

**Roald Dahl Day (13th September)**  
**Theme for the week: "Respect for Others"**  
**Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) 10.09**



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### Quickfire Week

*The week in bullet points*

#### This Week

- ◇ Welcome back to Holcombe for another academic year. Special welcome to our new Year 7, 12 and two new Year 8 students. We hope a restful summer break was had by all.
- ◇ Year 10 and 11 visited the Knife Angel monument in Rochester.

#### Next Week (Week A)

- ◇ 16<sup>th</sup> September-20<sup>th</sup> September: Sailing Trip
- ◇ 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September: Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
- ◇ Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September: Medway Test (Out of Area)

## Weekly Forum

Mr Day, our Interim Head of School for Students, is pleased to announce he will be holding a weekly parental forum every Wednesday between 16:15 and 18:00, with individual appointments bookable in advance through the school office. The purpose of the forum will be to discuss how we can best work together to support your son or daughter's learning. To support our learning and thinking ethos teachers are being urged to contact you with praise emails, phone calls and postcards for students displaying endeavour, self motivation and mastering the required knowledge and understanding. The Student Services team, led by Mrs Gould, will work alongside Form Tutors and Heads of Year, as the first point of contact for any pastoral issues as we seek to create a school of confident individuals. Please do get in touch if there is anything extra we can do to help.

## Open Morning

Year 6 Open Morning will be held on Saturday 12th October 9:00am - 1:00pm. Introduction talks will take place at 10:00am and 11:00am. Morning tours (by appointment only) 14th October - 18th October 2019 and 28th October - 30th October. Please email [admissions@holcombegrammar.org.uk](mailto:admissions@holcombegrammar.org.uk).

## Knife Angel

Our Year 10s and Year 11s visited the Knife Angel at Rochester Cathedral on Monday and Tuesday. The Knife Angel is the National Monument against Violence and Aggression. It is made up of 100,000 knives that were handed into 43 police stations across the UK and then blunted, sterilised and worked at the British Ironwork Centre, alongside artist Alfie Bradley, to form this powerful 20 foot sculpture.



Our students were moved by the sculpture, as well as the statistics about knife crime and real stories, alongside photos of victims, that were presented to them in the crypt of the Cathedral. Our students wrote down their responses to seeing the sculpture and some of our students chose to sign a book at the Cathedral, pledging not to carry a knife. We hope this experience was informative for our students. The Knife Angel will remain on display at Rochester Cathedral until Sunday 29th September.

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## Sea Cadets Updates

New recruits for the Medway Victory Sea Cadets from Years 7, 8 and 9 are welcome to attend on Monday 16th September with an adult to have an introduction to the Unit and to join us for an active few years. The Officer in Charge is Trevor Eaton, S/LT(SCC) RNR and our Unit parades on Mondays 1745 – 2015hr. Please keep checking the Medway Victory Sea Cadets website and Facebook page for updates and upcoming events.



The most brilliant summer was had by Medway Victory Sea cadets and Staff. Many Cadets have enjoyed staying on HMS Cavalier at Chatham Dockyard, earning their Naval acquaint and also Marine Engineering.

Others travelled to HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth and spent a week gaining their Physical Training Instructor Basic Specialisation – an amazing achievement for cadets so young.

Walking days took us all around different parts of Kent with some more Adventurous Training weekends trying the Cadets' hands at archery, rock climbing, bushcraft and mountain biking.

We have also been out boating this summer gaining great experience on the water and qualifications too, mostly at Royal Docks Boating Station. These are: Rowing – gaining Taster, Competent Crew and Supervised Coxswain. Sailing: RYA Stage 1 Stage 2 and some cadets will take their Stage 3 this September. Paddlesport: Start, Discover and Explore awards. Windsurfing: RYA Stage 1 and level 2. Powerboating: RYA Level 1 and level 2.

We also entered the District First Aid Competition. Cdt First Class Gurskis came 2nd in the District! Entered the District Cadet skills challenge competition too.

So, a packed summer with loads of photos for all to see and enjoy. Great memories and experiences gained.



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## Community Event

Holcombe Grammar School's Head of School, Mrs Villalta, was a guest speaker at a community event held by the Association of the Bulgarian Community in Medway on Saturday the 7th September. The Association's Saturday School, teaching Bulgarian language, culture and dancing to students aged four and above and language and dancing courses for adults, reopened for another year. The school has been running for nearly a decade; this year the school welcomed around 150 children registering as students with their families in this annual event held at the Thomas Aveling School, Rochester.

Mrs Villalta was invited to speak at the event by the school's Headteacher. She provided insightful information to the students, speaking to them about the Thinking Schools Academy Trust and informing them of upcoming open events at Holcombe Grammar, Rochester Grammar School and the Victory Academy. She also advised the community about the grammar school process, the Medway and Kent Tests and how to register. The Association of the Bulgarian Community also welcomed another guest speaker, Bobby Mahay from Kent Police, who spoke to students and parents about bullying, hate crime and the role of the police in supporting communities.

The Association are thankful to Mrs Villalta for her time, words and support. Holcombe is proud to be connecting with local communities.

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## Dates

<b>16th – 20th September 2019</b>	Sailing Trip
<b>20th-22nd September</b>	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Assessment
<b>W/C Monday 30th September</b>	Prefect Applications Invited
<b>TBC</b>	Year 7 Settling in Evening
<b>7th October</b>	Deadline for Prefect Applications
<b>W/C 7th October and 14th October</b>	Year 11 Prelims
<b>Saturday 12th October</b>	Open Morning
<b>Thursday 17th October</b>	Term 1 ends
<b>Friday 18th October</b>	<b>Staff Development Day</b>
<b>19th—27th October</b>	Japan Trip
<b>21st—25th October</b>	<b>Autumn Break</b>
<b>Monday 28th October</b>	Term 2 Commences
<b>18th November</b>	Deadline for School Captains' Team Applications; Year 11 Parents' Evening; Year 13 Prelims all week
<b>Wednesday 18th December</b>	Term 2 Ends
<b>Monday 16th December</b>	Year 13 Parents' Evening
<b>Thursday 19th December</b>	<b>School closed in lieu of Open Morning</b>
<b>Friday 20th December—Friday 3rd January</b>	<b>Christmas Break</b>
<b>W/C 6th January</b>	Year 12 Prelims
<b>Monday 6th January</b>	<b>Staff Development Day;</b> Year 12 Prelims all week
<b>Tuesday 7th January</b>	Term 3 Commences
<b>W/C 27th January and 3rd February</b>	Year 11 Prelims
<b>Thursday 6th February</b>	Year 9 Parents' Evening
<b>W/C 10th February</b>	Year 13 Prelims
<b>Thursday 13th February</b>	Year 12 Parents' Evening



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<b>Friday 14th February</b>	Term 3 Ends
<b>Monday 17th February—Friday 21st February</b>	<b>February Break</b>
<b>Monday 24th February</b>	Term 4 Commences; Year 13 Prelims all week
<b>Thursday 19th March</b>	Year 8 Parents' and Options' Evening
<b>Friday 3rd April</b>	Term 4 Ends
<b>Friday 10th April</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>Monday 13th April</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
<b>Monday 6th April—Friday 17th April</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>Monday 20th April</b>	Term 5 Commences
<b>Thursday 23rd April</b>	Year 10 Parents' Evening
<b>Friday 22nd May</b>	Term 5 Ends
<b>Friday 8th May</b>	<b>Early May Bank Holiday (instead of Monday 4th)</b>
<b>Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May</b>	<b>May Break</b>
<b>Monday 1st June</b>	Term 6 Commences
<b>W/C 15th June</b>	Year 10 Prelims
<b>W/C 22nd June</b>	Year 12 Prelims
<b>Thursday 25th June</b>	Year 7 Parents' Evening
<b>Friday 17th July</b>	Term 6 Ends
<b>Monday 20th July</b>	<b>Staff Development Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 21st July</b>	<b>Staff Development Day</b>

Clubs Term 1

	<b>BEFORE SCHOOL</b> (7.30-8.30AM)	<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b> (3.05-4.15PM)
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>GYM</b> <b>BASKETBALL</b> <b>BADMINTON</b> <b>LUNCHTIME: DEBATE CLUB B12</b>	<b>TABLE TENNIS</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>GYM</b> <b>BASKETBALL</b> <b>BADMINTON</b> <b>LUNCHTIME: BOOK THIEVES B12</b>	<b>FOOTBALL FIXTURES</b> <b>HOMEWORK CLUB</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>GYM</b> <b>BASKETBALL</b> <b>BADMINTON</b> <b>LUNCHTIME: MFL HOMEWORK CLUB</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> XI FOOTBALL FIXTURES</b> <b>FOOTBALL FIXTURES</b> <b>HOMEWORK CLUB</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>GYM</b> <b>BASKETBALL</b> <b>BADMINTON</b> <b>LUNCHTIME: YUGIOH CLUB H11</b>	<b>BADMINTON</b> <b>HOMEWORK CLUB</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>LUNCHTIME: DEBATE CLUB B12</b>	<b>GYM</b> <b>GCSE PE PRACTICAL SUPPORT</b> <b>YEAR 7 FOOTBALL TRAINING</b>



We also have the Medway Victory Sea Cadets Unit. Cadets are expected to regularly attend the unit on Mondays 6pm-8pm 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.