



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing this on Thursday evening having just watched our fantastic production of Shrek JR that was staged at Holcombe this week. After the success of Oliver JR last year this was another amazing event. A wide range of students from years 7 to 13 took part (with a special mention to Violet Dacey who joined us as a student in Year 5!) in putting together a really entertaining show. It was especially pleasing to see the show held in our newly renovated hall which has seen so much improvement in the past 2 years. Nearly 400 guests watched the shows this week and the audience reaction showed that a great evening was had by all. We also welcomed children from New Horizons earlier in the week and received fantastic feedback from their staff. Huge congratulations and thanks to everyone involved, led admirably again by Mrs Willis.

Shrek has been the main event in school this week but a lot of other great things have been happening. This edition of our blog has updates on teambuilding sessions, finance talks, alongside a range of updates from several subject areas. I hope you enjoy reading these updates as much as I have.

We now find ourselves at the end of term 4 and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Easter break.

School will re-open on Monday 17th April at the usual time and we look forward to welcoming everyone back then. When we return we will be having a real push on uniform standards so please can I ask all parents to ensure over the break that your son / daughter have all the correct uniform as we will be sanctioning students who do not have the correct uniform when we return. If you have any queries, our uniform information can be found here: [School Uniform, Holcombe Grammar School](#)

I wish all of you a very happy, healthy Easter.

Mr L. Preston

Principal

Key Dates -

- **Friday 31st March - Last Day of Term 4**
- **Monday 17th April - First Day of Term 5**
- **W/C 17th April - Year 13 Actual Language Oral Examinations**
- **Thursday 20th April - Witness for the Prosecution Trip (Year 12 Law Students)**
- **W/C 24th April - Year 11 Actual Language Oral Examinations**
- **Wednesday 26th April - Year 12 Geography Trip to Stratford**
- **Thursday 27th April - Year 10 Parents Evening**

Year 12 Community Building Session

Year 12's took part in a Community building session, where they played board or card games in groups to get to know each other on a different level. Uno was a huge favourite, with several groups choosing to take up the challenge. Feedback from the session was positive, the students said they enjoyed the relaxed feel to the task, and it was easier to talk about playing a game and using that as common ground, to manage talking to others they may not know so well.



Year 7 Football

Despite being on the wrong end of a 5-3 result the year 7 football team represented themselves and the school magnificently against a strong Rainham Mark side on Tuesday 21st March. A tough first half saw Holcombe losing 4-0, however their resolve and effort levels never dropped and this enabled them to score three quality goals through Louis Fiolka and a brace from Dylan Drabble. As Holcombe pushed for an equaliser the opposition scored a well-deserved last second goal to add gloss to the score line but all of the Holcombe players should be proud of their efforts. Player of the match was shared by goalkeeper Ryan Barber for making a plethora of outstanding saves, and Nasri Adebawo for his tireless work rate and link-up play.

Year 13 Student Finance Talk

On the 14th March, 150 of our Year 13 students had a speaker from the University of Kent come in and talk to them about student finance and how it works when applying for University.

Applying for finance is the next stage for our students in their journey to university, this can be quite a difficult process for some students, and it is down to the students themselves to arrange.

The talk took place in their personal development lesson meaning all could attend, which was helpful, and gave the students a valuable opportunity to understand more about the process and to ask any questions that they might have. The same talk was offered in the evening for Year 13 parents, as parents may have questions about student finance and how it works and needed to know their role in the process and any expectations of them, some may not have gone through the process before and as with everything things change over time. We had a good response to this with well over a quarter of parents attending.

“The student finance talk that the sixth form team put on for us was very useful, as it showed us the actual costs and pay back times on student loans, that are associated with University”

“The finance talk was very informative and helped give more guidance with how to better approach the University application process.”



Deputy Head Boy Interview

Joseph Button is the Deputy head boy of Holcombe Grammar School. He is an enthusiastic and hard-working Captain, who thrives on bringing a team together. His role consists of overseeing everyone and helping them out with their jobs, a very challenging task, however with Joe's resilience and dedication he will surely succeed in aiding the smooth running of the Captains team. On asking Joe, "What is your vision for HGS?"

Joe's response is simple yet powerful, "I want HGS to be a happy place for all years, with fond memories for all". Joe wants the school to become a more inclusive and safer place for everyone to enjoy, he plans to help create events that everyone remembers. Joe encourages everyone to come and talk to the Captains team if they have any problems, they'll always be around and will be more than happy to talk about anything or guide them to an adult who will know the best course of action. Joe is a huge asset to the Sixth Form as a whole and is widely respected.



Art and Design

Exam Dates

GCSE - 3rd and 4th of May

A Level - 10th/11th/12th May

Support sessions continue after school.

The Art and Design are looking for any art supplies you may have at home. It could be pencils, brushes, paints or fabric. Maybe it is a discarded hobby which you could pass on. House paint is also welcome. If you are unsure please email Mrs R Mourino at r.mourino@tsatrust.org.uk

Year 9 Open Evening Volunteers

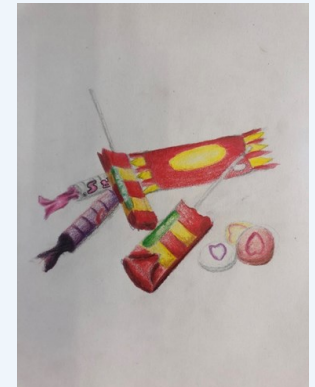
The year 9 options evening on Thursday the 24th of March was an absolute success! Staff members, aided by the Captains team and prefects provided the students with an in-depth insight on the subjects that they could choose for GCSE. All of the students felt that they had a good knowledge of the range of subjects that were on offer and are looking forward to choosing their subjects and starting their courses next year. The refreshments were also a welcome part of the evening, supplied by The Captains team, who even supplied hot drinks to the staff members welcoming the students at the front gate. The left-over biscuits were given to the year 12s at the end of the night and it was safe to say they were gone in seconds. Thank you to all staff and students involved.



Pictured above is Hayden Durling, Joseph Button and Albin Jacob

Year 9 Art

Year 9 students have been looking at how artists use food as an inspiration. Students had a choice of using watercolour or pencil to observe the sweets before starting on a larger painting.



DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition

Well done to the 33 students from Year 10 who all took part in the Bronze Qualifying Expedition over the weekend 17 -19 March 2023. All five groups on the venture performed well and took the torrential rain on Saturday in their stride. All the groups were strong showing good navigation skills and teamwork over the course of the weekend. The students' performance on the expedition is encouraging for the future with Silver DofE enrolments taking place after Easter. I hope that many of these students will sign up for the next level of the Award. Can I also say a big thank you to the staff that helped out over the weekend as the expedition could not run without them, Mr Campbell, Miss King, Mr Rayner, Miss Wilson and Mr Zygmant.

Sixth Form Biology Trip to Wakehurst Place

On Friday 17 March 2023, 28 of the Year 13 Biologists 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 student spent the day completing two workshops on DNA profiling and Woodland Ecology. The students had to put their knowledge of DNA profiling into practice with a practical activity where they had to identify the DNA profile that they had generated of plant material impounded by HM Customs and Excise. Did it contravene the CITES rules? After lunch the students completed the second of the workshops on woodland ecology by completing an ecology sampling activity to look at the conservation of coppiced woodland and how coppicing leads to increased biodiversity. The students also managed to squeeze in a talk and tour 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 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.



Peace Computational Art

Students in Year 8 have been focusing and developing skills in relation to digital images and the tools used to create these. Students have been using Inkscape – a free piece of software – that allows anyone to learn the editing, creation and manipulation skills used within the media industry.

As the practical part of their end of topic assessment, students in 8Ar were asked to create a piece of digital artwork that represented their interpretation of peace. As can be seen from the sample of work below, these students rose to the challenge producing some mindful and well-developed pieces.

Well done 8Ar!



Charlie Duncan-Woolard



Joseph Garofalo

Please see the next page for more.

Peace Computational Art



Harvey Luckhurst



Harry Marshall and Honour Oshinowo

Your Journey to Your Future

When you started your education you started your long journey towards your future career. This news letter from 'speakers for schools' has some useful links and video clips to help you confirm your next steps. It might help you to:

- Learn about a wider range of career options
- Get in front of big-name businesses wherever you live
- Boost your skills and confidence
- Get evidence for your CV or personal statement
- Find careers that really suit you
- And can also get you free support to help you reach your potential



SPRING

End of Term Student Newsletter

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- Learn about a wider range of career options
- Get in front of big-name businesses wherever you live
- Boost your skills and confidence
- Get evidence for your CV or personal statement
- Find careers that really suit you
- Get free support to help you reach your potential



INSPIRATION

Our Inspiration programme gives young people from state schools and colleges like yours the opportunity to meet high-profile speakers to help inspire students to fuel their ambition.

Check out our upcoming virtual broadcasts



Virtual talks

DISCOVER MORE WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES [HERE](#)
OR REGISTER DIRECTLY ON OUR USER PORTAL [HERE](#)
www.speakersforschools.org

Follow us on:
  

Sixth Form Chemistry Students

At Holcombe Grammar School, we are absolutely delighted with the outstanding results of our Year 12 and 13 students in the International Chemistry Olympiad. It was a highly challenging competition, and our students worked hard to achieve our best ever return of a phenomenal 2 Gold, 7 Silver and 11 Bronze awards.

We are particularly thrilled with the success of Euan Rudd and Matthew Cross, who both achieved Gold awards, as well as the notable success of some of our Year 12 students, including Tanveer Singh, Nuhaid Shakil, Hur Naqvi, Sami Badran, Pramath Kamblu, Jacen Byford and Andrew Pratt who all achieved Bronze awards. These results are a testament to the hard work, dedication and ambition of our students, and we are immensely proud of their accomplishment.

The International Chemistry Olympiad is an amazing opportunity for our students to push themselves, develop their skills and gain recognition for their hard work. We are thrilled that our students have done so well and look forward to seeing continued success in the future.

See below for the full results:

Gold Awards

Euan Rudd and Matthew Cross

Silver Awards

Jake Kelleher, Harry Sidebottom, George Wells, Rhiannon Sesay, Kayleigh Shaw, Man Inderpreet Singh and Iyioma Ekhosuehi

Bronze Awards

Nikesh Gurung, Joseph Owolabi, Angus Dainty, Tanveer Singh, Nuhaid Shakil, Hur Naqvi, Praise Laogun, Jacen Byford, Andrew Pratt, Pramath Kamblu and Sami Badran



Year 13 Product Design

Our Year 13 Product Design students are now in the finishing process for their products before they are evaluated. Below are Mimin Mathews's collapsible table and Ishna Patel's in door hanging garden.



MFL

Students have been using the reading books in MFL to practise their reading and decoding skills in lessons. There is a broad variety of children's books, comic books and novels which can be borrowed, depending on your interests and skill level. The benefits of reading in a foreign language are that you are exposing yourself to wider vocabulary and you will develop your proficiency in understanding and your confidence in reading out loud too. This will also really help your pronunciation skills - an extremely useful tool for the new GCSE! Come along to the S block and see what you would like to read next!



Personal Development

As we complete our fourth term of weekly Personal Development lessons, we have welcomed numerous volunteers and visiting speakers to cover different themes of the PSHE curriculum.

Year 7 met David, an ex-student of our school who now works for Kent Fire & Rescue Service to discuss how to stay safe and avoid dangerous situations with fire. More information and career opportunities can be found at [Kent Fire and Rescue Service | Kent Fire and Rescue Service \(fire-uk.org\)](https://www.kentfireandrescue.org)

Year 10 spoke with a local River Thames RNLi crew member to learn about water safety and strategies to keep one another safe. You can find more information and the opportunity to contribute to this charity at [RNLi - Royal National Lifeboat Institution - Saving Lives at Sea.](https://www.rnli.org)

Years 11, 12 and 13 have used a STEM learning focus to understand the impacts of nutrition, sleep and alcohol using their science and mathematics skills. Their calculations enabled students to understand the influence of lifestyle choices on health and well-being.

Two of our Year 12 students, Megan and Ryan, produced some lessons and filmed their own instruction videos on First Aid to share with years 7, 8 and 9 students. They demonstrated CPR, using a defibrillator and using the recovery position, which students practiced in class with CPR manikins.

Year 12 got together with a team of Medway school nurses who explained aspects of sexual health including STIs and were offered advice on testing and self-care. Further advice and support on substance use, physical, mental and sexual health issues can be accessed through [Young People \(11-19 years\) :: Medway Community](https://www.youngpeople.org.uk)

Personal Development



Kent Fire & Rescue Service



Lifeboats



Term 4: Safety

Term 4 Inter-House Results

Year 7

	Hockey	Basketball	Handball	Total Points	Overall Position
Ardent	2nd	5th	3rd	8	4th
Barfleur	4th	1st	1st	12	1st
Conquest	2nd	4th	2nd	10	2nd
Guardian	1st	2nd	5th	10	2nd
Shannon	5th	3rd	4th	6	5th

Year 9

	Hockey	Basketball	Handball	Total Points	Overall Position
Ardent	1st	5th	1st	11	1st
Barfleur	3rd	1st	3rd	11	1st
Conquest	4th	3rd	4th	7	4th
Guardian	2nd	4th	5th	7	4th
Shannon	5th	2nd	2nd	9	3rd

Year 8

	Hockey	Basketball	Handball	Total Points	Overall Position
Ardent	4th	2nd	2nd	10	3rd
Barfleur	3rd	3rd	4th	8	4th
Conquest	5th	4th	3rd	6	5th
Guardian	2nd	1st	2nd	13	1st
Shannon	1st	5th	1st	11	2nd

Year 10

	Hockey	Basketball	Handball	Total Points	Overall Position
Ardent	1st	2nd	5th	10	3rd
Barfleur	4th	2nd	1st	11	2nd
Conquest	2nd	1st	2nd	13	1st
Guardian	3rd	4th	3rd	8	4th
Shannon	5th	4th	4th	5	5th