



# The Howard School

## Newsletter

# welcome

Some of our Year 11 students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit **Queen's College, Cambridge University**, enjoying a day packed with exploration and inspiration.

The trip began with an introduction to the historic city of Cambridge, giving students a sense of its rich academic heritage and vibrant student life. They then toured the stunning college campus, guided by friendly student ambassadors who shared personal insights and answered questions about university life. This gave our students a first-hand look at what it is like to study at one of the world's most prestigious universities.

During the visit, students also learned about the structure of Cambridge colleges, gaining an understanding of how each college is unique and contributes to the wider university community. They were able to explore lecture theatres, seeing the environments where university-level learning takes place and imagining themselves stepping into these spaces in the future.

The day offered more than just sightseeing; it was an opportunity to inspire ambition, spark curiosity, and broaden horizons. Students were encouraged to think about their own academic journeys and the exciting possibilities that higher education can offer.

Overall, the visit was a memorable experience full of learning, discovery, and inspiration. It highlighted the opportunities available to students who aim high and dream big, leaving everyone with motivation and ideas for their next steps in education.



# 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, members of the Ambassador Team were treated to their first reward breakfast of the term, recognising their exceptional contribution to school life and their continued commitment to service. The breakfast offered a well-deserved opportunity for the students to relax together, reflect on their achievements, and celebrate the positive impact they have made across the school community.

So far this term, the Ambassadors have collectively given over 190 hours of service to the school. Their work has included supporting a wide range of school events, assisting staff and visitors, and helping to create a welcoming environment for parents, guests and new students. Whether greeting visitors at open evenings, guiding families during events, or providing general support behind the scenes, the team has demonstrated remarkable reliability, kindness and professionalism.

The Ambassador Team plays a vital role in representing the school's values in action. Their enthusiasm and dedication set a strong example for others, showing how teamwork, service and leadership can make a meaningful difference. Many staff and visitors have praised the Ambassadors for their positive attitude and willingness to help wherever needed.

The reward breakfast was not only a celebration of their hard work, but also a chance to thank them personally for the time and effort they give so generously. The school is extremely proud of their achievements and grateful for the enthusiasm they bring to every task.

We look forward to seeing the Ambassador Team continue their excellent work throughout the rest of the year, as they build on their successes and continue to make a lasting contribution to the life of the school.



# House Events

Term 2



## Spelling Bee

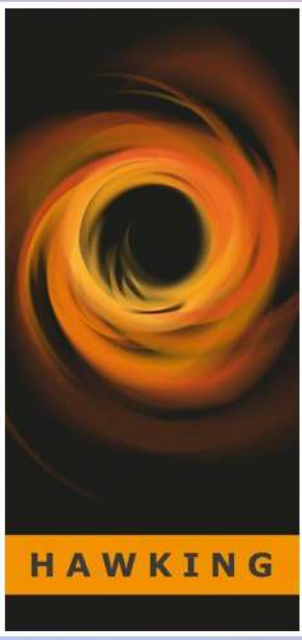
- Year 7 - 25th November
- Year 8 - 8th December
- Year 9 - 3rd December
- Year 10 - 2nd December
- Year 11 - 1st December
- Year 12/13 - 5th December

- Year 7 - 10th November
- Year 8 - 17th November
- Year 9 - 24th November
- Year 10 - 1st December



## MARIO KART

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





Year 8 Photography Club have been exploring the creative world of long exposure photography this term. Using simple cameras and a few clever techniques, students discovered how to transform ordinary scenes into vibrant works of art filled with colour and movement. By adjusting the shutter speed, they captured the movement of lights over time, turning car headlights, torches and even sparklers into beautiful streaks of colour.

The sessions encouraged creativity, patience and experimentation, as students learned how small changes in light and timing could completely change a photograph. They worked together to plan their shots, discuss ideas and share tips, developing both their technical and teamwork skills.

The final images are a wonderful showcase of imagination and enthusiasm. We are so proud of the students' hard work and the magical results they produced. Their photos will be displayed in the art corridor later this term.

## Photographer of the Month Competition

### Monochrome Mood

**This theme is all about black & white photography. From shadows and shapes to emotions and textures, strip away the colour and let your creativity shine.**



**Deadline: 20th November**

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.





# CHRISTMAS GIFTBAG APPEAL

Help us make Christmas a little brighter for those who need it most  
Fill a giftbag with useful items and small gifts for the homeless

**1** FIND AN EMPTY GIFTBAG

**2** MAKE YOUR BAG LOOK CHRISTMASSY  
Please label clearly whether for a man or woman, adult or child.

**3** FILL IT WITH USEFUL GIFTS

**Suggested items to include:**

Hat, gloves, scarf, boxers, socks (thermal if poss), shampoo, comb, shower gel/body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, lip balm, tissues, wet wipes, torch (pref wind up type), note pad, pens, pencils, playing cards, chocolate, sweets, cereal bars, toys, teddy

**4**

**DROP OFF YOUR BAG TO MAIN RECEPTION**  
Please arrange for drop off by Friday, 12th December



This November, a group of our dedicated staff members are taking part in **Movember** to raise money and awareness for **Prostate Cancer UK** and **Pancreatic Cancer UK**. The staff involved are Mr Webb, Mr Murphy, Mr Cooper, Mr Halsey, Mr Knights, Mr Edwards, Mr Bond, Mr Flack, Mr Clarke, Mr Julian, Mr Collins, Mr Dunn, Mr Hillier, Mr Coveney, Mr Green and Mr Loftus.

They are taking part in Movember in memory of their colleague, **Mark Humphrys**, who sadly passed away from pancreatic cancer. The team wanted to honour Mark's memory by helping others who are affected by these serious illnesses and raising awareness about the importance of early detection and support.

This is the fourth year that our staff have taken part in Movember, and over the past three years they have raised more than **£3,000** for these important charities. The money raised has helped fund research, support patients, and provide vital information to families affected by cancer.

Although this year the official charity registered is **Prostate Cancer UK**, the funds will also be shared with **Pancreatic Cancer UK**, as both causes are equally important. Any support, big or small, will make a real difference in the lives of people facing these illnesses.

By taking part in Movember, our staff are showing the power of community, compassion and action. They hope their efforts will inspire students and families to get involved in supporting good causes too.

If you would like to donate, you can contribute directly to **Prostate Cancer UK**, knowing your money will also help those affected by pancreatic cancer. Let's all support their efforts and help make a difference!



1  
  
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

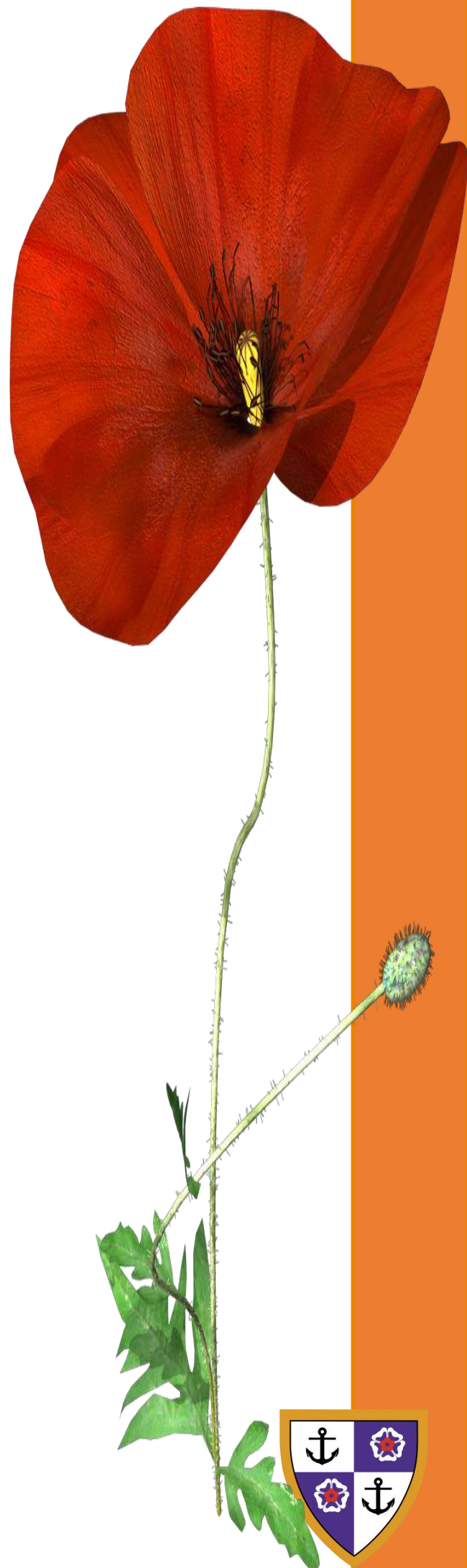
# CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Next week, our school will come together to mark Remembrance Day, an important occasion to remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed for our country. This year, we are inviting students to take part in a special way. On Tuesday, 11th November only, students may come to school in their service uniforms, such as Scouts, Cadets, Guides or similar, instead of their usual school uniform. This is a meaningful opportunity to show respect and take part in a longstanding tradition.

At 11:15am, the school will observe a minute's silence to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many. The Last Post will be performed by BB, a Year 9 student, adding a personal and moving touch to this moment. It is a time for all of us to pause and consider the courage and dedication of those who have served.

Poppies will be available from Main Reception, where there is also a donation tin for anyone who wishes to contribute to the Poppy Appeal. Poppies are a symbol of remembrance, and even a small contribution helps to support veterans and their families.

We encourage all students to take part in this important day. Whether you wear your service uniform or simply join in the minute's silence, being part of Remembrance Day helps to foster respect, reflection, and a sense of community across the school. Let's come together to honour those who gave so much and ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
3

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

### ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

### QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time ranked match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

### PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

### ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around \$5 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

### COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for use as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

### COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

### SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

### PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

### TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

### Meet Our Expert

Dan Upscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



WakeUp  
Wednesday

The  
National  
College



This week, 12A showed just how much of a difference students can make in their school community. They took the initiative to plant colourful flowers in new pots outside our reception area, transforming the entrance into a bright and welcoming space for everyone.



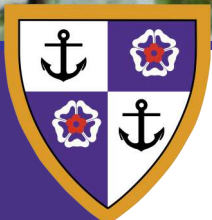
It was wonderful to see the whole class getting involved, working together, and showing such great teamwork. From carefully planting each flower to tidying up the area afterwards, 12A demonstrated not only responsibility but also real pride in their school. Their efforts didn't go unnoticed, and the reception area now looks cheerful and inviting, giving everyone who enters The Howard School a lovely first impression.



Actions like these remind us that small contributions can have a big impact. It's not just about planting flowers; it's about taking care of the school environment, supporting your peers, and showing kindness in the little things you do every day.

Staff and students alike have commented on how much brighter and more welcoming the entrance now feels. This project has been a brilliant example of how students can bring positive change and make a real difference in their school community.

We are incredibly proud of 12A for their hard work, dedication, and community spirit. Their efforts have made The Howard School an even nicer place to be, and we hope it inspires other students to get involved in similar projects. Well done, 12A!



This week, some of our Year 10 and 11 history pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in a **Workshop on the Western Front**, bringing the realities of World War I vividly to life. The session offered a hands-on learning experience that will be invaluable as they prepare for their GCSE history exams.

During the workshop, pupils explored a wide range of topics including **medical treatments**, the types of **injuries soldiers suffered**, and the **weapons and tactics** used on the battlefield. They were able to see first-hand how soldiers coped with the challenges of life in the trenches, gaining a deeper understanding of the physical and emotional toll of the war.

A particularly memorable part of the experience was the chance to view and handle **authentic artefacts** from over 100 years ago. Pupils were fascinated to examine **guns, artillery, and gas masks**, appreciating the craftsmanship and historical significance of these items. The opportunity to connect with objects from the past made the history they study feel tangible and real.

Pupils left the workshop inspired and with a greater appreciation for the experiences of those who lived through World War I. Experiences like this not only enhance classroom learning but also help students **engage more deeply with the past**, encouraging curiosity, empathy, and critical thinking—skills that will support them throughout their GCSEs and beyond.

It was a memorable day that truly brought history to life!





**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.**



Our Sixth Form Open Evening was a huge success, with standing room only as students and parents came along to explore what makes The Howard School such a special place to continue your education. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you into our school and give you the chance to see our fantastic facilities, meet our passionate teachers, and discover the wide range of subjects on offer.

Guests had the opportunity to take part in subject demonstrations, speak to current students about their experiences, and ask questions about life in our Sixth Form. It was clear from the evening that our commitment to excellence, supportive learning environment, and broad curriculum really impressed visitors.

We are incredibly proud to be recognised as the **highest performing non-selective school in Medway for 2025**, and our Open Evening gave everyone the chance to see firsthand why our students thrive academically, socially, and personally.

If you didn't manage to attend the evening, don't worry – applications to our Sixth Form are still open! Joining us for Sixth Form offers an exciting pathway to higher education, apprenticeships, or your chosen career, all while being part of a vibrant and supportive school community.

**Apply today:** <https://www.thehoward-that.org.uk/sixthform/apply>

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the school office on **01634 388765** or email [office@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:office@thehowardschool.co.uk). We are here to help and guide you every step of the way.

We look forward to welcoming our new Sixth Form students in September and continuing to provide an exceptional learning experience where every student can achieve their full potential.





# Meet Your Head of House



Mr. Edwards

Mr. Samuels

Ms. Anglin

Mr. Dunn

Ms. Mulrooney



ATTENBOROUGH

HAWKING

PANKHURST

TULL

TURING

Design a Christmas Card. Represent your House. Win £30 Amazon Voucher.

Winning design will be made into the School Christmas Card.

Designs must be portrait and with Ms. Barty (Art Dept.) by 21st November.

# DESIGN A CHRISTMAS

# CARD COMPETITION



# 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**

Nintendo Switch

**Year 9**

Tablet

**Year 11**



**£200 bike**

**Year 8**

Meta Quest

**Year 10**

PlayStation 5





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