



The Howard School

Newsletter

welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

As the festive season is upon us and the autumn term draws to a close, I would like to extend my warmest Christmas wishes to all our students, families and staff.

This term has been a resounding success and is a true reflection of the continued commitment of our whole community to our core vision: *High Standards Lead to High Achievement*.

Our school's success is firmly rooted in our strong and purposeful ethos, built on the values of *Be Hardworking, Be Good and Be Kind*. We see these values brought to life every day – not only in the classroom, but across the wider school community. Our Gold-level *Rights Respecting School* status underpins this approach, ensuring that every student feels valued, heard and supported in a safe and happy environment, where high standards of behaviour and high achievement go hand in hand.

I am immensely proud of the positive contributions our students have made this term, building on the strong foundations laid by those who have gone before them.

Our GCSE results in 2025 were the highest we have ever achieved. In November, the Department for Education published national GCSE outcomes and we are incredibly proud to confirm that we are now the highest-achieving non-grammar school in Medway. Furthermore, we are the second highest-achieving non-grammar school out of 76 across Kent and Medway.

This success is not a one-off. We have progressed from 4th in 2023, to 3rd in 2024, and now 2nd in 2025. We are the only non-grammar school to feature in the top four for three consecutive years, demonstrating our stability, consistency and the exceptionally high quality of teaching and learning over a sustained period of time.

This achievement would not be possible without the unwavering support of our students, families and staff, and I would like to thank our whole community for the part they have played in this success.

As we come to the end of term, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish **Mr Wells** a very happy and well-deserved retirement from the Mathematics Department. Mr Wells joined The Howard School in 2025 and, in that time, has made a valued contribution to both the department and the wider school community. We thank him for his commitment, professionalism and dedication, and we wish him every happiness and success in the next chapter.

I hope you all enjoy a restful and peaceful Christmas break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Merry Christmas.

School	Average Attainment 8 Score for boys
Wye School - Ashford (46 Boys in Year 11 2025)	45.6
The Howard School (270 Boys in Year 11 2025)	45.2
St Simon Stock Catholic School	44.6
Medway Secondary School	44.2
Knole Academy	44.2
St Gregory's Catholic School	44
Leigh UTC Dartford	43.6
Medway Secondary School	43.3
Leigh Academy Wilmington	43.2
Trinity School	43.2
Leigh Academy Tonbridge	42.9
The Holmesdale School	42.6
Leigh Academy Ebbsfleet	41.8
The North School	41.7
Orchards Academy	41.5
Medway Secondary School	40.9
Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy	40.9
Medway Secondary School	40.5
The Charles Dickens School	40.4
Saint George's Church of England School	40.4
Medway Secondary School	40
Leigh Academy Hugh Christie	39.8
Meopham School	39.6
The Maplesden Noakes School	39.5
Leigh Academy Longfield	39.4
Westlands School	39.4
Leigh Academy Mascalls	39.3
St Edmund's Catholic School	39.3
St John's Catholic Comprehensive	38.9
The Malling School	38.8
The Canterbury Academy	38.5
Skinnners' Kent Academy	38.3
St Anselm's Catholic School, Canterbury	38.3
St George's Church of England Foundation School	38.1
Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre	38.1
The Whitstable School	37.6
Cornwallis Academy	37.4
Valley Park School	37.2
Medway Secondary School	36.9
Wrotham School	36.8
Towers School and Sixth Form Centre	36.8
Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	36.7
Aylesford School	36.5
Hadlow Rural Community School	36.2
The Marsh Academy	36.1
Turner Free School	35.9
Northfleet Technology College	35.7
The Abbey School	35
St Augustine Academy	34.8
Stone Lodge School	34.7
Fulston Manor School	34.5
Medway Secondary School	34.5

Sandwich Technology School	34.1
Herne Bay High School	34
The Lenham School	33.8
Ursuline College	33.4
Orion Spires	33.4
Grange Park School	33.1
Folkestone Academy	32.8
Medway Secondary School	32.5
King Ethelbert School	31.9
Hartsdown Academy	31.7
The Sittingbourne School	31.7
Thamesview School	30.7
Goodwin Academy	30.7
The Archbishop's School	30.4
Medway Secondary School	29.9
Medway Secondary School	29.8
Medway Secondary School	29.5
Dover Christ Church Academy	28.2
New Line Learning Academy	27.9
Leigh Academy Minster	27.6
The Royal Harbour Academy	26.9
Astor Secondary School	26.9
The John Wallis Church of England Academy	26.3

Photographer of the Month Competition

'Winter'

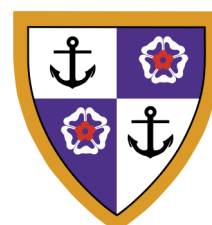
Create anything from bundled up kids, footprints in snow,
winter street photography or cozy nights in.



Deadline:
22nd January



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.



What a wonderful day for our school community as we came together to enjoy our School Carol Concert, featuring students from Years 7 to 10. The concert was performed twice, first to our Year 7 students during Period 5 and later in the evening to parents and carers, ensuring as many members of our community as possible could share in the festive celebrations.

The programme was rich and varied, showcasing the many talents of our students. The audience was treated to a thoughtful selection of readings, poems and short dramatic performances, alongside live musical items that captured the spirit of the season. Each element of the concert was carefully prepared and confidently delivered, creating an atmosphere that was both reflective and uplifting.

What stood out most was the commitment and enthusiasm shown by every student involved. Performing in front of an audience takes courage, and our students rose to the challenge with maturity, teamwork and pride. The concert provided a valuable opportunity for students to develop confidence, communication skills and a sense of collective achievement, while also contributing to the wider life of the school.

The evening performance in particular was a special occasion, bringing together parents, carers, staff and students for a warm and memorable celebration. It was a reminder of the strong sense of community that exists within our school and the importance of coming together at this time of year.

We would like to congratulate all students who took part in the Carol Concert and thank staff and families for their continued support. It was a truly lovely way to mark the festive season and a performance of which we can all be very proud.



PARENTS' VOICE

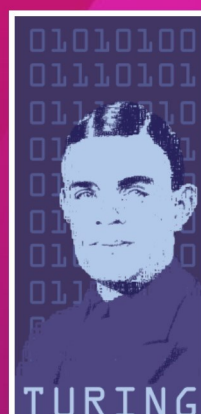
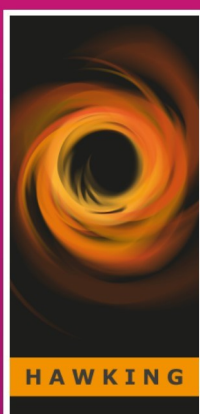
Along with taking our Students' Voice, we also want to hear from our Parents and Carers and we will be looking to take their voice throughout the year. We will be emailing an electronic survey for all parents/ carers to complete as well as providing questionnaires at Consultation Evenings.

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.





Over the past two terms, we have been proud to celebrate students across the school who earned a place in our 100% Club. This accolade recognises students who have shown exceptional consistency and commitment to school life, meeting the criteria of 96% or above attendance, completing all homework, never being late, and maintaining positive behaviour throughout the term.

Achieving this standard over such a sustained period is no small feat. It reflects strong self-discipline, excellent organisation, and a positive attitude to learning, day in and day out. These students truly embody the high standards we encourage across our school community.



To mark their achievement, students in the 100% Club were invited to a celebratory rewards event, where they enjoyed films and popcorn as a thank you for their efforts. Our Year 11 students were also treated to pizza, recognising not only their commitment to the 100% Club but the maturity and resilience they continue to show as they progress through an important stage of their education.

It has been wonderful to see students take pride in their achievements and to celebrate them together in a positive and inclusive way. Events like these highlight the importance of consistency, good habits, and personal responsibility, all of which support long-term success both in school and beyond.



After the Christmas break, the 100% Club criteria reset, giving all students a fresh opportunity to qualify. From Term 3 onwards, further rewards and enrichment opportunities are planned, including SOAR activities and Escape Rooms, to continue recognising and celebrating students who consistently meet our high expectations. We hope to be celebrating with even more students as the year continues.

Well done to all students who achieved 100% Club status so far this year.



A group of our Year 10 students enjoyed an exciting and enriching visit to London this week as part of a planned educational trip.

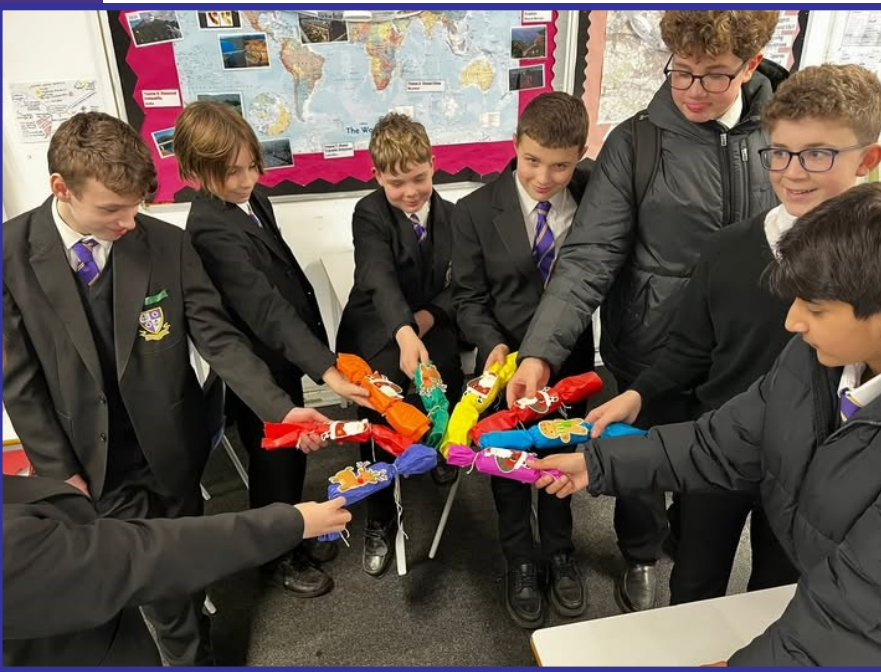
The day began with a sightseeing tour of the capital, giving students the opportunity to see a range of famous landmarks and experience the scale, history and atmosphere of London first-hand. Seeing these locations in person helped to bring learning beyond the classroom and encouraged students to engage with the city's cultural and historical significance.

A key highlight of the trip was a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. During the visit, students explored this iconic building and learned more about the workings of the UK's democratic system. They were introduced to the roles of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, as well as how laws are proposed, debated and passed. This provided a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of citizenship and British values.

Throughout the visit, students conducted themselves impeccably, demonstrating curiosity, maturity and respect at all times. They asked thoughtful questions, engaged positively with the experience and represented the school with pride.

Trips such as this play an important role in broadening students' horizons, enriching their learning and helping them to make meaningful connections between their studies and the wider world. The London visit proved to be a memorable and worthwhile experience for all involved.





This week, we were delighted to hold a small get-together to thank our Eco-Club members for their commitment and hard work throughout the term. It was a valuable opportunity to recognise the time, energy and enthusiasm they consistently give in supporting sustainability across the school community.

Our Eco-Club plays an important role in encouraging environmentally responsible choices and raising awareness of how small actions can make a meaningful difference. Throughout the term, members have shown real dedication, whether by supporting initiatives, sharing ideas, or leading by example for their peers.

Their passion for looking after our environment has had a positive impact on daily school life and has helped to reinforce our wider commitment to responsibility and respect.

The get-together provided a chance to pause, reflect and say thank you for these efforts. It was also an opportunity for students to spend time together, celebrate what has been achieved so far, and look ahead to the next steps for the club. Staff were keen to emphasise how much their contribution is valued and how their work continues to shape a more sustainable culture within the school.

We are incredibly proud of our Eco-Club members and the mature, thoughtful approach they take to their role. Their efforts have certainly not gone unnoticed, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to develop their ideas and initiatives in the coming terms.

CONGRATULATIONS LL, YEAR 9



'Festive Lights'
Photographer of the month winner.

This month's *Photographer of the Month* winner for *Festive Light* is LL (Year 9), selected by Mr Hiller. The winning photograph was chosen because it is a great photo of an iconic landmark from our capital city. Congratulations!



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

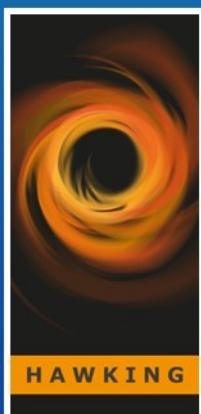


SENIOR STUDENTS MEET WITH SENIOR LEADERS



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

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



The final days of term have been filled with a warm and festive atmosphere across the school, providing a positive and enjoyable way to bring the year to a close.

Students were welcomed into school with Christmas music playing throughout the morning, helping to create a cheerful and relaxed start to the day. Staff were on hand to greet students and share in the festive spirit, setting a positive tone as everyone arrived for the final week of term.

Adding to the celebrations, students were treated to free hot chocolate on arrival. This small but thoughtful gesture was greatly appreciated and brought plenty of smiles, as students enjoyed a warm drink while catching up with friends and easing into the school day. The festive treats did not stop there, with more hot chocolate available at break time, ensuring the celebrations continued throughout the morning.

Moments like these play an important role in building a strong sense of community within the school. They provide an opportunity to pause, reflect and celebrate the end of a busy term, while recognising the effort and commitment shown by students over recent weeks.

As the term draws to a close, the festive activities have helped to create a calm, positive and welcoming environment for students and staff alike. It has been a simple yet effective way to mark the end of the school year, leaving everyone in good spirits as they look ahead to a well-earned break.



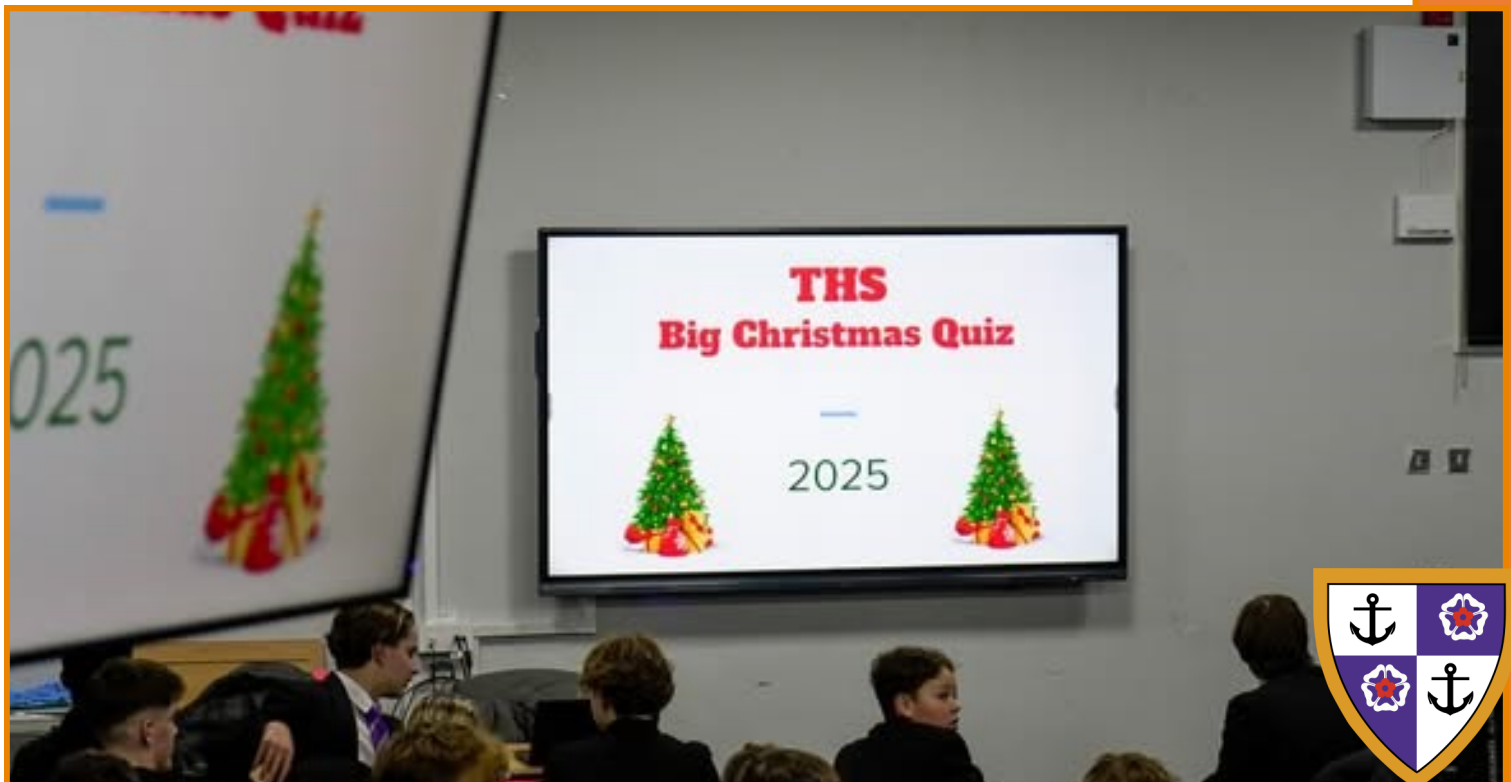
This morning, the whole school came together to take part in the Big Fat Christmas Quiz, creating a fantastic sense of community and friendly competition as the autumn term draws to a close. Every form participated from their form rooms, with students working collaboratively to answer a wide range of festive and general knowledge questions.

A number of teams also represented their Houses in the Gallery Theatre, where the competition intensified as students competed live in front of their peers. The atmosphere throughout the school was lively and positive, with students demonstrating excellent teamwork, enthusiasm and good humour.

All five Houses were represented during the quiz: Attenborough, Hawking, Pankhurst, Tull and Turing. Students took great pride in representing their Houses, with healthy rivalry on display as teams worked hard to earn valuable House points. The event provided a great opportunity for students to engage with one another beyond the classroom and to celebrate their sense of belonging within the school community.

The quiz showcased a wide range of knowledge and skills, including problem solving, communication and resilience, and it was pleasing to see students supporting and encouraging one another throughout. Staff also commented on the positive conduct and mature approach shown by students during the event.

The Big Fat Christmas Quiz proved to be an enjoyable and inclusive way to end the term, bringing students together in a shared experience that combined learning with fun. Well done to all students and staff who took part and helped to make the event such a success.





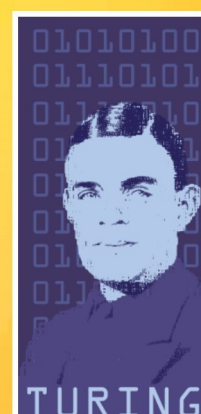
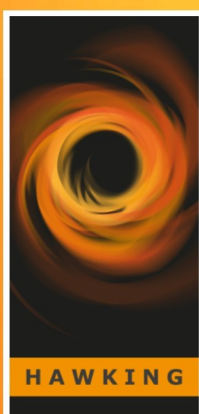
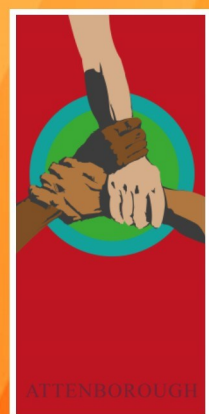
Collecting 'Student Voice' is really important to us here at The Howard School; we want to hear what you have to say about YOUR school.

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

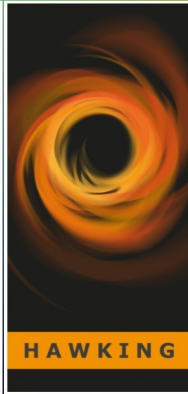
Ms. Anglin

Mr. Dunn

Ms. Mulrooney



ATTENBOROUGH



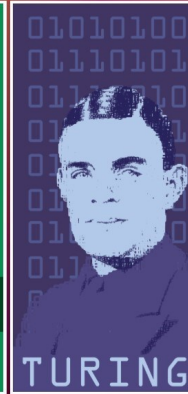
HAWKING



PANKHURST



TULL



TURING



ATTENBOROUGH

HAWKING



PANKHURST



TULL



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

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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