

# The Holmleigh Edition

FEBRUARY 2026

EDITION 3



## **In February's Edition:**

- ♥ Reflecting on a new year and a new term
- ♥ Meet Assistant Headteacher for Safeguarding and Inclusion: Ms Diaco
- ♥ A Day in the Life of the catering team
- ♥ Some RECOMMENDED TV series from staff and students
- ♥ Meet more sporting talent in the school

# The Holmleigh Edition

It feels like the student newspaper is getting fully established now as we bring you the 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment, and also marking the halfway point of this academic year.

Following the rotation of the enrichment groups, the new journalists were filled with creative ideas, got stuck in with impressive speed and have met deadlines with a calm and motivated demeanour.

We agreed to keep some of the popular 'classics' that we have started as fixed features, but welcomed new ideas as we stay focused on ensuring the newspaper celebrates and shares all the highlights of the term.

Well done to all the students working hard at the news desk each Wednesday, and for working so collaboratively together to produce their features.

I think many teachers have a sunrise photo of the school site, but I would like to thank Mr Rangiuia Lindup for the front cover!

Have a lovely week with your children: we hope it is filled with love this Valentine's and we look forward to bringing you a mini edition next time in a much shorter and fast paced term.

Ms Furleger (*Teacher of English/Head of Year 11*)

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# New year, new term, new opportunities

*By Emily McGarrick*

We ended 2025 with great achievement and success in our celebration assemblies where many students were awarded badges and certificates to award their hard work throughout the year. This included the eagerly anticipated 'colours' awards for academic, culture, values and sport. After a well-deserved Christmas break, students returned ready to take on the new year! 2026 meant a fresh start for everyone, with Year 11 students completing their last set of mocks, and welcoming over 10 brand new Enrichment options. It was clear from the start that the term was going to be thriving, full of perseverance and a rewarding one!

## Year 11 Mocks

Over the first few weeks back, Year 11 students presented fantastic determination and resilience whilst completing their mocks. Students showed excellent attendance to their warm-up sessions on their exam mornings; it was clear they were a great help to go into the exams with a boost of confidence. The croissants and apple/orange juice were highly enjoyed by all for a pre-exam breakfast in the refectory!

Mock exams are a majorly helpful and important part of the GCSE journey. They provide students with the exact topics and areas of a subject that they need to improve on and revise to do better ahead of the real exams.

Year 11s now eagerly wait in anticipation for their results on the penultimate day of term- whilst teachers hurriedly mark in time for their impatient students! With parent's evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of February, we will soon see if their hard work has paid off...

## New Enrichment

At Holmleigh Park, Enrichment is a phenomenal part our school week, where students are given the opportunity to take a break from regular lessons and indulge in a variety of clubs full of amazing activities. As we began the second round of enrichment this term, students had selected their brand new clubs. Over ten new clubs were added to the already vast selection: Music, Historical Fiction, the Year 11 Yearbook and The Apprentice are just a handful of the exciting new options on offer.

## Student Council

In December 2025, the student council representatives applied for their roles and wrote a speech to convince their peers that they were the best fit for the role. Twenty students were selected and have been gathering fortnightly to discuss their ideas. The student council is a fantastic role in the school to share their voices and suggestions. Every student's voice has great power, many ideas are discussed with Mr Hudson and in communication with SLT to actively make these changes. In previous years, changes such as increased lunchtime, food menu adaptations and the return of Fun Fridays were made. We look forward to seeing what ideas they have in store next!

In conclusion, despite the shorter term, there is still much happening at Holmleigh Park! Students continued to show their resilience and enthusiasm right up until the last day, and are ready for their well-deserved half-term break.

# New and improved Enrichment

*By Sophia Hawkins*

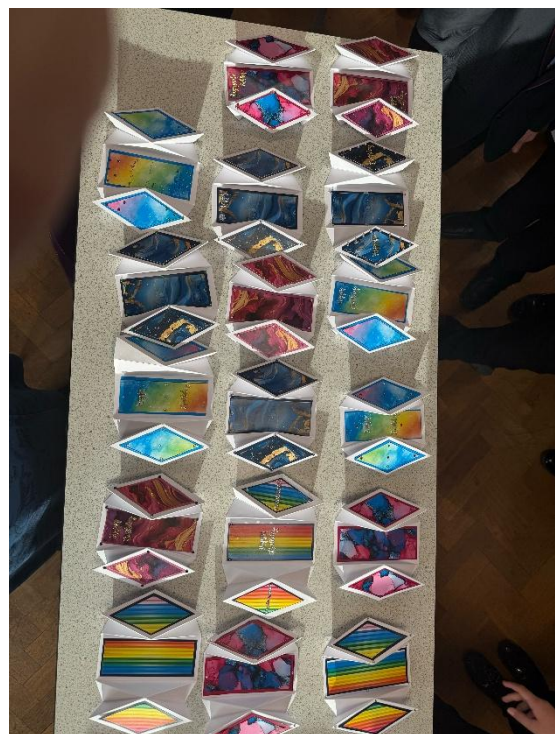
This year began with a change in enrichment, leading to people getting to know new people and discovering new skills. Although some enrichment clubs were left behind in 2025, including Mr Pearce's fabulous film club, many new and exciting enrichments such as German Club have also been added giving students a wider range of options to try new things.

## Palaeontology

The first enrichment I visited was the palaeontology club, where eager dinosaur enthusiasts were displaying their creativity by designing their very own dinosaurs. Students had learned how to identify dinosaurs, and could identify different parts of dinosaurs and their purposes. Palaeontology club can help to develop and improve skills, including public speaking, as students were encouraged to present their dinosaurs to the rest of the class. The club is also very useful for people with an avid interest in dinosaurs who may even aspire to study dinosaurs in depth in the future, as one student expressed her desire to study palaeontology later in life.

## 3D sculpture club

Afterwards, I made my way to the amazingly artistic 3D sculpture club. Here, students were creating pots inspired by one of the most influential ceramics artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century - Clarice Cliff. These pots have been made of recycled materials, however, students cleverly strengthened and refined them using masking tape and Sellotape. When asked, students said that they enjoy this club as it's very hands-on, and allows creative freedom whilst also sticking to a theme. Students also loved how each of their creations would be unique and personal. We can't wait to see how they turn out!



## Poetry by heart

Poetry by heart is a huge national poetry speaking competition where brave students learn an entire poem of their choice, and then recite it. Not only does this club enhance speaking skills and build confidence, it also helps with memory management, making this club perfect for everybody! This club is particularly useful for the current year 11s, who can recite their essential GCSE love and relationships poems, ensuring they know at least one poem by heart. At the grand finale of the competition, finalists get to visit Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and are critiqued on their recitation once more by renowned poets, one of whom is Daljit Nagra, who wrote "Singh Song!", which we are lucky enough to study at GCSE level. What's not to love about this club?

Overall, the second batch of enrichment has been critical to balancing enjoyment and academic success as it provides an extra hour of fun, as well as developing skills and helping people to meet others who are interested in similar activities. The clubs have been interesting, and have made days feel shorter and more entertaining, and I am very grateful to have been able to visit a few of them.

# A Day in the Life: The Catering Team

*By Zara Rebello and Elsie Taylor*



We usually start the day around 7-9:30 as all of us come in at staggered times. There are 8 of us, and we share different roles throughout the day.

We start food prepping straight away so we are ready to serve students and teachers for the day ahead. While the students are in lessons, we make sure the food is all ready for break time. After break, we also clear up the food ready for the next serving, which is lunch. Between lessons, we like to food prep to be extra prepared.

We have a morning team that works on serving for break time, and also have an afternoon team who serve lunch. Throughout the day, we focus on getting meals and snacks ready for staff and students. It is hot and fast paced in the kitchen with lots of cooking, but we have a good routine and are a good team.

The Holmleigh Park's catering team is very happy to say that the food waste has become a lot better than before. Students also tend to select what they know they will like, so hopefully they usually eat it all up! After we clear up the leftover food that wasn't eaten, it goes into our green-waste wheelie bin as recycling is so important for the environment.



It may not seem like it but our favourite part of our day is serving everyone - just seeing the smiles on students' faces really brighten up our day, and there are many that love a little chat with us! The students and teachers are also very polite, they always say 'please and thank you' which is really nice to hear. However, it is also the most difficult part of our day as it can get a bit chaotic by lunch time serving hundreds of hungry teenagers!

On Inset days, we have a little more variety of food options for the staff as they are a bit more adventurous with food, so we try and cook more daring and tasty food for all our hardworking staff to try. For previous Inset days, we have served Mexican, Italian and Jamaican food.

After lunch, we normally split roles so that the work can be done quickly: a few of us clean up the serving stations, sort out the food waste and prepare as much as we can for the next day. We tend to leave around 2:30-3:15 every day – basically when the work is done and everything is clean and ready for another day of serving a busy school.

## Recommended TV series by Staff and students

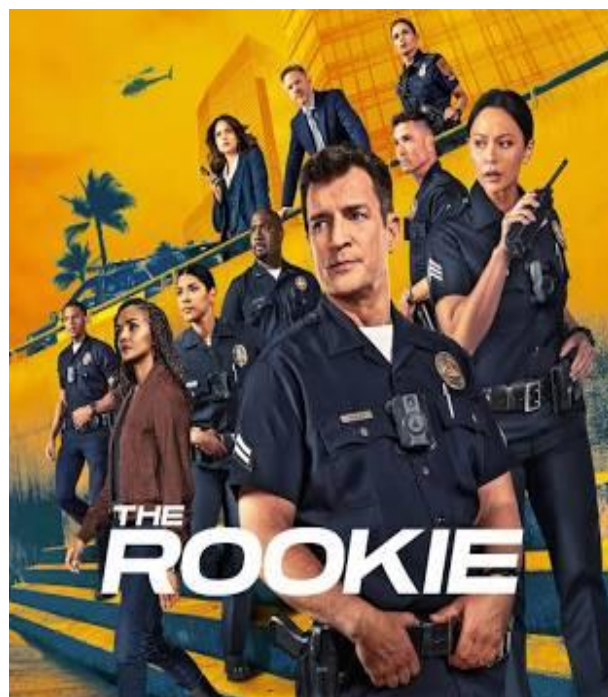


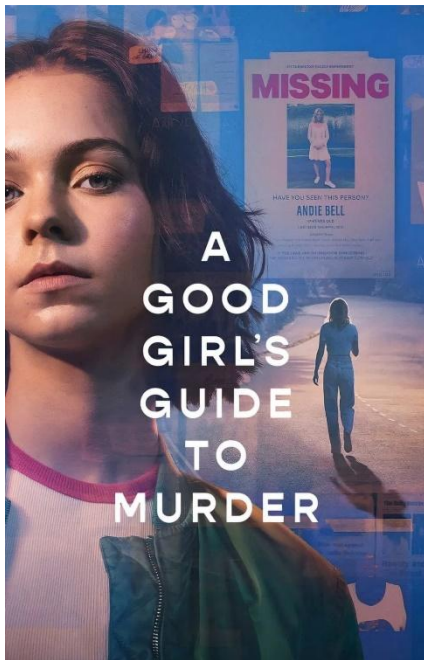
“Love, Death & Robots is an anthological series with a mixture of animated and live-action episodes. Each episode is different from the last and they all have a different theme and genre. There are episodes with terrifying creatures, wicked surprises and both comedic and artistic works. This makes for a rollercoaster of emotions in every episode leaving you either speechless, shocked or scared!”

-Mr Rangiuia Lindup

“The Rookie is an American cop series. It follows the main character John Nolan who becomes the oldest ‘rookie’ in the LAPD. It follows him starting over as a police officer in LA, facing new challenges of a dangerous job, alongside him making new friends with colleagues. It is light-hearted humour, where the good guys usually win. Each episode is a new story, but the friendships continue all the way through. A good watch for any age!”

-Miss Taylor



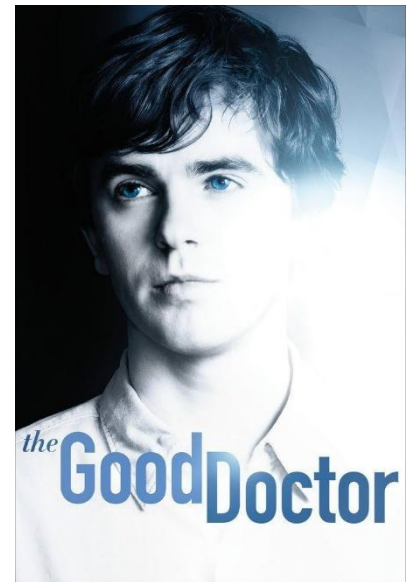


“I recommend watching A Good Girl's Guide to Murder starring Emma Myers, known for her role as Enid in Wednesday. This show is an adaptation of the popular book series by Holly Jackson and is a quick paced small town murder mystery, following a teenage girl writing her EPQ about a murder that took place 5 years before the show takes place. It's a warm-hearted but deep show that teaches about serious topics, so keep that in mind. Overall, it's a story about justice and friendship hidden beneath a fun action packed murder mystery.”

Eloise Medd - 11H1

“My favourite series is The Good Doctor on Netflix! I'm obsessed!! It is a medical drama following Dr Shaun Murphy, who is a surgeon with autism. Each episode has interesting medical mysteries, tense moments and heart-warming stories, but at the same time focuses on Shaun's difficulty with social situations, and his patients doubting his abilities because of this. The Good Doctor is more than just a hospital show, it sends positive messages about kindness, determination and respecting differences, making it an addictive and enjoyable show to lose yourself in.”

-Miss Brooker



Traitors-streaming on BBC

“Recommended to mostly all but especially for people who love reality shows. I enjoy watching bonds grow between the contestants and anticipating who is banished and who is not overall, I think it's a great series which shows human behaviour!”

-Mrs Sharples



# Year 11 mock exam questions

*By Zara Rebello*

## **How do you cope with revising for exams while having an extra period 6?**

I would say to take little breaks and split your time into smaller chunks. Also, you should allow time to relax sometimes, as we all need a break. Another thing is don't skip revision because it can pile up. Period 6 is also revision or preparation, so you need to factor that into your timetable: managing your time well is a key strategy. Champion's Hour is also useful for some and then they like to switch off at home.

## **How will you use your mock exam results to improve your result?**

We would say to focus on what you got wrong. It may be tempting to revise what you already know, but it won't help you in the future so you should take time to revise different topics you find difficult. Mocks allow us to know where the 'gaps' or weak areas are in our knowledge and what needs more focus and improvement. We will also take advice from teachers in class and at parent's evening.

## **Do you have any tips for the future year 11 students doing mocks?**

Some advice I would give is to start revising earlier on - don't say you're going to do it the next day, because you won't get around to doing it and you will just push it away. You need to take it more seriously from the start and start revising a lot earlier e.g. Year 10! Also, have a timetable and plan your revision and try to stick to this as it will make you feel more in control.

## **What are your most effective revision techniques?**

Our most effective way to help us revise would be using flashcards, making them all neat and attractive. There are some good apps that help with this. However, it is whatever works for you and you do need to figure out your strategy. Going over your exercise books for some subjects is essential and past exam questions are important too.

## **What did you learn in your mocks that you would take to your GCSES?**

A big thing we learnt is that time is very precious and it goes very quickly! Another good piece of advice is to go to the warm up sessions beforehand so you can be really prepared. Try not to put pressure on yourself – study and be in charge of revision and this will reduce stress. Lock in now and do not put revision off and avoid it. Also, do little chunks of revision but do it often!

# CAREER SPOTLIGHT -Miss Fahy

By Scarlett O'Moore and Olivia Cameron



## **How would you describe your teaching style?**

I would describe my teaching style as a mixture of kind and strict. I want the absolute best for all my students, not just in music but in their everyday lives, but this will only be the case if everyone is respectful and kind, which is the expectation I have for all of my lessons.

## **What are some of the biggest challenges and successes you have faced in your career?**

Becoming a teacher has been a huge challenge and a huge success. I feel that I was always meant to become a teacher, I just did not know it until 2024. A challenge for me is managing my ADHD as a teacher, but it also makes me a great teacher.

## **What is your favourite year to teach?**

They're all different and wonderful in different ways. I couldn't pick a favourite.

## **What previous jobs did you have before teaching at HP and did you enjoy them?**

I have worked in customer service since I was 14 - making coffee, waitressing and kitchen staff. I enjoyed working in these jobs because I loved the free food and coffee! I have also been doing gigs and festivals since I was 14 and I love doing this!

## **Why did you choose to teach at HP?**

I had researched HP before the job became available and I loved their ethos and values. I think as long as you work hard, be kind and take responsibility, you will be successful.

## **What inspired you to do music?**

I have been in bands for 10 years and absolutely love performing, I wanted to share this wonderful subject with my students. I also know that music can positively benefit every single person and love how much growth and happiness I see in my subject.

## **What do you personally enjoy most about working here?**

The students, they're brilliant and hilarious. Also, my lovely staff team and teachers who make me smile every day.

## **If you didn't pick this career, what would you have picked?**

I would have loved to have been a band / tour manager for a band. I also love performing and would love to be touring with my band.

## **How do you encourage students who don't feel comfortable performing?**

I try and fail all the time in front of my students, in the hope that they see that it is normal to try and things go wrong. I will also perform with my students until they have the bravery to stand on their own, because that is an incredibly scary and brave thing to do.

## **What is your favourite piece of music and why?**

My three favourite bands are Biffy Clyro, Swallow the sun and Queen so ANYTHING these bands have written are masterpieces. My favourite piece of classical music is Winter by Antonio Vivaldi. My guilty pleasure is Bruno Mars - he is a musical genius!

## **If you could invent a new instrument, what would it sound like?**

I love the sound of the cello so I would definitely choose a stringed instrument - I would make the cello but with a bit more distortion. Almost a cello mixed with an electric guitar.

# FUN FRIDAYS AND HOUSE COMPETITIONS

By Ben Walker and Brandon Taragos

January 9th	January 16th
<p>GET READY as the best Holmleigh Park students competed in The Geography Edition! Back with popular demand: Geoguesser. You are challenged with a world map and photographs, and then must decide which country the photograph is from. Everyone was on the edge of their seats as students focused intensely, looking at every building, shop and sign as they moved closer and closer to achieve the right answer!</p> <p>A lot of fun was had in this challenging Geography puzzle!</p>	<p>Mr Dewfall and the History department hosted the next Fun Friday – only for the best Historians in the school!</p> <p>Smart and savvy students scanned over photos of historical people or events, and they had to find the anachronism in the photo – identifying something that belonged to a different time period!</p> <p>A Historical fiction House Competition was also introduced for those who love storytelling and History – calling on those who love creative writing to write a story. Well done to Karen from Javelin who took the crown and a whopping 20 house points!</p>
January 23rd	January 30th
<p>This house competition saw something new at school: Students competing in a game of Red Light, Green Light.</p> <p>The rules: When the light is green, GO! When the light is red, STAY STILL!</p> <p>The most confident and fastest students rushed to the line for house points. Students raced forwards as fewer and fewer students were left competing to the finish line. Mr Mortimer was the man in charge – shouting Red Light or Green Light and making students stop in their tracks.</p> <p>This was a lot of fast paced fun and it was amazing to see so many students involved.</p>	<p>This was a thrilling week with a huge house competition: The 500 House Point Drop!</p> <p>Contestants were selected to represent both their house and tutor, but the whole year groups were able to go down and watch so nobody missed out!</p> <p>The hall was packed with energy, cheering and brilliant house spirit as pupils aimed to hold on to as many house points as possible across 8 tense questions. Final scores were:</p> <p>Typhoon – 413 Hurricane – 380 Meteor – 314 Javelin - 40</p>



## Meet the Senior Leadership Team (SLT):

### An Interview with Ms Diaco

*By Martina Gospodinov*



#### **What's your favourite part of working at Holmleigh Park?**

Quite a lot of things! One of my favourite parts about working here is that there is a sense of community - not only with the staff, but also with the students and the parents and you don't get that in a lot of other jobs and places.

#### **Were your plans always to have a career in teaching?**

When I was in school, I did Duke Of Edinburgh (DofE) and, through doing a lot of volunteering in things such as cubs, I realised I really liked working with young children because there was a lot of enthusiasm from them! When I was in University, I went and mentored people in Maths which is funny because I was doing an English Degree at the time so that was the complete opposite! I also took a gap year before university where I went to Ethiopia for 6 months and taught English to the students there. I didn't start teaching straight after University and I tried a few other jobs, but none of them felt fulfilling and I remembered volunteering with children fondly so I completed my teaching qualification and here we are today!

#### **What was your journey towards becoming part of the SLT like?**

I think it's interesting as everyone's journey to becoming part of the SLT is different. I had worked here for a long time anyway as Deputy Head of Year and worked really closely with Ms Furleger (which was lovely!). I also became the lead of PSHE and Careers lessons and that was really interesting as I think it showed me the other side of the curriculum and allowed me to have that ownership and lead of a subject. I then had the opportunity to be the Deputy Safeguarding Lead – covering a maternity leave - and it opened up another kind of world and showed me a different side to teaching and education and from there it meant that I was able to apply for my job as the head of safeguarding!

#### **What was school like for you when you were younger?**

I really enjoyed school, which I think if you ask most teachers they'd say they liked parts of it and obviously everyone has their own rough parts of school. For example, I didn't like PE which is a controversial thing to say in this school as everyone loves PE here! An interesting thing that most people don't know about me is that I really really hated English as a subject and genuinely found it really hard and I was in one of the lower sets. However, when it got to GCSEs, I had a teacher who was absolutely amazing and made English very easy to understand. I remember that one of my pieces of coursework was a creative writing piece and when I showed her my writing my teacher didn't believe that I had written it and that was quite funny as I was in set 3 and I worked really, really hard and I managed to get an A in both English Literature and Language!

#### **What's your greatest achievement as a teacher?**

That's a very difficult question! I think that every year is an amazing achievement as every year you get a different set of students, wins and successes, but also failures. I never envisioned becoming a

member of the Senior Leadership Team and it was never something that I determined as my path but I'd say that my greatest achievement is getting myself into the position that I am in today and I feel extremely privileged and I'm very grateful and thankful for most days.

### **What does your daily routine look like?**

My first meeting of the day starts at 7:45, and I'm certainly not a morning person! I get to school at around 7:30 so that I can log on and check my calendar and urgent emails. Later I head to the hall to stand with the year 7s and welcome them in and if anyone needs to talk then I am around. I do various different tasks every day like doing line up, teaching English, meetings with parents and social workers, sometimes the police come in, and completing referral forms or calls. After that, we sometimes have staff CPD (staff training) which can even go on till 5pm and then after that there is more work to do so it really is a hectic day!

### **How much more fulfilling is working in safeguarding compared to your previous role?**

They are both fulfilling but in different ways. My previous role which was being a full-time teacher running PSHE and Careers lessons whilst being the Deputy Head of the year, so it was a different kind of balancing of priorities. I was very proud and it took a long time to write the PSHE curriculum from scratch and that was really fulfilling to me. Now with safeguarding, I think it's a different type of fulfilment as I am working on more of an individual type of basis whereas previously my role was different as I was shaping things for a large number of people.

### **How do you deal with the stress that comes with being the safeguarding lead in a school?**

Eat A LOT of chocolate haha. Having a good support network of staff, family, and friends and having that right balance around you significantly helps. This isn't a job where you are on your own and I think that trying to do all of this by yourself in isolation would result in you cracking and there are also tons of DSLs that can't do this as it is too emotionally draining and they might not have the right support network, and I am very fortunate and grateful that I do.

### **What does managing Inclusion in a school look like?**

Inclusion is a very big term and I think that it is only getting bigger and bigger. Inclusion means that everyone has the right to access their education and that everyone in our society is being included. SEND (Special Educational Needs) is a massive part of inclusion as they are a group that is vulnerable and need extra support to access education. However, it can also include children who come from a different country to our school, so they might have English as an additional language. It could be children who are Young Carers, so at home they are doing a lot more work around the house due to their parents or carers being unwell. Or it could also be people who have sadly come here because they are asylum seekers or refugees.

### **Now that you have a reduced teaching timetable, do you miss teaching English?**

I really do miss teaching English as I feel really comfortable with the content. This year I started off with a whole English group and I was loving it, but the problem was that it was too unmanageable to do that much teaching alongside my other priorities so I ended up splitting my class with Ms Carter. When I am teaching, my priority at that moment is my class and I feel like I can focus on them in that 55 minute teaching period and everything else has to stop.

# *A spotlight on sport- Eloise Norris*

*By Molly Reeves*

## **When did you start playing football?**

I started playing football when I was 3-4 years old. I have been brought up around the sport which is what inspired me to play and sparked my love for football.



## **What position do you play?**

When I first started playing football for Abbymead Rovers, I played CDM. After a few seasons playing there, the goalkeeper from my team decided to quit, leaving my team with no other choice but for me to play in goal as well as fill in for others positions as my team at the time was struggling. Eventually, I left Abbymead Rovers and signed on for Gloucester City where I went back to playing my original position as CDM.

My preferred position is CDM as I enjoy to get stuck in to making hard challenges, helping my defence and being used as a pivot player in the middle to support teammates.

## **Who is your role model in sport?**

My role model growing up was John Terry as he is the first player I ever looked up to being a Chelsea supporter growing up and watching him with my Dad. I like to take elements of how he plays to influence how I play, such as him being a brilliant leader and captain as well as defender.

## **What has been your biggest achievement so far? /Biggest highlight?**

My biggest achievements so far have been winning the league cup and the feeling of such an accomplishment and creating memories with my teammates. Another accomplishment would be playing for Gloucester County, being picked in a squad of 15 out of all the people which trailed from all around Gloucester. Finally, making my debut for Gloucester city women a month after I turned 16.

**What has been the most challenging part of your footballing career so far?**

Playing for a team which doesn't take it as seriously as I do can be very frustrating as well as disappointing when receiving bad results. Wanting to better myself as a player but not having the teammates, coaches and facilities around me to help achieve that.

**How do you stay focused and get past setbacks?**

I am lucky enough to be surrounded by an amazing team and coaches who I know I can talk to. They help to boost my confidence if I am having a setback and push me to be the best I can and help me stay focused.

**What is the toughest opponent/team you have played against?**

Playing Gotherington last game of the season was the toughest opponent I have played against as they were top of the league and had gone the whole season unbeaten. However, we managed to beat this streak with myself scoring 2 goals, a freekick to level the game 2-2 and scoring a penalty in extra time to win the game 3-2!



**What are your thoughts/opinions on the development of women's football through youth teams, and do you think there is anything that can be improved?**

I think the development of women and girls' youth football has improved a lot in recent years due to the increase in steaming of women's fixtures which young girls are now exposed to and can look up to them as role models and inspire them to play, which wasn't available to me when I first started out playing.

# The School Production: A behind the scenes preview

By Oliver Viner

Today, I was giving access to go and see the progress of this year's production. I almost immediately noticed how focused everyone was when performing their parts. After watching for about 5 minutes, I saw how everyone knew exactly what their lines were and where to stand. During my time here, I got the chance to interview Isla and Gbolabo, who are two actors in the play.

## How hard was it to get cast?

**Gbolabo:** Everyone got cast so it wasn't an issue, but I still feel privileged with the magnitude of the role I have been tasked with.

**Isla:** The turn out to the auditions was the biggest they had ever been, so I felt very lucky to be given the lead role that I was as it was competitive.

## How many hours do you think have gone into the production so far? Is it demanding?

**Gbolabo:** There's definitely a lot to it, but eventually, the hard work pays off. I would say it can be demanding, but success never comes easy; it takes a lot of hard work and resilience.

**Isla:** It is quite demanding on time and energy, but if you enjoy it then you don't really think about that as you are excited for the performance.

## So far, have you found any difficulties acting in the play?

**Isla:** It was difficult to speak Shakespeare but we eventually got past it. Learning the lines was extra challenging as it is a completely different dialect to what I am used to. Also, it is not clear what some of the words mean so it is difficult to know how to act them!

**Gbolabo:** The speech felt foreign at first, but through a lot of practice and resilience, the improvement has definitely shown.



**How would you find this play compared to previous plays done in earlier years?**

**Gbolabo:** It was definitely unexpected, but that's the beautiful part of it - pushing myself out of my comfort zone and growing as a result.

**Isla:** It was a shock at first as the production was unfamiliar to a lot of us, especially those who had been in previous shows, but it's definitely grown on me and I'm looking forward to show week.

**What do you think the audience are going to enjoy about it?**

**Isla:** I think they will enjoy the songs and the singing – supported by some amazing dancing - as they are from 50s and 60s Rock'n'Roll – some of them will be familiar with these classics! There is an intriguing love story in the plot and lots of storylines and characters to keep them engaged.

**Gbolabo:** I think the gripping storyline, coupled with comedic elements and the Rock 'n' Roll classics, is guaranteed to have the audience hooked. I'm definitely looking forward to a fantastic show week.

**We also spoke to Director Mr Conway:**

As take off draws ever closer, we are now putting the finishing touches to this year's school production of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'.

Having worked separately for the last few months, actors, crew, dancers and singers are now all working together which is always a great moment in the rehearsal schedule. As I write, we are about to have our first full run through of Act 2, so excitement is mounting.

The students involved on stage are working incredibly hard to learn lines, songs, choreography, prop use and costume changes; whilst those behind the scenes are putting an equal number of hours into painting the set, programming the lighting and cueing the 100+ sound cues that happen in the show.

I am so proud of the effort, commitment and enthusiasm that those involved are demonstrating. Being involved in a production is always worth it but, in the final stages of rehearsal, progress can often seem slow.

With the show happening the week after half term, there are now fewer than 100 tickets left – so don't miss out!



# Career spotlight: Miss Grinham

By Olivia Cameron and Scarlett O'Moore

## What is your favourite year group to teach?

I enjoy teaching all year groups, and I'm particularly enjoying having our first Year 10 and 12 cohorts for Spanish this year! They have achieved lots already and I'm really proud of them.

## What previous jobs did you have before teaching, and did you enjoy them?

I worked for a logistics company in their office warehouse and really enjoyed the fast-paced environment and problem solving I had to do. I'd wanted to be a teacher since I was in sixth form, so I started training pretty early after university.

## What do you personally enjoy about working here?

Holmleigh Park is a great place to work - students are hardworking and kind and want to succeed, and the staff I work with are very friendly and great at what they do. I love the house spirit at HP too!

## If you didn't choose Spanish as a career, what would you have chosen?

If I had to teach another subject, I would choose Maths! If I was working in a completely different career, I would've liked to work in journalism or writing.

## What inspired you to become a Spanish teacher?

I love the Spanish language and my experiences of Spanish culture and I have always wanted to help others learn too. My Spanish teachers at school were brilliant and motivated me to do the same work.

## Have you ever lived in any Spanish speaking countries?

I lived in Murcia, Spain, for a year whilst studying for my degree and I taught in two primary schools there - it was an amazing experience and I would always recommend taking opportunities to live in other countries.

## What is the most rewarding part of seeing a student learn Spanish?

When a student feels successful and can complete a piece of writing or have a short conversation with me it's great, and very rewarding to have helped them achieve it. It's also rewarding to see students enjoy learning new languages.

## What is the biggest struggle students have with learning Spanish, and how do you help?

Listening is very difficult in any new language! So, we do lots of practice in lesson and lots of phonics work at HP.

## How do you ensure students can speak the language and not just write it?

Sentence builders are amazing for all students to be able to speak in full sentences. I love to plan speaking games and it's great when students give the Word of the Week a try.



## *Valentine's Day facts*

1. Over 250 million roses are grown in preparation for Valentine's Day across the world.
2. The figure of Cupid originates from the ancient Greek god Eros.
3. The most expensive Valentine's Day gift on record is a 30-million-dollar private island.
4. 2.5 million pounds are spent on Valentine's Day chocolate, which means that around 58 million pounds of chocolate is bought by consumers.
5. In a lot of countries, it is common for the men to give gifts. However, in Japan, women give the gifts, and a month later the men will reciprocate these gifts.
6. Valentine's Day started as a feast and not a gift exchange to show love.
7. Around 25 billion is spent around the world for Valentine's Day with America leading globally.
8. Valentine's Day started because of the execution of St. Valentine who was killed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February for illegally marrying people together.
9. Candy hearts were first used as medicine, early versions were actually circles and had toys inside to encourage children into eating/taking medicine.
10. Around 220,000 couples get engaged on Valentine's Day.

# Romantic recipe ideas

By Adrian Blair

Valentine's Day is celebrated annually on February 14 and is a major global observance of romance with many people choosing to celebrate through food! Here are some classic and popular ideas...



## Breakfast Recipes

A romantic Valentine's Day breakfast is heart shaped pancakes – a firm favourite. Other popular choices include Eggs Benedict, strawberry cream cheese French toast or waffles topped with fruit.

## Seafood

Seafood is a popular choice for Valentine's Day due to its perceived aphrodisiac properties and elegant presentation that makes an intimate meal at home feel luxurious.

*Shrimp Scampi with Linguine* is renowned for being both elegant and incredibly quick to create. It features a simple yet rich sauce of garlic butter, lemon juice and white wine.

*Grilled lobster tail with Garlic herb butter* -

Lobster is a classic luxurious choice. Grilling or broiling lobster tails and serving them with a simple garlic herb butter (using parsley, chives, thyme and lemon juice) creates an indulgent main course with minimal effort.



## UK favourite recipe

Another good Valentine's Day recipe is pasta - it is the simplest and the tastiest food and recipes are very appealing and very diverse.



## Desserts

A good romantic dessert recipe if you want to impress is red velvet cake and another one that looks impressive and is worth trying is Cheesecake stuffed strawberries – either way, the idea is to do something memorable, tasty and special!



# A celebration of Art and Textiles from Term 3

Isabelle G



Violet R

Alex D



Freya S



Year 11 Art by Fraser M

# SIMON DAVIS

I took one David Laundy sketch into my work as I think that it is a really strong example of what I want. I will also include the sketch that had the reds but can be seen through the painting as well as some strong reds which contrast with the red background as well as to make the portrait stand out on the page.

Simon Davis is a professional artist who uses complex and able to make a messy and not realistic portrait. He likes to use realistic skin but often warmer, he also used white and light blue as shadows in his work. One thing I like about his work is the way in which he captures the life and form of his model in his paintings. I also like that he was happy to make a sketch and then he was happy to make a painting. However, one thing I don't like about his artwork is the sketch and what way he made him on many of his portraits. I think that that I can find realistic portraits with better and bigger strokes of paint.

## Continuous line Drawings

The continuous line observation on the left page was done using a longer pencil. I had friends demand on this page as I think I used too dark a pencil. However, I do like the amount of pressure that I was able to achieve in this piece as well as the other. I think I could improve this piece by drawing it more and more relaxed and been told so here and there the sketch above. This would have allowed me to make a more detailed and better drawing using this way of thinking.

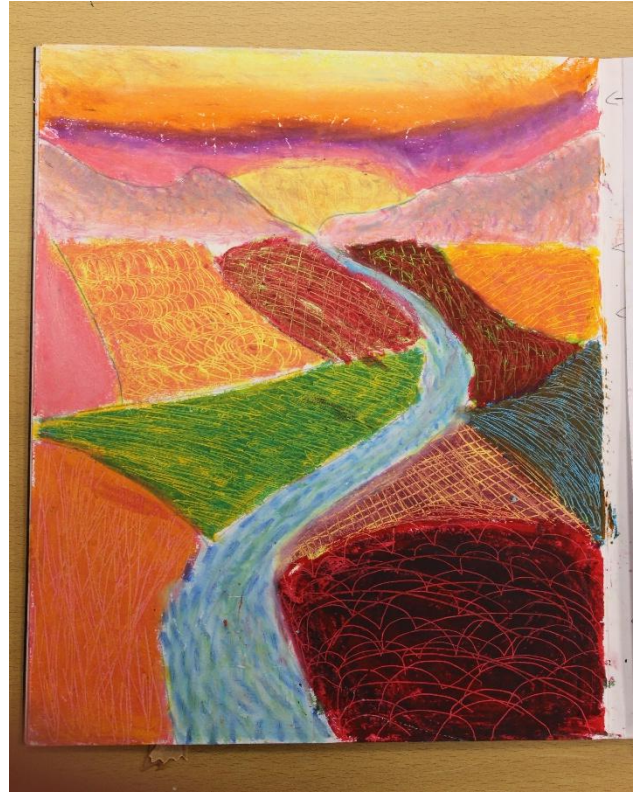
I have done a few observations using a ballpoint pen and sometimes using a fine pen. This drawing is from a page that I did in a college using these sketches to make the features and proportions. I then used some water colours to clean things up and make them look more like a drawing in the piece.

### Chapter Thirty-nine

The very last thing I had to do -- one hour after finally getting into bed, not sleeping a wink because of what I had just done -- was to be 'woken' (although I was already wide awake) to go out on Jasper's boat. I went to the boat with Jasper. I was going to pick up Libby from the boat. I had heard Mum and Dad in the car on the way to Auntie Alice's wedding two days ago. I think that they don't really like Jasper. I think that you must have noticed -- where I was sitting in the family. I suppose it's to 'set the scene' for you know, love and more, don't you? (I know the world is all lovely, blah-blah-blah, but I'm happy when they're doing it.)

The two facial features I do like about the drawing. I think that the shape of the eye and nose using many textured strokes. I had my own idea for the hair and I was added with the line as I had been told it at the time. I think I could improve the texture of these areas and do with it. However, I am happy with the detail I was able to achieve in these observations.

# Year 7 Sgraffito landscapes



**Year 8 – still life outcomes  
inspired by Michael Craig  
Martin and Roy Lichtenstein**

