



HIGHsted FLYERS

December 2019

Dear Parents

As the term draws to a close I am proud to acknowledge that our students have continued to excel across many areas of school life....

Since we returned to school for the new academic year, student achievement in sporting activities has been tremendous as teams across the age range have challenged skilfully, local established teams in netball and football fixtures. It is heartening to see increased numbers of students engaged in extra- curricular sport and the numerous wins achieved by our students is excellent! My thanks is extended to the PE department for their encouragement and commitment at this time.

You will see by reading through this packed edition of Highsted highlights, in all aspects of school life the Highsted virtues of: Ambitious, confident, determined, independent, curious, resilient, respectful, community conscious, courageous, empathetic, focussed and successful, are visible. Whether it is in the dramatic displays by House groups as they respond to the House drama theme of curiosity or through the food drive that seeks to support those that may be less fortunate at Christmas, or in the work of Year 13 in their wide and varied charitable work in the community, the Highsted student has great character!

Notable achievements included in the pages that follow is that of Year 13 student Rebecca S as she secured the envious German Classic Prize from All Souls College, Oxford. Rebecca's humble stance on this exceptional accolade is to encourage all students to believe they can strive for excellence in any aspect of school life that they are passionate about. Congratulations Rebecca, your school is proud of your success.

In keeping with the theme of success, on Wednesday 11th December the Highsted community celebrated the excellence of our summer GCSE and A Level examination performance by taking the time to formally acknowledge our award winners. The school was proud to welcome Bonita Norris to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of our students. Bonita, the first British woman to climb Mt. Everest at the age of 22, congratulated the students in attendance and recounted her incredible journey of ordinary girl to experienced climber, stating it was an endeavour full of difficulties and challenges but she never gave up and succeeded in reaching her goals. Her advice to all present reminded us of the Highsted virtue of

courage stating: 'your friends and teachers can help you on your path but no one can walk it for you. You have to take the first step!' Our congratulations to all prize winners and their teachers for this success.

Musically the school has been involved in an array of concerts during this festive period which have showcased the many talents of our students, from playing in the orchestra, or performing as part of the Worship Band, or singing in the main school choir; the Christmas concert was a magical start to our countdown for the festive season. This week, the school observed a long standing tradition as we were invited to hold our carol service at the heart of our community in St. Michael's church. The many carols and readings reminded all gathered of the true meaning of Christmas in addition to the importance of compassion and love for family and friends. The many prayers devised by Year 7 asked all congregated to reflect on the importance of love.

So on that note of kindness and good cheer may I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and may the year ahead bring you good health and happiness.

Please be advised that the school will be open to pupils and staff on Monday 6th January 2020.

All good wishes



Anne Kelly
Headteacher

Eliot House Charity Event

From Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th September, Eliot House organised three days of fun filled of activities focusing on community and empowerment, whilst raising awareness and money for our chosen House charity, New Leaf Support. We wanted to encourage social interaction and empower one each other in friendly competition and team spirit, through competing with Wii fit games. Representatives from New Leaf Support came in to speak to students about their role within the community, why their work is so valuable and how Highsted students could support them.

The charity commented on how engaging with schools and talking to students about such issues helps build community empathy and action, they remarked on how it was a pleasure to see our students encouraging one and another and engaging with their charity's ethos. Alongside our activities we sold baked goods, raising a grand total of £430. Well done to Eliot House for this great event!

Highsted's Great European Bake Off

Highsted's students recently celebrated the European Day of Languages by taking part in a European cake baking competition. There were two categories: 'A Taste of Europe', where students were asked to bake a traditional recipe; and 'Look at Me', judged for decoration. In the 'Taste of Europe' category, Lucy S won first prize with her German black forest gateau, Jess Stacey came second with her German marzipan nuss torte and Anastasija M achieved third place with her Latvian cake. In 'Look at Me': Millie R and Kai B joined forces to win first place with their Belgian chocolate cake complete with a hot air balloon, Ella J and Olivia T teamed up to gain second place with their 'World in Union' cake; and trio Esther M, Maddie M and Imogen T were third with their French decorated cake including the national flag and traditional greeting 'bonjour'.

The cakes were showcased at Open Evening (and eaten!) by lucky visitors and parents. All the students involved did a fantastic job researching, creating and designing their culinary masterpieces and should be proud of their efforts. Well done to all!



U16 KSFA Match against Rainham Mark Grammar - AWAY

On Wednesday 18th September, Highsted Grammar School's Under 16 football team travelled to Rainham Mark Grammar School for the first round of the Kent Schools Cup. We started well and were 2-0 up at half time. We worked well as a team and demonstrated strong footballing skills by out running and defending our opponents. In addition, with good sportsmanship and teamwork we come out victorious with a 5-0 win!

Big congratulations to Niamh and Ella for scoring a goal each and well done to Charlotte for not only scoring a hat trick but also for being awarded Player of the Match by her teammates.

Well done Highsted, keep up the positive start heading into Round 2!

Match report by LB Year 11 Team Captain

Year 10 Netball Match Report v Fulston Manor AWAY

As this was the first game of the season, we had many new players, meaning that we had a new team. We were up against Fulston School, in previous matches we have beaten them but with the new team anything could happen.

In the first quarter, we started off strong, scoring five goals, the opposition scoring one. However, it was still early on in the match, so we had to stay focused. In the next quarter, we scored two more goals and so did Fulston, luckily we were still ahead but we were only half way through the whole match. The third quarter was harder because people were getting tired and knowing that we still had another quarter after it. Unfortunately, we conceded two goals but we were still winning 7-3. After some people switched positions, we started the fourth and final quarter. We worked as team even though we had never all played together before, and scored two more goals, however we did concede one more as well.

The stand out player of this match was Avril in WD and our two new players, Millie and Eleanor also influenced the play well in the goal circle. The final score was 9-4. Well done girls on the first game of the season and bring on the next match!

Team:

Katie S
Eleanor W
Millie M
Megan B
Amelia W
Karine M
Oakleigh F
Avril T
Danielle B



Match report written by K Stringer (Year 10 Team Captain)

Year 11 Netball Match Report v Fulston Manor AWAY

The Year 11 Netball team played Fulston Manor away on Tuesday 23rd September 2019.

The Year 11 team had high hopes to win against Fulston as we were fielding a strong team. Despite it being our first match of the season, the team had been working on their skills and match play at Netball Club.

In the first quarter Highsted team took an early lead. We made changes to the positions, with Mia switching from GD to WA and this seemed to work well for us with Freya as Centre and Mia as WA feeding the ball into the circle to our shooters. In the second quarter we built on our initial lead with a steady trickle of goals scored. By the 3rd quarter Anais and Ruth in defence were not really pressured and had a fairly quiet game. In the last quarter we consolidated our commanding lead with a final score of 17-1. The high percentage shooting was key to the victory and Hannah was

the stand out player of the match with consistent shooting with every opportunity being banked.

Well done to the whole team with an impressive first match performance this season.

The team:

- GS- Isabelle
- GA- Hannah
- WA- Mia
- C- Freya
- WD- Summer
- GD- Anais
- GK- Ruth

Year 7 Transition Week 2019

From Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th of September, new Year 7 students at Highsted completed a range of activities as part of their induction to life at secondary school. The first day was a 'Team Challenge Day' encouraging students to form friendships and get over first day nerves. Students worked together on a number of tasks including: creating a team name and symbol that best described them; building paper aeroplanes and testing them to see which one could fly the furthest; creating something beautiful out of rubbish and recyclable materials; thinking creatively to make the biggest circle; drawing each other blindfolded; competing to see who could throw a teabag into a mug the furthest; standing still for 100 seconds; and writing and performing a song. These wide ranging activities were based on the Highsted Virtues and developed students' skills in being: respectful, ambitious, courageous, community conscious, successful, empathetic, determined and resilient.



On the second day, students were challenged to 'Crack the Code' where they had to use different code breaking skills to work out what happened in an argument between Taylor Swift and Katy Perry. Next they were challenged to present their understanding of the Highsted Virtues through the medium of either a poster, a short role play or leaflet. Finally the students were introduced to 'Thinking Skills' and the Six Thinking Hats. In teams they were asked to attempt one of the following tasks: creating and performing either a song or poem about sadness (Emotional Red Hat Thinking); making a poster that described the individual strengths of people on the team (Positive Yellow Hat Thinking); writing a leaflet showing the problems or negative consequences of littering and pollution (Negative Black Hat Thinking); drawing a picture of an ideal school (Creative Green Hat Thinking); putting together a fact book about cats or dogs (Factual White Hat Thinking); or planning a party (Organisational Blue Hat Thinking).



At the end of the week all the students attended a Graduation Ceremony where winners of each event were recognised and everyone received a medal rewarding their excellent work over the last few days. Winners of 'Creating Something Beautiful out of Rubbish' and overall winners of the 'Team Challenge Day' were: Scarlett C, Isla H, Ellen W, Isabella C, Harriet H, Emily B, Lulu S and Ella J. The team made a



brilliant boat sculpture complete with a surrounding ring of plastic pollution – highlighting the importance of recycling and stopping plastic from entering the Earth's oceans. There was also a chance to recognise the winners of the 'Found Poetry' task, completed by Year 7s when they were still in Year 6 visiting Highsted back in July. Isla S and

Sophie T created an excellent poem using words they had collected during their time at Highsted on the theme of 'Independence'.

Overall the week was a fantastic success and all the students impressed staff with their willingness to get involved and show off their incredible creativity and problem solving skills. What a great start to the year!



Highsted's Rebecca S Awarded First Prize by Oxford University

Year 13 student Rebecca S has been awarded First Prize by the judges of the German Classic Essay Writing Competition, run by All Souls College at Oxford University for Sixth Form students. The nationwide annual competition is in its third year and aims to stimulate interest in great German writers and influential literary works in German. This year the set text was 'Der Sandmann' by E.T.A Hoffman (1816), one of the most captivating short stories in German literature and a masterpiece of Gothic fiction.

There were 55 entries to the competition and Rebecca trumped them all to take the prestigious first place, above students from various private schools, and intends to study German at university.

Rebecca's reading of this dark tale focused on the enigmatic nature of the central narrative, questioning the reality of events and characters. The concluding line of her winning essay reads: "Perhaps we might look at the opposing perspectives in "Der Sandmann" not as mutually exclusive, but rather as a sign of the subjectivity of reality: if one believes something is real, it may as well be."

The judges commented: "It was a pleasure to read this beautifully written, clear, well-structured, and well-researched essay. The author's sensitivity to the details of conflicting narrative perspectives and our position as readers of Hoffmann's story contributed to a nuanced interpretation of 'Der Sandmann' as a whole."

Oxford research fellow Dr Karolina Watroba said: "We were very impressed by the overall quality of all the essays: they were generally as good – and in many cases better than! – the work our first-year undergraduates produce. This kind of dedication and passion is exactly



what we and other universities are looking for in candidates for a Modern Languages degree."

The prize-giving ceremony will take place in Oxford on June 23rd where Rebecca will receive her certificate and the prize of £500. Highsted is incredibly proud of Rebecca's achievement, a highly deserved result.

Match Report

Year 7 and 8 played a game against Sir Roger Manwood School on the 7th of October.

In the first half we had a series of strong attacks but the Manwood keeper made some amazing saves to keep the score 0-0 for a while. However, Highsted broke through the middle resulting in 4 amazing goals in quick succession from Louise, Isabel and Rose with 2 of them.

Highsted did a good job keeping possession throughout the rest of the first half. Our defence were also very good blocking shots on goal from the opposition and making great tackles to then attack constantly.

In the second half we made some substitutions and tested another formation which worked quite well but unfortunately, we were unable to score. Our opponents scored an early goal from a mistake at the other end of the field, as we did not recover quickly enough. A few minutes later, Rose was able to get another goal to give us the win with an overall scoring of 5-1.

We also voted for player of the match at the end of the game and the majority of players voted for Isobel for her hard work and determination to continually chase the ball down to turn over possession.

We look forward to playing in the next round of the Kent Cup.

U13 Football Match – Highsted vs Herne Bay High

The match started with Highsted's kick-off. No-one scored for a few minutes, but Highsted eventually went one goal up due to Louise's excellent dribble and shot. However, after a substitution from both teams, Herne Bay High drew equal from an unlucky deflection which led to an own goal scored by Highsted. Later, just a few seconds from half-time, Highsted scored again which put them up 2-1.

After half-time, a few more substitutions were made but Herne Bay High scored once more, drawing the score up to 2-2. However, Highsted played many good balls into Herne Bay High's half which resulted in 2 spectacular goals. An amazing effort from the opposing team paid off as they scored once more, but Highsted secured the win with a last-minute goal to make the end score 5 – 3.

The Year 7s did an excellent job on their debut, with one of Highsted's goals being scored by our Year 7 striker! The Year 7 defenders also held their own, with some good tackles and clearances to stop Herne Bay High from scoring multiple goals.

The Highsted U13 team are looking forward to their next match, which is against Sir Roger Manwood in Sandwich.

Year 9 Oasis V Highsted Match Report

Highsted's Year 9 team played our first match of the season against Oasis and won the match a convincing 23-1 on Tuesday 8th October.

In the first quarter we scored 8 goals through our ability to feed the ball into the goal circle and successful shooting from Bella and Isabel. In the second quarter we scored another impressive 6 goals with some team changes. The third quarter saw us scoring 5 further goals with Bella holding her space well in the circle and defence letting in just the one goal. In the last quarter we continued to extend the commanding lead to finish 23-1.

Overall we had consistent passes and good communication between one another and by using communication we could get the ball across the court quickly. We had some issues with contact and lost possession but still focused on the game and built up an impressive final score. Hollie was strong in defence scooping up any lost balls and mid court players, Jess and Grace, linked well to get the ball to the attack. Overall, I think we performed well in our first match, well played Highsted.

'This is Me' – Highsted Choir Supports World Mental Health Day

On Thursday 10th October, Highsted's School Choir visited St. Michael's Church in Sittingbourne to support World Mental Health Day and World Homeless Day. The day provides an opportunity for organisations to add to the wider conversation about the importance of mental health. This year's theme was suicide and suicide prevention, raising awareness and specifically addressing the stigma around suicide to enable more people to get the support they need.

Highsted students sang beautifully and the song, 'This is Me' by Keala Settle from 'The Greatest Showman' was an inspired choice. Many people often feel undervalued for who they are and it affects their sense of well-being and thus their mental health. The song perfectly shows how important it is to believe in yourself and never be ashamed of who you are.



Match Report- U16 Kent Netball Tournament- Tuesday 15th October

On a damp and dingy day in October, Highsted's U16 Netball team ventured to Rainham Girls to participate in the Kent Netball Championships after a false start, where we had to briefly return to school where Miss Baker had left the umpire's cheque back at base.

In our first match we faced Maidstone Grammar School, where we had some good centre passes and great defending by Isabel in GD. Unfortunately, we did not win the match but it was a good all round performance. We played many other top schools from around Kent including: Benenden, Weald of Kent, Sydenham, Townley and Colfes.

Although we did not win any of the matches, our team showed aspects of great teamwork and skill, starting at the defence, all the way up to the attack. Ruth, Anais, Danielle and Isabel rotated roles in defence as GK and GD, and all did a great job defending as were constantly being put under a lot of pressure from the opposition's shooters. However, they did not panic and made some great interceptions over all the matches.

WD was a highly contested position with Summer, Avril and Shannon all playing in the role throughout the day. Katie and Freya alternated matches in Centre, with Mia and Abbie sharing the WA position. Mia and Freya made some nice plays to each other throughout the day, passing the ball to a shooter for a shot on goal. Charlotte as GA made some impressive

shots and goals in several of the matches, with Hannah and Isabelle also making some nice moves against some rather tall defenders.

Many players had a lot of waiting around because of our large team, but everyone played at least 2 or 3 matches and played to the best of their ability. Overall, it was a fun day for the team and although we did not win any of the matches, we learned a lot and it was a great experience to take forward and assist in our preparation for GCSE Netball grading.

GS- Isabelle B
GA-Charlotte B, Hannah F
WA-Mia T, Abi H
C-Freya J (c), Katie S
WD-Avril T, Summer L, Shannon B
GD- Danielle B, Anais N
GK-Isabel T, Ruth L

INTERHOUSE SPORTS REPORT TERM 1

Interhouse sport this term was a veritable feast of Netball with KS3 and KS4 all competing in Interhouse Netball to decide which house would lift the coveted prize of Interhouse Netball Champions 2019.

Year 7 took place first and the turnout was excellent in such damp conditions with all Heads of House present and accounted for to cheer their House on to victory. The standard for our new year 7s was encouraging in their first term of playing and it came down to a final between Keller and Chanel with Keller coming out on top.

Year 8 was another closely contested tournament with another well represented competition, with Franklin facing Roddick in the final.

Year 9 was a real 'nail biter' with the final between Chanel and Roddick still held at a draw after the final whistle which meant we had to do a penalty shoot-out to decide the Year 9 winner. Chanel nailed it.

KS4 Netball was a really high standard and so pleasing to see them out on court showing everyone how to play Netball with passion and enthusiasm. The winning House were Keller who only had 6 players in a very tight final against Franklin.

6th form v Staff Badminton was a highly entertaining and competitive affair with some staff making House appearances and dusting off their trainers. It was great to see so many students and staff mashing the shuttle at each other in the spirit of sport. The winners with not only the most staff representatives and the most points won in their games played were Franklin.

Which leaves me to say the overall winners of Interhouse Sport for Term 1 were Franklin. Well done to everyone that represented their House to play, cheer or support in the spirit of Interhouse competition. Thank you the PE Department for officiating and the Heads of House for their support.

Highsted's Poppy D Wins Try Angle Award

Year 7 student Poppy D has been awarded the Try Angle Award from Kent County Council, given to young carers in the local community.

The award has been running since 1994 and recognises outstanding efforts and achievements of young people and groups at school, work, in organisations and in their community.

Poppy is one of 8 other finalists in the Swale area and attended the Try Angle Award district finals at Herne Bay High School on Thursday 10th October to receive her award.

The award recognises Poppy's work in caring for her mother Serena who was diagnosed with Functional Neurological Disorder last year. At home, Poppy helps to look after her mother by helping her with daily life and household tasks as well as coping with the challenges of starting secondary school. Despite this Poppy has maintained 100% attendance since starting at Highsted, demonstrating resilience and maturity.

U13 Football match V Kent College Canterbury

On the 30th of October 2019 Highsted's U13 football team played Kent College Canterbury in the second round of the Kent School Cup. We had a fairly slow start as the pitch and goals were much smaller than we were used to which made it difficult to maintain a fluid passing game. We eventually took the lead when Rose scored two goals, including a penalty that resulted from a handball. However, the score stayed at a standstill for much of the first half.

In the second half we started to break down the opposition well scoring two more goals in quick succession, Rose scoring one and Isabel scoring the other. Kings College did not give up and kept on trying to attack but our defence proved to be too strong. Near the end of the second half, Holly fired another ball into the goal to secure the 5 – nil win with Maddie keeping a clean sheet.

Voted by the players, Holly was the man of the match!

The Team:

- Amelia
- Emily
- Isabel
- Rose
- Holly
- Sophie
- Dara
- Rachel
- Evie
- Elle
- Olivia
- Madi

'WEAR IT PINK FRIDAY'

On Friday the 18th of October Highsted's Sixth Form hosted 'Wear it Pink Friday' for Breast Cancer Awareness, this was led by the Head Girl team.

Over a break and lunchtime on the day, our team sold a variety of sweet treats as well as holding a raffle in order to raise money for such an incredible charity.



Whole School: Cakes, treats and games
Where: Sixth Form Canopy

The turnout for the day was brilliant, with every shade of pink possible being visible it was clear this was an issue that really resonated with the whole student body and staff. The buzz created at lunchtime with live music and the process of raising money in our Highsted community for such a worthwhile charity could not be paralleled.

So many students, both sixth form and lower school, got involved, whether it was buying a raffle ticket or simply wearing pink each contribution made the day a success. In just one break and lunch we managed to raise just shy of £270 which the Head Girl Team, and by extension the rest of Sixth Form are very proud of.

We felt it was important to invest in a charity event like this as we wanted to demonstrate to the student body how important it is to give back and to see just how much of a positive impact we can make as a community.

'Fly, Dream, Climb that Mountain' – Highsted's Ambitious Harvest Celebrations

Highsted's annual Harvest Festival event was held on Monday 14th October and Wednesday 16th October and this year students were given the theme of 'Ambition'. Form groups created an outstanding plethora of decorated boxes inspired by this theme, complete with numerous food donations and other essential household items to be donated to help local people around Sittingbourne.



On day one, Chanel, Eliot and Franklin house teams presented their 'Ambition Boxes' on topics such as: 'Muhammed Ali', 'Missions to Space', 'The Environment' and 'The Olympics'. There were some brilliant designs including: a set of children's toy cubes spelling out the word 'ambition' by E3, reminding us that a child will develop their future ambitions from an early age through play; E1's box designed in the shape of the Highsted 'Umbrella of Virtues', presenting the qualities of a typical student needed to succeed; and an enormous snow topped mountain by F3, showing us that sometimes we need to climb to reach our ambitions.

On Wednesday it was the turn of house teams: Seacole, Roddick and Keller, presenting their boxes on topics such as: 'The Glass Ceiling', 'The Wizard of Oz', 'Buzz Lightyear' and 'The Greatest Showman'. Stand-out designs included: R4's huge graduation cap shaped box complete with a tassel made up of individual cards depicting the students' personal ambitions for the future and accompanying book titled 'Ambition'; S1's box showing Greta Thunberg's ambitious journey across the Atlantic to save the planet, made completely from recycled materials; and K1's box in the shape of the famous September 2019 *Vogue* Magazine cover, guest edited by The Duchess of Sussex, presenting the faces of various inspirational women and including a mirror in the final space – encouraging the reader to join the 'forces for change' by recognising this ability in themselves.



Each year boxes are judged on: relevance to the theme, presentation, generosity and overall winner. The winners from Monday's group were: F3 for 'Generosity', E1 for 'Creativity and Relevance to Theme' for their 'Umbrella of Virtues' and the overall winners were C1 who made a box in the shape of a set of steps to represent climbing to reach your ambitions. The winners from Wednesday's group were: R1 for 'Generosity', S2 for 'Creativity and Relevance to Theme' for their box themed on the ambition to fly; and overall winners were R4 for their graduation cap representing ambitions for the future.



The various items donated by students will be given to Sittingbourne food banks and The Salvation Army to help families in need. The students should be proud of their ambitious designs and generosity to people in their local community. Congratulations to all involved on another fantastic event!



Year 7 Netball Match against Fulston Manor

On the Tuesday 5th November, Highsted's Year 7 Netball Team played against Fulston Manor after a cancelled game against TSS. In the very first quarter, Scarlett, our Goal Shooter, had already shot her first goal and was confident and ready to score another.



The next quarter was outstanding for Highsted, as Kamilla and Lulu had shot three goals between them! Fulston had comeback and managed to shoot one for their team, but it was still the same score for them in the third quarter, whereas Highsted had shot two more.

The last quarter was exhausting for both schools as they had played their hearts out, however it was still an amazing game as Fulston came back with two more goals. Highsted continued to take the lead and had scored their last, winning goal. Fulston were fun competitors and it was a great first game for the Highsted Year 7 team.

U16s KSEA Football match v Westlands School

Highsted took on local school Westlands in the 3rd round of the Kent Cup. Both teams attacked well in the first quarter but were cancelled out by the other team. Highsted gradually became the more dominant side with several shots brilliantly saved by the Westlands keeper and Niamh hitting the crossbar just before the conclusion of the first half. The score remained 0-0.

Highsted started the second half strongly and soon went into the lead with a superbly struck shot by Charlotte. With some intricate play in the midfield and a well-timed pass out to Niamh, Highsted doubled their lead as she placed the ball beyond the keeper's reach. Daylight was rapidly fading which made conditions quite difficult for both teams.

Westlands scored on a counter attack which led to quite a nervy last 5 minutes of the game where the defence and Daisy in goal had to make some important saves to keep Highsted in the lead. The game finished 2-1 to Highsted putting them through to the quarter finals where they will face Highworth Grammar School.

Fulston VS Highsted

On Tuesday 5th November, Highsted's Year 9 netball team played against Fulston. In our first quarter we scored 5 and Fulston scored 1. In the second quarter we scored 8 and they still had only 1 and our third quarter was 11-1 to Highsted.

Finally we left the game winning 13-1. We had strong and quick passes throughout the match. We had good communication with each other and good techniques and tactics.

We did have some trouble with footwork which I think we will be able to improve quickly. Overall we had good shooting, good passing and good communication and had a fun and successful game.

Highsted's Anti-Bullying Week

Highsted's promotion of anti-bullying this year has been channelled into heightening the student body's own awareness into the effects and impacts of bullying. In association with the Head Girl team, events were taking place every lunchtime from the 11th of November to the 15th.

For example, on Monday the 11th the week was catalysed by a charter being signed by as many students as possible, in order to encourage the idea of bullying needing to be tackled by a collective effort and a group mind-set.

Following this, the Tuesday was dedicating to valuing the positive work and impact Highsted's peer mentors have. Being situated under the sixth form canopy invited students, from all year groups, to talk to some of the peer mentors and discover their intent within school.

The Wednesday was dedicated to showing the film 'Wonder' in both the hall and hi-pod: an apt film that explores the profound effects of bullying but even more importantly focuses on the overcoming of adversity and the promotion of inclusivity.

Thursday, similarly to Tuesday, was spent supporting the role of digital leaders within our school's student body- a key opportunity for them to advertise their active stance on helping tackle the issue of bullying. The last day of the week was a day of 'talking points' in which the Head Girl team encouraged students to share their opinions on certain topics and situations.

Overall, the week bought a sharp awareness to the importance of the Highsted value of empathy, and the consideration that always needs to be taken to when it comes to impulsive decision making.

Sixth form Open Evening at Highsted

A key event for the Head Girl Team was the Sixth Form Open Evening. The presence of the Head Girl Team reaffirmed the mood of the evening, of cultivating ambition and nurturing Year Eleven while they embark upon important future decisions. As a team we wanted to give insight into Sixth Form life and the programme of study Highsted has to offer.

One of our targets was stressing the many different opportunities, both academic and in personal development that students are able to undertake during their transition and once they have become fully fledged in Sixth Form life. Collectively, we collaborated on a display which highlighted the presence of the 2019-2020 Head girl Team and looking at the bigger picture, the different opportunities on offer both in

Year Twelve and Thirteen. Together, we spoke with passion about our involvement in the Highsted Community and the many different options that we were offered during our own journey through sixth form.

There was an element of individual and collective reflection where we put ourselves in the place of Year 11, eager but also apprehensive at the prospect of Sixth Form life. Looking back at ourselves, having been through our own experiences during sixth form, we reflected on the fact that we are also preparing to embark on our next steps into further education.

We particularly noted that the Highsted Experience has prepared us for our own future endeavours and ambitions.

Lessons from Auschwitz 2019

Highsted has once again participated in the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project on Tuesday 5th of November.

Our two Year 13 student ambassadors this year have been Olivia A and Rebecca S. They were privileged to hear first-hand the eyewitness testimony of 89-year-old Holocaust survivor Zigi Shipper before travelling to Poland to visit Auschwitz. At Auschwitz is estimated that 1.1 million people lost their lives to Nazi racial and political prejudice.



Having seen rooms full of artefacts left behind by those who entered Auschwitz, and the remains of gas chambers, Olivia and Rebecca are now tasked with returning to Highsted to spread the message of what they have learnt.

Olivia and Rebecca are keen to remind the Highsted community of the need to remain empathetic and community-conscious. They want to remind us that those who lost their lives in the Holocaust were not simply victims, and that extreme prejudice has its roots not in the past but in living communities.



Their further work with the school will focus on genocides after 1945 – a stark reminder that the lessons from Auschwitz have often not been learned well enough.

Highsted Education for Life Day 5th November

On Tuesday 5th of November all students took part in an Education for Life Day as part of their wider learning at Highsted. Each year group was



involved in different activities for the day which taught a variety of new skills and gave students a chance to get creative, engage in problem solving and develop thinking skills.

Year 7's day was based around 'Extraordinary Women'. The day started with a look at famous inspirational women with students learning about what made them special. Later the students were encouraged to apply this to their own lives and consider what made each of them extraordinary. The final task of the day involved students creating a self-portrait and imagining they were an adult, writing about all they had achieved since leaving Highsted, celebrating their success in life.



Year 8 were busy preparing for their upcoming 'Charity Bazaar' Event where students work together in groups to run a stall in the bazaar selling gifts and trinkets or running simple games or activities to raise money for their chosen charity. As well as raising money for a good cause, this also gave Year 8s an opportunity to develop skills such as: organisation, budgeting, finance and marketing. In the afternoon Year 8 engaged in Mindfulness activities from Sudoku to mindful colouring, all designed to relieve stress and help them manage mental wellbeing. There was also a chance to make small objects out of clay which many students chose to base around Christmas.

Year 9's day was also focused on wellbeing. An important session was 'Emotional Wellbeing', teaching students the importance of looking after their mental health and coping with anxiety.



Later the students looked at 'Anger Management', considering how to manage strong emotions, looking at causes and triggers and ways to handle conflict. They completed a Radicalisation Awareness session where they were introduced to common definitions and assumptions around radicalisation and extremism and looked at ways people can reduce the risks associated with extremism in their communities. Finally the students completed some Mindfulness activities, taking part in soap making, colouring and origami.

Year 10 were looking at risk taking on their day. One of the sessions was about alcohol, exploring the reasons why people drink and the impact it can have as well as examining the risks of underage drinking, strategies to manage peer pressure and where to seek further support. The second session was on successful parenting, looking at being responsible and providing information about pregnancy and miscarriage.

There was also a session on STIs. Finally the students engaged in activities to raise awareness about cyberbullying. They were challenged to explore a range of cyberbullying scenarios and consider appropriate responses.

Year 11 focused on their next steps along the career pathway, from A Levels to future professions. The day started with an introduction to two platforms 'Unifrog' and 'Kent Choices', giving students the opportunity to explore them and use them as tools to aid in their future career choices. As exams move closer the importance of managing workload is ever important and how to have time away from studies is key for positive wellbeing. Therefore we rounded off the day with a range of mindfulness activities which students opted into. From yoga, art, puzzles and quiet reading, students took part in an activity of their choice to understand the balance of work in order to maintain a positive mental health throughout the year.

Year 12 worked on practical First Aid skills. This was building on a previous Education for Life day the students completed on the basics of first aid in Year 11. The aim of this session was to refresh their skills and work on more complex ones. It is vitally important that skills are regularly refreshed and practiced for use in CPR, recovery positions, bleeding and choking. Later in the day the students looked at 'A Big Night Out' covering the impact and effects of alcohol and how to deal with an unresponsive person and battle the 'bystander effect'. This challenged the students to see how some of their basic first aid skills could be used to deal with real life issues. Finally the students looked at mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety and eating disorders, learning the signs and symptoms and further enhance their skills to enable them to support those around them.

Year 13 were preparing for UCAS and working on strategies for A Level revision during this important time of the year ahead of their mock exams in February. There were also important sessions on interview skills and the day finished with some team games and mindfulness strategies to deal with stress and promote relaxation.

Get Reading and Writing at Highsted!

The Scholastic Bookfair came to Highsted on Monday 11th of November to Thursday 14th of November. Students had the opportunity to browse the fantastic selection of books and stationary in the Hi-Pod during break and lunchtimes and Year 7, 8 and 9 students were also given the chance to visit with their English class. It was great to see students getting excited about reading and every book bought helped fund free books for the school library too.

Recently the LRC has also started a short story competition titled 'My Twist on a Tale'. Students were encouraged to 'tear up the rule book' and give their own 21st Century twist on classic fairy tales, fables and regional folk stories. The aim was to celebrate the diversity in modern day Britain.

Whether it was Cinderella meeting her not-so-evil stepmother, magical smartphones or classroom kingdoms, the key point was that children and young people can get creative and, by putting a personal twist on classic tales, reflect on their own personality, location, heritage, interests and experiences. The best entries will be submitted to an international story competition run by Pearson Education with a chance to be published.

Year 8 Charity Bazaar 2019

On Tuesday 19th November, Year 8 students held the annual charity bazaar event in the school hall. The event challenges students to plan and design a suitable stall for the bazaar and research a charitable organisation they would like to support with their proceeds.



After spending the previous Education for Life Day preparing fastidiously for this event, Year 8 were raring to go and quickly got to work setting up their stalls in the hall and organising jobs for each of their team members. Groups were very creative in their methods to attract potential customers, decorating their stalls in eye catching colours and with many groups wearing costumes or T Shirts in support of their chosen charity.



Organisations supported on the day included: Battersea, Medical Detection Dogs, The Little Princess Trust, Ronald McDonald Housing Charity, Demelza, Water Aid, Great Ormond Street, Cancer Research Uk, Alzheimer's Society, the WWF and the Wisdom Hospice among many more. A total of 27 charities were supported by the students.

Year 7 and Year 9 students were taken to visit the bazaar and many other students, parents and staff visited throughout the afternoon. In total the event raised a fantastic: £1657.40. Well done to all students and staff involved in this successful event.

Year 7's Celebration Tea Party

On Thursday 14th November Year 7 had its annual Tea Party, an event to celebrate the transition from primary to secondary school as well as promoting and raising awareness of the important work done by the Wisdom Hospice Charity. One of the key Highsted Virtues this term is being 'Community Conscious' and one of the aims for this event is to bring

together the local community and celebrate the integration of Year 7s into their new Highsted Community.



Year 7 students invited guests including: their primary school teachers and head teachers, new members of teaching staff at Highsted, the school governors and members of the Senior Leadership Team at Highsted.



All students had to work together as a team to prepare for this event by: choosing a theme for their table, creating place cards, designing and

creating invitations and picking the perfect food and drink to serve on the evening itself. This year there was an emphasis on students thinking 'outside the box' for their food choices and many table saw a much greater range of delicious snacks on offer from: cold meats and cheeses to watermelon and macarons.

There was also an opportunity during the evening to see some of the great work Year 7 had produced on their recent Education for Life day on November 5th looking at 'Extraordinary Women' and the creating their own 'life story', imagining how they would look back at their successful lives as adults and drawing a self-portrait.

The evening came to a climax with the whole of Year 7 performing 'Someone You Loved' by Lewis Capaldi to the watching audience. It was a great evening and all the students performed and presented themselves admirably.

Roddick House Charity Event

From Monday 11th November until Friday 15th, members of Roddick House ran a week long charity event based around supporting animals in need. Each form chose to adopt an animal and sold cookies, cakes and ran some games to raise the money to do this. R1 decided to adopt a panda, R2 a goat, R3 a snow leopard, R4 an Elephant and finally R5 plan to adopt an orang-utan.

The tutor groups intend to formally adopt their chosen animal with the money raised and will update the students throughout the year on how the adoption process is going and how their money is being used to support the animal. In total

the events raised: £208.97. Well done to all staff and students involved.

Highsted Grammar School Christmas Fair

On Saturday 23rd November, Highsted hosted their annual Christmas Fair. There were some amazing stalls selling handmade unique Christmas gifts ranging from: advent calendars, Christmas tree decorations, jewellery, clothes, bags, and festive reindeer toys.



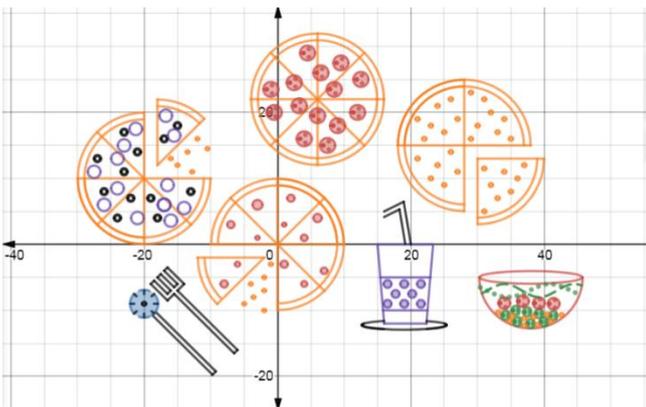
There was also a Christmas raffle and tombola on offer. The Student Council kept visitors refreshed with their festive café. The event was once again a huge success and we look forward to hosting it again next year.

Mathematical Art

Year 10 produced some amazing images as part of a graphing competition that they took part in from Monday 11th November to Friday 15th November.

This year saw the first launch of 'Maths Week England' and to celebrate, Highsted arranged for Y10 students to take part in a national competition ran by MEI. Students spent a lesson discovering graphs and producing original artwork using the graphing website www.desmos.com.

The effort and enthusiasm of students was amazing and we have decided to award prizes in school to Elena Ingram for her Pizza Party picture and to Charlotte Weeks for her intricate design of a necklace.



'Pandora's Box sure is heavy...' – Franklin Wins House Drama Competition

Tuesday 26th November was Highsted's annual House Drama Competition. The six houses were represented by a mix of students across Years 7-13 and gave amazing performances, inspired by this year's theme 'Curiosity'. The competition was judged by: Hannah Farley Hills, Ashlea Williams, Chloe Petts and Bobbi Nunes, who have or are presently reading Drama at University and are ex-Highsted students.

This year's winners, Franklin, were inspired by the Greek myth of 'Pandora's Box' and the students performed with great gusto – complete in togas with fans and laurels. This modern, take on a classic myth was a comical exploration of what happens when curiosity is out of control.

Other performances included: Keller's adaptation of 'Alice in Wonderland', a dark tale with a strong message about not losing your curiosity; Seacole's exploration of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', celebrating the disastrous 10 year reunion of the original golden ticket winners; Chanel's tale of 'Marie Curie', rediscovering the famous historical character; Eliot's thrilling murder mystery, starting with a dramatic shooting and following the tale to its murky conclusion; and finally Roddick, who were also inspired by 'Alice in Wonderland', telling the original story with great acting skill.



The event was incredible and all those involved should be pleased by their creativity and curiosity in the competition.

Highsted Hosts First Volleyball Tournament

Highsted Grammar School, in partnership with Total Sports Coaching and Invicta Volleyball hosted the inaugural Highsted Primary Volleyball Festival for children in Years Five and Six. 10 different local primary schools attended the event.



Over 80 children enjoyed learning and competing in what for many was a brand new sport with Davington emerging victorious in a tightly contested final against Boughton – with a final score of 17 v 13. Third place was awarded to Selling and Bysing Wood's B Team picked up the Fair Play Award.

Teams from Luddenham, Bysing Wood, Boughton, Teynham, Thistle Hill, St. Mary's, Selling, Sheldwich, Ethelbert Road, and Davington competed and were supported by young sports leaders from Highsted Grammar School who officiated the games.

Volleyball is a globally popular Olympic sport, which is sadly under-represented in the local area. Highsted Grammar School is developing a programme for the sport led by former England international, Luke Thomas, who works at the school as a teacher of mathematics.



“We are delighted to be able to engage with schools in our local community and create opportunities for children to learn and compete in volleyball.” said Thomas. “I hope that the new found enthusiasm for the game locally will be taken forward into clubs like Invicta Volleyball.”

Invicta Volleyball has recently received funding from ‘Active Swale’ to improve provision for the sport locally.

For more information about volleyball visit www.invictavolleyball.com or find club on social media.

Our Most Successful Book Fair!

In November we hosted our most successful book fair! The scholastic books were in school for 4 days and were visited by all of the English classes in KS3.

There was a great selection of books from classics to contemporary; and posters and stationery items proved popular too. Thank you to all the staff, parents and students who supported the fair. We took a massive £831 which meant we received over £500 worth of free books for the LRC. All of these books are now available in the library.

There was also a short story competition that ran alongside the book fair based on ‘Twisted Fairy Tales’.

Congratulations to Louisa C and Rosie B who won first place and won a £10 book voucher and Aisha H-B and Faith D who were runners up.

A special thank you to all the students who helped to run the book fair and we hope to run another fair in the summer term.



Year 8 Visit German Christmas Market

From Wednesday 27th November to Thursday 28th, Year 8 students at Highsted visited a traditional Christmas market in Germany. On the first day they arrived in Aachen and visited

the town centre, cathedral and local markets. In the evening they stayed overnight in Koln. On the second day, the students explored Koln, including its cathedral and chocolate museum, before leaving to return to Highsted later that day.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to visit Germany and experience a traditional market, a great event for getting into the Christmas mood!

Netball Round Up

Netball has been very busy since September with all teams from Year 7 through to Year 11 engaging in the Swale Netball Competition. The girls have played numerous matches this season so far and it has been pleasing to see so many new faces come along to club. There have been over 50 students coming along to KS3 Netball Club and over 30 students attending KS4. It is really positive and encouraging to see people engaging in physical activity at lunchtimes. The Year 7, 8 and 9 teams have all remained undefeated this season, with Y10 and 11 only letting one match slip past them this season. The Year 9/10 and 11 teams have also ventured to Rainham School for Girls to take part in the Kent Netball Competition. The standard of play here is always really high and the girls always come away learning so much about Netball on these days from playing teams that have excellent reputations and play in higher leagues. A special thank you to Wendy for umpiring at these matches for us and to Miss Tress and Miss Baker for being Team Managers. Well done to all the girls that have represented Highsted this year in Netball. The Year 7 and 8 teams still have their Kent festival to attend later next term, but newcomers are encouraged to come and give it a go!

Sporting Fixtures to look out for in 2020:

Saturday 11th January – Kent School Individual Swimming Championships

Saturday 18th January – U16 KSFA Semi Final v Maidstone Grammar School

Saturday 18th January – Kent Schools Cross Country Championships

Thursday 27th February – U13 Kent Netball Tournament

Wednesday 18th March – U12 Kent Netball Tournament

Tuesday 4th February – Kent School Games Y9/10 Basketball Competition

Thursday 7th February – Kent Schools Trampoline Competition

Now fully booked. Further dates added: 29th January, 12th February, 4th March.

Grammar
Maths!

Maths

We would like to invite groups of up to 8 students from each of the local primary schools to attend one or more of the masterclasses available this term. The masterclasses will take place at Highsted Grammar School from **11am until 12.30pm** on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 27th November - 'Angle Games'
- Wednesday, 11th December - 'Maths Chef'
- Wednesday, 15th January - 'Art in Maths'

Please ask your school to email Mrs G Springhall, at springhall.g@highsted.kent.sch.uk to register for any of the dates we have available and for more information about the sessions we provide.

Places will be distributed on a first come first served basis and we expect places to go very quickly so please register promptly.

Each session is limited to 24 places.

If your students are unable to travel to Highsted, please get in touch if you would like to arrange for a masterclass to be brought to you.

INTERHOUSE SPORTS REPORT TERM 2

We decided to venture inside for Interhouse sport this term with all Houses competing in Newton Ball to decide who the Interhouse Newton Ball Champions of 2019-2020 were and whether Franklin could be toppled from their winning first term efforts.

Year 7 competed first with an excellent turnout by most Houses. The ball was passed back and forth and sometimes it was hard not to get a sore neck but in the end Keller were deserving champions.

Year 8 was another closely contested tournament with another well represented competition, with Keller also victorious overall undefeated all tournament.

Year 9 was time for Chanel to fight back and get some well-earned points for Mrs Faik and lift her competitive spirits. KS4 Newton Ball was a really high standard and so pleasing to see many teams bulging with more players than they needed. The winning House were Chanel who were cheered on with eager enthusiasm and passion by their subs who took a vested interest in matches.

Friday was a closely fought competition between staff and Sixth Form. Franklin were out in force with Mrs Evans, but Chanel also had a full strength side with Miss Mortimer and Mrs Faik bolstering the team. Miss Lennox was there to represent Eliot and Seacole had Dr Gardener flying the flag. This was a tense tournament with Heads of House knowing the

outcome could decide the overall winners. Seacole came out victorious but it could not impact the overall standing for the tournament.

Which leaves me to say the overall winners of Interhouse Sport for Term 2 were both Franklin and Keller who tied overall in first place. Well done to everyone that represented their House in the competition this term.

Thank you the PE Department for officiating and the Heads of House for their support of sport. A special mention needs to go to Avril, Pelumi, Imani from Chanel, Marissa from Franklin and Alice and Shannon from Seacole who turned out on a daily basis to rally their teams, support and help officiate.

Highsted's Christmas Music Events

Highsted Christmas Concert

Thursday 5th December was the annual Highsted Christmas Concert. As always, this was a vibrant and cheerful event, with a wide range of musical performances enjoyed by an audience of parents, governors and staff, both current and old. Highlights of the evening included: a composition duet called 'Colours' by Sienna B and Louisa B, a fabulous recorder recital by the Highsted Recorder Consort and of course a pristine performance by The Origin of 'Hallelujah' and 'Lay Me Down', both arranged by Jessica H. Congratulations and thank you to all involved.

The Christmas Festival Concert

The Highsted Christmas Festival is always a popular event and was well attended this year by local schools. Highsted students enjoyed collaborating and coaching students from primary schools from around the area, as well as students from Borden Grammar School and Fulston Manor. This year was very well attended with an increase in instrumentalists from primary schools, an encouraging sign for the future. The day's work ended with a fabulous concert, displaying the new skills and partnerships formed. Highlights included: a fantastic performance from Bapchild Primary School of 'Walking in the Air' and a brilliant rendition of 'Merry Christmas Everybody' – complete with encore. It was lovely to see such enthusiasm for music and performance: a thoroughly enjoyable event.

Highsted Students Read Aloud – Year 7 and 8 Reading Competition

Students in Year 7 and 8 have competed in a new House Reading Aloud competition. The competition was matched to the Highsted English syllabus, with Year 7 students choosing a poem to prepare and Year 8 students selecting an extract from a classic text.

The Year 7 finalists included Maisie S: 'The Broken Chain', Amelia A: 'Sonnet 18', Kaya T: 'Homework, I Love You' and Olivia H, who read the sorting hat poem from 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'.

The Year 8 finalists were: Madison S, Sean C and Alycea W, and they read extracts from 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy', 'Lord of the Flies' and 'A Christmas Carol'.

Congratulations to Alycea W, winner of the Year 8 competition, and good luck to Year 7, who will be competing shortly.

Highsted Students Inspired to 'Take that First Step'

One Wednesday 11th December, staff, students, governors, parents and representatives from the local community at Highsted celebrated the incredible success of the school's GCSE and A Level results. The school once again demonstrated the best results in Swale.



Students received awards such as: outstanding achievement, progress and effort; contributions to subjects such as: business, sport, science and art; and significant contributions to the school and local community. The evening included spellbinding musical performances from Highsted students including: 'Burn' – sung

by Rosie C, and 'Salut d'Amour' – performed by Laura M on the violin.

The guest speaker this year was Bonita Norris, one of the first British women to climb Mt. Everest. She inspired students by telling them about her incredible journey from ordinary girl to experienced climber, and shared photographs and tales from her trek towards the summit of Everest. It was a trip full of difficulties and challenges but she never gave up and succeeded in reaching her goal.



One of her most important messages was about taking 'small steps' and not being afraid to take the first one. She said, "Your friends and teachers can help you on your path but no one can walk it for you. You have to take that first step." She finished by congratulating the students on their achievements and wishing them well on their personal climb to success.



Football Round Up

It would be fair to say Football throughout Term 1 and Term 2 has been somewhat hectic with the many matches that needed to be played as part of the Kent School Competition and English Schools Competition. Highsted always fair very well in both the National and Kent competitions and in the early stages it seems a never ending carousel of matches that need to be played.

Here is a summary of where each team has made it to this year, but we are hugely proud to see our U16 team in the semi-final of the Kent Schools Competition, where they will be facing Maidstone Grammar School for Girls on Saturday 18th January 2020. We are also very excited to see our newly formed U12 team still in the ESFA and into round 3.

I would like to wish both the U12 and U16 teams success in the New Year with their forthcoming matches. The teams cannot take part without all the behind the scenes administration that goes on and I would like to thank Mrs Hoyte and Mrs Tress as Team Manager for their support, organisation and minibus driving back and forth. Also to Mehdi Golchereh our resident football referee that officiates all of our home games. A special thank you also to Libby in Y13 who often can be seen running the side line too.

Well done to all the girls that train, play and represent the school and keep football such a prevailing force in our Community.

'Red Ribbons' and 'Tiny Penguins' – Joint Winners of the Highsted Festive Cake Competition

Year 9 students have been working to create Christmas cakes this term as part of their Food & Nutrition course. All

students were challenged to design, decorate and make a Christmas cake. This involved creating a rich fruit cake, making marzipan and creating hand-made decorations to finish it off. As part of this project they had to study: preparation, storing and cooking techniques.



On Friday 13th December, the cakes were entered into the annual Highsted Festive Cake Competition.

This year's joint winners

were: Holly T (K3) for her cake decorated with holly and a bright red ribbon; and Isobel B (R2) for her cute penguin cake. Joint second place was awarded to: Beau G (S2) and Hannah T (F5).



The students have shown tremendous enthusiasm and produced some creative, imaginative and skilful designs, well done to all those involved.

Badminton Match Report

On Tuesday 10th December a group went to Ursuline Collage to represent Highsted in the Kent Schools Badminton Championship. It was our first competition outside of the county after practicing every Friday over the past two terms. We were very pleased with our results.

Highsted A placed 3rd out of their group and Highsted B placed 2nd out of theirs.



Highsted Education for Life Day – 12th December

On Thursday 12th December, all students took part in an Education for Life Day as part of their wider learning at Highsted. Each year group was involved in different activities for the day which taught a variety of new skills and gave students the chance to get creative, engage in problem solving and develop thinking skills.

Year 7's day was based around appropriate use of social media. In today's technological world, where most students have access to various social media apps, it is important that students understand how to use them respectfully and wisely. The day started with a look at cyberbullying, followed by the students being set a challenge to create a short presentation – either visually or kinaesthetically – to show what they had learned. At the end of the day Year 7 attended the Christmas Pantomime trip at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury. This year's performance of 'Mother Goose' featured: Dr Ranj from *CBeebies* and Jenna Russell from *EastEnders*. This unusual panto followed the simple story of Mother Goose, a kindly but poor woman who is seduced by promises of eternal beauty from a villainous prince. One of the most memorable scenes included a motorbike stunt cage, complete with three stunt riders performing death defying tricks while flamethrowers blasted into the air on each side of the stage. Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed the event and it was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of a successful term at Highsted.

Year 8 attended sessions based on safety. Their first sessions was on Consent, looking at what this term means and how to approach both family, friendship and romantic relationships in a healthy way. Part of the session was group discussion about potential 'red flag' sayings and actions people may use and ways this breaks consent. Next was a session on Eating Disorders, helping students identify the signs of these important problems. Third was a session based around Self Harm, understanding what this means and how to seek information and support. Finally the students completed a session on First Aid, looking at basic skills they could use to help someone in difficulty. A select group of confident Year 8 students spent the day preparing for a 'mock magistrates trial' which they will be competing in next year. The session focused on how students could handle evidence in a courtroom. In a festive twist, teams were putting Santa Claus on trial for: breaking and entering, drink driving and theft of festive snacks. Teams selected a witness of their choice, perhaps an elf who was working long hours or a child who saw Santa entering through the chimney on the night of the 'crime'.

Year 9's day was focused on use of social medial and online safety. They looked at issues such as responsible use of social

media and cyberbullying and completed a presentation on what they had learned. The presentations were very original, some groups creating poems, some drawing cartoons and some performing a rap. At the end of the day they were given the opportunity to get creative and make a board game, quiz, maze, crossword or other fun activity designed to teach someone about online safety.

Year 10's day was split into sessions on breast health, team building and understanding political parties. The morning was spent listening to a talk from 'Boobettes', an organisation who focus on raising awareness about the importance of checking yourself for anything unusual in your breasts and encouraging others to do the same. After this the students competed head to head in a team challenge to build the tallest structure they could out of spaghetti and marshmallows, this was done in great spirit with some becoming very sticky by the end! At the end of the day the students were sent to research the political manifestos of the following parties: Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Green, Brexit, and UKIP. Each group then presented information on the party they had researched. The aim of this task was to show students the importance of engaging in politics and having their voices and views heard.

Year 11's day focused on preparing personal statements and health. In the morning the students learnt how to use 'Kent Choices', a web based resource helping students write effective and professional personal statements and applying to Sixth Form collages and courses. After this students completed sessions on Drug Awareness and The Science of Cancer, equipping students with the skills and knowledge for what to do if someone has taken drugs and giving them an understanding of how cancer develops in the body. Finally the students completed a course in basic First Aid, this is an online certified course which can be added to their Kent Choices Application for further study and education beyond Year 11.

Year 12's day was aimed at equipping students with useful skills. The day started with a session from 'Kwik Fit' on car maintenance to ensure safety, demonstrating that good tyres can significantly negate the impact in an accident. They also spoke about good driving habits, avoiding distractions and keeping focused at all times. After this students held a series of debates on: 'Childhood Vaccinations should be Compulsory', 'Tourism Benefits the World' and 'Climate Emergency: People should not have more than two children'. Each Year 12 group argued head to head on these important issues. The aim of the activity was to develop higher level thinking skills and show students how real debating works. The day ended with Year 12 students exploring the new Society System, launched by Year 13.



Year 13's day was based around VESPA, preparing students for exams and higher education. Students attended talks from their subject teachers on: having 'Vision' – knowing where you are going; 'Effort' – understanding the level of work required; 'Systems' – developing organisation skills and

planning ahead; 'Practice' – realising what kind of revision is effective and how to prepare effectively; and 'Attitude' – looking at wellbeing and having a positive approach to learning. The day ended with Year 13 students launching the new Society System with groups ranging from: MedSoc and Classical Literature Society to Debating Society. Students will be invited to attend these sessions in the New Year.



the day. Although Year 13 students only sacrificed a few hours of their day, it was a rewarding experience that many felt made a big impact on those lives in the community.

Alongside this external project, Highsted Sixth Form also rallied together and launched a food drive to donate to the Sittingbourne Food Bank. Goods were donated from soup and pasta to tomato sauce and chocolate. Highsted as a school have supported the local food bank for many years - our harvest festival collection of food and goods have always been received with a warm welcome. This year has been no different, as all of the year groups have done their part to keep up the concept of giving back at Christmas time. Overall, both of these projects were highly successful and we were astounded by the generosity of both staff and students. This truly demonstrates the spirit of giving back at such a crucial time of the year. As a school, we recognise the impact giving back has not only on the community but also that students felt a sense of pride in giving back to others.

Highsted Carol Service – St. Michael's Church

On Monday 16th December, Highsted students visited St Michael's Church in Sittingbourne for the traditional Highsted carol service. The event celebrates the message of Christmas and is a time for reflecting on the season through a series of readings and Christmas songs.

This year there were biblical and secular readings such as: 'In the Bleak Midwinter' by Christina Rossetti read by Olivia A, Beth T and Elaina M, Year 12; and 'Ring Out Wild Bells' by Alfred Lord Tennyson read by Maddie B, Olivia P, Tierney S and Katie W, Year 13. Musical soloist Lucy B, Year 7, led the school in 'Once in Royal David's City'; 'The Origin' sang 'Hallelujah' by Alexandra Burke and 'Lay Me Down' by Sam Smith; and the Highsted Choir and Orchestra performed 'Past Three O'Clock' by Charles Wood and 'Walking in the Air' by Howard Blake.

All students performed wonderfully and created a Christmas atmosphere bringing the community together.

Highsted Sixth Form Christmas Charity Drive

After the success of 'Wear it Pink Day', students had been given a taste of what it was like to come together and give back to those who are in need. This was very apparent in the Sixth Form who wanted to give back and see the direct impact of their work within the community. Following this energised approach to charity work, the Head Girl Team found Christmas to be the appropriate time for more concentrated charity work.

On the 18th December 2019 - Highsted's last day of term 2 - Year 13 made the collective effort of going into the community and giving their time to institutions and helping the disadvantaged over this Christmas period. As a year group, Year 13 recognised that not all families associate Christmas with warmth, comfort and relaxation and can be a difficult time. In light of this, they concentrated their efforts to local organisations such as Demelza's Distribution Centre, Woodstock Care Home and Age UK and supported them for

Calendar Update

HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Term 3	January	
<u>Monday 6</u>	Start of Term 3	
<u>Tuesday 7</u>	Key Stage Recognition Assembly	
<u>Thursday 9</u>	Year 11 – Trial Examinations Start	
<u>Friday 17</u>	PSHE – Education for Life – Focus Day 4	
<u>Thursday 23</u>	Year 11 – Trial Examinations End	
<u>Friday 24</u>	Year 11 - Sixth Form Familiarisation Day	
<u>Friday 31</u>	NSPCC Number Day	
February		
<u>Monday 3</u>	Safeguarding Fortnight	
<u>Thursday 6</u>	Intermediate UK Maths Challenge	
<u>Saturday 8</u>	Mad Science Saturday	
<u>Tuesday 11</u>	Safer Internet Day / Online Safeguarding Evening	
<u>Friday 14</u>	End of Term 3	
<u>Monday 24</u>	Start of Term 4	
<u>Monday 24</u>	Year 13 – Trial Examinations Start	
<u>Tuesday 25</u>	Key Stage Recognition Assembly	
<u>Thursday 27</u>	Year 9 Exhibition and Preferences Evening	
March		
<u>Tuesday 3</u>	55 + Concert	
<u>Thursday 5</u>	World Book Day	
<u>Friday 6</u>	Year 13 – Trial Examinations End	
<u>Monday 9</u>	Foundations Entry Re-trial Examinations	
<u>Friday 13</u>	Year 9 Preferences Deadline	
<u>Thursday 19</u>	Year 8 Parents Evening	
April		
<u>Wednesday 1</u>	End of Term 3	



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