

Dear parents and carers,

Summer has well and truly arrived this week! The football season is over, Glastonbury and Wimbledon are around the corner...and at Holcombe the exam desks will very soon be cleared away for another year!

My first mention this week must therefore go to our brilliant Year 11 and Year 13 students who have now very nearly completed their GCSE / A Level examinations. There are a significant amount of examinations that students need to complete these days, both at GCSE and at A Level, and by and large the students have coped very well with the demands placed upon them. We are really looking forward to seeing them all again to enjoy a celebration with them on their results days which are Thursday 17th August (for A level) and Thursday 24th August (for GCSE).

However we never stand still and this week our Year 10s have been completing their end of year examinations and getting used to the examination routines and systems that they will need to follow next year. They have been excellent this week and I hope will soon receive some positive results.

The next few weeks will see the traditional Term 6 activities including Induction Days for new 6th formers and new Year 7s, Term 6 sports competitions and the very welcome return of our Founders Day for the first time since 2019. In addition to planning all these activities, as a school we are turning our attention to next year and will be talking with students in the next two weeks about the 'culture' here at Holcombe; what sort of a school are we now and what sort of a school do we want to be in future?

This blog is a bumper edition and I have really enjoyed reading all the articles detailing the huge range of work going on here this term. I hope you do too.

This edition also contains some really interesting community events coming up soon.

Best wishes and I will look forward to updating you further in 2 weeks time

Mr L. Preston Principal

Key Dates -

- Tuesday 20th June Students leave at 12:20pm
- Wednesday 28th June Year 7 Chessington Trip
- Thursday 29th June Year 7 Parents Evening
- Thursday 20th July Last Day of Term 6
- Friday 21st July Staff Development Day

Medway Gaming Bus

At the end of last term our year 7 students spent some time on the Medway Gaming Bus. It was a fun experience for them to play games and they also spoke to staff from the Medway Prevent Team, Medway Youth Services and the Police about the potential dangers of online gaming.

The Gaming Bus was a really fun experience, we all had fun playing games together. There was a big variety of games and we were excited to play games that we had not played before. I would love to do this again at some point. Tate Fitzgerald Year 7

The staff at Medway were very impressed with the student's behaviour throughout the day and they engaged well with all of the staff.



Travel Smart and Safe Railway Project

We were fortunate to be offered the opportunity to work with Medway Youth Services and South Eastern Railways to find out what our young people thought about travelling on the train and what needed improving. Students from all year groups joined together to give their views and suggestions and worked together to draw up a Railway and Public Transport Agreement which will be displayed in the school.

'I enjoyed the Travel Smart and Safe Programme that ran for 3 weeks in school. Roy, Kimone and Sanchez came into our school and we discussed what we thought needed improvement or tweaking on trains and train station platforms including rules, punishments and expected behaviour. This gave us a chance to be honest and say what we thought and as though we had a voice in the matter. When someone was speaking, we all listened and took their opinions on board. When answering a question, nobody was made to think that their answers were unimportant. It was inclusive with students of all ages and year groups.

After we said our ideas, they suggested ways to bring our ideas to reality. This included writing a handwritten letter with all our signatures to our Member of Parliament with what we want and why.

The sessions were interactive as we answered and created surveys and the staff from Medway and South Eastern Railways would come and sit with us in small groups to help us brainstorm ideas.' Emmanuel Osanyingbemi, Year 9

Roy Smith, Manager of Medway Youth Services, was impressed with the engagement of the students and looks forward to receiving a copy of the letter that they will be sending to Tracey Crouch MP.

Year 12 UCAS Fair

Last week, over 150 Year 12 students attended the 2023 UCAS Fair as Detling Show-ground. The time has come again where Sixth Form students have started their UCAS applications and attending the UCAS Fair allowed them to meet representatives from over 60 Universities, to ask questions and gather information about courses on offer. Two senior students have shared their experiences after the event:

Prior to attending the UCAS Discovery event, I had a strong desire to go university for an undergraduate course but did not hold the confidence of my own knowledge to choose where I wanted to go or what I even wanted to do. The UCAS discovery event allowed me to go find my confidence and find the answers I was looking for. Being able to talk face-to-face with Uni representatives allowed them to give insight into the courses I already had an interest in and give clarity on aspects which were not as clear on online information. One example of this was my interest in International Business Management which was told to include a period of study abroad. Being unaware of what this would entail, the representative informed me that I would have freedom choice as to where i would like to go, noting many choose to go to nations like Canada and The USA as well as staying closer in Europe. This has helped me decide upon whether this would suit myself and my aspirations. Also, the event showed greater alternatives to my initial interests as Real Estate courses were also shown and explained. Overall, this experience has aided in my university application process as it has given expertise in deciding what avenues i should take whilst exploring higher education. - Callum Riley

"When I went to the UCAS Discovery event I was set on doing apprenticeship or going into the world of work however after picking up the free prospectus', pens and tote bags and quizzing admissions staff as well as current students about university applications and entry requirements, different courses and why I should go to university and it has made me take my prelims/mocks more seriously so that when I apply I am one step closer to heading to university.

I seriously wasn't thinking about university at all, however, after seeing how many different universities there are, how many different courses there are to do and how much there is to offer. I now can say I have a better idea of what I want to do post sixth form and what I need to achieve those goals." - Oliver Tomlin

The Holcombe Grammar Sixth Form Team strongly encourage starting applications today to master the art of an outstanding personal statement or, to ensure enough/appropriate work experience or wider reading has taken place, which may be a vital addition to their statements. We have scheduled time to allow students to complete some of this in school and student have already accessed Unifrog to help identify appropriate courses. This is an exciting time for our Sixth Form students!



Design and Technology

Holcombe Design technology are happy to give you a glimpse of just a few of their fantastic practical outcomes. These and many more products and Art will be on show at the end of the year Art and Design technology show on the 13th of July. More details to come.

A level













Triple Science Students Excel in National Scientific Thinking Challenge

Year 10 Triple Science students recently showcased their scientific prowess in the National Scientific Thinking Challenge. Facilitated by the prestigious University of Warwick, this online competition tested the students' ability to apply their scientific knowledge and understanding to a diverse range of contexts, models, and phenomena.

The competition yielded impressive results, with our students achieving remarkable success across various award categories. Two students, Kamso Okafor and Kiran Turner, distinguished themselves by earning Gold awards, placing them among the top 10% nationally. Their exceptional performance is a testament to their dedication and scientific acumen.

Additionally, we three students secured Silver awards, signifying their place within the top 25% nationally. Congratulations to Howard Johnson, Anthony Osalusi and Ali Naqvi for their outstanding achievement.

Furthermore, we celebrate the remarkable efforts of eleven students who were achieved Bronze awards, positioning them among the top 40% nationwide. Commendations go to Rauri Blanchard, Thiszn Srikanesarasa, Joshua Oweikeyi-Oki, Michael Akinje, Omar Muhammad, Jakub Sahely, Ethan Gosney, Ayo Oyewole, Orlando Sarkodie, Manny Ndoh, and Lucas Beresford for their exceptional performances.

These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication and hard work of both the students and their science teachers, with particular thanks to Miss King and Mr Campbell for their help and support in facilitating the challenge for our students, reinforcing the importance of scientific inquiry and critical thinking skills.

The Holcombe Grammar School community congratulates all the participants of the National Scientific Thinking Challenge for their remarkable achievements.



Pride Month at HGS How you could get involved

Anti Homophobia Poster Competition

It's Not Okay!

Design a poster to combat homophobia with the theme: It's Not Okay!



- Help us fight off homophobia around school by creating an anti discriminatory poster that will be displayed around the school!
- All entries will receive 2 reward points
- Winners will receive a prize and 5 reward points!
- Email all entries to (year 7 and 8)
- Email all entries to <u>ratio satisfudent orally</u> (year 9, 10, and 12)
- Make sure to add your name, year group and form/form tutor when you submit your entry
- All entries to be in by 7th July, winners will be decided on 10th July











The PRIDE Competition

MYC is proud to present our first ever 'PRIDE' Competition!

This year's theme is 'PRIDE: A message'

It could be a message to the future, your younger self, society as a whole, literally anything. Express your creativity in any medium or your choosing – articles, dance, art, music, poetry, spoken word, fashion, animation, podcasts...the list is endless!

This competition is open to everyone (11-18)

Word Limit: 500 words

Prize: £20 voucher of your choice

Deadline: Monday 3rd July

Winner will be announced on 21st July

Email all entries with your name and age to: myccampaign@gmail.com

Term 6 Inter-house

Year 7

Date: **TUESDAY 20**TH **JUNE**

Periods: 1 & 2

Number of respondents to student voice survey: 92 Competitions: Touch Rugby, Athletics, Short Tennis

Activity	Kit required	Number of participants	Location
Touch Rugby	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, train- ers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	3G
Athletics	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, trainers ers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	Field
Short Tennis	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, train- ers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	Year 7 playground

Year 8

Date: MONDAY 19TH JUNE

Periods: 1 & 2

Competitions: Athletics, Short Tennis, Softball

wear PE kit to school on the day of your competition

Activity	Kit required	Number of participants	Location
Softball	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, trainers ers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	3G
Athletics	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, trainers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	Field
Short Tennis	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, trainers ers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	Year 7 playground

^{*}wear PE kit to school on the day of your competition*

Term 6 Inter-house Part 2

Year 9

Date: **THURSDAY 29**TH **JUNE**

Periods: 1 & 2

Competitions: Athletics, Short Tennis, Softball

wear PE kit to school on the day of your competition

Activity	Kit required	Number of participants	Location
Softball	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, trainers ers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	3G
Athletics	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, trainers ers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	Field
Short Tennis	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, trainers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	Year 7 playground

Year 10

Date: WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE

Periods: **1 & 2**

Competitions: Softball, Athletics, Short Tennis

wear PE kit to school on the day of your competition

Activity	Kit required	Number of participants	Location
Softball	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, trainers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	3G
Athletics	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, train- ers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	Field
Short Tennis	Short sleeved PE top, shorts, trainers (Holcombe PE tracksuit optional)	8-10	Year 7 playground



Bemix Drop In Session

Sittingbourne Saturday 24th June

1-3pm
The Pulse
29 Park Road

For students with EHCP/want to start working

Drop in - no need to book!

contact referrals@bemix.org



Bemix Drop In Session

Sittingbourne
Saturday 29th June

6-8pm
The Pulse
29 Park Road

For students with EHCP/want to start working

Drop in - no need to book!

contact referrals@bemix.org

Immunisation Service Catch-up Sessions

The NHS School-Aged Immunisation Service is delivering a tetanus, diphtheria and polio and a Meningitis (MenACWY) Catch-Up session to students in Year 9-10, as well as a HPV Catch-Up session to students in Year 8-10 in school on 22/06/2023. If the team has consent on record for your child they will be vaccinated on this visit. If you have not previously consented and would like your child to receive the TdIPV MenACWY Vaccination or the HPV Vaccination, please visit their website via the following link: https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms. This link also provides information on Vaccinations you may find useful.

Year 7 French Lessons

Year 7 French did some singing this week in their lessons while we were studying sports and activities. Singing in another language is a great way to practise your pronunciation and it helps you remember your vocabulary too! You can also come along to French club on a Wednesday lunch time in S15 if you want to have a go at singing in French yourself!

Sixth Form Law Lessons

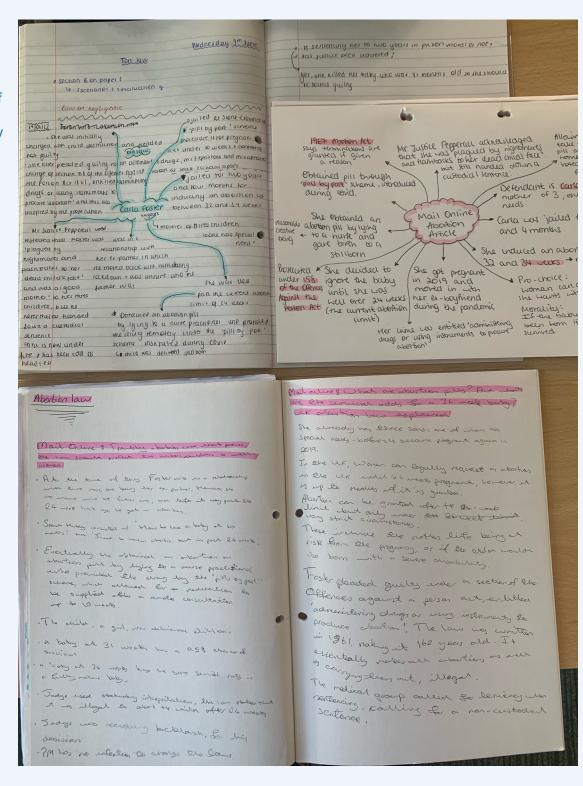
Students have been studying the Law of Negligence in Tort Law this week - by recalling knowledge/understanding from previous topics covered and linking them to this area of common law. They have been enhancing their skill set by reading and breaking down information from different sources (i.e. articles) to create detailed notes. A skill required for higher level of study.

Students have also reviewed current affairs in Law (abortion) - which are being discussed/disputed and challenged in Parliament - and linking to the areas of law they have studied. A skill required for higher study and LAW03.

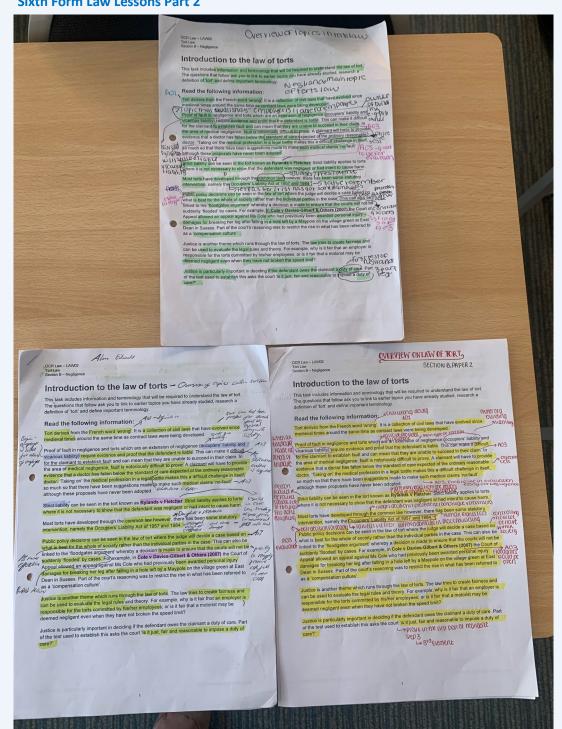
The links below are to articles that the students have been using to complete the tasks. Examples of work follow on the next page

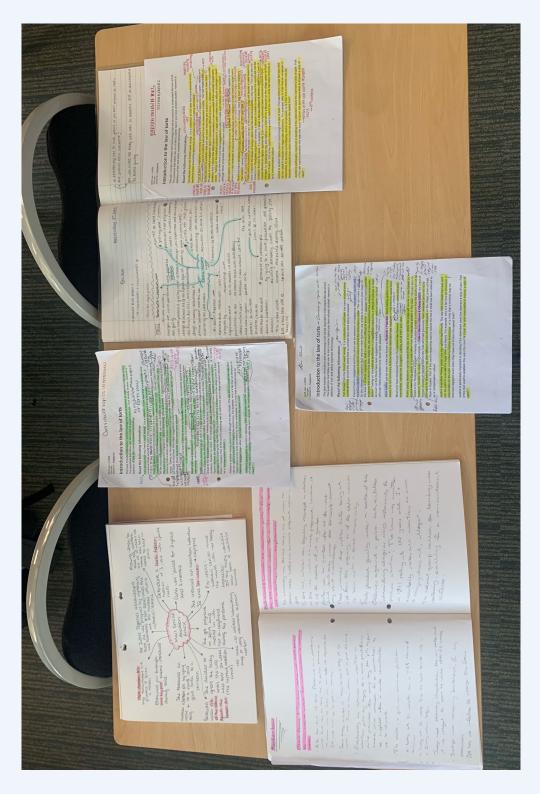
What are abortion pills? And can a 34-week baby survive? UK abortion law explained | Daily Mail Online

Senior Tory MP seeks abortion law rethink after mother jailed - BBC News



Sixth Form Law Lessons Part 2





Police Focus Group

Superintendent Ray Quiller and Sergeant Dionne Ridley from Kent Police visited the school to speak to some of our Criminology students about their experiences with the police. They had previously spoken to members of the public and asked our Year 12 students to be part of a focus group so that they could reach out to a younger demographic.

Folahan Olayede was part of the focus group

'For me it was an interesting and eye-opening conversation. The issue with media is that it projects a lot of negative stigmas with the police and not enough about what the police force is supposed to be about. Having my experience with the police being previously stopped and searched, and this conversation, I was able to see what the overall priority is and although not all people are meant to be in this job the majority are there to protect the wider public and make sure justice remains possible'.

Superintendent Ray Quiller, a former student of Holcombe, has invited students to go to the police station to speak to officers and look at the different departments. This will be really beneficial to their Criminology studies and we look forward to arranging this in the new academic year.

"The discussion with the police was quite exhilarating as it showed me the police in a good light, in comparison to how the media show the police. The discussion was very enlightening as it helped me to understand the troubles and how much we benefit from the good of the police force such as: stop and searches helping to crack down on drug and knife crimes."



Year 12 Sociology Debate on Childhood

As part of their A level course learning about the social construction of "childhood", the students debated the motion 'The position of children has improved'. Both classes took the discussion in a different direction, demonstrating the breadth of issues relating to children's rights and experiences, in the world today. The students demonstrated moral habits of compassion and respect, alongside intellectual habits of listening, questioning and judgement.

In one class the debate was won by the 'in favour' team, mostly on the grounds that children's participation in education has increased so that around 90 percent of the world's population had completed a primary education in 2020, whereas only 66 percent had attained a secondary education (Statista, 2022). In the other class, the debate was won by the 'against' team. Their discussion focussed on the experiences of childhood globally, in particular the problem of child labour. These debates coincided with World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June, to end child labour, which the International Labour Organisation estimates affects 160 million children globally.



Child labour is the exploitation of children who are deprived of their childhood by work that prevents them from attending school or causes physical, mental, or social harm. Children are especially vulnerable to injuries in their early developmental years, even though physical and mental health problems may not be evident for years.

Family poverty and ill-equipped schools are two major reasons children in low-income countries are in the labour force. However, it isn't confined to low-income countries. Child exploitation is a problem in all countries, including ours. More than half of all child labourers live in middle-income countries. In our society, child labour happens via grooming for county lines exploitation or other such hazardous work that causes injury or moral corruption. To learn more visit https://www.worldvision.org/child-protection-news-stories/child-labor-facts

The Real Life Autism Course

Thanks to funding from Kent Community Foundation and the #TheMedwayParentingSupportFund we are now able to offer our Real Life Autism Course for FREE to families in Medway. The next round starts on Thursday 22nd June at 12pm This is a six week, virtual (via Zoom), interactive course delivered by experts with relevant experience. There are no more than 12 participants in each group plus 2 family support advisors.

Each week the sessions will be geared around a different topic:

week 1, Introductions, autism and the co-occurring conditions

week 2, sensory processing

week 3, anxiety, stimming and masking

week 4, education

week 5, communication and behaviour

week 6, Q & A- ask us

For more information or to book please email admin@autismapprentice.co.uk

We have attached the form to the email.

The Real Life Autism Course

free to families in

Medway

next round starting on

Thurs 22nd June 12-1pm

please email admin@autismapprentice.co.uk to book









Outdoor Multicultural Event

An outdoor multicultural event is taking place in Dover this weekend, where children/young people can learn about different cultures through circus skills.

Saturday 17th June between 10am-5pm

Address:

Pencester Gardens

Pencester Road

Dover

CT16 1BS

Chess Updates

Year 12's Adam Magni, SCT and joint creator of the Chess Tournament awards Key Stage 3 Winner Isaac Hirshler his trophy for his success in the KS3 battle. Isaac beat a much-admired opponent Harry Cook, who had provided much entertainment and surprise in the heats in the lead up. Harry took the defeat in a true gentlemanly manner, shaking Isaac's hand and wishing him well in the Grand Master tournament. Isaac received his trophy and an Amazon voucher for his victory.



Chess Updates 2

The Chess tournament Key Stage 4 final, was full of emotions. Both competitors were hyped up and ready, with both parties claiming to be the better player. In the end, Baraytuk Aydin's calm demeanour paid off as he outplayed Omar Elmasry for the win. A large crowd had gathered for this final as there had been a lot of tension built around the game, both students did not disappoint and played outstandingly.



Year 12's Adam Magni SCT, presented Cameron Reader his Key Stage 5 winner's trophy, after the exciting final played against Harper Able. Considering both boys were in the middle of their A-Level exams, they never missed a heat, and were early for their final. The KS5 following had grown considerably as the heats went on, this final was definitely a long awaited one. Cameron was clearly the more nervous, but Harper's calming influence soon put Cameron at ease, and he managed to pip him at the post with his play on the day.

The "Wildcard" match between the runners up of KS3 and KS5 chose the opponent for the Final in the Grand Master tournament against Cameron Reader. Harry Cook Year 9 played Harper Able Year 13 in a close match, with lots of support the boys played a serious game, with surprise moves, Harry held his own despite his nerves and took the game to the end, when Harper played a move that Harry just could not get out of, Harry stood and shook Harper's hand, both boys showing outstanding sportsmanship and making their key stages proud.



Mr. Preston awarded the winner of the Grand Master Chess final, Cameron Reader the newly named "Magni-Reader Shield" that will stay in the school for years to come, with the Chess Tournament now being run yearly. The shield has been named after the student creator of the Tournament Adam Magni and the first winner of the Grand Master tournament. Something that both boys can be very proud of. The chess tournament, created along with Miss Bloomfield and her organisational skills, has been an outstanding success. Miss Bloomfield and Adam have run 72 games involving all three key stages and even staff. We look forward to running the Tournament again next year.

The Grand Master final was lived streamed to the whole school in a Personal Development lesson and was watched by many.



Dan Osborne, James Argent, Kai Fagan, James Arthur, Jake Wood, Danny Hatchard, Calum Best, Jamie O'Hara, Chet Sket, Fintz, James Hill, Matt Lapinskas, Dean Gaffney, Sam Bailey, Woody, Billy Brown. Celebrity players subject to work commitments





£12 PER TICKET BOOKING FEE APPLIES

Year 9 STEM Trip

MCS Projects Ltd are holding The Kent Science and Technology Challenge Days, at The University of Greenwich, on Friday 16th June, 2023. Twelve Year 9 students will work together in mixed school teams of four, to undertake activities that give them an insight into some of the topics that they could study at university. Activities are designed to develop skills of planning and team work. Throughout the day students complete three out of four activities:

The Robotics Challenge: each team is provided with a Lego Mindstorm EV3 robot, which they programme in order to navigate around a course. Each robot is equipped with ultrasonic and infrared sensors. The E-FIT challenge: having witnessed a simulated crime, each team uses the latest E-FIT 6 facial recognition software to create a computer image of the thief. They consider problems with memory and facial recognition. The Vehicle Challenge: each team designs and constructs a simple battery powered vehicle from kit pieces, considering power transmission, speed and torque. Each team's vehicle is timed between starting and finishing lines. The Medical Diagnostics Challenge: each team undertakes the role of a doctor, diagnosing conditions suffered by simulated patients. They test samples, evaluate brain function, examine X-rays and brain scans. They consider how the brain works, seeing equipment operated directly by the brain.

Plaques are awarded to the winners of each activity and the overall winners receive trophies. The overall winning team proceeds to a regional Final. At the end of the event, participants can put any questions about university to a team of students.



Book of the Week

Dylan and his mother, Rowenna, are isolated survivors of a nuclear war. They struggle to negotiate the challenges of living off the land and being self-sufficient and the resulting impact that their new lifestyle has upon their mental health. An engaging story of how two very different people develop strategies and adapt to the responsibilities of ensuring their family's safety and survival.

The Eternal Return of the Eternal Return of Clara Ha Beternal Return of Clara For the Eternal Return of Clara Hart The Eternal Finds

Key Stage 4

Book of the Week

After witnessing the death of Clara, Spence finds himself caught in an endless time loop where he is forced to relive and reevaluate the same 24 hours which culminates in Clara's death. Soon he finds himself questioning the behaviour of the people he holds most dear. Are there ways Spence can influence and change the outcome?

"What a voice. An amazing debut." - Sue Wallman, author of I Know You Did It

LOUISE FINCH