



HIGHsted FLYERS

July 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As I write this final newsletter of the academic year, the temperature outside has reached a sticky 40 degrees – the air is humid but our pupils continue to amaze us as they rise to yet another challenge which demands of them level-headedness and resilience – school for the tenacity you have shown particularly this week, we are proud of you!

Time has passed so quickly since the Easter newsletter and you will see in the many pages that follow that we have continued to achieve great accomplishments together...

Year 13 and Year 11 focussed on their formal GCSE and A - Level examinations – we were so proud of how they applied themselves to this endeavour having had a disrupted school experience due to the pandemic, especially as they had never sat a series of public examinations before. To students in both Year groups know this: you are courageous and determined young people and we salute you!

The highlight of the year has got to be attributed to the welcomed return of the Highsted school production – *Sister Act*. The sell-out event was worth the wait. Performed over three nights more than 80 pupils from across the school were involved in this exhilarating performance about a lounge singer called Deloris who is forced to take refuge from the mob in a convent. Due to the trusting relationships she builds with her convent sisters, she transforms the choir in to a soulful chorus with a full Motown repertoire! As I sat in the audience on the opening night the final solo from Deloris was not lost on me or the audience – the words – ‘I have my sisters – me and my sisters.’ reminded me of the spirit of the Highsted community where girls – Highsted sisters – seek to support each other through difficulties and challenges. To the whole cast – thank you for your splendid performances and for enabling us to share in the pure joy that you got from being a member of this production team. My thanks are extended to Ms Appleford the theatrical director and Mrs Braddy our director of music in addition to Mrs Evans and Mrs Reed who all gave up so much of their personal time including weekends since January to rehearse with you.

On 05 July local Artist, Charles Williams visited the school to open the Highsted Art Exhibition – a celebration of the GCSE and A- Level Art and Photography work. Not only was it wonderful to observe our pupils work displayed to the community in a formal way but it was lovely to catch up with so many parents who attended. I wish to extend my thanks to Mrs Waring Head of Art and Mrs Rennie and Ms Lennox for their work in supporting your child to achieve their own stylistic voice through this medium.

Congratulations to all students who participated in the athletic and track events last week at school. It was great to see so many pupils from across year groups compete to win bronze, silver or gold medals for their sporting endeavour. We look forward to the return of Sports Day next academic year once the building work on that part of the site has come to an end. Many thanks to the PE department – Mrs Baker, Mrs Hoyte and Mrs Tress in organising such a great event.

Excitingly, the school is a member of the newly formed International Coalition of Girls Schools which is a body that exists to champion the education of girls on an international platform. Last week students from Year 10 and Year 12 were selected to represent the school at a student leadership conference on the subject of Diversity and Inclusion for girls.

As you read further you will find Millie M’s report of this special school experience in which students from across girls’ schools in the South East were debating and tackling big social issues such as *unconscious bias* and *prejudice* which if not recognised could serve to create barriers for girls, denying them access to opportunities in society.

The feedback from all involved was really positive and I am grateful to the students who represented the school for your leadership and engagement at such an important event. Thank you.

The end of the summer term is that time of year in school when we say goodbye to staff who are moving to pastures new and welcome colleagues seeking new opportunities at Highsted.

Mrs Muir has decided to leave the school to enjoy some travelling time with her husband after 26 years of dedicated service to Highsted. Mr Ford is relocating to St Edmunds School in Dover to follow his first love, that of being a History teacher. Mrs Faik leaves the school to take up a curriculum leader promotion at Rainham School for Girls. Mr Gilbert leaves to work nearer to home after five years of a challenging commute. He commences the same role but at Dover Grammar School for Girls. Mrs Lloyd leaves to commence her promotion as leader of French at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls. Mr Wallace is retiring from teaching after a significant period of leave due to ill health – we wish him well in his recovery. Mr Ensor, is moving to an all ability school – St. Anselm’s in Canterbury and Mrs Tress is moving out of mainstream schooling into specialist school provision supporting children with SEMH.

Our further thanks and well-wishes are extended to Miss Longley – former student – who leaves the school to commence her primary teacher training course. Mrs Ndlovu is also leaving to pursue retirement at this time. Our well wishes go out to all our colleagues for their committed service to the school.

Staff joining the school include Ms Cornish as Deputy Headteacher (from TKAT), Mrs Ward as teacher of Sociology and Head of Year 9 and 10 (from the independent sector), Ms Hobbs as Head of English (from Invicta Grammar School), Mr Spedding as teacher of English (from Fulston Manor School), Mrs Thompson as Head of Drama (from Rainham School for Girls), former student Ms

McLaughlin as teacher of Maths, Ms. Akhtar as teacher of Chemistry, Ms Cojez as teacher of French and former student Ms. Apps as teacher of Humanities (from Rochester Maths School). Mrs Tiernan-Powell is newly promoted to the position of Deputy Headteacher commencing September 2022. Mrs Kelly (formerly Ms Treanor) is returning to the school to lead the SEND provision and Mrs Currans (former parent) and Ms Fagg are joining the student support team. To all new staff joining the school you are welcome and we look forward to working with you!

I do hope that you enjoy the pages that follow setting out the many achievements that your child has secured this year...

May I remind parents that the school commences the new academic year on Monday 05 September for all students.

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful summer and once again thank you for your continued support of the school – it is appreciated.

All good wishes for the summer holidays...

Anne Kelly
Headteacher

Sister Act

My friends and I attended the Wednesday night performance of 'Sister Act' and it is safe to say it most definitely did not disappoint. Having never seen the musical, the cast,



crew and band of this production depicted the plot line flawlessly. The actors had impeccable stage presence, facial



expressions and embodied their characters to perfection – captivating the interest of myself and the audience. The faultless execution of props, set design, costume changes and the live band were admirable – encapsulating the fun and entertainment of this stage play. The musical numbers were astounding through the entirety of the performance due to the professionalism and skill of both the singers and the band.

I especially wanted to comment on the performances of Tope, Oakleigh and Jack who, alongside everyone who took part in the play, were nothing short of perfection. Tope – who plays the main character Deloris – portrayed her role exquisitely. She demonstrated confidence, clear diction and amazing singing and dancing skills that truly



brought the character of Deloris to life. Her performance was stupendous and made



a spectacular lead. Similarly, Oakleigh as 'Mother Superior' – was remarkable. Her mannerisms,

euphonious voice and top-notch acting made it hard to believe she was not a professional. Her overall performance was outstanding and skilful. Jack as Eddie was also phenomenal – ensuring the humour and wit in his character was translated immaculately to the audience. His simultaneous playing of the guitar and singing was fantastic whilst also remaining pitch-perfect. I particularly enjoyed the scene where 'Eddie' had 2 rip-away outfit changes – which added both incredible crowd appeal and a superbly unexpected wow factor. On Thursday the audience was met with another cast of leads and it was remarkable how Sophia from year 7 took the lead of Deloris with such confidence and quality for such a young student. She too fully captured the character, along with other leads, who took hold of their opportunity to shine with both hands.

As an audience member I loved every second of it and everybody who took part did an amazing job. The mood and atmosphere in the auditorium were electric and took us on an emotional and uniting journey. Congratulations to all the teachers, cast and back stage crew for such an outstanding production.

- Chik Oke-Nwosu Year 10

As new members of staff, Miss Appleford and I were in a position of starting back up the tradition of an annual school production without having any knowledge of the legacy. We went big and ambitious and it paid off. A set was lent to us by Maidstone Amateur Operatics who put on the production in the spring, costumes were hired from the Bob Hope Theatre in Eltham giving us pristine nuns with magic tabards that became sequined tabards in an instant and a trick costume transforming Eddie the policemen into John Travolta for a dream-like moment. We hired 5 professional musicians to boost the students and staff players from both Borden and Highsted from years 8 - 13 who worked on the professional score from April. The cast of 51 auditioned in January and worked solidly every lunchtime from then on. We worked 4 weekend days, several nights after school till 8, some even did shows alongside ours at the Hazlitt. But we rehearsed and rehearsed and it paid off. A fabulous time was had by all both on and off the stage. Mrs Evans coordinated an amazing backstage crew. Miss Longley organised the costumes and Mr Mitchell ensured everyone could be heard at all times. Thank you to everyone that made it happen and thank you to the students for rising to the challenge after a long period of not being able to perform.

Mrs Braddy (Head of Music)

Maths In Action- Greenwich Medway

On 11th July, 10 students from Year 10 took part in 'Maths in Action' at the University of Greenwich, Medway Campus. They participated in three hands on workshops throughout the day and attended an inspirational talk by Dr Jackie Bell, a mathematician and a competitor in BBC 2's



series 'Astronauts- Do you have what it takes?' One of the workshops involved designing and building a bridge using sticks, string and paper. Students were challenged with the goal to build a bridge that could hold the highest mass. The two Highsted teams came first and second in this challenge, using their knowledge of geometry and tension to create strong, stable designs. Other workshops included exploring

notations to record strategies for juggling, and using surveying equipment and trigonometry to measure heights.

Maths Team Tournament



On 13th July, a team of 4 students from Year 10 competed in a London and South East Maths Team Tournament. Throughout the competition, the students improved round by round, strengthening their confidence and communication skills as they progressed and achieving full marks in several of the challenges. There was tough competition and students achieved a strong result to be very proud of. The team worked on 4 challenging rounds including abstract problems not typically seen in GCSE questions. They showed excellent strategies when solving problems and combined their knowledge of different topics in unusual contexts.

Mathletics 2022

On Wednesday 8th June, 65 students from 6 different primary schools came to Highsted for Year 5 Mathletics. Students arranged themselves into teams of 5 and competed in 4 different activities using their mathematical knowledge, problem solving skills and team work.

The Maths Relay quiz got teams off to a strong start. They had to work together to find the answers to mathematical puzzles and then run to check their answer before getting the next questions.



Students used coordination and speed in the 'rob the nest' activity. They travelled through their obstacle course to collect items one at a time from the centre before returning to tag the next person in their team. Each item had a different value depending on how difficult it was to collect it and students had to work out their totals.



This year's Mathletics event included a set of mini team challenges as one of the activities. In the number challenge, teams had to find different ways to make a target number using only two

given values and two given operators. In the shape challenge, team work and communication skills were key. Each team was split in two, where one half of the team could see an image, and the other half could see a set of shapes. Teams had to re-create the image from their shapes by layering and rotating the



shape pieces and carefully following the description from their team members.

One activity had students reading a map to find mathematical puzzles. These were placed around the school site and the teams had grid references which they had to use to find the hidden puzzles. Students had to work as a team to solve the mathematical problem and enter their answers alongside the correct grid reference. Students were very enthusiastic and could be seen running from one puzzle to another.

Overall the students had fun and had an enjoyable day. The winning Year 5 team was from Richmond Academy in Sheerness, closely followed by Minterne School and Halfway Primary School.

These were some of the comments:

'Our children came back absolutely buzzing from it'
'Thank you very much, it was a lovely time.'
'I had a brilliant day'

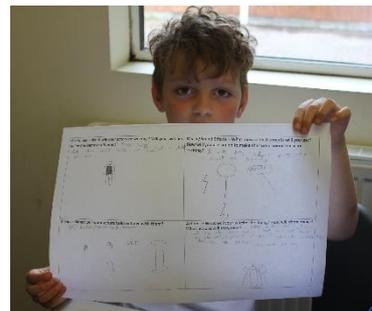
Something Wicked This Way Comes – Shakespeare Day

On Tuesday 28th June, Highsted held its second 'Shakespeare Day' inviting local primary school students to come and attend a series of English and



Drama workshops based around 'Macbeth' – Shakespeare's famous Scottish play about a noble man and woman who seize the throne and are then wracked with guilt following their actions. The schools attending this event were: Elliot Park Primary School, Holywell Primary School, St Peter's

Catholic Primary School and Rose Street Primary School – 30 students attending in total.



The students started the day looking at the story of the play and imagining what it would be like to meet a group of witches who

told you information about your future. Later, students had to imagine how they would direct the first scene of the play to create atmosphere through costume, setting, sound effects and use of props. The final sessions of the day involved students

exploring Act 4 Scene 1 where Macbeth returns to the witches and they show him three spirits.

Students had to work in groups to perform this scene and consider how their voice, body language and gestures could show either the



supernatural figure of a witch or the powerful frame of Macbeth, the king. The day ended with a final performance where teams from each school acted out their version of this famous scene to a student and teacher audience. The day was a great success and all involved had a fantastic time.



Highsted Travels Back in Time 18 June 2022 – Community Event.

On the 18 June 2022 Highsted hosted its annual Taster Saturday event, this year themed ‘Highsted Travel Back in Time.’ 125 pupils from across 34 local primary schools in Swale participated in a variety of interactive workshops from The Dawn of Time, Wenlock Games, Tea for Two, Smugglers Cove and Roman Numerals. Student leaders from Year 10 and 12 supported the primary school pupils to create Japanese’s teapots, become scientists creating slides to view under microscopes and for those who love to dance pupils practised the different types of dance through the decades. All students had the opportunity to come close and handle a variety of Tortoise species from around the world to demonstrate Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution. A fantastic day! Students reflected on what they enjoyed about the day: “Getting to know the school and sharing my experience with friends.” “The fun activities and learning new skills.” “I liked to talk to new people and I loved all lessons. Everyone was really nice and friendly!” “I enjoyed the Art and learning about Japanese culture and I loved the History and the animals.” Tea for Two workshop – Japanese teapots.



Accelerated Reader Update

Accelerated Reader is up and running at Highsted! All students in KS3 have been given a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), which provides them with a range of book levels to read within. Our library is fully colour coded to guide students to books within their level and our librarian, Miss Gardiner, is ready to help guide students to great books for them. We would like students to aim to read and quiz on at least two books every term, but already, many students have exceeded this. Onto the celebrations. Since starting the project, students have read in total 24,174,673 words! Three students are already Word Millionaires, and many students are achieving 100% on

their reading quizzes, showing excellent reading comprehension.

I would especially like to congratulate Isabel B, Rebecca N, and Serena M, our first Highsted Millionaire Readers (pictured with their gold star badges). An outstanding achievement!

Well done also to our other top ten readers: Phoebe N, Chloe W, Adedolapo O, Olivia M, Daniella A, Scarlett A, Josephine C, Ellie B, Ehinomhen I and Sophia S and to Bethany A, Emily R, Jamie J, Elizabeth A and Ella K for excellent quiz scores.

I look forward to seeing further successes in the new year. Students are encouraged to read through the holidays, and quiz at: <https://ukhosted141.renlearn.co.uk/6660138/>.



School Food Showdown

On Friday the 7 July Highsted hosted the highly interactive and inspirational School Food Showdown to promote healthy eating. The theme of the show emphasised what is means to



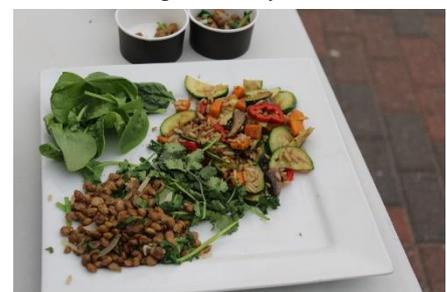
have a healthy balanced diet and how to put together a healthy meal. The climax of the show was an exhilarating live cook off between the chefs (selected students and teachers) in an onstage cooking competition.



Congratulations to Lauren K and Daisy A our Year 8 winners and Freya C and Honey D our year 7 winners.

“The cooking ‘Showdown’ was an amazing experience and if I could, I would love to do it again.” Freya C our Year 7 winner said.

Abigail UH shared what she had learnt from the experience, “that you can easily make a nutritious and delicious meal



from just a few ingredients and in such little time, whilst including all the key food groups we should have each day.”

Our NCS Experience

After finishing our GCSEs, many year 11 students at Highsted chose to attend a two-week programme funded largely by the government called the National Citizen Service (NCS). Whilst this was advertised to be the experience of a lifetime, I can most definitely say it was that and more. In the first week we were resident at Grosvenor Hall in Ashford, which is an indoor and outdoor education



facility with an adventure park and a large lake. Despite the persistent heat, I had one of the most adrenaline-filled weeks of my life. From zip lines, giant 3G swings and blindfolded rock-climbing, to fashion designing, business planning and debates, there really was something for everyone to enjoy. One of the most fulfilling things was the opportunity to try new things you never thought you would be able to do, and for me that was definitely taking a leap of faith off what felt like a very, very high platform.



What made the NCS experience truly enjoyable were the people – the leaders, other students, and staff. Going into NCS with a few friends was helpful, but all fifteen

members of my team could not have been nicer, and it became such a positive and friendly atmosphere from the first night. Overall, the first week encouraged the development of some well-needed team building skills, especially since Covid, and



strengthened everyone's character day-by-day. The life skills we learnt here will be indispensable for us all as we move on to new challenges – one of these included cooking dinner for our team on a university budget! I promise the meal tastes better than it looked, we all agreed that one day we may just about be able to survive without our parents, just maybe.

There was little time to want to be on your phone, but when we did here are some the moments we captured:

Week two is a very different experience, but an outstanding one. This week consists of a social action project, where you can do almost anything as a group to benefit the local community. For my team, we decided to help a local hall by painting a mural, doing some gardening for a local church, and

litter picking to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation charity. All of these activities were inspired by local charity volunteers that gave their time to speak with us, and it was an eye-opening experience to hear how they are trying to make the world better for everyone. I found that a handful of people worried that this week may not be as entertaining as the first, but I can safely say that not one person would still say that. This week remained fast-paced by the role-allocation activity each team undertakes, where every person gets the chance to work in an area they find interesting. Some



examples of these include marketing, legal, materials, health and safety, and many more. I personally took on the role of Project Manager and, for me, it was definitely one of the most worthwhile NCS experiences – the skills learnt and the faces of a happy team I will never forget. This part of the programme builds additional confidence, with many visits to local businesses to negotiate donations of supplies, phone calls to the local council to ask for permits, and many presentations to your peers (not forgetting Gordon Henderson, the local MP).

NCS will be an unforgettable experience. I know everyone who went would say they are so thankful they took the opportunity and are grateful to Highsted for introducing us to the NCS team. For us, NCS will be an excellent addition



to our CVs and university applications – especially the thirty-five hours of volunteering we have done. As well as this, we will leave with life-long memories. For my team, a few are the late night card games, campfires, and painting the cartoon-character mural for the hall in week 2. So, thank you NCS!



ICGS Conference – Stratford, London

The International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS) is focused on advancing girls' education globally, through advocacy, networking, researching and professional development. Highsted was invited to their annual student conference, for which representatives from years 12 & 10 were selected. It was an honourable and unique opportunity to attend on behalf of our school; we were the voices representing the Highsted community in discussions of unconscious bias, inclusion & diversity, and equality. It was a day filled with female empowerment, endowing us with an unexplainable sense of pride.



Part of going to where we are needed is by initiating so-called 'difficult' discussions, like that of racism and how unconscious bias plays a huge role in determining negative stereotypes. The more attention these matters have supports the destruction of ethnic/gender barriers that history has constructed for us.

Before we got stuck into our workshops, there was an opportunity for networking in the break; this meant questioning and conversing with the speakers and other students. We approached Bethan Hunt, a senior associate at FCA, who freely told us her story and gave her best advice. Despite having to retake her A-levels due to illness, and repeating her 2nd year at University because of family issues, she was able to refocus and redirect her life. Now advising some of the World's leading banks in her role at FCA, she is the prime example of a young lady who refused to be reduced by the barriers she faced. Upon asking her for her best advice, she replied that to 'picture yourself where you want to be' is the top goal to have.

'Picture yourself where you want to be' - Bethan Hunt

In the afternoon, we split into pairs and attended a range of workshops, to get as much exposure to each topic as possible. One of great interest was delivered by Aliyah Irabor-York, founder of the student-led movement 'Pupil Power'. Her workshop on the empowerment of young people to be active agents of change underpinned the whole day; with a variety of barriers present for us in society, the removal of them will only come from our generation. Change starts with us. Not the government, not teachers, but us, the students. Undoubtedly, we'll work as a collective to achieve equality, but the drive and passion begins with young people. Aliyah interrogated us for our 'why?' Why do you get angry at this, why do you want to change it? Because once we have established our 'why?', we can channel our frustration into making a difference in society.

'Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced'.



Following on from the idea that change starts with us, was the workshop led by Carleene Lee-Phakoe, Labour Party Councillor for Newham. She, like the others, started with her story: her youngest son was diagnosed with autism and had to fight for him, as a result of the poor quality of special education services in her area. After her husband applied to



Upon arrival at the FCA, we were given name badges and provided with refreshments. A sense of professionalism was prevalent, but the informality of later networking

opportunities made for a relaxed, yet captivating atmosphere. Below shows us getting ready for our day of important talks (with the refreshments, of course!) characters with confidence and leadership. But, we must take it further than this: the glass-ceiling is still present in the workplace, and the pandemic highlighted gender inequality through a rise in domestic abuse. Society has progressed, but not far enough, and it is through conferences like this that greater awareness can be spread.

Here we all are, ready to discover how we can change the World!



And then came the awe-inspiring talk by Llando Du Plooy, the co-founder of 'Education for Change'. Despite having a negative childhood in South Africa because of the evident racial split, he dedicates his life to improving the life opportunities of every child in Newham, through his programme that aims to eradicate any discrimination within schools. By surrounding himself with 'women of integrity', he noticed the striking ferocity and passion we display when fighting for something; we are all capable of provoking change within society, just that we must be courageous in our actions. As Llando asserted, 'you can stay where you are loved, or you can go to where you are needed' - young women are catalysts for change, and hence should take the step of speaking up.



be a Councillor, she decided she was just as capable as fulfilling the position, so applied too. With a successful outcome, Carleene has spent the past 4 years campaigning for better child provision services in Newham, receiving £1.5 million in government funding and having the support of 60 other Councillors behind her. At the forefront of her work is the belief that it's crucial to invest in young people, because we are the future. Her most important point was that 'there will not be a better campaigner for us than ourselves'.

'If we don't fight for what is right, then who will fight for us?' - Cllr Carleene Lee-Phakoe

In addition to this, a simple yet resonating message was that of 'Education for Change', who highlighted the importance of being 'conscious of the unconscious bias'. We all make generalisations and unconscious judgements of people, but in a world where the subconscious belief that women are inferior to men exists, it is dangerous for society. To help with this, it's crucial to rid the 'Them v Us' mindset, for equality can only be achieved when society works as a collective. Stereotypes are inherent, but being honest with oneself and recognising when you're being unconsciously biased is key. The organisation also touched on the 'white privilege', which is where a white person may have had life difficulties, but not because of the colour of their skin, opposed to an ethnic minority who might have. This is a commonly misunderstood concept, so spreading awareness around it will help in preventing the restrictive effects of the unconscious bias.

Therefore, with a host of information and new, inspiring perspectives on society, we are excited to share it all with the rest of the Highsted community. Our next steps will be to present an assembly summarising the concepts we were told about, and introduce the 'one for all, and all for one' vision for our school. Although Highsted is a warm and friendly environment, we want to educate the students further, so instead of just understanding, they can strive to be 'agents for change' in society.

By Millie M, on behalf of the ICGS student attendees

Sports Updates

Swale District Athletics competitions

Year 10 Swale District Athletics at SCC

On Thursday 28th April, the Year 10 athletics team ventured to The Sittingbourne School to compete in the Swale Athletics competition.

This was the first event of the Summer athletics programme after a few years with no competitions, so the team had not had much opportunity to prepare, but they competed strongly and won the girls event overall.

There were several strong performances from the team and many girls placed in their events achieving District standard and gaining selection for the Kent Schools Athletics competition on Saturday 11th June. For many of the girls this was also an opportunity to secure some competitive evidence for their GCSE Physical Education activities.

Chik 1st place in 100m and Long Jump

Samantha 1st place Discus

Anjie 1st place High Jump

Rachel 1st place Javelin and 3rd place 800m

Rose 2nd place Discus

2nd place in the Relay

Alyssa 3rd place in 300m

Holly 3rd place in 1500m

Well done to all the girls in the team and to Mrs Hoyte for such excellent raking in the long jump pit!

Year 9 Swale District Athletics at SCC

On Thursday 5th May, the year 9 athletics team took part in the Swale Athletics competition. The teams competed very strongly in their first athletics competition representing Highsted and came 2nd in their competition overall.

There were many strong performances from the team and many girls placed in their events.

Year 9 Results

Serena 1st place in High Jump and 2nd place in 200m

Chloe 1st place Discus and 2nd place 1500m

Angie 1st place Shot

Isla 2nd place Shot

Evie 3rd place Long Jump

Kamilla 2nd place Javelin

3rd place in the Relay

Year 7 Swale District Athletics at SCC

On Thursday 19th May, the year 7 athletics team competed in the Swale Athletics competition at The Sittingbourne School. The teams competed very strongly in their first athletics competition representing Highsted and came 2nd in their competition overall.

There were many strong performances from the team and many girls placed in their events.

Year 7 Results

Peyton 1st place in 300m

Isabella 1st place 800m

Sophie 3rd in 200m

Ciara 3rd in 100m

Sadie 3rd 800m

Heidi 2nd place 1500m

Holly 1st place shot

Harriet 1st place Javelin

Athletics Track and Field Event Friday 15th July

We were blessed with fantastic weather for our athletic event on Friday 15th July. All years took part in track and field events throughout the course of the day in a variety of running and throwing events. It was so good to see the students



competing in their forms for a medal and some of the competitions were closely contested with very narrow margins determining who took home the gold medal. It was lovely to see the students walking around the school wearing their medals proudly and hearing them chink as they walked with some winning more than one medal for their form.



Outstanding performance from the day go to the following students for their athletic prowess and sporting endeavours.

Year 7 student Tessa B broke the school athletics record in the discus throwing 17.75m beating a record held since 2015 by over a metre. Rachel C in year 10 narrowly missed breaking the discus school record that has been held since 2001 missing out by just a few cm's.

Here are the overall results for each year by form.

YEAR 7	SCORE	POSITION
7.1	70	4 TH
7.2	94	2 ND
7.3	72	3 RD
7.4	68	5 TH
7.5	95	1 ST

YEAR 8	SCORE	POSITION
8.1	92	1 ST
8.2	67	4 TH
8.3	89	2 ND
8.4	55	5 TH
8.5	80	3 RD

YEAR 9	SCORE	POSITION
9.1	97	1 ST
9.2	94	2 ND
9.3	91	3 RD
9.4	47	5 TH
9.5	61	4 TH

YEAR 10	SCORE	POSITION
10.1	106	1 ST
10.2	98	2 ND
10.3	72	3 RD
10.4	58	4 TH
10.5	57	5 TH

YEAR 12	SCORE	POSITION
12.1	87	2 ND
12.2	100	1 ST
12.3	35	4 TH
12.4	82	3 RD



I would like to thank the year 12 leaders that volunteered to help make the day a success with their excellent organisation and support of this event. A special thank you also goes out to Mrs Evans, Mr Finney, Mrs Allen, Mrs Muir and Miss Appleton who gave up their free time to help out.



PE Department (Miss Baker, Mrs Hoyte, Mrs Tress)



Kent Schools Track and Field Athletics

On Saturday 11th June 2022, 9 of our athletes represented Highsted at the Kent Schools Track and Field Athletics Event at Medway Park. This was our largest field to date of competitors and it was so great to see them competing against the rest of Kent after such a long absence from school's athletic events.

In the track events, Katie in year 12 won the 5000m racewalk to take home gold.

Heidi in year 7 entered into the 800m and had a good first experience of track athletics as she is usually more at home in water.

Chikasole competed in the 100m and Intermediate girls long jump and did really well to make it to the final jump off and gain a new PB in in the long jump coming 6th in Kent.



We had 4 competitors in discus in the Junior and Intermediate Girls. Rachel impressed in the Intermediate event gaining third place with Rose, Samantha and Chloe all putting in really good efforts in their first Kent competition. Rachel also competed in the hammer and placed 4th. Angelina represented Highsted in the Junior Girls shot and came 4th place but gained a new PB with 8.84m which was

really well deserved after making it to the final round of three extra throws.

Walking into the competition, I was excited to participate in a Kent Athletics event for the first time, but I was also extremely nervous as I knew that the competitors were going to be good, but it turned out to be fun and I even met a few people during my event.

Angie 9.3

We would like to thank all the students for representing Highsted and their district so well in this athletics event. Well done for making your mark in athletics this season.



UK Athletics Championships

Katie recently competed at national level this summer in the 5000m racewalk event placing 6th in the UK Athletics Championships held in Manchester on 26th June. An amazing achievement to be competing nationally.



Year 7 Rounders Tournament

On Tuesday 5th July Year 7 students played 3 other schools – Oasis, TSS and Westlands in the Swale rounders tournament. We had amazing team work and communication, some of us lost our voices the next day! We had some excellent plays such as: getting nearly the whole of TSS out, getting loads of whole rounders and batting the ball down the slope.

We also had some funny plays: continuously knocking down 4th base by accident and stopping and starting while trying to work out whether to run or not.

We all supported each other encouragingly when going up to bat and while running around the bases.

We came 1st with some really high scoring matches. Well done Year 7 rounders team.

Sadie (Year 7 Captain)

HGS v Oasis

9 ½ - 7

HGS v TSS

14- 4 ½

HGS v Westlands

12-4



Year 8 Swale Rounders Tournament

On Tuesday 28th of June, the Year 8 Highsted team took part in a rounder's tournament after school. In the first game we were all nervous but as soon as we got onto the pitch, we were all excited to get going. Our first game was against Fulston and within the game we started off with a lead but they were catching up to us when they began to bat but we ended up with a winning result of 6 ½ - 6.

Our second game against TSS, was a bit tricky but our team again managed to strive to an amazing score of 6 ½ - 4 ½, especially with Cadence and Fifi's great fielding. The 3rd game was against Oasis and there were a few tough moments in the game but we won this match 6-3 to us which was a great end result for our team.

In the last game we were determined to carry on our streak and win all of the games. However, Westlands were a strong team and I think we all began to get a little tired which resulted in a loss but without Hope and Myli, we wouldn't have been able to get as many people out as we managed too.



Well Done to all of our Highsted Year 8 team!

Kahina B(Captain)

Year 9 Swale Rounders Tournament

Highsted started off with 8 players instead of 9, so with a player down we knew we had to play well as a team. In the first game, Fulston played Westlands whilst Highsted trained including catching, batting and fielding. Then Highsted played Westlands, ending with a 12 ½ to 5 points victory. Our high spirits and excellent skill aided us in our win even at a disadvantage of being a player down with exciting fielding from Highsted, specifically second base Angie working with deep fielder Sophie. Then, Highsted already pleased with their first victory, played again against Fulston. Then a breakthrough of another 13 rounders from Highsted compared to 3 rounders from Fulston happened, all thanks to



our amazing batting and secure fielding. In the end, roughly 7/10 of Fulston's team had been stumped out mainly through

second base. A special well done to everyone playing in the Highsted team, who showed devotion all the way to the end, and winning the tournament.

Results of the tournament

Highsted Grammar School vs Westlands- 12.5- 5

Highsted Grammar School vs Fulston Manor- 13-3

Well done Highsted!

Zara (Captain)

Year 10 Rounder's Tournament

The Year 10 team competed in a Rounders Festival hosted by Highsted on Tuesday 14th June. We faced 3 teams from the Swale area and competing against Oasis, TSS and Westlands.

In our match against TSS the final score was 4 ½ - 1 ½ which gave us a massive lift and the confidence to go into the next match against Oasis. We won this 7 ½ - 2 despite losing two players to injury within the game and battled on with 7 players for a convincing win. Against Westlands the score was closer and the we managed to beat them 7 - 3 ½ in our final match. The team played well together and demonstrated great team spirit and encouragement.

As a team we won all our games we played after hard work and dedication going to practice every Thursday in terms 5 and 6.

Well done to all the students that represented Highsted.

Sports Leaders Tennis festival report 2022

Fourteen Year 9 Highsted students put their training into practice helping to lead a Primary Tennis Festival. The event being held at the Milton Recreation ground in Sittingbourne invited year 3 and 4 students from local primary schools to give them the opportunity to learn some basic tennis skills. The Highsted students had previously completed a Sports Leaders course in school, where they developed their leadership skills which prepared them to assist a tennis coach by leading a variety of tennis drills. All students did an amazing job of coaching and motivating the primary school children throughout the two-hour event.



Post-16 Update



Our Year 13 leavers have faced an unfathomably difficult three years at school. Following the cancellation of their GCSE examinations, this year group was one of the most impacted by the pandemic. Against all odds, our incredible students have thrived academically in spite of unavoidable disruption to their education. Their talent has shone through their plentiful achievements as a cohort and the School could not be more proud of their resilience and determination.

To celebrate their remarkable work and to give students a send off they truly deserved, Mrs Tiernan-Powell, along with a representative group of Year 13 students, organised a fun-filled morning to say goodbye. Students arrived in school in fancy dress, portraying their future selves— either as imagined as a small child, or to reflect their current aspirations. From unicorns to university professors, students proudly posed for photographs and told our team about their outfits while visiting their teachers to say goodbye.

After an emotional farewell with their teachers, students had a final assembly and a civilised tea party in the HiPod, complete with balloons, before gathering for a Class of 2022 photograph on the field. Students rounded off their day by enjoying one final rounders game.



One of the wonderful ventures which has really taken off with the sixth form is the formation of societies in the last academic year. When Year 13 students left in Term 5, the time came to elect new presidents and to think about recruiting new members for next academic year, now firmly in the hands of our outgoing Year 12 students. In order to introduce the current Year 11s to life as a member of the Highsted sixth form, the Year 12s were asked to make their own stalls for a society fair where the students created fun activities for the younger year to enjoy, each activity being directly related to what the society is about. These societies were either new and made by this year's Year 12s, or, they are continued from previous years but with new leaders. All of these societies pertain to a wide variety of interests, passions, and future career or university goals.

Calendar Update

September	
Thursday 1	Start of Term 1 Staff Development Day
Friday 2	Staff Development Day
Monday 5	Whole School Return
October	
Monday 3	Lower School New Parents' Evening
Tuesday 4	Senior UK Maths Challenge
Thursday 13	Open Evening
Friday 21 st	End of Term 1
Monday 31 st	Start of Term 2 Staff Development Day
November	
Tuesday 15	Year 11 Parents Evening
Wednesday 16	Education for Life Day 1
Monday 28	Year 11 Trial Exams Start
December	
Friday 9	Year 11 Trial Exams End
Tuesday 13	Carol Service
Friday 16 th	End of Term 2
Tuesday 3 rd January	Start of term 3



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