

Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) (10th February) Darwin Day (12th February)  
Valentine's Day (14th February) Theme for the week: Finding humour  
Thought of the week: Humour allows people to exhale a little." Zach Anner



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Positively Mad

Quickfire Week	The week in bullet points
<b>This Week</b>	
◇	Year 10 work experience week
◇	Year 9 Parents' Evening was held Thursday 6th February
◇	Year 12 and selected Year 13 visited an Apprenticeship Fair at Maidstone Leisure Centre on Friday 7th February
◇	School disco for Years 7, 8 and 9, 7pm-9:30pm
Letters sent home last week:	
◇	Year 12 Parent Consultation Evening
All letters can be found on the school website: <a href="https://www.holcombegrammar.org.uk/2019/09/letters-home-2019-2020/">https://www.holcombegrammar.org.uk/2019/09/letters-home-2019-2020/</a>	
<b>Next Week (Week A)</b>	
◇	Monday 10th February: Year 11 Art Prelim Day, Year 11 DT Drop Down Day, Year 11 History Revision Periods 1 and 2.
◇	Wednesday 12th February: Selected Year 11 students visiting Drill Hall University Library
◇	Thursday 13th February: Year 12 Parent Consultation Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm
◇	Friday 14th February: Selected Year 11 students going to Hysteria Escape Rooms and the last day of term



Year 9 students participated in Positively Mad workshops on Friday 7th February, in order to help them develop good study and revision skills and work on exam techniques.

## Message from Mr Preston

It was great to see so many parents at our Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday, especially given the fact that many of you were caught in traffic for a lengthy period of time. I'm very grateful to those of you who still joined us for some of the evening, and to the numerous staff who stayed up to an hour after the scheduled finish time to complete appointments. It was a pleasure for me to meet many of you for the first time at the evening and I look forward to working with you in the years ahead as we work together to ensure your son is happy and successful at School.

A reminder that this Thursday (13th February) we have the Year 12 Parents' Evening. For this evening, we are trialling the use of a new online appointment system, which in time will make the booking of parents' evening appointments much simpler. However, as it's the first time we are using this, there may be teething troubles. If you have any difficulties booking your appointments, please contact Miss Penna at Holcombe. We look forward to welcoming you next week.

Mr L. Preston  
Principal

## Year 9 Cyber Session

Year 9 Computer Science students participated in a cyber security session, run by a Cyber Officer from Kent Police, on Wednesday 5th February. Holcombe are proud to have received positive feedback from the Officer running the session, who commented on how polite, respectful and well-behaved our students were throughout the morning.

The session was part of a national programme called The Matrix Challenge. This online experience is an innovative cyber competition, designed and delivered by the Regional Police Cyber Crime Units in partnership with eleven other regional organised crime units across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Our students spent their Computer Science lesson taking part in learning that reinforced the message about computer misuse laws and how to stay safe online. Students had the opportunity to take part in the challenge, hoping to win prizes and be invited to a national semi-final. Further details can be found here: <https://www.matrix-challenge.uk/>

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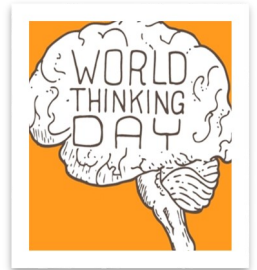
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## World Thinking Day

Sixteen Holcombe students represented their school — and Medway — at the Kent School Games Badminton Finals, held on Thursday 6th February at Medway Park. Having won the Medway qualifying round, students from Years 8-11 took part in the Final. Each of the Holcombe teams were pitted against some of the best badminton players in the county, representing some of the sporting powerhouse schools. After a full afternoon of games, where each student represented Holcombe magnificently, the Key Stage 3 team finished in a very respectable fifth place out of twelve, whilst the Key Stage 4 team earned themselves a place on the podium by winning Bronze. Congratulations to all of the students involved.



On Friday, February 14th, Holcombe will be celebrating World Thinking Day. In anticipation of this, students this week have been thinking about the most important local and global issues of our time and have prepared to present their ideas in a school-wide debate. Every lunch time next week, a different year group is invited to debate their topics in the Library. The strongest debates from each year group will win a £10 Amazon voucher and will be invited to showcase their speech in our final on Friday. From the work students have done this week, we are expecting very convincing debates from a great range of topics. All students and staff are invited to attend next week. Good luck students!



## Year 12 Parents' Evening

Year 12 Parents' Evening will be held on Thursday 13th February 2020 from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. The event will take place in the Main Hall. Parking is not available on the School site and we request that you are mindful that Letchworth Avenue is a residential road. Parents and carers will be responsible for booking appointments via the MyEd app. Text messages will be sent with a link, where parents/carers will be able to book in their slots.

Please note that meetings with teachers are by appointment only and there will be no flexibility to meet with teachers that you do not have bookings with. We are aware that the evening is likely to be very popular and potentially oversubscribed. For this reason the number of appointments available for each student has been set to a maximum of four. Appointments will be bookable via the app from Thursday 6th February until Wednesday 12th February.

## Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students worked with a variety of different employers in different sectors this week for their work experience. Our students attended many businesses including local schools, libraries, shops and offices, which allowed them insight into the working world. We hope students took away valuable skills and information from the experience and were able to ask questions and potentially develop their ideas about the possible career paths they may wish to pursue in the future.

## Extreme Weather Procedure

We have reached the time in the year when extreme weather may on very rare occasions cause the closure or partial closure of the school. Just a reminder that if the weather deteriorates and you think that the school may be closed, please: Listen to Radio Kent/Heart Radio – if the school is closed they will issue regular bulletins throughout the morning listing schools that are closed or partially closed. Check the school website – as soon as a decision is made to close the school our website is updated to that effect. Also, details will be posted on the [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk) website.

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**HOLCOMBE**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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	Key Dates
10.02.20	Year 11 Art Prelim; Year 11 DT Drop Down Day; Year 11 History Revision Periods 1 and 2
12.02.20	Selected Year 11 students going to Drill Hall University Library
13.02.20	Year 12 Parents' Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm
14.02.20	Selected Year 11 students going to Hysteria Escape Rooms
14.02.20	Term 3 Ends
17.02.20-21.02.20	February Break
24.02.20	Term 4 Commences
W/C 02.03.20	Year 13 Prelims
W/C 09.03.20	Year 13 Prelims
18.03.20	Geography Revision Booster Session selected Year 12 at Emmanuel Centre
19.03.20	Year 8 Parents' and Options' Evening; 4:30pm-7:30pm
03.04.20	Term 4 Ends
10.04.20	Good Friday
13.04.20	Easter Monday
06.04.20-17.04.20	Spring Break
20.04.20	Term 5 Commences
23.04.20	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm
08.05.20	Early May Bank Holiday (instead of Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May)
22.05.20	Term 5 Ends
25.05.20-29.05.20	May Break
01.06.20	Term 6 Commences
W/C 15.06.20	Year 10 Prelims
W/C 22.06.20	Year 12 Prelims
25.06.20	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm
30.06.20	Year 12 Induction
01.07.20	Year 12 Induction
02.07.20	Year 12 Work Experience Week
14.07.20	Founders' Day
15.07.20	Sports Day
17.07.20	Term 6 Ends
20.07.20	Staff Development Day
21.07.20	Staff Development Day

## Clubs Term 3

	BEFORE SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL
<b>MONDAY</b>	<p>GYM</p> <p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: SUPPORT GROUP H14</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: MET M13</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: GRAPHIC NOVEL CLUB B12</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: FRENCH CLUB WEEK A IN S16 / WEEK B IN S14</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: HOL-TONES VOCAL GROUP</p>	<p>TABLE TENNIS (ALL YEARS)</p> <p>SEA CADETS 1845-2115pm Victory Academy</p>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<p>GYM</p> <p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: BOOK THIEVES B12</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: SPANISH AND FRENCH FILM CLUB S16</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: YEAR 7 BAND IN MUSIC</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: RIDDLE CLUB IN M10 (YEAR 7 and 8)</p>	<p>RUGBY (YEAR 7 AND 8)</p> <p>BASKETBALL (YEAR 9 AND 10)</p> <p>HOMEWORK CLUB H20</p>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<p>GYM</p> <p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: MFL HOMEWORK CLUB S16</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: CHESS CLUB M10</p>	<p>LIVE SOUND CLUB IN MUSIC</p> <p>1ST XI FOOTBALL FIXTURES</p> <p>HANDBALL (YEAR 7 AND 8)</p> <p>HOMEWORK CLUB H20</p>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<p>GYM</p> <p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: YUGIOH CLUB H11</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: CREATIVE WRITING CLUB IN THE LIBRARY</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: YEAR 8 BAND IN MUSIC</p>	<p>BADMINTON (YEAR 7-10)</p> <p>HOMEWORK CLUB H20</p>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<p>LUNCHTIME: BRASS BAND IN MUSIC</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: DEBATE CLUB B12</p>	<p>GYM (ALL YEARS)</p> <p>FOOTBALL TRAINING</p> <p>GCSE PE PRACTICAL SUPPORT</p> <p>RHYTHM AND BLUES BAND IN MUSIC</p>



We also have the Medway Victory Sea Cadets Unit. Cadets are expected to regularly attend the unit on Mondays 1845-2115pm The Victory Academy in smart, tidy uniform. If you would like to find out more about the Sea Cadet Corps, search 'Medway Victory Sea Cadet Unit' on Facebook or contact [trevor.eaton@cadetmail.mod.uk](mailto:trevor.eaton@cadetmail.mod.uk), or contact Mrs Villalta within school.