



The Howard School

Newsletter

welcome

World Book Day 2026 was a fantastic celebration of reading across The Howard School, with both staff and students embracing the spirit of the day.

Throughout the school, the corridors and playground were filled with characters from a wide range of books as staff and students arrived in creative costumes inspired by their favourite stories. From well-known classics to more modern characters, it was brilliant to see so many members of our school community getting involved and helping to bring books to life.

Students particularly enjoyed spotting different characters around the school and trying to work out which member of staff was hiding behind each costume. One memorable moment included Olaf from Frozen chatting with a shark during the Year 8 line-up, which certainly raised a few smiles and perfectly captured the fun atmosphere of the day.

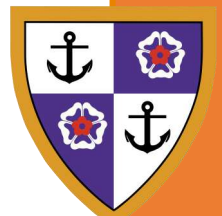
Our students also made a fantastic effort with their own costumes, showing great creativity and enthusiasm. The variety of characters on display reflected just how many different books our students enjoy reading. While we were able to capture some photographs during the day, these only represent a small snapshot of the incredible efforts across the school, as it was unfortunately not possible to photograph everyone.

World Book Day is an important opportunity to celebrate reading, imagination and creativity. Events like this help to encourage students to develop a lifelong love of books while also strengthening the sense of belonging within our school community.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day such an enjoyable celebration of reading.



Happy WORLD BOOK Day



**DISCOVER 100's OF
FREE ACTIVITIES
DURING THE SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS**



MedwayGo

**FREE ACTIVITIES DURING
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

We are currently seeking support from local employers who may be able to offer a work experience placement to one of our Year 10 students from 13th to 17th July.

Each year, work experience plays a vital role in helping our students understand the world of work and begin thinking seriously about their future pathways. However, many students are finding it increasingly difficult to secure placements. A single opportunity from a local business can make a significant and lasting difference.

Placements do not need to be highly specialised. At this stage, the most important aspect is that students experience a real working environment and begin developing essential transferable skills. These include communication, teamwork, time management, problem-solving and understanding professional behaviour in the workplace.

Work experience helps to build confidence, raise aspirations and give young people a clearer sense of direction. For some students, it can be the first step towards a future career.

If your company, or a company you know, would be willing to offer a placement, we would be very grateful to hear from you. Please contact our Careers Lead, Katy Mason, who will be happy to provide further information.

Thank you for supporting our students and investing in their futures.

We Need

YOU



PARENTS' VOICE

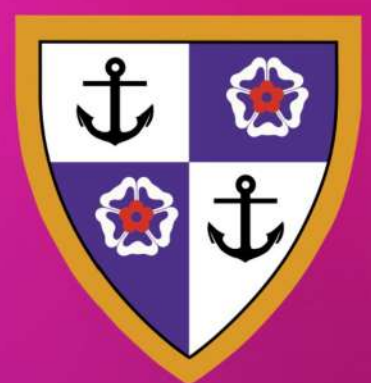
Along with taking our Students' Voice, we also want to hear from our Parents and Carers and we will be looking to take their voice throughout the year. We will be emailing an electronic survey for all parents/ carers to complete as well as providing questionnaires at Consultation Evenings.

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 cast and crew delivered an outstanding performance of The Lion King today, putting on not one but two fantastic shows for their audiences.

Earlier in the day, we were delighted to welcome pupils from Mierscourt Primary School and Deanwood Primary School to The Howard School for a special daytime performance. Our students did a brilliant job bringing the much-loved story to life on stage, performing with confidence, energy and enthusiasm. The visiting pupils thoroughly enjoyed the show and it was wonderful to see so many smiles and hear so much laughter and applause throughout the performance. Our students were excellent ambassadors for the school and should be very proud of the way they represented The Howard School.

In the evening, the cast returned to the stage to perform once again, this time to an audience of friends, family members and staff. The atmosphere in the theatre was fantastic and the audience were treated to a truly memorable performance. From the powerful opening moments through to the final scenes, the show was packed with fantastic singing, acting and choreography. It was clear to see just how much hard work, rehearsal and dedication had gone into preparing the production.

A huge well done must go to every student involved, both on stage and behind the scenes. Productions like this rely on a large team of people working together, and our backstage crew played an essential role in making sure everything ran smoothly. Their work with lighting, sound, props and stage management helped bring the entire performance together.

We would also like to thank the staff who supported the production and helped guide students through weeks of rehearsals in preparation for the show. School productions take a great deal of planning and teamwork, and it was fantastic to see the final result enjoyed by so many people.

The talent, commitment and confidence shown by our students made this a truly special day. It was a fantastic celebration of creativity and teamwork, and we are already looking forward to seeing what next year's school production will bring.



RAMADAN MUBARAK

رمضان مبارك



**A MESSAGE FROM TEAM RE
TO OUR MUSLIM STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES
YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO U23 FOR**

- PRAYER
- RESPITE

AT BREAK AND LUNCH

Year 8 students have been working incredibly hard on their latest art project, which focuses on portraiture and the important skill of careful observation. Throughout this project, students have been learning how to build shading gradually in layers, allowing them to create depth, tone and a greater sense of realism in their drawings.

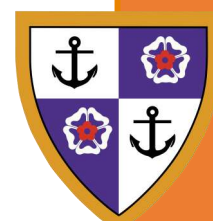
A key focus of the project has been encouraging students to draw only what they can actually see, rather than what they think a face should look like. This may sound simple, but it is one of the most important skills an artist can learn. By slowing down and carefully observing the shapes, shadows and subtle changes in tone within a face, students begin to develop a much more accurate and confident approach to drawing.

Students have been exploring how to use pencil techniques to build up tone step by step. Instead of pressing hard straight away, they are learning to layer their shading gradually, allowing them to control light and dark areas more effectively. This technique helps create the illusion of form and structure, making their portraits appear more three-dimensional.

The concentration and determination shown by the students during these lessons has been fantastic to see. Portraiture can be challenging, particularly when students are asked to look closely and work patiently over time, but our Year 8 artists have embraced the challenge brilliantly. Many students have already shown significant improvement in their ability to observe small details and translate these onto paper.

Projects such as this help students understand that drawing is not simply about natural talent. Instead, it is about practice, patience and learning to trust the process. By developing these skills, students are building both their artistic confidence and their resilience as learners.

It has been wonderful to see the progress made so far, and the standard of work being produced is impressive. The effort, focus and creativity demonstrated by our Year 8 students is something the whole school community can be proud of, and we look forward to seeing their portraits continue to develop as the project progresses.



Photographer of the Month Competition

Nature Awakens

From budding flowers and dewy mornings to baby animals and fresh green leaves, capture the magical transition from cold to colour.



Deadline: 24TH March



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

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

CONGRATULATIONS TW, YEAR 7

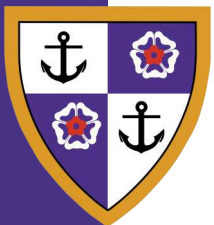


'Love & Friendship' Photographer of the month winner.

 **The Howard**
School



TW (Year 7) has been named this month's "Love and Friendship" Photographer of the Month, chosen by Mrs. Barty, Art Technician, who praised the beautiful swan image for its heart-shaped symbolism and the way it captures how swans bond for life.





Students from The Howard School recently enjoyed a wonderful afternoon celebrating the creativity and talent of our young photographers. Four students entered the “Happiness in Nature” photography competition, which invited young people to capture moments of joy and beauty in the natural world through their camera lens. Their work was judged by two professional photographers, making the recognition they received even more special.

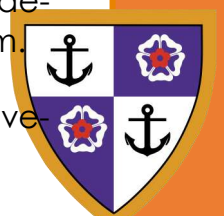
The competition provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their creativity and explore photography as a powerful form of artistic expression. Each entry reflected careful observation, thoughtful composition and a genuine appreciation for the natural environment. The judges were impressed by the quality of the photographs submitted and the way our students interpreted the theme of happiness in nature.

We are delighted to share that several of our students were recognised for their outstanding work. GB was named the winner in the 14–17 age category, an incredible achievement that highlights both technical skill and creative vision. In the same category, ACD was awarded runner-up, demonstrating the strength of talent among our older students. HA was also recognised as runner-up in the 11–13 age category, showing that creativity and photographic talent are thriving across different year groups at the school.

A particularly memorable moment for the students was receiving their certificates from the Mayor of Medway. This was a proud occasion for both the students and the school, and it was wonderful to see their hard work recognised in such a special way.

We are incredibly proud of all four students who entered the competition. Their willingness to share their creativity and represent the school reflects the enthusiasm and talent within our photography community. Opportunities like this allow students to develop confidence in their creative abilities while celebrating the world around them.

Congratulations once again to our talented photographers on this fantastic achievement.



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

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

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SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY

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FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION

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SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS

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PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

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PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE

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CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES

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CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED

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REFUGEE CHILDREN

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CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT

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REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP

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FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME

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ACCESS TO EDUCATION

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AIMS OF EDUCATION

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PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS

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PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

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PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING

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CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW

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BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES

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EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

43-54

HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



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



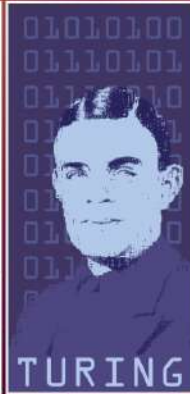
HAWKING



PANKHURST



TULL



TURING

ATTENBOROUGH

HAWKING

DEEDS NOT WORDS

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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





Mr. J Johal - Principal
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