

**Thought for the Week:** 'Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live.' **Wellbeing Focus this Term:** 'Keep Learning.'



**HOLCOMBE**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

*Aspire & Achieve Together*

### Quickfire Week *The week in bullet points*

- ◇ It's been a busy week at Holcombe. Modern Foreign Languages speaking exams took place, as did GCSE art exams.
- ◇ **This week (Week B)**
- ◇ Monday is May Day bank holiday.
- ◇ Norfolk Trip for Year 8, Tuesday-Friday.
- ◇ Preliminary examinations will be taking place for Years 7 and 9 all week.

### Trip Payment Schedules

**Japan:** The fifth instalment of £295 due 26th May.

**Normandy:** Final instalment due.

**Croatia:** Second instalment of £475 is due 1st June.



which was a great improvement on last year's trip when they had snow and had to cut the walk short on two of the days. Some cadets were even in shorts and T-shirts by the

## Walking the Wall

Owain Beaney and Riley Harvey, Year 9, and Josh Botelho and Deren Ormanci, Year 10, spent a week during the Easter holidays walking Hadrian's wall with their Air Cadet Squadron. This is an 84 mile walk, starting in Newcastle and ending in Port Carlisle. To accomplish this feat, the boys needed to use skills of interdependence, acting with persistence, and taking risks. The boys received badges at the end of the walk to commemorate their incredible achievements. We would like to say a huge congratulations and well done to the boys.



end of the week. We were able to walk on top of the wall in one section but mostly we walked along the footpath next to the wall. There were interesting forts to explore along the way with plenty of information boards and artists impressions to show us what it would have looked like in Roman times.

It was a great experience and I am looking forward to doing it again next year if I can. There was great teamwork and if one of us was getting tired, then another would encourage us to keep going. On one day we walked 18 miles so we were certainly ready for our beds that night. At the end of the final day we each received a badge to commemorate walking the wall.'

Pictured: Deren (above) and Owain (below) proudly collecting their badges after successfully completing the walk.

Here is what Owain says about his Roman adventure: 'During the Easter holidays, 21 Air Cadets from Maidstone, Chatham and Parkwood Squadrons travelled up to stay at RAF Spadeadam to spend the week walking the entire length of Hadrian's wall. We started in Newcastle Upon Tyne and finished in Bowness-on-Solway. The length of the walk is 84 miles which was split into sections over 6 days and every morning we drove from RAF Spadeadam to where we had finished the walk the day before. The weather was dry all week



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## Walking the Wall Continued



Josh currently has the rank of Corporal in the RAF Air Cadets, and he plans to keep up his training to eventually attain the rank of Sergeant. He has also been doing many weekends of training at St Martins Plain MOD transition camp, Folkestone, walking over 50 miles each training weekend since January, in readiness for the

Nijmegen Marches (Holland). This is an annual 100 mile march over four days held in July, which involves participants walking or marching over twenty-five miles per day—by the time Josh completes his training in readiness for the march, he will have covered a total of 290 miles. This is a huge undertaking and will be an extremely demanding event, but will be very beneficial, teaching them about resilience, fitness, teamwork, and their own strengths. We are very proud of everything Josh is accomplishing, and we wish Josh the best of luck with his training, his upcoming march, and future endeavours.

Also as part of the Air Cadets, Deren Ormanci participated in a STEM activity weekend at Wellbeck College a few weeks ago. We hope Deren was able to learn a lot from this weekend, including transferable skills that he can use in his learning here at Holcombe.

Finally, we would also like to say well done again to Owain, who as well as walking the wall, also recently passed his Grade 1 clarinet exam with a distinction, despite sustaining a mouth injury only 45 minutes before the exam.

## Year 7 Study Skills Day

On Tuesday 23rd April, our Year 7s took part in a workshop led by our School Captains' Team. They were taught a range of revision techniques and given useful advice to aid them in their preparation for their upcoming preliminary exams. We are proud to report that the day was a huge success, with a survey after the event demonstrating that 68% of our Year 7s were feeling very / extremely confident about their exams, compared to before the session, where 68% said they did not feel confident. 70% of our students rated the event very or extremely helpful, 71% said they learnt a lot or a great deal of ideas to apply to their own exam preparation, and 80% said the ideas were presented very or extremely clearly. A fantastic 94% said the event met or exceeded their expectations of the day. Year 7 students also gave feedback, which included that the Sixth Formers were friendly and helpful, and that they enjoyed the competitions, team activities, and having the support and encouragement from others.

Constructive feedback included that smaller groups may have been more helpful, as well as shorter explanations and students expressed interest in a revision club. In response to these comments, members of staff have been asked to put precise resources/guidance on Show My Homework for subject content to be revised. Also, students have been invited to Homework on Time Club and other support sessions outlined in assembly and a letter has been sent home with a summary of revision techniques, which we hope will enable parents to support students at home.

Thank you to Miss Martin for her work in coordinating this event, which has been beneficial for both Year 7 students and Sixth Formers, and thanks to our Sixth Formers, who are exceptional role models for our younger students.

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## Dates

<b>W/C Monday</b>	Year 7, 9 Prelims (core subjects only)
<b>6th May</b>	
<b>7th-10th May</b>	Norfolk Trip
<b>10th May</b>	Year 10 Finance Exam
<b>Monday 27th</b>	<b>May Break</b>
<b>-Friday 31st</b>	
<b>May</b>	
<b>Monday 3rd</b>	<b>Term 6 starts</b>
<b>June</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	Year 5 Taster Session (PM, after school)
<b>13th June</b>	
<b>Monday 17th</b>	Year 10 Internal Examinations
<b>June</b>	
<b>W/C Monday</b>	Year 12 Prelims
<b>24th June</b>	
<b>24th-27th</b>	Normandy Trip
<b>June</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	Year 6 Induction Day and Evening for parents
<b>27th June</b>	
<b>W/C Monday</b>	Year 12 Work Experience Week
<b>1st July</b>	
<b>2nd-3rd July</b>	Sixth Form Induction
<b>Thursday 4th</b>	Senior Prizegiving
<b>July</b>	
<b>Monday 8th</b>	Year 7 trip to Dover Castle
<b>July.</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Founders' Day
<b>16th July</b>	
<b>Friday 19th</b>	<b>End of Term</b>
<b>July</b>	

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## Year 6 Ambassadors

Year 7 students have started to get together and plan events for our incoming Year 6 students. The Year 6 Ambassadors met for the first time this week and discussed how they will to help run some of the transition events next term and support new students during their first visits to Holcombe.

Sidney Phillips was nominated President, Fred Firmin as Vice-President and Jack Pass as Communications Officer for the Group. Plans were made to begin an Anti-Bullying support group in September run by volunteers: Matthew Pearson, Billy Walker, Jack Pass, Jaden Edusei and Chisom Obidimalor.

We look forward to welcoming our new students and the Year 6 Ambassadors are keen to work with younger students to help support them through the transition to our school.

Miss Martin