



The Howard School

Newsletter

Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication

welcome

In the Christmas break, a group of our students enjoyed a fantastic trip to experience a proper British pantomime, and it was a memorable day from start to finish. For many students, this was their first time visiting a theatre to see a live panto, making the experience even more special.

From the moment the curtain went up, the atmosphere was buzzing. The students quickly embraced the traditions that make pantomime so unique, joining in with the call-and-response moments, cheering the heroes, booing the villains and laughing along with the comedy. The energy in the theatre was infectious, and it was wonderful to see students so engaged and confident in a new setting.

As well as being great fun, the visit offered valuable cultural enrichment. Watching live theatre helps students develop an appreciation for performance, storytelling and humour, while also encouraging them to be respectful audience members and confident participants. The shared experience also helped to strengthen friendships and create a real sense of togetherness, with lots of smiles and animated conversations on the journey home.

Staff were incredibly proud of how well the students represented the school throughout the trip. Their behaviour, enthusiasm and willingness to get involved ensured the day was enjoyable for everyone.

Overall, it was an excellent outing that combined laughter, learning and lasting memories. Experiences like this play an important role in helping students build confidence, broaden their horizons and discover new interests beyond the classroom. We look forward to offering more opportunities like this in the future.





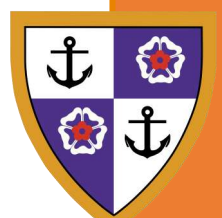
This week, we are proud to celebrate our **Year 8 Artists of the Week**, showcasing a range of exciting artwork that is currently still in progress. Students have been working with enthusiasm and creativity across two challenging themes: **Cubism** and **War and Conflict**.

As part of their Cubism project, students have explored how artists break objects and images into bold shapes and multiple viewpoints. They have studied the work of Georges Braque, experimenting with fractured forms, overlapping angles and strong composition. These pieces show growing confidence in drawing, shading and organising space in imaginative ways.

Alongside this, students have been developing work linked to the theme of War and Conflict. Using inspiration from Paul Nash, pupils have explored how artists communicate powerful ideas and emotions through landscape, symbolism and contrast. Students have also drawn on elements of Pop Art, using colour, line and visual impact to strengthen the messages within their work.

All of the artwork featured represents work in progress, with students actively refining ideas, improving techniques and responding thoughtfully to feedback. The standard of engagement has been excellent, with students demonstrating resilience, creativity and a willingness to take risks in their artistic choices.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and imagination shown by our Year 8 artists so far. We look forward to seeing how these pieces continue to develop as students build towards their final outcomes.



PARENTS' VOICE

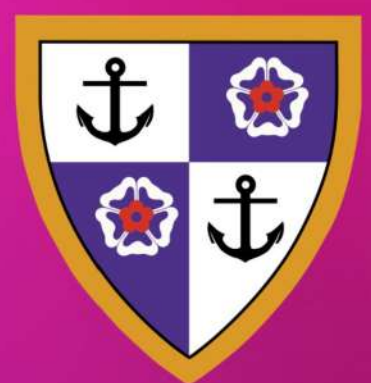
Along with taking our Students' Voice, we also want to hear from our Parents and Carers and we will be looking to take their voice throughout the year. We will be emailing an electronic survey for all parents/ carers to complete as well as providing questionnaires at Consultation Evenings.

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.



Our **Year 12 students** recently enjoyed an engaging and thought-provoking talk from **ScalingEdge**, focused on the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in both education and the world of work.

The session explored what AI really is and how it is already part of everyday life, from personalised learning tools and online platforms to the way businesses analyse data and make decisions. Students were particularly interested in how AI can support learning by offering instant feedback, helping with organisation and revision, and breaking down barriers for different learners. Importantly, the talk made it clear that AI is not about replacing teachers or students, but about enhancing learning and helping people work more effectively.

The discussion then moved on to careers and business, highlighting how AI is transforming industries such as marketing, finance, healthcare, design and education. Students learned that AI is not just for programmers or computer scientists; instead, it will be used across almost every career pathway. A strong emphasis was placed on the importance of human skills such as creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving and ethical decision-making, all of which will be essential in an AI-driven future.

Our Year 12s were highly engaged throughout, asking thoughtful questions and reflecting on how AI might feature in their own studies and future careers. The talk encouraged students to see AI as a powerful tool that, when used responsibly, can open up exciting opportunities.

We are grateful to ScalingEdge for delivering such an informative and motivating session, which has given our students plenty to think about as they plan their next steps beyond school.



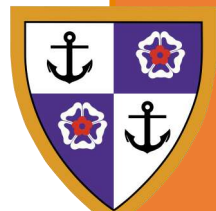
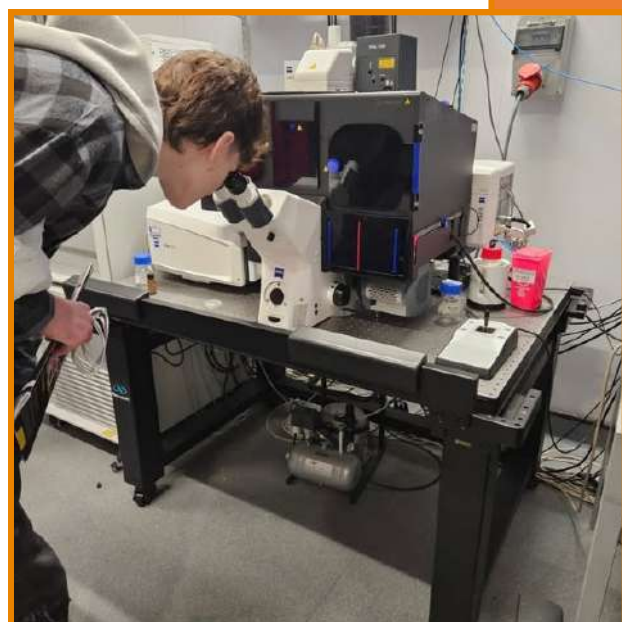
Students recently took part in an engaging and hands-on exploration of the microscopic world, developing both their curiosity and confidence in GCSE Biology. During the session, they explored a range of microscopy techniques, including light microscopy, fluorescence microscopy and atomic force microscopy, allowing them to understand how scientists study cells at different levels of detail.

Through this work, students examined a variety of cell types, such as pancreatic rat cells and human cancer cell lines. This gave them valuable insight into the differences between healthy and diseased cells, helping them to link classroom learning to real scientific research and medical applications. Seeing these cells first-hand helped to deepen their understanding of how biology impacts everyday life.

Alongside developing their scientific knowledge, students strengthened several key practical skills that are essential for success in the GCSE Biology core practicals. They practised producing clear and accurate biological drawings, learned how to calculate actual cell sizes using magnification, and improved their confidence in setting up and using light microscopes correctly and safely.

The session also promoted teamwork, discussion and a strong sense of belonging. Students worked collaboratively, shared ideas and supported one another, creating a positive learning environment where everyone felt encouraged to take part. This hands-on experience reinforced theoretical learning while helping students feel more confident in their practical abilities.

Overall, the microscopy work provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop essential skills, deepen their scientific understanding and see themselves as part of a wider scientific community.



Last week, we were delighted to hold our Year 11 celebration assembly for Terms 1 and 2, and it was a fantastic opportunity to recognise the effort, commitment and positivity shown by our students. The scale of achievement across the school has been truly impressive. This year so far, students have earned over 120,000 reward stamps and close to 3,000 department certificates have been issued, highlighting the consistent hard work taking place in lessons every day.

Our rewards programme sits at the heart of school life and is designed to celebrate much more than academic success alone. From reward stamps and department certificates to our popular 100% Club, we are proud to recognise excellent attendance, positive behaviour, strong organisation and a determined attitude to learning. These rewards reflect our belief that effort, resilience and consistency matter, and that every student deserves to feel valued for the contribution they make.

Alongside this, we continue to offer a huge range of extracurricular opportunities for students to get involved in. From sports teams and creative clubs to leadership roles, enrichment activities and special events, there is something for everyone. These opportunities help students develop confidence, friendships and important life skills, while also strengthening their sense of belonging within the school community.

The Year 11 celebration assembly was a brilliant reminder of what can be achieved when students are engaged, motivated and supported. We are incredibly proud of our students and their dedication to learning and wider school life, and we look forward to celebrating many more successes as the year continues.



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.



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



It was a pleasure to welcome a representative from Kooth into school this week to speak with students across Years 7–11 about mental health and wellbeing. These sessions formed an important part of our ongoing commitment to supporting students' emotional health and helping them feel safe, supported and able to ask for help when they need it.

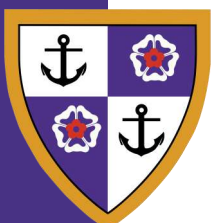
During the talks, students explored what mental health is and why looking after ourselves is just as important as caring for our physical health. They discussed some of the common

barriers that can prevent people from seeking support, such as worry, embarrassment or not knowing where to turn, and were reassured that these feelings are completely normal. A key message throughout was that no one should feel they have to cope on their own.

Students were also introduced to the Kooth app, a free, NHS-approved service that provides safe, confidential and anonymous mental health support for young people aged 10–25. Kooth offers a range of support options, including live chats with trained counsellors, self-help tools and resources, and access to a moderated online community. Many students found it reassuring to know that support is available at any time and that it can be accessed privately if needed.

Alongside this work, we are proud of the positive role our students continue to play in supporting mental health causes. Recently, our Sixth Form students organised a bake sale and raised £125 for Mind, helping to support the vital work they do to improve mental health services and awareness across the UK.

Together, these experiences help reinforce an important message for our students: mental health matters, support is available, and everyone belongs in a community that looks out for one another.



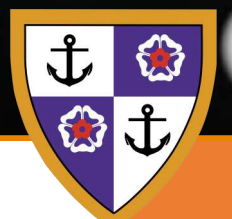
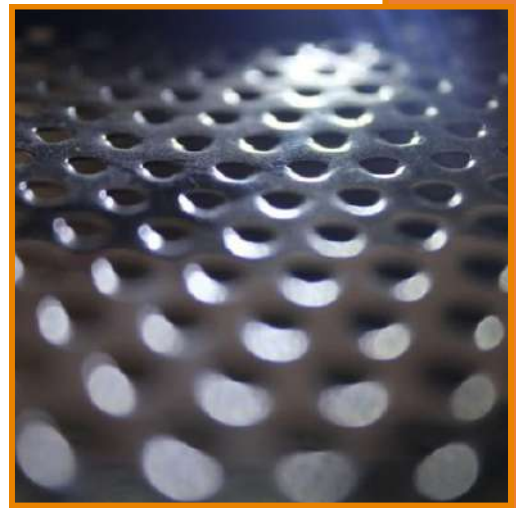
This week, our Year 9 photography students demonstrated just how powerful creativity and experimentation can be. In a lesson focused on abstraction, students were challenged to take everyday objects and transform them into something completely unexpected.

Using a range of photographic techniques, students explored how light, shutter speed and focus can dramatically change the way an image looks and feels. By deliberately blurring images, moving the camera during exposure, and playing with reflections and light sources, ordinary objects such as bottles were turned into striking abstract images that would not look out of place in a gallery.

What was particularly impressive was the confidence students showed in letting go of “perfect” pictures. Instead of aiming for sharp, clear images, they embraced movement, distortion and uncertainty, learning that photography is not just about recording what is in front of the camera, but about expressing an idea or a feeling. This approach encouraged students to think creatively, take risks and trust their instincts.

The lesson also helped students develop important technical skills, including understanding how shutter speed affects movement and how light can be used to create mood and atmosphere. At the same time, it reinforced the idea that mistakes can often lead to the most interesting outcomes.

Well done to our Year 9 photographers for their imagination, focus and willingness to experiment. Their work is a fantastic example of how creativity and curiosity can turn the ordinary into something truly eye-catching.





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



HAWKING



PANKHURST



TULL



TURING



HAWKING



TURING

CAREERS FAYRE 2026

Spend the day talking to students about their future and possible pathways into your industry, promote your company and inspire your future workforce.

Tuesday 10th February
The Howard School
Derwent Way
Rainham, ME8 0BX

Get in contact now

masonk@thehowardschool.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

Nintendo Switch



Year 8

Year 9



Meta Quest

Tablet



Year 10

Year 11



PlayStation 5





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