him back for another exciting day of drumming.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26



Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

### VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

### SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

### LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with sick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

### MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

### BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

Source: <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26/>

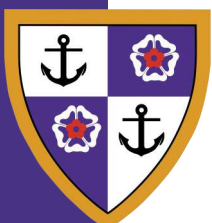


We are thrilled to introduce our new Year 8 Performing Arts Scholars! This talented group of young actors and musicians has been carefully selected to take part in a programme designed to stretch their creativity, develop their skills, and challenge them to reach new heights.

Throughout the year, the Scholars will take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including specialised workshops, masterclasses, and visits. These experiences are designed to give them a deeper understanding of the performing arts, as well as opportunities to work collaboratively, build confidence, and showcase their talents.

Being a Performing Arts Scholar is about more than just performing on stage or playing an instrument – it is about developing dedication, resilience, and a passion for creative expression. We are excited to see how each student grows and thrives through this programme.

We look forward to sharing their achievements and celebrating their performances over the coming months. The Year 8 Performing Arts Scholars are an inspiring group, and we are confident that their commitment, energy, and talent will bring a spark to our school community throughout the year.



<p>1</p>  <p>DEFINITION OF A CHILD</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>NO DISCRIMINATION</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>MAKING RIGHTS REAL</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>NAME AND NATIONALITY</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>IDENTITY</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION</p>
<p>15</p>  <p>SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>PROTECTION OF PRIVACY</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>ACCESS TO INFORMATION</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED</p>
<p>22</p>  <p>REFUGEE CHILDREN</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>ACCESS TO EDUCATION</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>AIMS OF EDUCATION</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS</p>	<p>32</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK</p>	<p>33</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS</p>	<p>34</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE</p>	<p>35</p>  <p>PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING</p>
<p>36</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION</p>	<p>37</p>  <p>CHILDREN IN DETENTION</p>	<p>38</p>  <p>PROTECTION IN WAR</p>	<p>39</p>  <p>RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION</p>	<p>40</p>  <p>CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW</p>	<p>41</p>  <p>BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES</p>	<p>42</p>  <p>EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS</p>

43-54



HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS

# CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Five groups of our enthusiastic Duke of Edinburgh students set off on their Bronze Practice Expedition and successfully took on the challenges of the great outdoors. Over the course of the expedition, they navigated new trails, put their teamwork skills to the test, and practised camping and cooking in the wilderness.

The expedition was an important part of the Bronze award, giving students the chance to experience the outdoors, develop resilience, and grow in confidence. It also provided a fantastic opportunity for students to practise map reading, route planning, and problem-solving – all skills that will benefit them in future expeditions and in everyday life.

Throughout the expedition, the students were supported by our experienced staff and volunteers, who ensured that everyone was safe while encouraging them to take on new challenges. The groups worked together to set up tents, plan meals, and support each other through any tricky moments along the way.

We were incredibly proud of all our students for taking on this adventure and embracing the spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The skills, friendships, and memories they gained during the practice expedition will stay with them for years to come.

We look forward to sharing more highlights and reflections from the expedition in our next newsletter. Well done to all our Bronze DofE participants – we hope you enjoyed every moment and made the most of this incredible experience!





THE HOWARD SCHOOL

# HALLOWEEN BAKE SALE

17 OCTOBER 2025

GALLERY THEATRE

STARTS AT 9AM

OPEN ALL PERIODS AND BREAK

CASH & CARD

TRICK  
OR  
TREAT



Some of our Year 8 students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit Medway Hospital and gain a real insight into the wide variety of careers within the NHS.

During their visit, the students toured several departments, starting with **Clinical Engineering**. Here, they learned about the different machines used across the hospital and discovered how engineers repair and maintain this essential equipment.

The group also visited the **Eye Clinic**, where a few students were able to have free eye tests. In the **Pharmacy Department**, the highlight was meeting the hospital's robots, Bert and Ernie, which pick medication in a highly controlled environment. This gave students a fascinating glimpse into how technology supports healthcare and ensures patient safety.

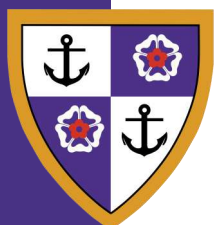


Other departments explored included **X-Ray, Estates, Admin, and Plant Engineering**. Students were able to see how each area contributes to the smooth running of the hospital and the important roles played by staff across different disciplines.



The visit sparked a lot of interest and conversation among the students, giving them plenty to think about as they consider their future career paths. Many remarked on how inspiring it was to see the variety of jobs available and the impact each role has on patient care.

Overall, the experience was both educational and enjoyable, providing Year 8 students with a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world healthcare. It was a valuable day that will help them make more informed decisions about their future.



## CONGRATULATIONS HT, YEAR 10



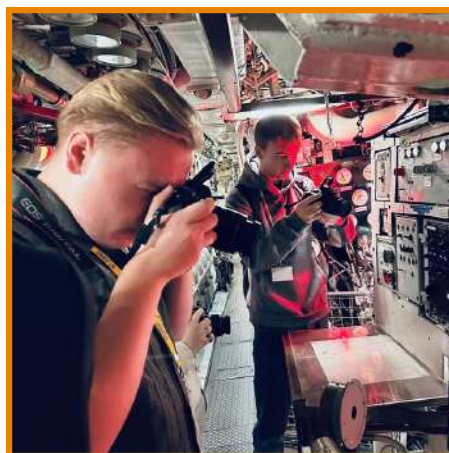
'School Days' Photographer of the month winner.



Year 12 photography students recently enjoyed an inspiring trip to the Chatham Historic Dockyard. The visit gave them the chance to explore this fascinating historic site while developing their creative and technical photography skills. Students experimented with a range of styles, capturing everything from detailed macro images to dramatic sea-scapes and architectural shots.

A particular highlight of the day was gaining exclusive behind-the-scenes access to areas not open to the public, including several film sets used in well-known productions. This unique opportunity allowed students to discover hidden corners of the dockyard and photograph spaces few visitors ever see.

The excursion proved to be both educational and enjoyable, encouraging students to think creatively, work independently and see the world through a new lens. They returned with an impressive collection of images and plenty of inspiration for their future projects.





**Collecting 'Student Voice' is really important to us here at The Howard School; we want to hear what you have to say about YOUR school.**

Towards the end of the last academic year, we asked our out-going Year 11 students their opinion on their learning, what revision techniques worked best for them, what initiatives worked to motivate them etc... Their honest and anonymous responses allows us to better prepare our next cohort of Year 11s for their exams.

The out-going Year 11s said that our after school interventions and pre-exam interventions were the most effective at supporting their academic progress (89%) so we will be introducing more of these sessions for our current Year 11 cohort to support them. The survey also praised a further 2 initiatives; the QLAs and having a Subject Specialist Form Tutor for additional support. Following this feedback, our QLAs are being improved and Subject Specialist Form Tutors will remain in place.

At the end of the survey, students had the opportunity to write a message to specific staff. The number of students that took the time to write messages was overwhelming! All messages were passed on to the relevant staff member and they were extremely grateful for the kind notes received.

**A staggering 9 out of 10 of our Year 11 students were satisfied with the education that they received here at The Howard School.**





**The Howard  
School**

Sixth Form

# OPEN EVENING

**Thursday 6th November  
5pm - 7.30pm**

- A large mixed Sixth Form
- Professional Development Leadership Programme
- Enrichment opportunities including Extended Project
- Progress tutor
- Mentoring programme
- 25+ courses on offer



Booking in advance is advised:

**[bit.ly/thehowardsixthform2025](https://bit.ly/thehowardsixthform2025)**

☎ 01634 388765

Derwent Way, Rainham, Kent ME8 0BX

## Photographer of the Month Competition



### 'People Watching in Autumn'

Capture quiet, candid moments of people during autumn - walking, talking, studying, or just enjoying the season. 🍂

**DEADLINE: 21<sup>ST</sup> October.**



Every month, we set a photography challenge to a theme. To participate, please send your photographs in JPEG format to [bartyj@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:bartyj@thehowardschool.co.uk) (Art Technician)

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

This week we were delighted to hold our launch meeting for the exciting upcoming school trip to Krakow, Poland. This unforgettable experience is open to History students in Years 11, 12 and 13, as well as Philosophy and Ethics A Level students.

The trip will take place from Wednesday 8th to Saturday 11th July 2026 and promises to be both educational and deeply memorable. Students will have the opportunity to explore the beautiful and historic city of Krakow, discovering its rich culture and fascinating past. One of the main highlights will be a powerful, reflective guided tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau, offering a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the Holocaust, human rights, and the importance of historical awareness.

Information and consent forms have now been sent to parents and carers of the relevant year groups and subjects. We kindly remind families that completed consent forms must be returned to Reception by **Tuesday 14th October**.

This trip is designed to inspire curiosity, empathy, and global citizenship, allowing students to connect what they learn in the classroom with real-world history and ethical reflection. We are confident it will be an experience that students will remember for many years to come.

For further information, please contact the school office or speak directly with Mr Clarke.



This week, our Year 9 and 10 students took part in an engaging and thought-provoking presentation about online harm. The session focused on the importance of understanding how to stay safe, respectful, and responsible in the digital world. Students explored real-life examples of how online actions can have both positive and negative impacts, encouraging them to think carefully about the choices they make when using social media and other online platforms.

As part of the experience, students were given the opportunity to put their learning into action by creating their own podcasts. Working in small groups, they developed scripts, recorded conversations, and discussed important topics such as online safety, digital wellbeing, and how to build a positive online presence. This creative activity not only helped them apply what they had learned, but also allowed them to practise teamwork, communication, and critical thinking skills.

The quality of the podcasts produced was outstanding. It was fantastic to see how confidently and thoughtfully students approached complex topics, showing maturity and awareness beyond their years.

We are incredibly proud of all our Year 9 and 10 students for their enthusiasm and effort throughout this project. They demonstrated curiosity, creativity, and a strong sense of responsibility — qualities that will serve them well both online and in everyday life. Well done to everyone involved!





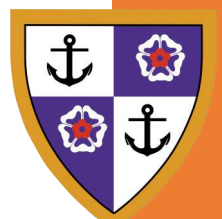
Although the giant *Snow White* poster outside The Marlowe Theatre might have suggested a fairy tale, our students were there for something quite different – James Graham's *Dear England*. This powerful and thought-provoking play tells the story of Gareth Southgate and the England football team, exploring themes of leadership, teamwork, identity, and national pride.

Set against the backdrop of some of England's most memorable football moments, *Dear England* takes audiences beyond the pitch to reveal the human stories behind the headlines. The play looks at how Southgate helped to change not only the culture of English football but also the way a team represents its country.

For many of our students, this was their first time seeing live theatre at this scale, and it was an inspiring experience. The production was full of energy, humour, and emotion, and it showed how sport and drama can combine to tell a story that feels both personal and universal.

After the performance, students reflected on how the play linked to wider ideas about resilience, teamwork, and the importance of positive leadership. It sparked lively discussions about the challenges of representing a nation and the power of self-belief, both on and off the field.

A huge thank you to The Marlowe Theatre for hosting us and to everyone involved for making the trip such an enjoyable and memorable learning experience.





# Meet Your Head of House



Mr. Edwards

Mr. Samuels

Ms. Anglin

Mr. Dunn

Ms. Mulrooney



HAWKING

PANKHURST

TULL

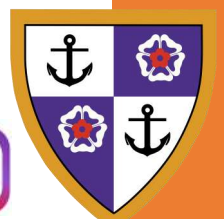
TURING

**world FOOD day**

17 October

The Howard School is collecting food donations to mark World Food Day to support Medway Food Bank

Donations gratefully received at Main Reception by Friday 10th October



# 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**

**Nintendo Switch**



**Year 8**

**Year 9**



**Meta Quest**

**Tablet**



**Year 10**

**Year 11**



**PlayStation 5**





Mr. J Johal - Principal  
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