

ISSUE 15
10th May 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems that summer has finally arrived this week! I hope you are all well and are finally enjoying some warmer weather.

Yesterday marked the start of the formal examination period with the first GCSE examination of the summer taking place. Over the next 6 weeks or so all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students will be completing their GCSEs and A Levels and we wish them every success. Last Friday we held a great Leavers Day for our Year 13s and on Tuesday this week our Year 11s got to enjoy a morning with no lessons to just enjoy spending time with friends before the examinations really get going. Whilst normal lessons for Year 11 and 13 have now ended we are all still very much here to help so if any Year 11 or Year 13 student needs our support at any time in the coming months, please do just get in touch. All information concerning the examinations is on our website [here](#).

Whilst this will be our main focus for the next few weeks, of course we still have five other year groups in school and a lot will be happening. Next week we are holding a 'wear it green' day on Thursday 16th May as part of our work to support mental health week. Students are invited to wear 1 item of green clothing on the day but will still need their blazer as usual.

Whilst mentioning blazers, can I please ask for your support in insisting that your son still wears his blazer to school. We are starting to see students leaving blazers at home and bringing Hoodies in instead. If we do get a period of very hot weather in the summer then as usual we will relax the blazer rule, but we are a long way from that yet and the expectation is still clearly that all students should be wearing a blazer.

We are also planning two events for this summer. Our Founders Day will be held on Friday 18th July and will see us again celebrating the history of the school for the day through a range of fun activities. If any parent / carer feels you can contribute to this then please do let us know by contacting Stacey.Sommerville@holcombegrammar.tsat.uk

We are also introducing a Key Stage 3 celebration evening which will be held on Thursday 27th June. Look out for much more information on this in the coming weeks.

I hope you and your families are well and I look forward to updating you further in two weeks time.

Mr L Preston
Headteacher

CONTENTS

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.

To be brought back to this page, please click the Holcombe Grammar logo in the top right hand corner of each page.

[Can We Help?](#)

[Digital Learning Update](#)

[Helpful Revision Tips](#)

[Exam Paper Scams Poster](#)

[Online Safety Hub](#)

[Year 11 Leavers Event](#)

[Year 12 Media Trip](#)

[Geography](#)

[PE Clubs Attendance](#)

[Media Club Poster](#)

[Opportunities Fair Poster](#)

[Online Safety Events](#)

KEY DATES

Term 5

- **Friday 24th May**
- Last Day of Term 5

Term 6

- **Monday 3rd June**
- First Day of Term 6

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](#)





CAN WE HELP?

What is the Hardship Fund?

The Hardship Fund is a source of financial help available to all registered full time school students. The aim of the fund is to help the students who have difficulties paying for:

1. Curriculum trips, visits and year group residentials
2. Uniform, shoes or sports kit
3. Emergency travel expenses
4. Equipment to access individual studies

Payments from the fund do not need to be repaid

Please scan the QR code below or click this [link](#) to see how we can help:

Scan me



DIGITAL LEARNING UPDATE



As mentioned in our previous letter regarding the Digital Learning update, we are pleased to announce that there is a new Digital Learning area on the Holcombe Grammar school website. This area will be regularly updated with information and tools to support you and your child, but if there is anything else you wish to have access to or need support with, please let me know via email emma.morris@holcombegrammar.tsat.uk

The page can be found under 'Our School' and 'Quick Links', alternatively please follow this [link](#).



[OUR SCHOOL](#) ▾ [LEARN WITH US](#) ▾ [WORK WITH US](#) [LATEST NEWS](#) [CONTACT US](#)



Search



Digital Learning

[Home](#) / [Holcombe Grammar School](#) / [Our School](#) / Digital Learning

Welcome to our Digital Learning area which contains guides to Classcharts, Teams, support for Microsoft365 accessibility and information regarding digital safety to support you and your child.

[PARENT GUIDANCE ON DIGITAL AND ONLINE SAFETY](#)

[CLASSCHARTS](#)

[+PAY](#)

HELPFUL REVISION TIPS



By Mrs Jhaj

In the termly Student Voice Survey with my A level Psychologists, we focussed on the revision techniques which have been used effectively in past prelim exams and in the lead up to the external examinations.

I hope all our students preparing for end of year tests, GCSEs or A levels benefit from the techniques below.

The students do not use just one technique but a variety, but key was having a daily and weekly schedule, organising their different subjects and the topics which were their priority.

Tellulah , Year 13 "Using past exam papers from exam websites, completing them in timed conditions and then using the exam mark schemes". This technique can be powerful using your green pen review to add details, corrections and write model top band answers. To add challenge, students can complete the questions in timed and silent conditions, preparing for the exam.

Using Personal learning checklists (PLCs) to red, amber and green (RAG) the topics from the exam course you confidently understand, need to review or don't understand, is an excellent starting point for planning revision.

To read more tips, please click [here](#).



EXAM PAPER SCAMS



With exam season starting, please may we bring your attention to the following poster.

Don't fall for exam paper scams!



Trying to buy an exam paper, which claims to be real, is a serious matter. The penalties are strict, and you could end up losing your qualification, and your money!

If you see anyone selling exam papers online, including on social media, **it's most likely a scam.**

Stay clear and report it to your teachers or exam board.





THINKING SCHOOLS
ACADEMY TRUST

ONLINE SAFETY HUB



Developed by industry experts, our new Online Safety Hub is designed to be a vital resource for schools and parents to learn how we can keep our children safe online.

From parent advice to blogs and guides, there is something to support everyone's needs.

 Explore the new hub at tsatrust.onlinesafetyhub.uk

YEAR 11 LEAVERS EVENT



Year 11 were bid farewell and good luck in style on 7th May, with students receiving prizes as well as shirt signing, sports of the school field and pizza.

Despite train strikes and some disruption in the local area, it was fantastic to see the majority of students making the effort to attend the festivities and conducting themselves in a respectful and positive manner.

Both the Senior Leadership team, their Head of Year, tutors and teachers took part in the days events and enjoyed the sunshine reflecting and celebrating on the successes and efforts of all in Year 11.



We wish you all the best of luck in your upcoming exams, and look forward to welcoming you back on site for results day in August.

YEAR 12 MEDIA TRIP



Last June, a group of Year 12 Media and Art students were invited to Black Hangar Studios by ex-student Ryan Gray who now works as Head of Post-Production and has been working on a new WW1 film. The students were invited to take part in a tour of the studio and were asked to be used as extras for the opening sequence of the film and Ryan has now shared some exclusive images which have been edited ready to be part of the sequence. We are eagerly awaiting the details of the premiere!



GEOGRAPHY



KS3

Our Year 8 cohort completed their KS3 assessment which covered 4 major topics taught this year with varying exam skills and techniques also being practiced and applied. In light of some of the responses we would also like to encourage all of our Year 7, 8 and 9 Students to access the Learning Journeys available on the school website curriculum section, as well as the Knowledge Banks for each of the topics covered. Please check with your teacher if they have uploaded it anywhere else in addition to the Teams folder where all Knowledge banks so far studied can be found.

The Geography Team would also like to encourage students to make use of Seneca and BBC Bitesize to improve their work and notes.

If you would like any advice on how best to revise, please speak with Mr Holdstock or Mrs Obee for some additional hints, tips and tricks.

KS4

Whilst Year 10 are now completing the content for their first GCSE exam paper to be sat in Summer 2025, we are also bidding goodbye and good luck to our Year 11 cohort. We wish them every success in their exams.

KS5

Year 12 are forging ahead with their content studies, interweaving practicing exam timings and skills whilst preparing to start their Coursework project shortly.

Mrs Obee and Mrs Sommerville would like to wish our Year 13 cohort good luck in their exams. Remember, "Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm Possible'" – Audrey Hepburn.

PE CLUBS ATTENDANCE



YR 7 - Samuel Laogun



YR 8 - Dylan Drabble



YR 9 - Samuel Akuruli

YR 10 - Iyanuoluwa Abraham



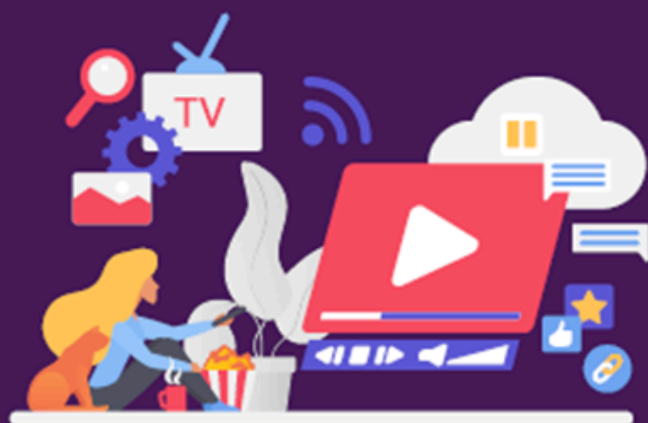
Congratulations on being the students who attended the most PE clubs between 15/4 – 7/5
Keep it up





Come along to

MEDIA CLUB



Mrs
Morris
B15

Media Club - try out film, animation or design using the Adobe Suite

Monday lunchtimes - Week A and Week B

Open to all year groups

OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

FRIDAY, 31 MAY

10AM-2PM

PENTAGON SHOPPING CENTRE
CHATHAM

GET SET FOR SEPTEMBER

AIMED AT YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-18

LOCAL COMPANIES AND PROVIDERS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

APPRENTICESHIPS



IAG

INFORMATION,
ADVICE
AND GUIDANCE

iag@medway.gov.uk

Medway
COUNCIL
Serving You



Cyber Choices and Online Safety Events

For parents / carers of children aged 9 and up

You are invited to attend two free online sessions to discuss all things "cyber".

These sessions will be suitable for parents/carers of children in Year 5 (age 9) and above. This will be a fantastic opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding your child's online world and it shouldn't be missed!

Part 1 will introduce you to the Cyber Choices programme which will be delivered by the Eastern Region Cyber Choices Team. They will provide:

- An overview to parents and carers on what cybercrime is.
- What the risks to young people are.
- How the Cyber Choices programme supports at-risk individuals.
- How you can refer a young person into Cyber Choices.

You will also hear from Kent County Council's Education Safeguarding Team, who will provide an overview of;

- Some of the potential risks that children and young people may experience online.
- Advice to support parents to make informed decisions and keep their children safer online.

Please visit the NCA website to find out more about [Cyber Choices](#).

Please register for one part 1 session only (as these will be duplicated), by clicking on the link below.

Wednesday 8th May 2024 @ 1000 - Part 1
[Book here](#)

Wednesday 5th June 2024 @ 1300 - Part 1
[Book here](#)

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 @ 1600 - Part 1
[Book here](#)

Part 2 will be delivered by the Eastern Region Cyber Protect Team. They will provide:

- Advice on how to improve your personal cyber security.
- Identifying and protecting yours (and your children's) key accounts.
- Threats and techniques that cyber criminals may use to target you / your family.
- Benefits of family accounts.
- Parental controls on your router.
- Signposting to useful resources.

The aim of the session is to provide you with tools and techniques to improve the cyber security of your family.

Advice and guidance from the session will be in line with the Government's [Stop! Think Fraud](#) and the National Cyber Security Centres [CyberAware](#) campaigns.

Again, please register for one part 2 session only (as these will be duplicated), by clicking on the link below.

Wednesday 15th May 2024 @ 1000 - Part 2
[Book here](#)

Wednesday 12th June 2024 @ 1300 - Part 2
[Book here](#)

Wednesday 10th July 2024 @ 1600 - Part 2
[Book here](#)

If you have any questions or would like us to cover a certain topic within our sessions, then please complete our [online form](#).