



HIGHsted FLYERS

April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We have finally got to the end of term and what a fun-filled term it has been for pupils at Highsted!

As 2022 commenced pupils were thinking big – challenging each other to engage in 10 days of action by standing up for a purpose greater than themselves. Inspired by the UN's 16 days of *Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*, the issues provoked by the curiosity of Highsted pupils were broad and far-ranging but reflected the core matters that young people feel strongly about. Topics that took centre stage for debate included the impact of lockdown and violence against women; the gender divide in education; period poverty; sport and gender violence and tokenism in the feminist movement to name but a few. What was evident in these big discussions was the Highsted pupil not shying away from considering their moral purpose in the community that they are part of.

Overshadowed by the compelling action in Ukraine, the student leadership team have been busy planning an innovative fundraiser to support the on-going humanitarian responses that are evident in our wider community at this time. The plans entail challenging the school as part of a cyclotron to cycle the Ukraine's land border of 1,426.07 miles between April 21-29. Further details will follow of how this will be rolled out within school after the Easter break.

As part of the school's diversity programme within the pastoral curriculum, February acknowledged LGBT awareness month. The LGBT society in addition to leading educational awareness activities in assembly time, raised a stunning £870.00 for Stonewall their nominated charity. Impressively, Jake B in Year 13 made the overwhelming majority of the crafts on sale. Thank you to all members of the society for your passion for and commitment to raising awareness of LGBT issues in our community.

The theme of International Women's Day 08 March 2022 focussed on calling all to '*Break the Bias*' for women and girls from a local and global perspective. It was a moving day as I and staff witnessed children across the school community stand up for and make a pledge to challenge stereotypes that continue to undermine the ability, determination and possibilities for women and girls. School may your commitment to '*Break the Bias*' surrounding women and

girls continue as you grow towards taking your adult place in the world.

This month, Women's History Month, involved staff throughout the school seeking to engage pupils to be inspired by their significant, inspirational woman in history. Whether it was Mr Gilbert's mother, Mrs Smith being inspired by Nazarin Zaghari-Ratcliffe or my own inspirational woman – Lady Hale former president of the UK Supreme Court – it marked a significant day for the school community to take note of strong role models who encourage us to be brave not perfect as we face challenges in life and to rally our inner strength to dream big and achieve our personal success.

The last week of term heralded a return to face-to-face concerts as the music department held a '*Spring Soiree*' with live music accompanying film extracts for our entertainment. It was delightful to be congregated once again as a community and to be moved by the musical talents of so many of our children. Mrs Braddy our Head of Music intended for the audience to be re-ignited with the joy and self-confidence that such occasions of playing music provide for our pupils and to all in attendance this was certainly achieved. We were moved by the Chamber Choir's rendition of '*May it be*' by Enya, enthralled by Ayo A's (Piano) and Freya J's (violin) offering of '*Where is my Mind*' by The Pixies and the culmination of the evening with The Origin's '*Mamma Mia*' - Abba medley was simply electric! School thank you for sharing your talents with family and friends and my thanks is extended to Mrs Braddy and Mrs Reed in the music department who made this event possible with you.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to teachers who are contributing to the Easter support sessions during their Easter holidays to provide curriculum support for Year 11 and Year 13 pupils in advance of the scheduled GCSE and A-Level examinations - your continued support of our pupils is appreciated especially at this time.

Please note the amendment to the end of term date in July – in lieu of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the school will be closed to all staff and pupils on Friday 22 July 2022.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful Easter; the school will re-open to pupils on Wednesday 20 April 2022. Once again, please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support of the work of the school – it is appreciated.

All good wishes

Anne Kelly
Headteacher

Mad Science Saturday

Saturday the 5 February saw Highsted Grammar School host its annual STEM activity, Mad Science Saturday. The event was a morning of fun-filled, engaging scientific experiments to inspire Year 5 boys and girls in the Swale community. Nineteen primary schools from Swale were represented,



taking advantage of this fantastic opportunity. The theme centred around the fascinating world of water. From creating coloured Rainbow density testtubes, to chromatography, children explored first hand the great properties of water. Three additional workshops enhanced childrens knowledge across Biology Chemistry and Physics through teacher demonstrations. Participants

marvelled at the static electricity activities which included the use of the Van de Graaff generator, wowed at the flammable properties of methane and aahed at Africa clawed frogs watching them feed, while using keys to identify prey species.

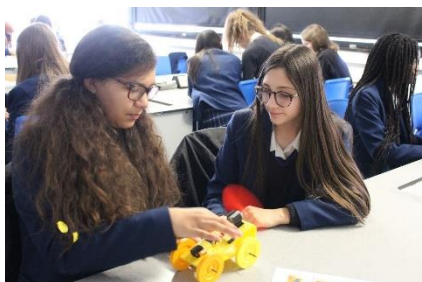
Joel from Iwade said “ I enjoyed the water tricks’ while Jolie from St Peter’s Primary School, “I enjoyed the fact we made things and were involved and I especially liked the electricity. It was awesome!”



British Science Week

Highsted had an intense week of activities to celebrate British Science Week. There were special in-class challenges to practise the engineering and design skills of the students. In Year 7, they built a small boat out of straw and paper to see which design could hold the most mass before sinking. They also linked their knowledge of biological adaptations to design an insect that would thrive in a particular environment. The Year 8 students were challenged to build the tallest tower possible of spaghetti and marshmallows and to create a poster on the theme this year “Growth”. The Year 9 students also practiced their technical skills as they built a light house out of paper and created a simple circuit. They also extracted DNA from strawberries. The Year 10 students completed a thought-provoking activity to see how their personality might enable them to enjoy certain careers in the STEM field.

There were many lunchtime clubs and activities on offer. The week kicked off with students within the Animal Husbandry club, learning to care for Musk turtles, Sulcata



tortoises and African clawed frogs. Students also had the opportunity to make sugar scrubs in the Cosmetic Chemistry club. The Nature Club and Biology Society Club were also very active this week with bespoke activities.

On Tuesday, the Year 10 students listened to a guest speaker from the Imperial College in London who discussed the importance of climate change and the critical technology of carbon capture and storage. Meanwhile students across the school had the chance to get involved with a Chemistry scavenger hunt to find which teachers had badges for certain elements from the periodic table.

During Science Week, students across Year 7 and 8 marvelled at the magnificent demonstrations from the Wonderstruck Show. They wowed at balls of fire sent to the roof of the school hall, shrivelled at the thought of laying on a bed of nails and looked in amazement at the smoke rings as they travelled across the school hall.

Year 8 built and launched rockets using compressed air across the school grounds, demonstrating the speed and power of a simplistic design. Year 9 built and modified fan powered cars, to race across 8 metres. Congratulations to our 10 finalists and to Team Wagon Wheels – whose car passed the finishing line to 4.19 seconds.



The week concluded with a memory challenge as students tried to memorise and recite back in order the entire periodic table. Many students had impressive displays of memory, and congratulations to Freya J. who memorised the entire table.

All the activities, clubs, speakers, practicals, and competitions had one goal - to get students excited about science. Science is an intrinsic part of life and there are many rewarding careers in this field. Students were able to see the awe and wonder that science holds this week during British Science Week at Highsted.

Reading News

Parents with students in KS3 will remember hearing about the reading initiatives we are encouraging in school. Reading projects have been underway throughout Term 4, with students broadening their reading horizons on the theme of ‘Displacement’ in Y8 and ‘Dystopian Fiction’ in Y9. It has been heart-warming to hear teachers talking about the enthusiastic conversations these projects have provoked with students. One Y9 student spoke excitedly about their enjoyment of a book recommended by their English teacher, Miss Mead: ‘Fahrenheit 451’, naming it the best book they’ve ever read. We look forward to the group presentations and discussions about the texts read. Outstanding presentations will be rewarded with praise postcards in the post. The end of this week also sees the first



Highsted Book Review Raffle, the results of which will be announced in the next newsletter. I look forward to rewarding three lucky readers in Y7, Y8 and Y9 their £10 book tokens! Should your child have missed this term’s deadline, there’s always next term: students should email their reviews to Mrs Field. Finally, some more exciting news: Highsted has recently joined the Accelerated Reader Programme, more information to follow on the benefits of this fantastic scheme!

Mrs Field

Highsted Grammar School Number Day 2022

On Friday 4 February Highsted Grammar School took part in NSPCC Number Day. 18 members of staff proudly wore numbers for the day and the students engaged in a hunt around the school to find them. They had to then fit their teachers into different categories, much to their delight. Students were looking for 'teachers in their prime', 'irrational teachers' and staff who were just a just a figment of their imagination. All involved found it fun and engaging. Lunch time saw some Highsted students tearing across the playground asking every member of staff they saw 'what's your number?'. The race to fill in their forms was on to make sure that they had all of the categories correct. To add to the pressure, they had a bonus task of spotting who fitted in to more than one category. It was great to see students enjoying this activity and learning about numbers that they otherwise wouldn't until A-Level. The winning forms were 7.5, 8.5 and 9.1 and the Year winners were as follows:

Emilia C 7.5
 Emily C 7.5
 Jessica R 7.5
 Olivia G 7.5
 Rachel N 7.5
 Amelia A 8.5
 Amelia H 9.1

Amelia A in 8.5 was the overall winner. She not only collected all of the numbers but scored full marks filling in the categories. Well Done to all!



Sports Update

Highsted Sports Leaders Programme

Last term, students in Year 9 were invited to apply for a 6-week Sports Leadership course. Students who applied needed to be passionate about sport and wished to develop their leadership skills in supporting the participation of sport in school at Highsted and in our local community. The successful applicants who joined the sports leadership course over the last 6 weeks have been involved in developing their confidence in helping them to prepare for the challenges they might be faced when assisting with sporting opportunities in school. At the heart of sports leadership programme has



been participation, volunteering and creating further opportunities for developing their skills in sports leadership.



Throughout the course they have developed the fundamental skills required to be effective sports leaders. The students involved in the course have also been enrolled on the Active Sports Programme through Sports Leaders UK and will receive certification once they have completed the course. The group have worked extremely hard to develop their skills in teamwork, communication, self-management, problem solving and self-belief and have been busy applying this to our Interhouse competitions. I would like to congratulate the group for their dedication and commitment in becoming young sports leaders. Miss Baker (PE Department)

Netball



Highsted have performed really strongly in the Swale netball competition this year, winning all our games except for one draw in the year 9 competition. The students have been keen to return to competitive sport post lockdown and it is encouraging to see so many students at clubs wishing to represent the school.

Here are the results from the competition, with lots of high scores from the teams. Thank you to all students that have played netball this season and represented the school, you have showed great teamwork, spirit and determination when playing these matches.

Y7 V TSS WON 10-0
 Y7 V FULSTON LOST 3-4
 Y7 V WESTLANDS WON 9-1
 Y8 V FULSTON WON 4-1
 Y8 V TSS WON 7-0
 Y8 V FULSTON WON 13-0
 Y8 V TSS WON 8-0



Y8 V WESTLANDS WON 10-0
 Y9 V FULSTON DREW 5-5
 Y9 V TSS WON 6-2
 Y9 V TSS WON 6-0
 Y10 V FULSTON WON 14-1
 Y10/11 V TSS WON 15-3
 Y11 V FULSTON WON 21-4

Physical Education Curriculum Update

During Term 3, our Highsted Students have had the chance to perform in their Gymnastics and Dance Schemes of work. Our Key Stage 3 students have fully embraced the Themes (Yr7 Bollywood Dance, Yr8 Annie Dance and Yr9 The Jive). Students have excelled in this, displaying fantastic teamwork and creative choreography to explore their ideas, develop their movements and perform their group dances confidently within the class.

In Key Stage 3 Gymnastics, students have developed their concept of different types of balances, extending their ideas, rotations and linking travelling pathways within group work. Our students have displayed





outstanding effort throughout and performed their Gymnastics routines with great confidence and flair.

Groupwork has been key throughout the units of work displaying teamwork, creativity, cooperation and determination. Students have shown a healthy balance between striving for excellence as well as

reaching individual goals.

We are looking forward to the next term when our students will experience our Summer sports - Rounders, Athletics and Cricket.

Inter-house Sports

It has been so great to return to inter-house sport this academic year, the PE department are enjoying seeing the students battle for House supremacy.

In Term 1, students experienced a veritable feast of netball, with KS3 and KS4 all competing in a tournament to decide which house would lift the coveted prize of Inter-house Netball Champions. In KS3 it was great to see students donning their house bibs to represent their house, and for some who are new to inter-house sport, taking part in the termly competitions. In the KS4 netball competition, the bar was set high and so pleasing to see them out on court showing everyone how to play netball with passion and enthusiasm. The 6th form competition was a highly contested and entertaining affair with students keen to dig out their PE trainers to take part. It was great to see so many students taking part in the spirit of sport. At the end of Term 1, the scores were as follows, with Keller out in front but not by much.

TERM 1	TOTAL
CHANEL	30
ELIOT	38
FRANKLIN	32
KELLER	42
RODDICK	34
SEACOLE	34

In Term 3 all Houses competed in Newton Ball to decide who would be the Interhouse Newton Ball Champions. The scores were quite close after round 1 and it was interesting to see the control shift as each played out their games. Newton ball, which is a modified version of volleyball, is always a popular activity and the final scores saw Keller remain leaders at the end of Term 3 with the rest of the houses chasing them down. This term each house is competing in Dodgeball and we will update you later in the year with how the battle is going.

TERM 2	TOTAL
CHANEL	68
ELIOT	66
FRANKLIN	74
KELLER	80
RODDICK	78
SEACOLE	60

The PE department would like to say a big thank you to the house captains for their help and support in organising teams and officiating at the competitions, as well as our Year 9 Sports Leaders that come along to help out with Year 7 and 8.

GCSE Rock climbing to Lower Grange Farm Scout Centre



Over three days between 9-11 March, 16 of the Year 11 GCSE PE group attended a rock climbing course at Lower Grange Farm Scout Centre, Maidstone to complete evidence for their GCSE practical exam.

The students all learned how to tie on, belay and climb safely amongst lots of other skills like palming, rocking over and smearing which, to be honest, sounds a lot more like 70's dance moves to the untrained rock climber. This involved learning lots of complicated knots to guarantee the safety of their climber. But for some it was conquering their fears of being off the ground and only attached by a rope, relying and placing trust in each other when climbing to reach the top. Watching their confidence grow and develop over the course, coupled with their determination in trying to reach the top, was amazing to see.

By day two they were able to tie all their knots and belay their partner and were fast becoming fully fledged climbers able to give each other advice on foothold and features and route selection. Tiredness and fatigue were a factor and lots of donuts were consumed to help alleviate their tired arms, but not even the donuts could make this group chatty, they were so tired.

They all worked so hard in acquiring the skills of climbing and I am proud to say their determination was unwavering. They were a great group to take climbing and it was a pleasure to take them to the wall.

A special thank you to the PE team and Miss Gardiner for accompanying the group each day.

Football



We have had a great 2021-2022 season with all year groups entered into the English Schools Cup and the Kent Schools Cup, and all teams

eager and ready to resume Inter School Competition. All teams have made a striking start in their return to competitive fixtures, with many of our games going into double figures and Highsted winning convincingly.

Well done to all the students that have represented Highsted in football this season. You have played with focus and passion and demonstrated great teamwork in coming together to represent the school.

Swale Basketball Tournament



On 15 March the Highsted Year 8 and 9 basketball teams participated in a tournament at Westlands Secondary School. There were 3 other teams that took part in this tournament - Fulston Manor, The Sittingbourne School and Westlands. This was our first basketball tournament so we were a bit nervous, however everyone played amazingly. Firstly, we played Fulston and we won 8-2, then we played TSS and won 10-0 and then Westlands, which we also won 12-4. Despite the fact that we were new to basketball, we worked well as a team and there were some amazing shots from Chloe W, Lucy E, Kamilla B and Angie T. The team voted Rebekah M as the player of the tournament as she played fantastically in each game.

Lucy E, Y9 Basketball Team

10 days of action

Inspired by the UN's 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, Highsted Grammar School's Sixth Form created its very own 10 Days of Action to raise awareness of key issues that matter most to our community. As form groups, students produced a daily focal point for all students to consider and discuss. Activism promotes a dialogue that is necessary in our community and in our society, and we are proud to empower our young people to express their views and lead on global issues that matter to them. Issues ranged from Violence against women to our concerns about the impact of 'Fast Fashion'. This event will now become a focus for the Sixth Form on an annual basis.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Once again, Highsted Grammar School Sixth Form were able to participate in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project with the Holocaust Memorial Trust. As part of the project, students were able to meet a Holocaust survivor and learn about the work of the trust to raise awareness of systemic anti-Semitism in the world today. Students were able to share their experience with the whole school and educate them on the HMD these 'One Day'. We look forward to working with the trust again soon.

LGBT Society fund raising for Stonewall

February represented the launch of LGBT History month and saw the LGBT society lead a series of events to raise awareness of this important cause. Initially the students focussed on raising awareness through a whole school presentation on the history of the movement and the prejudice that still plagues the community; particularly in countries where the legal system does not support them. In term 4, the society led the school in a week-long charity event with homemade memorabilia on sale with all proceeds going to their nominated charity 'Stonewall'. The society were pleased to not just raise £870 but also raise awareness and bring our whole community together.



The Student Leadership Council (plus CMHW and IWD)

Throughout Terms 3 and 4, the Student Leadership Council have continued to champion causes linked to our core intentions for 2021-2. The focus in Term 3 lay in raising awareness for Children's Mental Week.



We were keen for our fellow students to consider how they can contribute to supporting their own mental health and the positivity of those around them. We shared our presentation linked to the theme of 'Growth Stories' which was championed by the charity Place2Be with the whole school to encourage students to take action for Children's Mental Health. In form times, each form focussed on different approaches to embedding strategies to instil positive wellbeing. In Sixth Form, each



form made a wellbeing toolkit and shared it with another form as a gift to each other's wellbeing. In addition, we were inspired by our former

student Ellie Paine's approach of Positive Affirmations and requested that forms produce affirmations to inspire others; these affirmations are visible across the school for students to embrace in their daily interactions.

Our focus for Term 4 was very much centred on International Women's Day and Women's History Month. The theme for this year encouraged the world to 'Break the Bias'. As a team, we led a whole school event on International Women's Day and asked students and teachers alike to 'Break the Bias'. It was certainly a day of celebration and our community came out in force! As we came to the end of Women's History Month, forms were presented with their



representation of the concept of 'woman' through a piece of wordart depicting the words that they felt best represented their form; it was incredible to see the community celebrate so many of the Highsted virtues. The final aspect of the month saw teachers identify their inspirational woman and students compete in a scavenger hunt to find out as much as possible about these key figures. The winners of both the hunt and the IWD speech competition will be announced at the beginning of term 5. Thank you to all participants. Next term, we look forward to launching our 'Cycle for Ukraine' event, we are certain it will be another celebration of our school's community spirit.

Calendar Update

April	
Tuesday 19	Start of Term 5 Staff Development Day
Wednesday 20	Yr 9 Parents Evening
Monday 25	Yr 10 Exams Start
Thursday 28	Junior UK Maths Challenge
May	
Thursday 12	Yr 7 Parents Evening
Monday 16	Public Examinations Start
Friday 27	Education for Life Day End of Term 5
June	
Monday 6	Start of Term 6
Thursday 9	Open Evening
Thursday 16	New Intake Welcome Evening
Saturday 18	Yr 5 Activity Day
Friday 24	Public Examinations End
Monday 27	Education for Life Day Post 16 Induction Day
Wednesday 29	School Drama Production
Thursday 30	Yr 6 Transition Day School Drama Production
July	
Friday 1	School Drama Production
Friday 8	Sports Day
Thursday 14	Lower School Awards
Thursday 21	End of Term 6
August	
Thursday 18	A Level Results Day
Thursday 25	GCSE Results Day
September	
Thursday 1	Start of Term 1 (2022-2023)



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