

Thought for the Week: Rail Safety Awareness. “There were 318 major injuries on the railway in 2017-2018. This is an increase of 20.5% on the previous year.” Wellbeing Focus this Term: ‘Connect.’



Aspire & Achieve Together

Quickfire Week

The week in bullet points

Last Week

- ◇ Normandy Trip
- ◇ Year 12 sat their preliminary exams
- ◇ Assemblies about public transport took place.

This Week (Week A)

- ◇ Sixth Form Induction 2nd and 3rd July
- ◇ Induction for new Year 6s Thursday 4th July.

Trip Payment Schedules

Japan: The sixth instalment of £295 due 29th June.

Normandy: Final instalment due as soon as possible.

Students learned about the Romans and wrote inscriptions, and also listened to a science presentation, which was carried out entirely in



Spanish. Our students found this an exciting way to learn, as well as experiencing the Spanish language and practicing their listening and speaking skills.

Our students then participated in an African drumming session, which was very popular with the students. At the end of the day some of the boys were able to put on a performance, alongside students from other schools, playing African music to an audience. The African drumming, for our student Emad, was the highlight of the trip. He said it was ‘fantastic’ and he said he thoroughly enjoyed it.

Miss Ortega said: ‘All the boys I took on the trip were a credit to the school. They were so engaged and participative. They also won three out of four of the languages competitions that took place at lunchtime.’

We would like to thank Miss Ortega for coordinating the trip, which we hope enthused our students about the world they live in and broadened their horizons. Well done, Holcombe Language Heroes!

World Languages Day



Twenty of our Year 8 students attended the World Languages Day event at the University of Kent, Medway Campus, on the 19th of June, with Miss Ortega. This annual event welcomes over 300

students in this

year group from across Medway schools, with the aim of allowing students to delve into, experience and appreciate different languages and cultures.

The day was a huge success. The boys loved being able to try out new languages and learn new skills. They were given a taster of exciting languages they may not have experienced before, such as Norwegian, Japanese and Dutch during the language teaching sessions, which introduced them to new languages and possibilities. There were also sessions in languages that were more familiar to them—Spanish and French—allowing them to brush up on their skills.



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Public Transport Assembly

On the 26th and 28th June Holcombe was pleased to welcome a guest speaker, Ms Caroline Goodwin, a Rail Enforcement Officer from Network Rail, who delivered powerful assemblies to our students about rail safety. She reminded students to be ever vigilant on and around train stations, staying clear of the yellow lines and never trespassing, and warned students of the consequences anti-social behaviour on and around the railway could lead to. She also put these consequences within the context of the law, which allows staff to issue fines, take details and refuse offenders the right to travel. These assemblies were delivered as part of our thought for the week, the shocking statistic that ‘there were 318 major injuries on the railway in 2017-2018’ which is an increase of 20.5% on the previous year.

Students were reminded about good conduct on all public transport in general—cleaning up after themselves, keeping their bags with them at all times, always travelling with valid tickets and keeping feet and bags off chairs to allow other passengers to sit down. A message that was paramount in Goodwin’s assembly was that of respect— respect for the environment, respect for other passengers and respect for each other. Although Ms Goodwin was speaking on behalf of Network Rail, Mrs Villalta, and the rest of us at Holcombe, cannot stress enough that these words should be applied to all of the ways students travel to and from school. No matter their mode of transport, students, while in their Holcombe uniforms, are representatives of their school. We hope even students who walk to school will have taken away something from these assemblies, being more vigilant, for example, when crossing roads.

Please could parents and carers reinforce these messages at home, which will in turn promote safety, cleanliness and mutual respect within our community. Many thanks to Ms Goodwin for taking the time to speak to our students about these important issues.

Albert’s Swimming

Congratulations to Albert Branch, Year 8, who has successfully qualified to compete at the British Swimming Championships in Glasgow in July.

Albert has been part of the Black Lion swimming club for the last two years. He has been competing in many galas over the past few months, and his fantastic performances, passion for his sport and hard work during the tough training programme have seen him soar through to the Championships. These Championships will see the top twenty-five swimmers in Britain for the 14 year old age bracket compete to be crowned British Champions. Albert qualifying for this event is extraordinary and demonstrates his immense skill and determination.

Albert has also qualified and will be competing at the English National Swimming Championships in Sheffield, which takes place the following week. This Championship sees the next fifteen top swimmers in England for this age bracket compete. He will be competing in the 500m Butterfly, 500m Freestyle and the 400m Individual Medley.

Albert, your school is extremely proud of you. This is an enormous achievement and we know how hard you have worked, all of which has been done alongside your studies at Holcombe. We wish you the best of luck for the Championships and look forward to seeing your swimming career develop.

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Year 9 Revision Session

During Periods 1 and 2 on Monday 24th June, a revision session was held for all Year 9 students with Ms Miller.

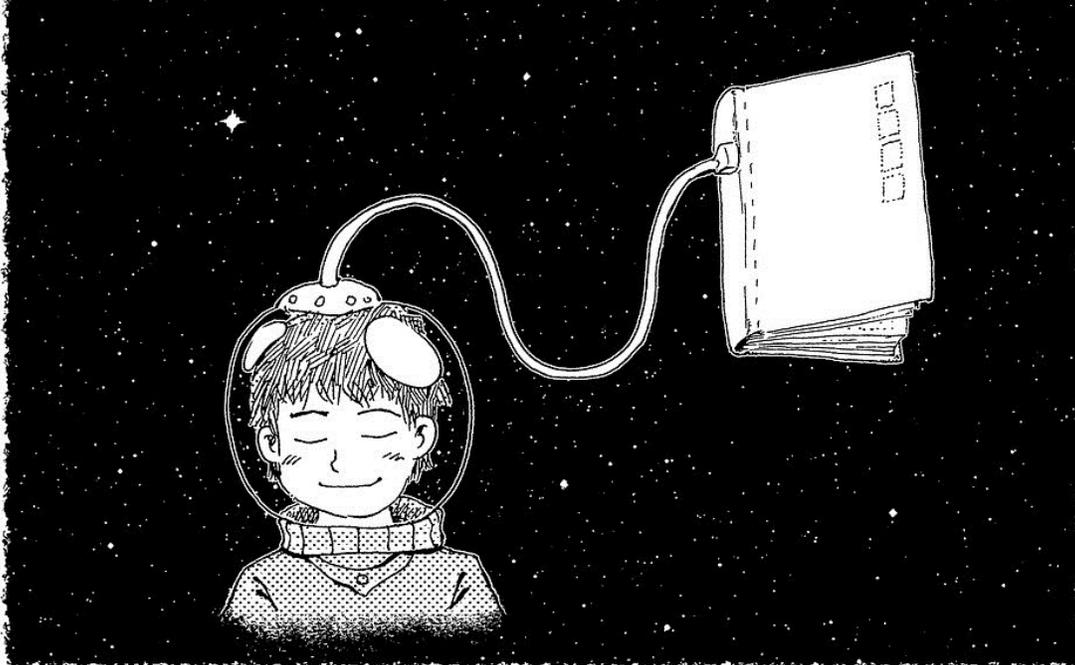
Head of Year Mrs Manning said the session ‘went very well.’ The boys looked at a range of revision techniques, and how to use thinking maps as an effective revision tool. The Year 9s found this session incredibly useful and many of them have come away with the knowledge of more effective ways of revising.

Teachers will be giving Year 9s the opportunity to utilise the skills and techniques they have learned in upcoming lessons and will also be encouraging them to use them to assist with the homework they have been set. We strongly encourage students to get into the habit of using these skills and developing them further. More revision tasks will be set for students, allowing staff to assess progress and to also be set to allow students to take more responsibility and ownership for their independent learning. We are proud to say that it was some of our Year 9s themselves who requested these extra revision tasks. We are proud they have taken it upon themselves to go about enhancing their own learning.

We hope parents and carers will encourage students to use these techniques at home and that these techniques will benefit all students. Thank you to Mrs Manning and Ms Miller for all of their help with this.

Dates

W/C Monday 1st July	Year 12 Work Experience Week
2nd-3rd July	Sixth Form Induction
Thursday 4th July	Year 6 Induction Day
Monday 8th July	Year 7 trip to Dover Castle
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8th, 9th and 10th July	Post-18 application days. Students will be off timetable to prepare for post-school life. The programme covers University and Apprenticeship talks, Personal Statement/ CV writing and workshops. More information to follow.
Thursday 11th July	Prize Giving 2019
Tuesday 16th July	Founders' Day
Friday 19th July	End of Term



Join now! Summer Reading Challenge...

Wherever you are, whatever you do, make some time to read this summer, join the Challenge and escape...

The whole family can take part in Medway Libraries reading challenges that will be running from **13 July** until **14 September**.

Adults - Take some time out and join 'Rewarding Reading'. Read just six books of your choice and get the chance to win some great prizes!

Teenagers - Young people aged 13-16 are invited to go on a reading adventure and read six books of their own choosing. Once completed they can be entered into a free prize draw with a chance of winning some wonderful prizes, including a year's gym membership.

Children - Children aged 4-12 can join the super space family, The Rockets, in this out-of-this-world challenge inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. They just need to read six books to receive a certificate, and special rewards are given after they complete each book.

Find out more at any Medway library, or visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk