

ISSUE 1

15th September 2023



HOLCOMBE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first blog of this new academic year. We hope you like our new layout which we have been working on for some time.

I must start with some sad news. Over the summer we heard that Michael Bailey, our Chair of Governors for many years, had very sadly passed away. Michael has been a rock of support to myself, to Holcombe and to TSAT for many, many years now and he will be deeply missed. On Thursday 14th September I was privileged to attend his funeral at Rochester Cathedral which was a wonderful testament to this kind, supportive man. As a school we will be considering how we can commemorate his memory, so he will never be forgotten here.

Academic year 23/24 has started extremely well here. We have been especially impressed with the start that our new Year 7s and Year 12s have made. I would like to remind parents and carers of the upcoming information evenings:

- Year 12 and 13 on Thursday 21st September.  
Year 12 from 5:00 to 6:00 and Year 13 from 6:00 to 7:00
- Year 11 on Wednesday 27th September from 5:00 to 6:00
- Year 7 on Thursday 28th September from 3:30 to 5:30

Those of you who were members of our school community last year will have become familiar with ClassCharts – the system we use to record good / bad behaviour, attendance and so on. If you are new to the school this year you will need to be able to log in to ClassCharts to access a wide range of information which will be useful for you in supporting your child over the year. However what is new this year for everyone is that ClassCharts is now where all h/w will be recorded. Students and parents/carers will be able to view h/w assignments through ClassCharts without the need to use Teams, as we did last year. However students will still retain Teams logins as we will be using it for other things across the year. There is information about ClassCharts inside.

Also, whilst discussing digital learning, can I remind all parents that all of our meet-the-teacher parents meetings will be virtual again this year, as they have been for the past two years. Details will be sent out to all parents in advance of each evening

This blog contains several updates which we hope you will find useful including information about music tuition, Sea Cadets, sports clubs and the outcomes of our amazing summer building projects (2 new science laboratories and a new library).

We hope you find this blog informative and I will look forward to updating you again in two weeks time.

Mr L.Preston  
Headteacher

# CONTENTS

Our students have been involved in a number of brilliant activities over the couple of weeks. Please take a moment to read through these fantastic opportunities.

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## KEY DATES

### *Term 1*

- **Monday 18th September**
  - Year 13 Law Trip to Parliament
- **Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th September**
  - Year 8 Trip to Gurdwara Temple
- **Thursday 21st September**
  - Sixth Form Settling In Evening
- **Wednesday 27th September**
  - Year 11 Information Evening (for more information please see the Year 11 pages)
- **Thursday 28th September**
  - Year 7 Settling In Evening
- **Saturday 7th October**
  - Year 6 into 7 Open Morning

## STAY CONNECTED

### Follow Us on Social Media

See all of the enjoyable and engaging activities we get involved in throughout the year.

Follow us on our social media channels.



[@TSAT - Holcombe Grammar School](#)



[@TSATHolcombe](#)



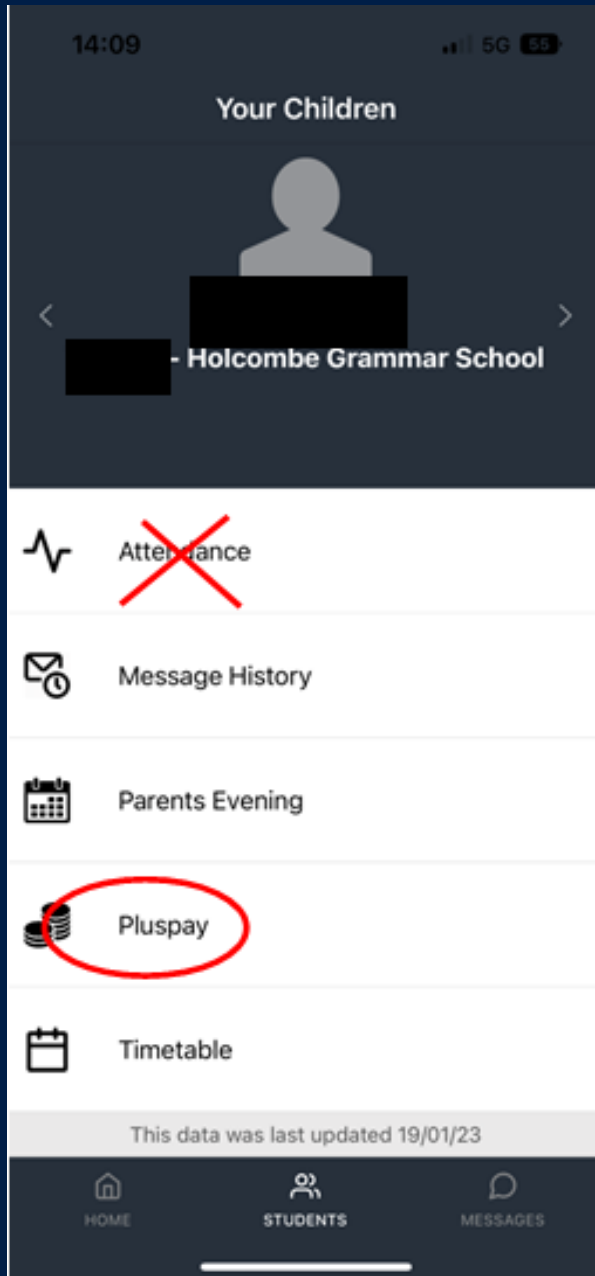
[@tsat\\_holcombegrammarschool](#)



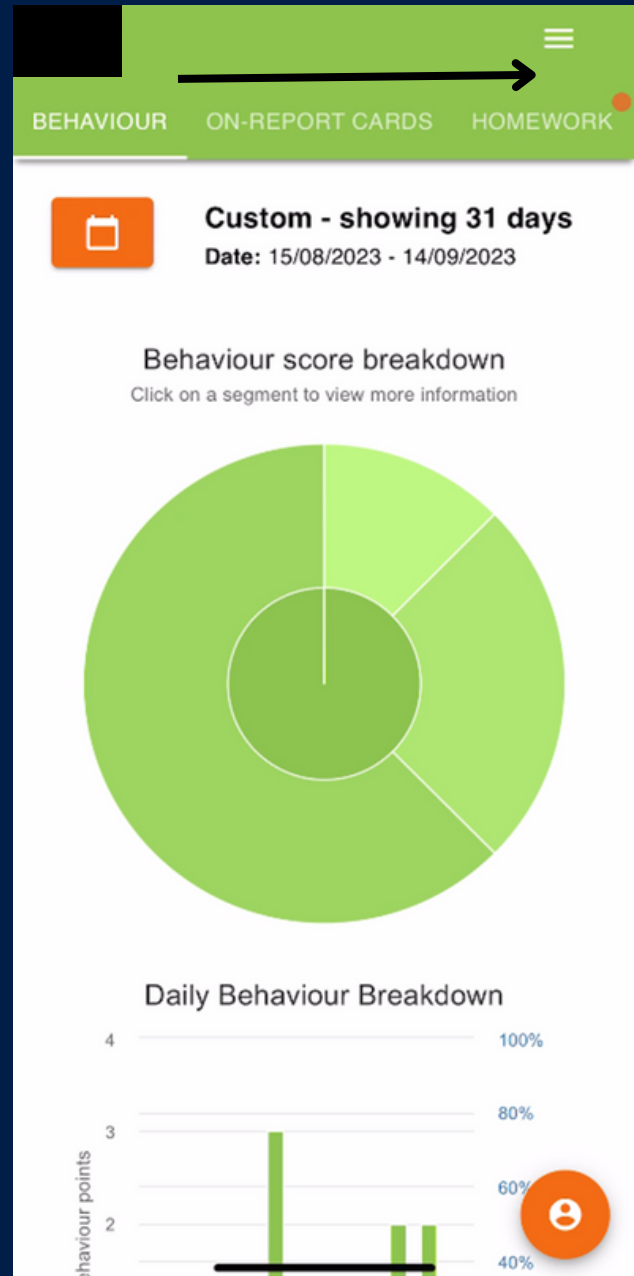
# REPORTING ABSENCES



A gentle reminder that absences and appointments are reported on the Classcharts app.



Although attendance is shown on the MyEd app (seen above), MyEd is mainly used for payments through +Pay. This includes dinner top-up and trips.



Absences, including appointments, are reported on the Classcharts app (seen above), please scroll along the green bar at the top of the screen to find 'report absence'.

# THINKING AT HOLCOMBE - THINKERS' KEY



Have you heard of Tony Ryan's Thinkers' Keys? They were devised to help make learning more enjoyable, memorable, and creative. There are twenty different Keys which provide short activities to engage students and can be used at any point in the lesson. See below for the Holcombe rebranded Thinkers' Keys and how they can be used.

## Thinking Keys Logos



### **Picture Key**

eg: A picture, drawing, or simple diagram which has no relevance to the area of study is given and links between them are worked out.



### **Predictions Key**

eg: Give a series of predictions in regard to a particular situation, product or set of circumstances.



### **Question Key**

eg: Start with the answer and try to list 5 questions which could be linked with that answer.



### **Reverse Key**

eg: Place words such as cannot, never and not in sentences which are commonly displayed in a listing format.



### **Ridiculous Key**

eg: make a ridiculous statement that would be virtually impossible to implement and then attempt to actually substantiate it.



### **Variations Key**

eg: Employ a special group of words where each question starts with "How many ways can you..."



### **What if... Key**

eg: Ask any 'What if' question. They can be serious or frivolous. You could use an ideas wheel, this can be very good for introducing a new topic and can be set as a Co-Task. It can generate lots of innovative ideas.

Design by M. Wells

## Thinking Keys Logos



### **Construction Key**

eg: Set up a wide variety of construction problemsolving tasks and use lots of readily available materials, past knowledge, quotes and sources to build your solution.



### **Different Uses Key**

eg: Put your imagination to work and list some widely different uses for a chosen object from your area of study



### **Disadvantages Key**

eg: List disadvantages and improvements for a chosen object/idea.



### **Forced Relationships Key**

eg: Develop a solution to a problem by employing a number of dissimilar objects/ideas (Try to use 4 objects/ideas)



### **However Key**

eg: Put aside what you have been told, imagine something changed, or was not true, what would be the alternative reality, what impact might that have on a sequence of events, a moment in time, the plot of a story etc



### **Interpretation Key**

eg: Describe an unusual situation and then think of some different explanations for the existence of that situation.



### **Inventions Key**

eg: Encourage to develop inventions which are constructed in an unusual manner. Outlined and planned on paper before possibly constructing or performing a solution.

Design by M. Wells

# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



On Thursday evening, the Holcombe Grammar School Design and Technology department hosted two groups of local primary school pupils as part of the Year 6 Mastery Taster Sessions. They took on the Squeezy Torch Project; a mini design and electronics task. The pupils had 40 minutes to identify different types of electronic components before designing their 'Squeezy Character' on a Holcombe Grammar D&T logoed template. They then put together a simple LED circuit and housed this in their creation. All pupils completed the challenge and left with a huge smile on their face and an 'en-LIGHT-ened' experience of what is on offer in the D&T department here at Holcombe Grammar.



# YEAR 8 SPORTING SUCCESS



Jed Cunningham in Year 8 has spent the summer gaining multiple achievements in watersports.

- Stage 1, 2 and 3 in sailing (with stage 4 in October)
- Stage 1 and 2 in Go Row
- Stage 1 in Windsurfing
- Paddle sport Discover (with Safer) and Explore

The qualifications with Sea Cadets were with new instructors, new cadets and at different units. None of this phased him!

On the 9th September, Jed joined Wilsonian Sailing Club where he hopes to learn Race Sailing and Power Boating. He also had his first sail on the River Medway.

Well done Jed and good luck!



# MUSIC LESSONS AT HOLCOMBE



This year, the music department will be working closely with Dynamics, the Medway music Hub to provide a variety of Music lessons including Guitar, Bass, Drums, Brass and Woodwind. Lessons can be either single lessons or as part of a small group. They are able to provide you with instruments for your lessons with them if the instruments are available.

Please let Mr Zwanzig or Miss Pathberiya know if you are interested.



The Medway Music Association is providing free online Music Technology lessons for students ages 9-18 each Tuesday from 16:30-17:30 during term times.

Please come and see Mr Zwanzig and Miss Pathberiya for a form if you are interested.

**MMA's Free Online Music Technology Sessions**

**Open to ages 9-18**

Join our virtual sessions

**Tuesday 16:30 - 17:30 (term time only)**

For full details visit  
[www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk](http://www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk)  
**MEDWAY MUSIC ASSOCIATION**

mma

Dynamics  
Making Music in Medway



# SEA CADETS

Article written by students Joe McKenzie-Cook, Andrea Recchia and Henry Milner



Three Holcombe students and cadets from TS Temeraire (Medway Victory Sea Cadets), took on the challenge of a week's National course to advance in their Physical Training Qualification over the summer holidays. Petty Officer Cadet Joe and Leading Cadet Andrea took on their advance qualification and Cadet 1st class Henry took on his first National PT course undertaking the intermediate qualification.

This year was a little different from POC Joe and LC Andrea's previous PTI courses in 2019 & 2022, normally taking place at the Royal Navy home of Physical Training HMS Temeraire Portsmouth, but due to maintenance the course was run at Calshot Activity Center. The hopefully PTI's travelled to Portsmouth on the Saturday among train industrial action but made it to their coach pick up in time to take them to Calshot.

From the outset on Sunday the days were long and started early waking up at 6.30am and in the gym by 8.30am and not finishing their day until 8pm after their kit had been ironed ready for inspection the next morning, each of the boys were assessed on their knowledge, kit upkeep, fitness, development and delivery of daily exercises, games and assessing others. Though the traditional passing out demonstrates of skip jump, hornpipe and club swing was not able to go ahead, they still had to spend their evening teaching and practicing the moves ready for National Trafalgar Day in October.

Saturday came round all to quickly again and time to travel back to Portsmouth to Whale Island where everyone's families waited to watch if the hopefuls were successfully. Nervously waiting for each of their names to be called and hearing passed advance/intermediate and for our three cadets each successfully passed out with LC Andrea also being awarded the 1956 Temeraire Trophy for effort, knowledge and highly respected by his peers.

**POC Joe** "The course is physically challenging one which requires energy, confidence and willingness to partake in all challenges that are set before you. It is fun taking part in the activities devise by not only the staff but other cadets and it's interesting meeting new people and seeing the ways their mind works around the challenges set before them."

**LC Andrea** "I really had a great time on the course again this year and was so surprised to be award the Temeraire trophy especially being a member of TS Temeraire and be acknowledged for all the hard work I have put in to becoming an Advanced Physical Training Instructor."

**Cfc Henry** "I really enjoyed taking part in the display training, it was very different from the course I did before for my basic qualification. I enjoyed working with older peers including adults also doing their intermediate course to develop and construct recreational training games really rarely seen before."



THREE TOWNS THEATRE COMPANY  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

# Sing it out

A concert of songs that are  
better out than in!

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023

2:30PM & 7:30PM

Tickets £10

Upchurch Village Hall  
ME9 7EU

To book tickets: EMAIL [threetownscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:threetownscommittee@gmail.com)  
or RING / TEXT 07469728553



Find us on Facebook & Instagram

Website: [threetownstheatrecompany.co.uk](http://threetownstheatrecompany.co.uk)



## FACE THE NEW TERM!



### FREE SESSION

Are they getting a good night?  
insomnia, screens & energy drinks  
Book Now - [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](https://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Thursday  
14th Sep  
18:30 - 20:30



### Cannabis Awareness

Cannabis, how much do you know? what are the risks? Increase your knowledge and awareness of the issues.

Thursday  
21st Sep  
18:30 - 20:30



### Anxiety Explained

Whether it is your anxiety or your children's, what exactly is it and how do we manage it?

Thursday  
28th Sep  
18:30 - 20:30



### Supporting a Child with ADHD

interactive session explaining what ADHD is and offering a range of interventions that can make lasting differences.

# AUTISM AWARENESS WORKSHOP



Medway Small Steps/SEN Connect will be running an Autism Awareness workshop for parents/carers on Tuesday 19th September (10am-12pm) at The Academy of Woodlands.

In this interactive workshop we will look at:

What is autism - terminology and definitions?

Indicators of autism?

Assessment and diagnosis process

Supportive strategies and resources.

It's a great opportunity to meet other parents on a similar journey; teas and coffees will be provided on the day.

Please note due to limited space we can only allow one person per family to attend.

To book, please click [here](#).

## Q&A with Dr Kim Selby (Community Paediatrician)

9:30am-10:30am

Drop-in Advice Clinic with  
The Autism Apprentice Team

10:30am-12:30pm

# 21st Nov 2023

@ The Sheppey Hall,  
Queenborough ME11 5DL



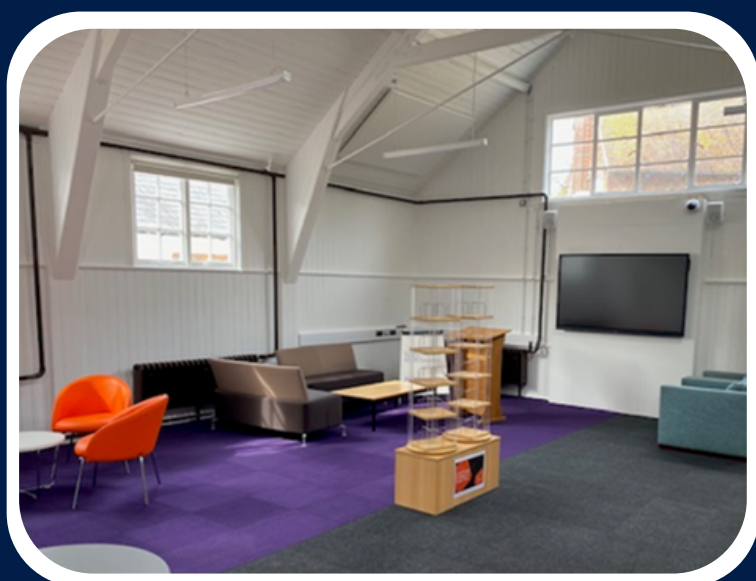
for more info or to book email  
[admin@autismapprentice.co.uk](mailto:admin@autismapprentice.co.uk)



# NEW SCIENCE LABS AND LIBRARY



Over the summer holidays, the school saw some exciting changes to our science labs and library. Where once was the old library, is two new science labs. The new library can be found in S19 opposite the main Holcombe Office.



# YEAR 11



Year 11 have hit the ground running in terms of role modelling the positive behaviours and learning skills we would like to see in their final year of GCSE study. We have been inundated with positive comments, points scores and rewards for both individuals in Year 11 and the year as a whole.

It has been so lovely to support and see the students starting their final year of GCSE to such a high standard. I hope this continues over the coming months as we prepare for the summer exams.

Enclosed are just some examples of these positives as well as some aspirations students across Year 11 have shared with us in their tutor times this week.

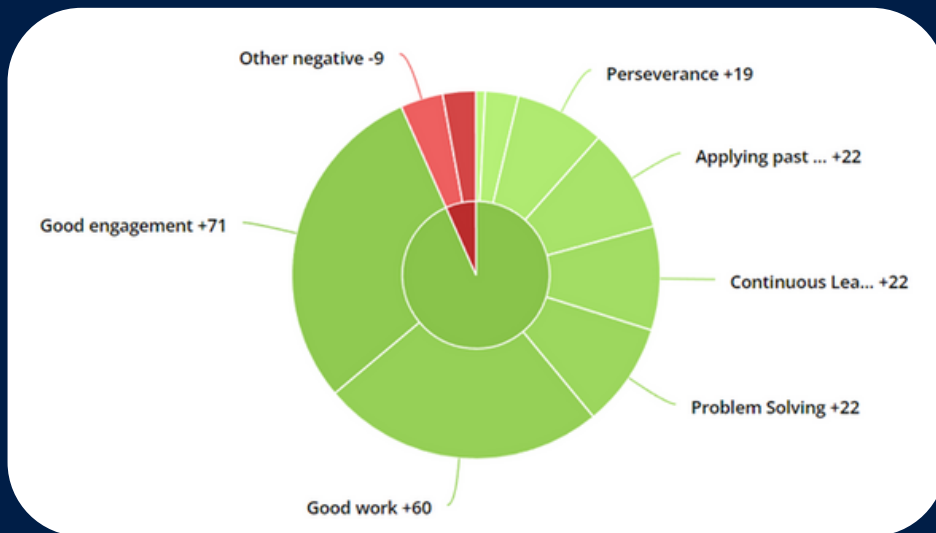
If they continue on this positive track, I am sure they will find their path to these dreams and goals. Well done Year 11!

## Mr Potter re behaviour at lunchtime:

Y11 were exemplary, so as well as having the 3G tomorrow, we would like to give them the small field tomorrow so all can have a good space.

## Mrs Dacey re English lessons:

I just wanted to let you know that as a department, we have been thoroughly impressed with how Year 11 have started the year. All classes/students seem to have come back enthused and eager to learn. Year 11- on the whole, seem keen to engage and have actively been asking for effective revision strategies which we will endeavour to give them.



Year 11's average day at the current time is in the 94% region of positive staff comments/rewards

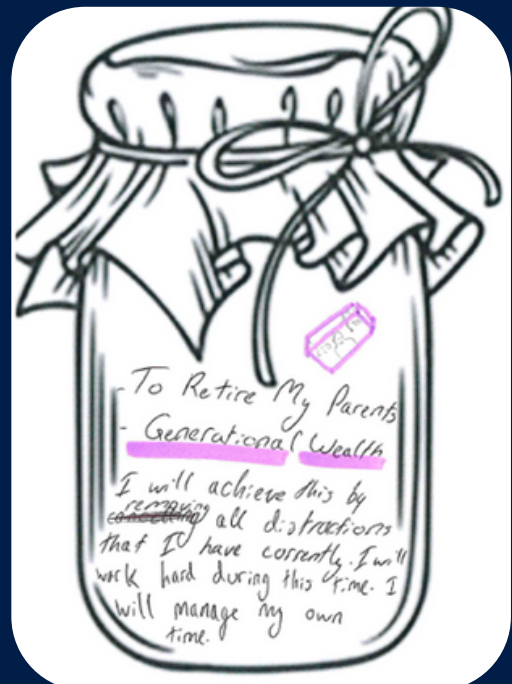
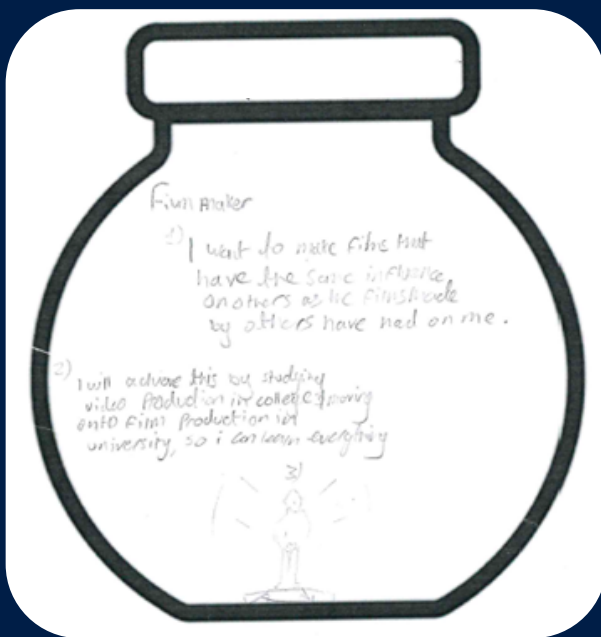
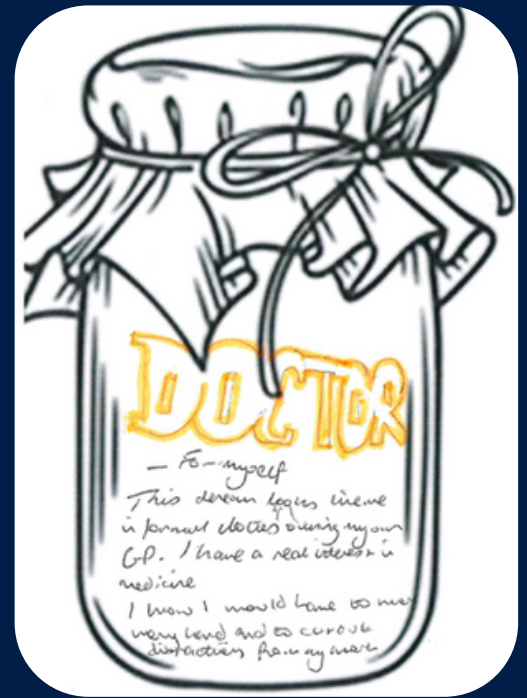
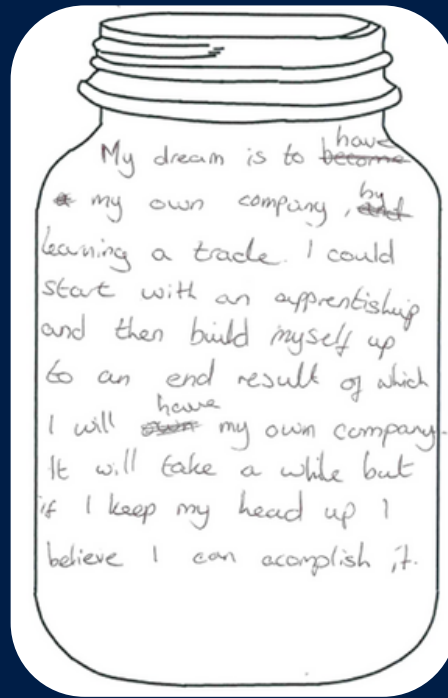
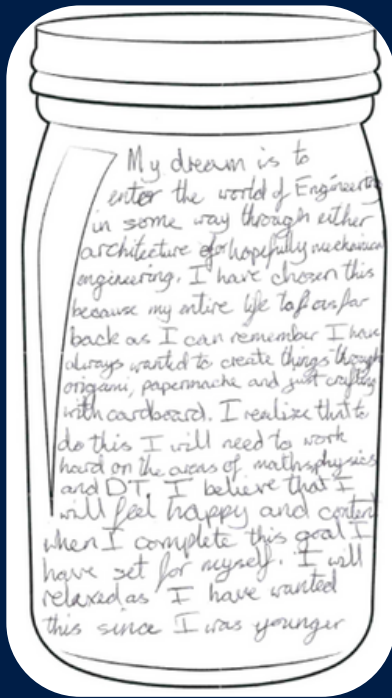
Year 11 currently are in the top 4 of the school, this is a stark contrast to previous years and showcases how hard students are working for their own dreams and aspirations.

Name	Positive	Negative	Ratio ↓
Year 07	2976	35	99%
Year 08	2536	67	97%
Year 10	2225	107	95%
Year 11	1934	117	94%
Year 12	490	31	94%
Year 09	1900	210	90%

# YEAR 11 ASPIRATION JARS



Please see below examples of Year 11 aspiration jars. These contain the dreams (both short and long term of a variety of students in Year 11).



We will be holding a GCSE information evening for all Year 11 students and their families on Wednesday 27th September 2023. This event will run from 5pm until 6pm only, in the main school hall and will provide key dates alongside information regarding the students final year of GCSE study. We look forward to welcoming you on this date.

# Term 1 Sports Clubs

w/b	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4 <sup>th</sup> September (A)	█	█	GCSE/ A-LEVEL PE DROP-IN (P22)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) <b>*YEAR 10 FOOTBALL TRIAL*</b>	GYM (YEAR 11-13) YEAR 11 BASKETBALL YEAR 7 FOOTBALL
11 <sup>th</sup> September (B)	TABLE TENNIS (ALL YEARS)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) <b>*YEAR 8 FOOTBALL TRIAL*</b> <b>*YEAR 9 FOOTBALL TRIAL*</b> RUGBY (YEAR 7-9)	█	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) GYM (YEAR 7-10)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) YEAR 11 BASKETBALL YEAR 7 FOOTBALL
18 <sup>th</sup> September (A)	TABLE TENNIS (ALL YEARS)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) RUGBY (YEAR 7-9)	GCSE/ A-LEVEL PE DROP-IN (P22)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) GYM (YEAR 7-10)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) YEAR 11 BASKETBALL YEAR 7 FOOTBALL
25 <sup>th</sup> September (B)	TABLE TENNIS (ALL YEARS)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) RUGBY (YEAR 7-9)	GCSE/ A-LEVEL PE DROP-IN (P22)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) GYM (YEAR 7-10)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) YEAR 11 BASKETBALL YEAR 7 FOOTBALL
2 <sup>nd</sup> October (A)	TABLE TENNIS (ALL YEARS)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) RUGBY (YEAR 7-9)	GCSE/ A-LEVEL PE DROP-IN (P22)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) GYM (YEAR 7-10)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) YEAR 11 BASKETBALL YEAR 7 FOOTBALL
9 <sup>th</sup> October (B)	TABLE TENNIS (ALL YEARS)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) RUGBY (YEAR 7-9)	GCSE/ A-LEVEL PE DROP-IN (P22)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) GYM (YEAR 7-10)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) YEAR 11 BASKETBALL YEAR 7 FOOTBALL
16 <sup>th</sup> October (A)	TABLE TENNIS (ALL YEARS)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) RUGBY (YEAR 7-9)	GCSE/ A-LEVEL PE DROP-IN (P22)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) (7.40-8.20am) GYM (YEAR 7-10)	GYM (YEAR 11-13) YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

\* Football fixtures will also run Tues-Thur throughout term 1 - please check noticeboards regularly\*





## Term 1 Football Trials

Year 7 - *Every Friday*, starting **FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Year 8 - **TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Year 9 - **TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Year 10 - **THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

*\*A new team will be picked each week for the year 7 team, based on training attendance each week.*

*\*One squad for all term 1 fixtures will be selected for teams in year 8-10 based on trial attendance.*



## FAQs:

**Do I need to sign up to a club?**

No, just turn up at the right time & place and a teacher will be there to get you started!




**What should I wear?**

Either the indoor or outdoor PE kit, depending on the weather (year 12/13 wear appropriate sports kit).



**What will we do at the clubs?**

Most clubs involve a combination of skills practices and games/ competitions.



**What do I do if I have any questions?**

Speak to any member of the PE department, post a question on your PE class Teams chat, or e-mail [a.nanson@tsatrust.org.uk](mailto:a.nanson@tsatrust.org.uk)



# CELEBRITY FOOTBALL MATCH

AT CHATHAM TOWN FC

IN SUPPORT OF



T600 - A Life  
For Leo  
Foundation

# A Life for Leo

SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

6PM KICK OFF

FIND OUT WHO IS PLAYING ON THE NEXT PAGE ...

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

TICKETS ARE £12 , SCAN HERE TO  
SECURE YOUR SPOT





HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Visit [www.aLifeForLeo.com](http://www.aLifeForLeo.com) to read more, donate or share Leo's story on your social media

SCAN THE QR TO VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE



@ALIFEFORLEO



@ALIFEFORLEO

# OUR CELEBRITY PLAYERS ARE...



Danny Dyer



Jeremy Lynch



Josh Brookerbank



Zachary Ashford



Eddie Boxshell



Bleu Landau



Chet Sket



Dwain Chambers



Dan Osbourne



James Arthur



Flintz



Man Like Haks



Josh Ryan



Rloky Groves



Matt Lapinskas



Andy Hessesenthaler



Adam Smith



Moyo J Ajibade



Jamie O'Hara



Jake Wood

# HELP FIND A CURE FOR TBCD



Leo was born in March 2021 with a life limiting genetic disorder.

Leo is the 16th baby in the world to diagnosed with a TBCD gene mutation. As a result of this deteriorating disease Leo has epileptic seizures and low muscle tone, which means he has difficulty moving and breathing.

## IT IS NOT JUST LEO THAT NEEDS OUR HELP

We've uncovered a remarkable biotech company in the USA armed with the technology that could redefine children with TBCD future. They have the potential to harness a functioning TBCD gene copy to compensate for the dysfunctional one.

This breakthrough isn't just life-changing; it's life-saving. With your support, Leo and others could rediscover the ability to walk, talk, and breathe unaided. However, ultra-rare diseases like TBCD present a unique challenge. Grants and private funding are elusive because there are minimal pharmaceutical profits to be made.

This is where we need your help, rallying behind the Life for Leo Foundation.

By supporting the Life for Leo Foundation, you're helping us raise vital funds to bring this groundbreaking treatment to Leo and others like him. Together, we can make an enduring impact on Leo's life and others and further our mission to find a cure.

Please join us in this crucial journey and donate today.

TO DONATE EVEN JUST £1,  
SCAN THE QR CODE

