

ISSUE 3

13th October 2023



HOLCOMBE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our last edition of our fortnightly blog for Term 1. It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming our students back to school after the summer break, and now we find ourselves in the last week of this term. This edition is again full of updates of some of the great work we have been doing here this term.

The highlight of the past two weeks has undoubtedly been Open Day. We welcomed well over 200 families into our school on Saturday 7th October, and have welcomed over 100 more for tours of the school every morning this week. I would like to thank all those students who supported us both on the Open Day and during the tours this week for showing our guests around and being such great advocates for our school.

Year 11 have started their first GCSE Prelim examinations this week, as preparation for the examinations they will complete in summer 2024. Whilst papers are yet to be marked and results yet to be known, I would like to commend Year 11 for conducting themselves superbly so far. In term 2 it will be Year 13s turn to undertake prelim examinations and we also wish them well.

At the other end of the school, Year 7 have had special 'thinking skills' lesson each day this week to introduce them to the wide range of thinking tools that are at their disposal to help their learning. You will find more information about this inside this blog.

Also in this edition is our first advertisement for our school show this year which we are excited to announce is 'School of Rock'. I always enjoy our school productions but I am particularly excited this year to watch how our drama and music departments will work hand in hand to provide this great opportunity for our students. I hope many of our students will get involved, starting by auditioning on the dates advertised here.

Finally can I provide a few important reminders:

- Breakfast is available in our canteen before school – if your son or daughter would like breakfast on arrival to school, please make sure they have sufficient money on their card so that they can purchase this in addition to their lunch.
- We have seen improvements in uniform this term but we are still seeing too many boys with over-sized trousers and wearing shorts underneath. If your child needs new, better fitting trousers, please can you arrange this over the break.
- Please can I remind all parents to be considerate to our neighbours when dropping off or picking up children. We are seeing increasing numbers of cars blocking residents driveways on surrounding streets which of course is then problematic. Please just be considerate with where you park
- Term ends for students on Thursday 19th October (school will finish at 3:10 as normal on that day) and you will see inside the blog that we are having a fundraising own clothes day on that day. If your son / daughter wishes to come to school in non-school uniform on that day then they must bring £2.00 with them to contribute to the fund raising. Please make sure they have £2.00 on them that day

My very best wishes to you all for a good Half-Term break and we will look forward to welcoming your sons and daughters back on Monday 30th October.

Mr L. Preston
Headteacher

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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

- **Thursday 19th October**
 - Last Day of Term 1
 - Whole School Tag Day (£2 cash)
- **Friday 20th October**
 - Staff Development Day
- **Monday 30th October**
 - First Day of Term 2
- **Thursday 16th November**
 - Year 11 into 12 Open Evening
- **Friday 17th November**
 - School Closed in Lieu for 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](#)



OPEN MORNING



This year's Open Morning was a great success welcoming Year 5 and 6 students from primary schools. Staff and students had a great time showcasing our school and the guests had an informative but fun day.



OPEN MORNING FEEDBACK



Our students received incredible feedback, please see below just a few comments.

'He is a credit to your sixth form and school'

'He has enthused my son to attend Holcombe and it is the first time I have seen him smiling going around any school'

Both comments were about Praise Wezeali in Year 12 - well done!

The tour guides were just incredibly mature, thoughtful, respectful and represented the school incredibly.

Lucas Sadler was a real credit to us, stepping up and greeting prospective students and parents warmly and helping Year 6 students work through ordering treats in both French and Spanish.

All students supporting PE demonstrated great maturity to welcome and inform prospective students and parents to the PE department.

All the students in the Biology/Chemistry room demonstrated experiments and got the prospective students involved in science, they all worked brilliantly and made a considerable contribution to the day.

YEAR 7 SPORTING SUCCESSES



Congratulations to Dexter Collins in 7Sh who won his first go-karting victory of the season. Dexter won the MVKC Championship with 6 wins out of 6. An amazing achievement, well done! Dexter additionally spent the day with WDE Racing Team, who compete in the Mini Challenge Cup. They are also linked to Napa Racing, the touring car team. Dexter got to see how teams perform in the face of adversity with there being several red flags and issues in the qualifying sessions and in the race. Dexter also spent time with Toby Trice, who normally races in the Porsche Cup, but had a big accident at the previous round and so observed Toby commentating on the races at Brands Hatch.

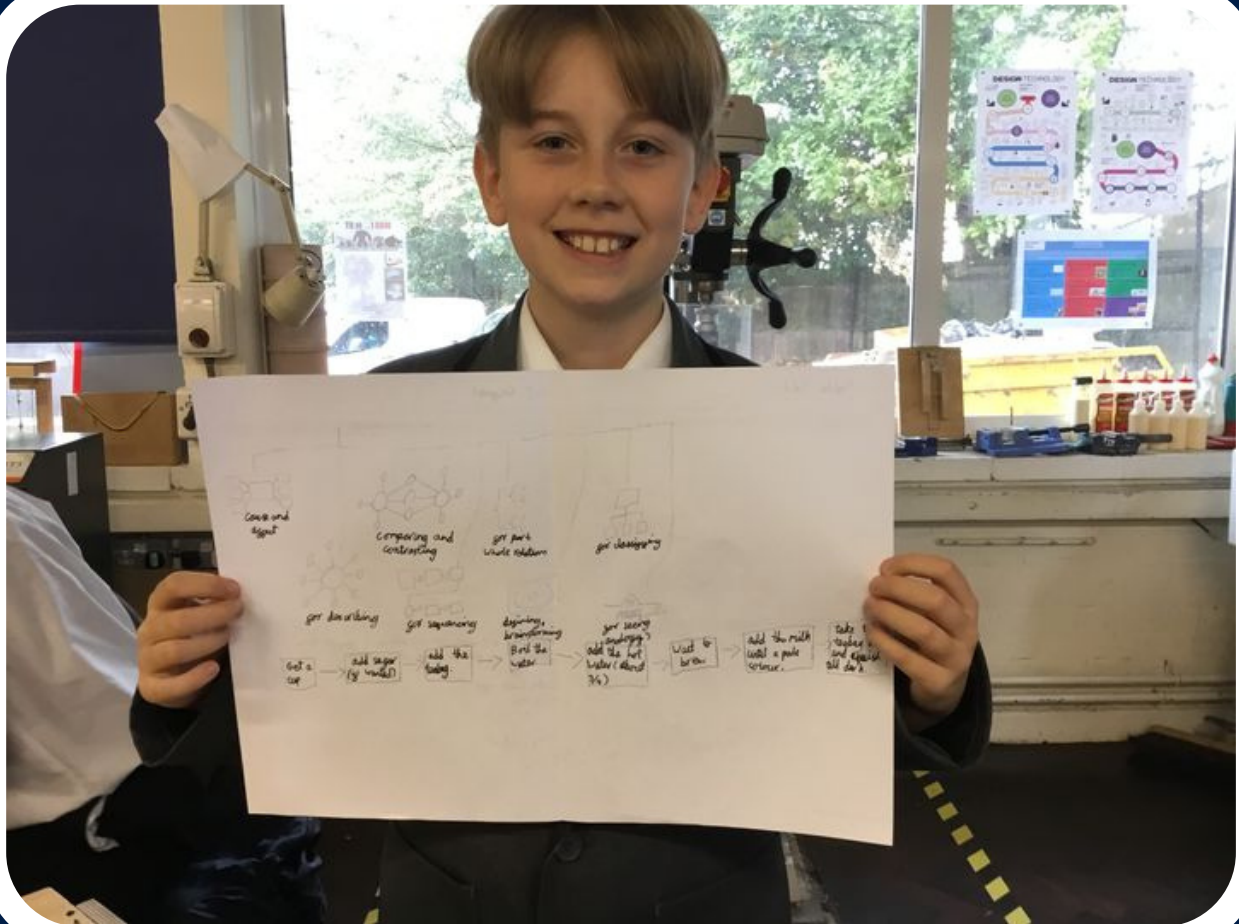


The Year 7 football team won their first ever match representing the school, beating Strood Academy 9-0 away from home on 03/10/2023. The team demonstrated outstanding team work and a brilliant team-spirit, consistently supporting each other and cheering their peers on. They showed fantastic control of the game and created some impressive opportunities, reflected by the score line. A particular mention should be given to Jenson Fox, Joshua Peat, and Lucas Pinnock, who each scored two fantastic goals. Overall, each and every member of the squad should be extremely proud, both for their display on the pitch as well as how they represented the school in such a positive manner. The team's next match is scheduled for Wednesday 18th October against fellow TSAT school The Victory Academy.

YEAR 7 THINKING WEEK



This week is Year 7 Thinking Week. All week, students in Year 7 have been taking part in sessions to develop their understanding of our thinking toolkit, and how it provides skills for life - even down to the simplest of life's joys, such as how to make a cup of tea!

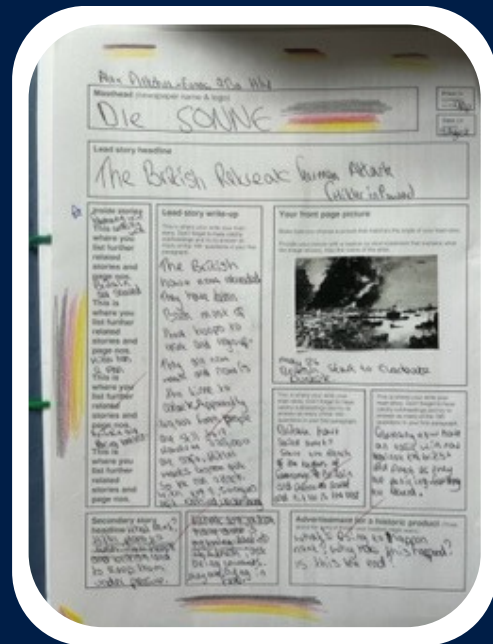
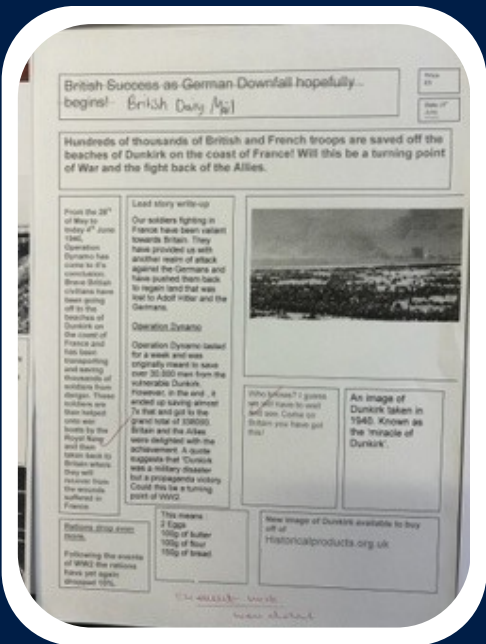
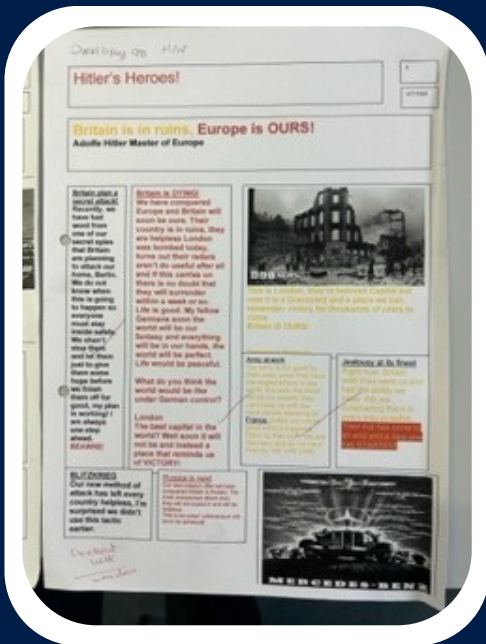
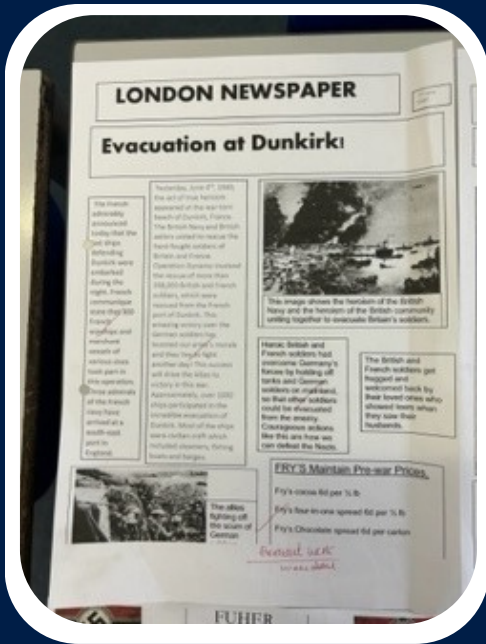


The MFL Department has several clubs running again this year, with lunchtime clubs for French, Spanish and German; also there are clubs for KS4 and afternoon intervention sessions available. Come along and have fun while you learn!

YEAR 9 HISTORY



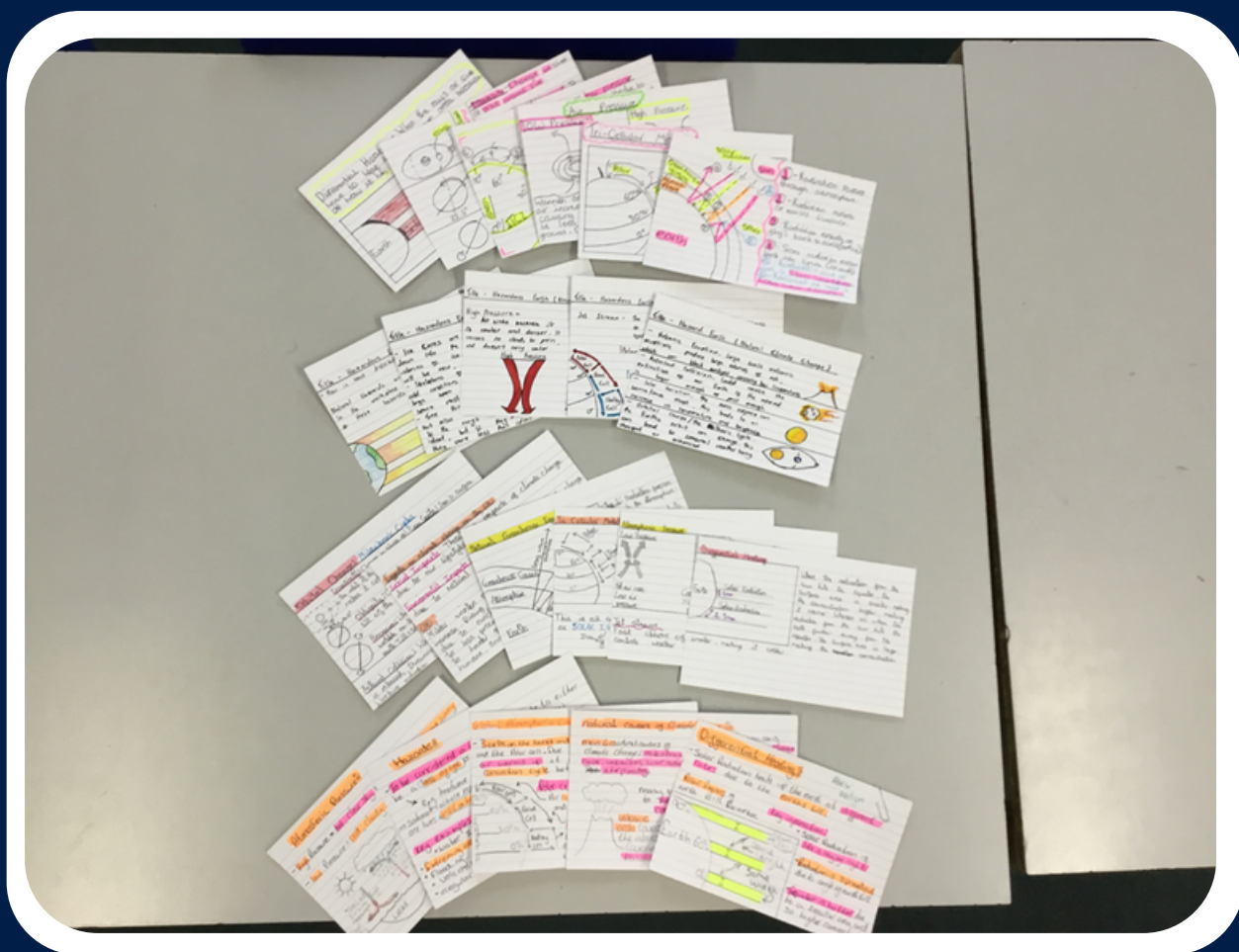
This term Year 9 students in history lessons have been investigating the causes and key events of the Second World War. Below are some outstanding examples of work on the Dunkirk evacuation of 1940, with students (Alex Fletcher-Evans, Callum Tuffield, Charlie Bovis, Daniel Gray, Thamas Chaves, Goodluck Ogboma and Vinnie Palmer) producing some amazing newspaper reports of the event from both British and German perspectives.



YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY REVISION RESOURCES



Year 10 have made an outstanding start to their geography GCSE studying Unit 1 of their GCSE focussing on Climatic Weather Hazards. After completing some incredible work and producing some well written practise exam questions the students were given an opportunity to consolidate their learning onto some revision flashcards. The quality across the board in Mr Holdstock's 10A and 10B classes was incredible and as a department we are excited to share some photographs and cheer about some students who went above and beyond in their quality. Those students include: Thabo Katsekera, Luca Scott, Alex Malyon, Joseph Bullen, Oli Hinton, Joe May, Harry Rush, Luca Marco, Daniel Opundo, Gary Koo, Taylor Mortimer, Taran Dhinsa and Jason Nsirim. All students in these classes produced great work and we are very proud of how they have taken to their GCSE studies and excited for what they will achieve.



YEAR 10 ETHICAL REVISION



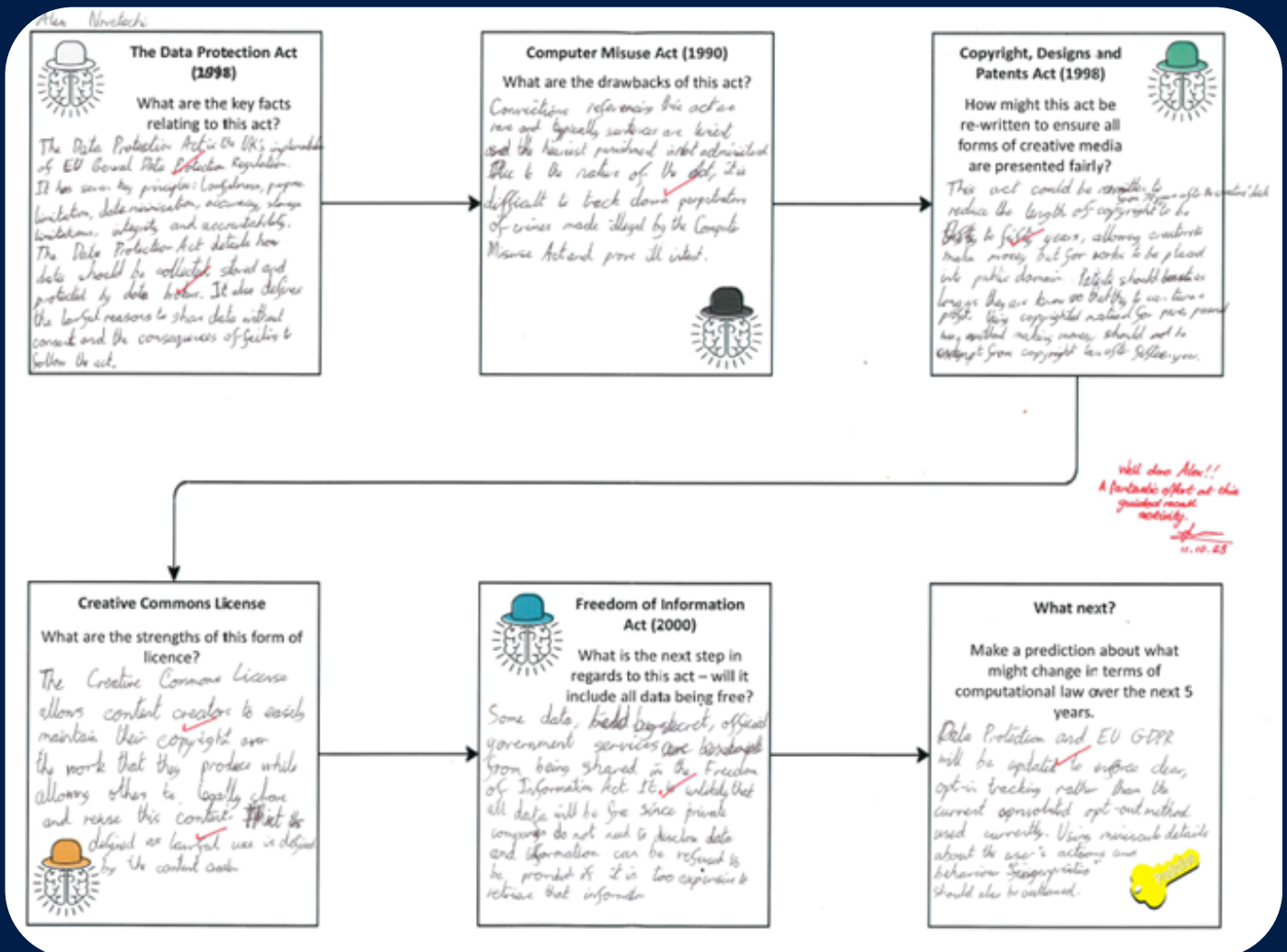
Year 10 have been busy working with Miss Lee to prepare for their end of topic test on all things Ethical, Cultural, Environmental and Legal in Computer Science.

Students in 10B/CS were guided through the use of maps, PEEL and BUG techniques to support long answer examination questions as well as discussions surrounding the importance of recall when faced with the laws governing our use of technology.

Students were given a live model of how to use a brace map to plan out an 8-mark exam answer using the HUE camera system. Students were expected to follow along with Miss Lee as she spoke through her ideas and plan, before then using PEEL and BUG to further flesh out her example response.

To see a small selection of the outstanding effort they put in which ultimately supported them in achieving good grades in their end of topic examination, please [click here](#).

Well done 10B/CS!



NEW ARRIVALS IN BIOLOGY



The Biology Department has some new inhabitants in B21. Last week the department took delivery of 11 Zebra Danios! These are purely for enjoyment and not for any experiments! This species of Danios is easily recognized by its distinctive horizontal stripes and originates from parts of India and Bangladesh. These are an easy starter fish as Mr Phillips cuts his teeth in the world of aquarium keeping. Once they are settled into their new home, we might be looking for some new tank mates for them so watch this space!



AWARD IN MATHEMATICS



Pearson Edexcel Advanced Extension Award in Mathematics

The aims and learning objectives for this qualification are to challenge the most able advanced level students by giving them opportunities to demonstrate a greater depth of understanding, analysis, evaluation and problem solving than that required at GCE Advanced level. The overarching themes are mathematical argument, language and proof, mathematical problem solving and mathematical modelling.

Four students from Holcombe Grammar School achieved an Advanced Extension Award in Mathematics, in summer 2023.

Hathem Trabelsi: AEA Mathematics Merit, Advanced Level Further Mathematics Grade A* and Advanced Level Mathematics Grade A*.

Matthew Cross: AEA Mathematics Merit, Advanced Level Further Mathematics Grade A* and Advanced Level Mathematics Grade A*.

Kavi Naidoo: AEA Mathematics Merit, Advanced Level Further Mathematics Grade A and Advanced Level Mathematics Grade A*.

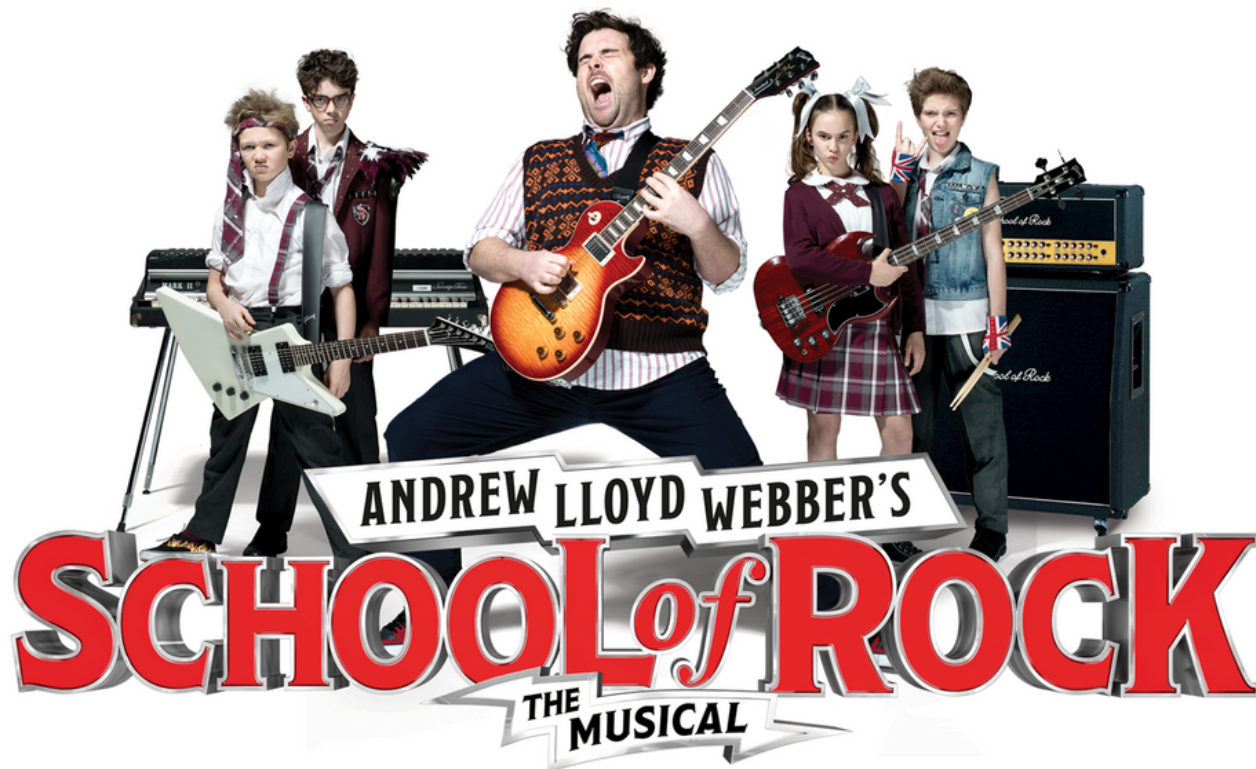
Euan Rudd: AEA Mathematics Merit and Advanced Level Mathematics Grade A*.

Chris Chacko achieved Advanced Level Further Mathematics Grade A and Advanced Level Mathematics Grade A*.

Nikesh Gurung, Joseph Owolabi and Iyioma Ekhosuehi achieved Advanced Level Mathematics Grade A*.

Rhiannon Sesay, Lewis Ramsey, James Dunn, Faiz Uddin, Cameron Reader, Mimin Matthews, Balazs Galik, Caleb Osimore, Jake Kelleher and Praise Laogun achieved Advanced Level Mathematics Grade A.

SCHOOL OF ROCK PRODUCTION AUDITIONS



Auditions for main roles are being held on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd November at 3:15pm. Please prepare a verse and chorus of any song. Please note that you do not need to be able to play an instrument for a performer role.

Performances for the ensemble roles are on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March.

Any questions, please see Mrs Miles or email her at Nichola.Miles@holcombegrammar.tsat.uk

Please see the following page for the cast.



SCHOOL OF ROCK PRODUCTION AUDITIONS



SCHOOL OF ROCK CAST / VOCAL REQUIREMENTS

PRINCIPALS

Dewey Finn
Rosalie Mullins
Ned Schneebly
Patty

KIDS

Summer Hathaway
Tomika
Zack Mooneyham (guitar)
Freddie Hamilton (drums)
Katie (bass)
Lawrence (piano / keyboard)
Marcy Shonelle
Billy Sandford
Sophie
Mason Ward
James
Matthew

TEACHERS

Mrs. Sheinkopf
Mr. Noble
Mr. Green
Gabe Brown
Mr. Sanders
Ms. Gordon
Ms. Bingham
Mr. Woodward
Mr. Janes
Ms. Macapugay
Mr. Wagner

PARENTS

Mr. Mooneyham
Mrs. Hathaway
Mr. Williams
Mr. Spencer
Mr. Sandford
Mr. Ward
Mr. Hamilton
Mrs. Turner
Mrs. Travis

VOCAL REQUIREMENTS

Dewey—Rock Tenor
Rosalie—Mezzo-Soprano
Ned—Baritone
Patty—Soprano
Summer—Mezzo-Soprano
Tomika—Mezzo-Soprano
Zack—Tenor
Freddie—Tenor
Billy—Tenor

OTHERS

Jeff Sanderson – Manager of Battle of the Bands
Theo (No Vacancy)
Doug (No Vacancy)
Bob (No Vacancy)
Snake (No Vacancy)
Stanley
Security Guard 1
Security Guard 2



We recently held the first in a series of workshops designed to support a small number of our new Y7 students in their transition to Holcombe. The session was led by our Educational Psychologist, Miss Gunstone, and supported by our SEN colleagues. This first session focused on building confidence, developing resilience and ensuring students know who to approach for support within school. Students were given lots of opportunities for active learning, which they thoroughly enjoyed, and were commended by Miss Gunstone for their enthusiasm and engagement.

The session concluded with a short 'meet and greet' for parents where we outlined the role of The Haven (our SEN Department), the learning journey for the workshop sessions and had a short Q+A. Many thanks to those parents who joined us - it is always a pleasure to welcome parents to our school community.

MEDWAY SENDIASS



Medway Council is consulting on its local Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Services (SENDIASS) run by Family Action.

Medway SENDIASS provides a range of free and impartial help to parents/carers, children and young people with SEND more aware of the options available to them.

We would like to hear from young people and their families, and professionals who have accessed Medway SENDIASS advice or information, services or may have a view on how this could be provide in the future.

We will use this feedback to help define the new service that we require providers to deliver from April 2024.

This consultation will close at midnight 29th October 2023

How to have your say:

- Take part in the survey <https://forms.office.com/e/e3jvBASxCq> or scan the QR code below.
- Contact the Medway Parent and Carers Forum who can support you completing this survey info@medwaypcf.org.uk or 07813 123984

Medway SEND Information, Advice
Support Service Survey



TEEN BRAIN TALK INFORMATION



Please see the below information for a course with Face Family Advice. Please note, this is not a school event or something we have endorsed; we are just sharing the info.

Extra session added due to demand from parents and teachers

**“Every parent and teacher should see this...”
Mr Mead, Headteacher at Lytchett Minster school, Dorset.**

Do you sometimes find your teens behaviour confusing?
challenging? worrying?



UNDERSTANDING THE TEENAGE BRAIN

30th October 2023. 6:30-8:30pm

Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE
giving a two hour talk to parents (and teachers!), explaining why teens,
think, feel, and behave very differently from adults.

Book online now £24 facefamilyadvice.co.uk



THURS 19TH OCT

TAG DAY

WHOLE SCHOOL TAG DAY

**£2 CASH PAYMENT (NOT PLUSPAY)
WILL BE COLLECTED IN FORM TIME**

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE TOGETHER

www.HolcombeGrammar.org.uk

YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health