



The Howard School

Newsletter

welcome

An Ode to Men's Mental Health - Will Edkins, Year 11

Can one truly heal,
If he refuses to love, to feel,
So badly bruised by his past,
He searches wide, searches vast,
Not a love could meet his need,
To the guidance, he does not heed.

He believes it's not his to find,
He wishes not to fall behind,
He is growing, but growing tired,
He lost what he once most desired.

The man is not truly broken, but not
okay,
The man left too many words unspoken,
there was too much to say,
The man longs to feel love's grace
once again,
The man is scared, love always leads
to pain.

They say believe, don't ask why,
But doubt's a fire, it's burning high,
They say let go, don't hold on,
But he is tired, yet doesn't yawn.

He once had the world at his hand,
Now, he can't begin to understand,
He laughs he shouts, but he is silent,
He is fragile, yet holds up a tough
front.

He stands, one hand clenched in a
furious fist,
The other held out hopelessly, waiting
for the love he missed,
He watches on, with a desperate
glare,
He cannot help, but stare.

He's not angry, he's in pain,
He's scarred, a tattoo inside his
brain,
Now, he closes every door,
He has grown sick of wanting more.

He hides the tears behind his eyes,
His smile, his greatest disguise,
He loves, but does not feel it in return,
He watches his life, his soul, slowly
burn.

He believes his feelings, make him
weak,
There is no help, no one to seek,
He is trapped, within his mind,
He looks, but simply cannot find.

He laughs through his grief,
"This is what a man does" his one
true belief,
This man hides, but he is not impossible
to see,
This man is around us all, he is you,
he is me.

House Events

Term 2



Spelling Bee

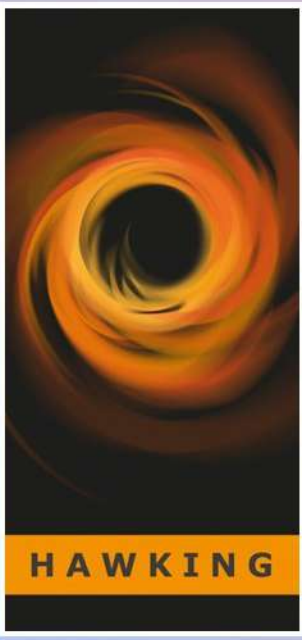
- Year 7 - 25th November
- Year 8 - 8th December
- Year 9 - 3rd December
- Year 10 - 2nd December
- Year 11 - 1st December
- Year 12/13 - 5th December

- 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



Our staff Movember team has now reached Week 3, and the moustaches are becoming increasingly impressive as the month goes on. This annual effort raises awareness and funds for Prostate Cancer UK and Pancreatic Cancer UK, and continues to be an important part of our school community's support for men's health and wellbeing.

As many readers will have already seen, Page 1 of this week's newsletter features an excellent poem written by Will Edkins in Year 11. Will's poem focuses on men's mental health and the importance of speaking up, supporting one another and reducing the stigma that often surrounds emotional wellbeing. His thoughtful piece links closely to the aims of Movember, which highlights both physical and mental health challenges that many men face.

Our Movember participants this year include 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. This group is also joined by the son of the late Mr Mark Humphrys, making the fundraising particularly meaningful as they honour Mark's memory together.

The team has continued to make strong progress, both in their moustache growth and in raising awareness across the school. Photographs of their Week 3 progress are available on the school's social media pages, where families and students can follow their efforts throughout the final stretch of Movember.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the cause so far. Your encouragement and generosity are greatly appreciated as the team enters the final week.



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.



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 STUDENTS 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.



Supporting Pupils at the School to Learn Well: Celebrating FP's Artwork "Geometric Waves"

As part of our ongoing commitment to *supporting pupils at the School to Learn Well*, we continue to provide opportunities for students to develop confidence, creativity, and independent thinking across the curriculum. A recent example of this can be seen in FP's impressive artwork, "**Geometric Waves**", which has been inspired by the style of David Hockney.

FP created the piece using graphite and paint, experimenting with the formal elements of **line, tone, shape, and form**. This practical exploration encourages pupils to think critically about the materials they choose and the visual impact they wish to achieve. By engaging with established artists and learning to adapt techniques, pupils deepen their understanding of artistic processes while developing problem-solving and reflective learning skills.

Our art curriculum is designed to nurture curiosity and help pupils express themselves with increasing technical skill. FP's work demonstrates how, with the right guidance and encouragement, pupils can produce thoughtful and ambitious outcomes.

We are incredibly proud of FP's achievement, which highlights how our supportive learning environment enables pupils to flourish academically, creatively, and personally. This is exactly what *learning well* looks like within our school community.





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



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

We would love to hear from you guys!! Has your young person achieved something worth celebrating? Please email photos/match reports/Brief summaries to **Mr Halsey** on halseyc@thehowardschool.co.uk

Special Recognitions



Mr Cooper wanted to give a special recognition to his class, 8H2 who have been outstanding this year. They have been exploring Health Related Fitness and Table Tennis this half term and Mr Cooper has been very impressed with their engagement and effort levels especially when exploring training methods. In Year 8 the boys have been building on their knowledge from Year 7 where we focus on Fitness Testing, they are now exploring different training methods to help them understand how best to improve various components of fitness.

Shoutout to all of our extra curricular club attendees but special mention to our table tennis club that had 30+ students in attendance this week. Students have engaged really well in lessons, some classes have already focused on Table Tennis this year and you can see the enthusiasm within the club.

Keep it up guys!





PE @ The Howard School



What else has been going on?





PE @ The Howard School



Ski Trip 2026 preparation has started



In February 2026, we will be taking some of our students on a skiing trip. In preparation for this trip, the boys have been attending Ski lessons over the last couple of weeks to build up their confidence and ability on the slopes. The progress made from Week 1 to Week 2 has been great and the boys are starting to look comfortable when coming down the slopes. This week coming will be their biggest test as they begin to hit the big slopes. We are taking a range of abilities on this trip from students that have never skied before to students that have been on multiple adventures down snowy mountains.

We are excited for this opportunity to take so many students away and we are over the moon with the conduct and behaviour that we have seen so far! Even Mr Bond has put his boots on and had a go! 5 Staff, 44 Students and 5 days on the snowy mountains. Roll on February.





PE @ The Howard School



Year 10 football



FT - Hoo 1 - 6 Howard

The boys continue an impressive year in the Medway schools league with a great win against Hundred of Hoo. After a slow start in some tough wet conditions, the boys found themselves 1 nil down after missing a handful of chances in the first 5-10 minutes. In what was an uncharacteristically laboured start to the game the boys finally found their rhythm. LW in the middle of the pitch ignited the desire for the boys to improve their performance and from going 1 nil down the boys never really looked back. Moving the ball well, playing to our strengths saw the boys create numerous opportunities to score and thankfully on this occasion we managed to find the back of the net consistently. Demonstrating clinical finishing at times which in some games we have lacked.

Shout outs to the goal scorers, most notably GT and NA. GT, having not scored for the school team since Year 7 from RB now finds himself with 3 goals in 3 games (He may correct me on this) and NA who is becoming more and more clinical scoring valuable goals within this team. Well done boys!

PE @ The Howard School

Year 9s



Howard 3 - 1 Leigh Rainham

A great performance all round today from the year 9s. The boys passed the ball around brilliantly and worked really hard for each other. A special mention to CR — well done! He didn't come on today but was fully ready to step up and go in goal if needed. MM played in goal and was absolutely superb — didn't put a foot wrong and was very unlucky with the goal we conceded. FG was excellent at left-back, while RC and JC were solid together at the back. JF solid at right back. JS had a great game in midfield, and FE played his best game yet — scoring an unbelievable 25-yard goal! HN worked tirelessly throughout, and TW came on and played really well — very unlucky not to score. PR led the line superbly, put himself about, and was a real presence up top. HC also stepped up and played really well. A huge well done to the whole team — performances like that make it very hard for some of the other boys to come back into the side next game. Special mention to LS in year 8 that stepped up and played a year up. Well taken penalty and another goal scored by him. Went 1-0 down at the start but won the game 3-1





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.





Meet Your Head of House



Mr. Edwards

Ms. Samuels

Ms. Anglin

Mr. Dunn

Ms. Mulrooney

ATTENBOROUGH



ATTENBOROUGH

HAWKING

PANKHURST

TULL

TURING

HAWKING

DEEDS NOT WORDS

PANKHURST

TULL

TULL

TURING

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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