

Quickfire Week

The week in bullet points

Week commencing 18th April - Week A

Week commencing 25th April - Week B

- ◆ **Last Day of Term—Friday 1st April 2022**
- ◆ **First Day back of Term—Tuesday 19th April 2022**

To all parents and carers,

It has been another very successful term here at Holcombe. The following pages are full of reports of some of the fantastic work that has been going on here in recent weeks and I hope you enjoy reading about it. As we continue to settle back to some normality we are pleased to celebrate the achievements of so many students in such a wide range of ways. It is refreshing that we are again able to take students out on school trips, organise charity events and hold inter-year events such as our debating clubs. We are looking forward to even more of this in term 5, including running a huge array of clubs at lunchtimes and after school – please see the list which we have attached to this blog.

As we all head off into the Easter holidays I want to specifically mention our Year 11 and Year 13 students who are finalising preparations for their summer examinations. I am very grateful to those staff who are running Easter revision sessions in support of this and I hope those students who attend these sessions find them useful. It now looks almost certain that GCSE and A Level examinations will take place as ‘normal’ this summer, for the first time since 2019, and we wish all of our students well.

As Year 11 come to the end of their GCSE journey, we are preparing the current Year 9s to begin their journey by selecting which GCSE subjects they wish to study. Thank you to those parents who attended our GCSE Options Evening last week which I hope they found useful. We will start processing the Options forms after we return from Easter.

I trust that all of you have seen the communications that we sent home earlier this week about the proposed move to co-educational status here at Holcombe from September 2024. As we said in our letter, once we receive the details of how parents, carers and students can share their views in Medway’s consultation I will let you know.

We will all return to school on Tuesday 19th April and when we do, please can I again ask for your support to ensure that students return with full school uniform, lanyards and with all necessary equipment. There is much to look forward to in Term 5, not least our delayed production of Oliver JR which I sincerely hope many of you will attend.

Finally, at the end of a term we always say goodbye to colleagues and this term I want to say goodbye and thank you to Mr Bridges, Miss Butler, Mrs Connolly and Mrs Wahab who all leave us today. On behalf of all the students I would like to sincerely thank these colleagues for all of their work with us and wish them well for the future.



Aspire & Achieve Together

My very best wishes to you all for a happy and restful Easter break.

Mr L.Preston
Principal
Holcombe Grammar School

Thinking Ambassadors



This term, our newly established group of Thinking Ambassadors were finally awarded their badges so that they can be identifiable around Holcombe and be recognised for their contribution to our Thinking School ethos.

These students meet weekly, under the care of Ms Ortega, to discuss their use of the Thinking Tools, to design posters for the wider school, take responsibility for Thinking displays around the school, amongst many other diverse activities! The ambassadors will soon be supporting the teacher Thinking Drive Team to run Thinking Weeks for years 8 and 9 (Term 5/6) and are willing to support their fellow students with the application of Thinking Tools when needed.

Well done to this group of students for giving their time in such a thoughtful and productive way!

Equality and Diversity at Holcombe

At the beginning of Term 1 we informed you of our intention to become a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Since that time, we have achieved the Bronze (Rights Committed) award and are now working towards achieving Silver (Rights Aware). As part of this drive, students focus on different articles each week.

This week's articles are:

Article 24 (**health and health services**): Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 27 (**adequate standard of living**): Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

World Water Day takes place on **22 March** every year. It is an annual United Nations observance, started in 1993, that celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people currently living without access to safe water. A core focus of World Water Day is to inspire action towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG, also known as Global Goal) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

At Holcombe our students will spend time focusing on the importance of water to people around the world and what they can do to preserve water supply for future generations in this country. Students will also explore the impact of climate change on the world's water supply. These activities will take place in form time.

The purpose of these activities is to highlight issues that not only impact our local area but also those that impact on a national and global scale.



Comic Relief



On Friday 18 March, students and staff took part in a tag day to raise money for Comic Relief. With the help of our prefect team, collecting the donations, we raised a massive **£830.60** which is the most we have ever raised!

A massive thanks to our prefect team for collecting the donations during form time and to everyone who took part.

Writing a story with a twist – Competition Winners

We had some amazing entries to our short story competition, which asked students to write their own story with a twist, inspired by Roald Dahl's 'Lamb to the Slaughter'. Our amazing KS3 students submitted so many brilliant stories that it was difficult to choose just three! These students should be really proud of their stories, which captured the brief perfectly and demonstrate clever twists. The two runners up were Alex Youseman and Toluwanimi Williams and the winner was Marvin Chander. Well done!

MFL Pancake Competition

This term we had a very successful MFL competition where students submitted their favourite pancake recipes in French and photos of them being creative in their kitchens. The student with the winning entry; Lucas Sanders also brought in crepes for the judges to taste! Taylor Mortimer came second and the third prize was awarded to Robbie Hill. Bravo! Délicieux!



Thinking at Holcombe

The focus this edition is ways to revise and meta-memory techniques.

The ability to retain and recall information is central to improving memory, knowledge, and learning. Quite often, knowing how to revise is one of the barriers to progress. Students will be being taught how to revise in each of their chosen subjects – particularly in KS4 and KS5, however, parents can support from home also.

An awareness of what strategies do and don't work is essential. Techniques that students often gravitate towards, highlighting/underlining and rereading have been shown to have negligible effect in improving a student's ability to recall information later.

Effective memory strategies include:

- ◆ Retrieval Practice
- ◆ Spaced Practice
- ◆ Elaboration
- ◆ Concrete Examples
- ◆ Dual Coding
- ◆ Interleaving

You can find out more about these techniques by watching the following video [How to Study Effectively for School or College \[Top 6 Science-Based Study Skills\] - YouTube](#) . There is also much more information available here: [Downloadable Materials — The Learning Scientists](#)



Interhouse Football

Position	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1st	Ardent	Conquest	Guardian	Conquest
2nd	Guardian	Ardent	Ardent	Guardian
3rd	Barfleur	Guardian	Barfleur	Shannon
4th	Shannon	Shannon	Shannon	Ardent
5th	Conquest	Barfleur	Conquest	Barfleur



Year 13 Biology Trip—Wakehurst Place

On Friday 25 March 2022, 17 of the Year 13 Biologist went on a Biology Field Trip to Wakehurst Place, the Sussex annex of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and the home of the Millennium Seed Bank. The students started the day with a tour and talk of the Millennium Seed Bank where Kew keeps an underground collection of over 2.4 billion seeds from around the world, banking them to conserve them for the future. The students then had to put their knowledge of DNA profiling into practise with a practical activity where they had to identify the DNA profile of plant material impounded by HM Customs and Excise. Did it contravene the CITES rules? After lunch the students finished the day off with an ecology sampling activity to look at the conservation of coppiced woodland and how coppicing leads to increased biodiversity. The day at Wakehurst was a useful and enjoyable day for the students but was only made possible by the staff that attended the trip and made the day run so smoothly.



Holcombe Debates

The Holcombe Debate Society meets every Friday in the Library, and have been doing so throughout this academic year. In this time, we have debated topics on equality, diversity, human rights and the many current affairs that have occurred throughout 2021-22. Mr Claessens would like to sincerely thank our regular members for their weekly attendance in this civic duty. In the next term, we will continue to meet on Fridays at lunch - see you there!



Oliver Jr Production

As you were aware our production of Oliver Jr had to be rescheduled and will now take place on **Monday 9 May** and **Tuesday 10 May**.

<p>MONDAY 9TH MAY & TUESDAY 10TH MAY TICKETS £4.50 PURCHASE TICKETS VIA +PAY</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 6:30PM. DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM. VICTORY ACADEMY, MAGPIE HALL RD, CHATHAM ME4 5JB</p>
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Book, Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart.
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International

We would like to wish you all a lovely Easter break and we look forward to seeing all our students on the 19th April!

Key Dates 2022

April

Friday 1st April	Last Day of Term
Tuesday 19th April	First Day of Term
Tuesday 19th April	School vaccines Year 9
Thursday 28th April	Year 10 Parents Evening