

The Holmleigh Edition

Easter 2026

EDITION 4



In April's Edition:

- 🐣 Catch up on all the latest news in another busy term
- 🐣 Meet Assistant Headteacher for Student Experience: Mrs Sharples
- 🐣 A Day in the Life of the Attendance Team
- 🐣 Some RECOMMENDED MUSIC
- 🐣 Meet more sporting and musical talent in the school
- 🐣 Find out how the teachers stay fit and healthy alongside work!

The Holmleigh Edition

We have had a busy time to produce everything for this edition on the tightest deadline we have had yet, but students have risen to the challenge!

Interviews have been particularly popular this time around with both staff and students coming to the news desk to be interviewed – this is definitely a highlight for students to experience this as it is a new skill and experience for them and they seem to really enjoy the discussion and the interaction.

Another skill students develop is their communication skills – through the interviews but also the endless number of emails they have to write requesting interviews, information or trying to get responses from busy teachers and students.

It has also been very notable how students have gained in confidence with their IT skills – creating a readable layout but with a creative touch, formatting and inputting photos and considering the overall layout and design.

For the final editions of the academic year, we have decided we are going to launch a competition for students to produce a photograph that can be used for the front cover – look out for details and a chance for your creative shot to be featured.

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

Contributors:

Sara Alonan	Molly Reeves
Kaydi-Lei Andrews	Brandon Taragos
Adrian Blair	Elsie Taylor
Olivia Cameron	Bailee Unett
Martina Gospodinov	Oliver Viner
Sophia Hawkins	Ben Walker
Lacey Jones	
Emily McGarrick	
Scarlett O'Moore	
Zara Rebello	

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Term 4: The half way point

By Emily McGarrick and Sophia Hawkins

This term at Holmleigh Park has been wonderfully eventful, bringing exciting trips, a spectacular musical, and much much more!

Return to the Forbidden Planet

From the 25th - 27th March, over one hundred talented and hard-working HP students performed the highly anticipated school musical 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'.



The musical blends Shakespeare's The Tempest with the 1956 sci-fi film 'Forbidden Planet'.

Students who took part in the school production enrichment have been hard at work since September to produce a brilliant unforgettable production.

The show was an overwhelming success, selling out tickets across multiple nights. Students, teachers and families gathered to watch the performance and were amazed by the incredible talent and effort that had been put into the production.

Terrific Trips



This term has been perhaps the most enjoyable with year 7s going on a school trip to We The Curious in Bristol: an immensely interesting Science centre with a wonderful 3D planetarium. It is a very interactive place to be, and includes an "Animate It" station where people bring their characters and dreams to life! The trip brought out the creative side of many students, and everyone enjoyed a brilliant day. Year 8s also had a delightful day visiting the Cotswold Farm Park getting to see fabulous farm animals. They enjoyed spending time with nature, and having an entertaining day out of the classroom in the fresh air.

Although not happening this term, year 9s are able to look forward to their very own trip later on!

Splendid Sports

It has been a thrilling and competitive term of sporting fixtures with some impressive results from our passionate sports teams at HP.

The year 7 and 8 NBA basketball teams represented HP at a basketball tournament.

Year 8 boys football fought hard coming out second best against St. Peter's. Although unlikely to make it to the playoffs this year, they have competed very well in every match demonstrating great skill, determination and teamwork.



Year 7 boys football displayed a fantastic performance against Severn Vale with a last-minute winning goal to keep us on the edge of our seats.

A double win for the year 9 girls netball against Severn Vale brought joy and pride. Amazing work from the team putting what they have learned in training into action, confidently applying tactics and newly learned skills - moving the ball at ease across the court and converting into excellent goals.

Year 11s

This term brought an end to the year 11 mock season with science mocks taking place in the final week of February. Attendance at Champions Hour has been higher than ever with students continuing to work hard hoping that it pays off. Some year 11 students attended school on the Inset day - displaying the true extent of their determination and desire to succeed and being rewarded with an Easter egg treat from Ms Austin. We are all looking forward to a well-deserved break, our final rest before our exams kick off....!



In conclusion, this term has been short, yet full of fun! People have discovered opportunities that they have never had before, exploring new experiences. Although some people have been able to leave school for trips, others have continued to work hard as exams approach. Overall, this has been a term of entertainment, knowledge, and hard work.

Enrichment

By Zara Rebello and Elsie Taylor

Phenomenal photography

Firstly, we were very excited to see the stunning projects being hand-made in the enrichment photography. We had the pleasure to see the scenes being moulded into action and I must say the sculptures made from playdough were absolutely incredible! They started the term with planning out their little plays, then moulding the creations, following taking pictures on a mini camera. Various skills were learnt, like how to use photoshop and how to really edit pictures and films. We went around to each table to see what different groups were creating - some did aliens, food fights and we even had fish in space! Our favourite project must have been created by 4 year 9 girls working on a Jurassic Park where they sculpted out dinosaurs from playdough. The details were absolutely awesome; each creature carefully shaped. The projects being created were impressive, especially knowing that everything had been created from scratch. On the whole, photography was a very creative enrichment and we enjoyed visiting.



Long lasting Lego

During Lego building this past term, students have been building made up characters/ figures and anything that really interests them. This enrichment has a lot of freedom and it really gave students the chance to design anything they wanted. They have even made

bowling balls out of Lego! They have an upcoming competition, which is that you need to make the tallest tower out of Lego without it falling, and the one whose doesn't fall (and is the tallest) earns 10 HOUSE POINTS! A lot of skills have been developed in this enrichment like understanding architecture, and really planning things out before building. Teamwork was a massive part of this club. Students were able to work with other students from different years, who they would not know. All the students had to learn to be patient as their creations would break apart, but they learnt to just pick everything back up and go on with it – showing resilience and perseverance, which are very good skills to learn.



A Day in the Life: The Attendance Team

By Kaydi-Lee Andrews

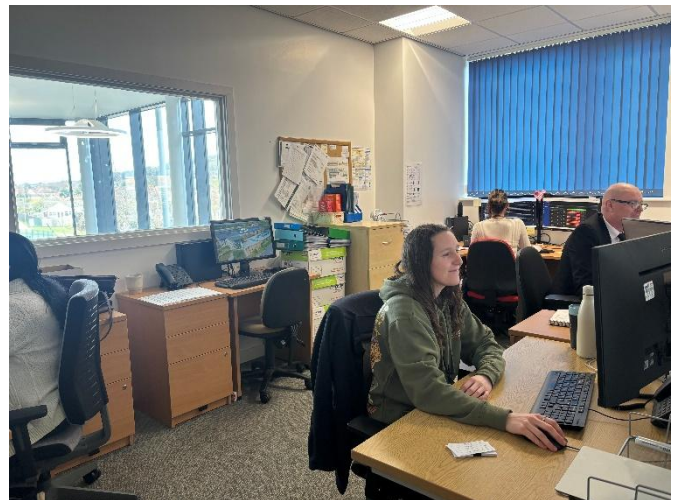


We usually arrive at different times between 7:00 am to 8:00 am so that we can answer e-mails, input data, check voicemails and answer calls – obviously a lot of people phone in first thing in the morning, so it is a priority to get through them all and mark absences onto the registers. We also make and receive a lot of calls about why people are not in, so that takes a lot of our time day to day.

Our more common jobs are having - or organising - child and parent/carer meetings about attendance and creating an Attendance Support Plan to help raise a student's attendance if it has dropped a bit low. This is really important to understand different circumstances and work to raise attendance. We also sort out fire and lockdown registers in case of an emergency, so this needs to be ready and accurate at all times.

More complex jobs could be finding out why people are off sick as this can sometimes lead to personal experiences being spoken about and discussed. Barriers to attendance can often be very complicated and difficult to solve, which can be very frustrating for everyone concerned, but specialist training relating to dealing with situations like these without getting overwhelmed ourselves helps us manage. We also do home visits to people who may struggle to come into school, and this is another important part of our role that is not always obvious.

A job that we do that people wouldn't expect is giving students support and help (whether through attendance meetings or even just helping to diffuse situations that would persuade people to stay home). If a student has been off linked to illness or family difficulties, we also arrange a monitor part time timetables to transition them back into school. Our role also sometimes involves dealing with tragic news and grief as we are often the first team that parents and carers speak to, or if we have called to investigate absence.



Every day's routine is the similar, however, what we deal with is different and unpredictable. For example, one day can be a meeting with parents/carers, a lot of paperwork, spreadsheets and data but another day could be a fire drill or a lockdown drill, covering student reception or completing a home visit.

The legal requirements for attendance differs per case/person. However, the bare minimum is 90% with ten or more unauthorised days off. The national average is around 92.75%. Here at Holmleigh park we aim for 95% or more to make sure you're not missing out on too much learning and to guarantee yourself a spot as a HP hero!

Recommended MUSIC by HP staff

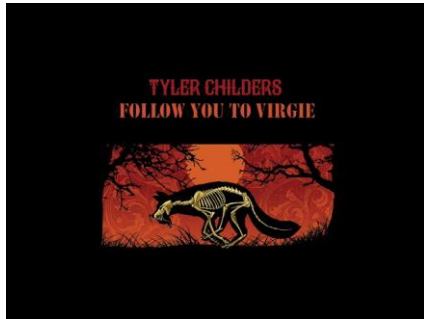
ELO (The Electric Light Orchestra)



I was introduced to ELO by my father, and their songs immediately resonated with me. My favourite songs of theirs are "Mr Blue Sky" and "Evil Woman".

Give them a listen if you have the time! – Mr Caffull

My favourite is niche. Tyler Childers - Follow you to Virgie.



Life changing stuff.

It is a country song about the death of somebody's grandmother and paying their respects to her.

- Mr Pennington

If I was to give you my three favourite artists at the moment It would have to be:

Brent Faiyaz

Fleetwood Mac

Olivia Dean

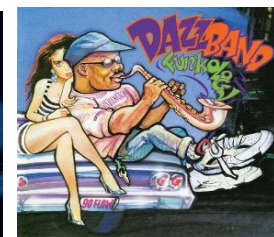


My three favourite songs at the moment would be:

Purple Rain (Prince)

Confess to me (Disclosure)

Swoop (Dazz Band)



- Mr Hill

I can recommend a band called *Ice Nine Kills*.

They are a metalcore band that creates songs inspired by famous horror films and have just released the soundtrack to the new *Scream 7* film, called 'Twisting the Knife' which features actress McKenna Grace!

Every song on their last album (*The Silver Scream: Welcome to Horrorwood*) is based on a famous horror film from the last century; from *Psycho*, to *Resident Evil*, to *IT*, to *Child's Play*, to *Silence of the Lambs*. In each song, the band uses lines and ideas from the films themselves! They are my favourite band; I recommend them highly! – Mr Pearce



I have so many recommendations I could send but I will stick to my top three: My three favourite bands are Biffy Clyro, Arch Enemy and Swallow the Sun. My favourite type of music is Metal - any of it.



I am also a big country music fan and my favourite country artists are Midland (Band), Chris Stapleton (Artist) and Colter Wall (Artist).



-Miss Fahy

Being a Music teacher, I love all sorts of music... but if I had to recommend an album it would be 'We Sing, We Dance, We Steal Things' by Jason Mraz.



It's packed full of brilliant songs, including 'I'm Yours', 'Lucky' and 'Make It Mine'.

-Mrs Greenow

I have very wide-ranging music tastes, but a few songs that I love are: Billy Ocean "Love really hurts without you", Adele "Make you feel my love", or Chappell Roan "Hot to go".



I recommend that everyone listens to ACDC's 'Back in Black' album at least once in their life!

-Mrs Redpath

I have a number of recommendations!

Jack Johnson - this guy is my hero. Surfer rock that you will find yourself nodding along to. He has a huge back catalogue that is guaranteed to chill you out. Favourite album: *Brushfire Fairytales*

System of a Down - When you're feeling a bit angry and need some music to match your mood - these are your guys! Armenian-American metal band that have some awesome songs you can sing/scream along to. Favourite album: *Steal This Album!*

Muse - A unique band that have evolved their sound over time, ranging from psychedelic, space rock to alternative and classical genres - there's something for everyone! Favourite album: *Absolution*

AJR - A lesser-known band in the UK, this American band makes really catchy indie/electropop tunes and you can't help but sing along! Favourite Album: *Neotheater*

Brandon Flowers - The Killers frontman's solo career has produced some amazing tracks. Slightly more indie than The Killers. Favourite album: *The Desired Effect*

Rock on!

-Mr Lord

Year 11 prepare for GCSEs and beyond ...

By Oliver Viner

As the end of Year 11 is rapidly approaching, the current year 11s are now thinking about their future careers. Whether they want to go to college, or do an apprenticeship, or even join the armed forces, everyone is going on to do very different things. However, they also need to keep up with revision to ensure they can get to where they need to go. Today, I asked loads of year 11s what their plans are post-secondary and how they will be spending the extra-long summer.

“I want to spend time with family and friends and destress after exams”

“I’m travelling all around Asia with family”

“I’m spending most of the summer doing voluntary work and work experience”

“I’m spending the summer working a part-time job in a café and a little babysitting”

“I’m going to Italy and Spain for four weeks with my family and friends”

“I’ve got quite a lot of tennis tournaments and will be getting back into training”

Most of the responses state that the students will be going on to do college, sixth form or potentially doing an apprenticeship.

“I am hoping to be able to attend the HP sixth form. I am wishing to study Maths, Physics and Geography.”

“I plan to go to Gloucester College to study mechanical engineering”

“I’m hopefully going on to do Health and Social Care: Early Years course at college”

“I want to go to a drama school in London – fingers crossed I get my place!”

“I’ve been accepted to sixth form here to do English, Media and Psychology”

However, before year 11 reach this milestone, they will need to push themselves through these GCSEs where they will be rewarded with an extra-long summer with no rules and also an unforgettable prom in July. The most important date, however, is results day on Thursday 20th August where they will open their envelopes and find out if their plans can go ahead....

The importance of sport and fitness outside of school

By Molly Reeves

Sport and fitness are an essential part of a student's life. They help teens to stay healthy, active, and disciplined. Sports play a vital role in physical, mental, and emotional development. By participating in sports, students learn life skills that help them succeed both in school and in the future.

Understanding the importance of sports encourages students to maintain a balanced lifestyle by combining physical activity with academic work. The UK'S Government guidelines state, that all Children aged 5-18 should be engaging in 60 minutes of physical activity a day. However, most teens across the UK do not meet these requirements, many only participate in physical education provided by school which the UK government state must be a minimum of 2 hours per week which still is not enough.

According to a recent survey, around 33% of teens in the UK participate in sport outside of school, 20% being boys and 13% girls.

How many of us can honestly say we hit 60 minutes of exercise a day?

Mental health benefits:

The number of teens with mental health conditions is on the rise across the country with 1 in 7 experiencing a mental health condition. Mental health could be helped by encouraging them to take up a sport. Numerous studies show the link between teen sports and improved mental health, higher self-esteem, reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression, and much more.

Team sports offer a way for teens to connect and bond with others their age with similar interests - reducing the number of teens suffering with loneliness and giving them a sense of belonging. Being part of a team helps build critical skills that carry through to adulthood, such as social skills and teamwork.

Exercise triggers the release of endorphins, which boost mood and reduces stress. Research confirms that active individuals experience significantly lower rates of depression and anxiety. Studies show that regular exercise can reduce depression risks by 28% as regular activity improves sleep, self-esteem, and cognitive function.

Physical benefits:

In addition to reducing stress and anxiety, regular exercise improves physical health, therefore boosting self-esteem and self-confidence.

Staying active improves physical health by strengthening muscles and bones, improving cardiovascular fitness, and reducing the risk of diseases such as type 2 diabetes. It directly combats increasing child obesity (nearly 1 in 5 aged 11-15 in England are obese) by regulating body weight, and adopting a healthier lifestyle.

Teacher inspiration:

I have spoken to some of the teachers about what they do outside of work to stay fit and healthy. As well as how they balance an active lifestyle with work, commitments and why they believe that engaging in physical activity is a priority to them:

Mrs Martin:

'Outside of work, I really enjoy playing netball. I love the fast pace of netball; it is great for fitness and a good outlet that helps to clear your mind. I balance it with work by playing after school and on weekends too. Netball is definitely a priority for me and, as I play as part of a team, it holds me accountable for playing and for working together to win!'

Mrs Tanner:

'I do cross fit classes outside of work. These are group activities based on strength, cardio and a mixture of skills in the workouts. I am competing in my first competition at the end of March! Exciting! I schedule what classes I will do each week, amongst work and family life. The classes help me switch off from everything, clearing my mind and they help me to focus on getting healthier, stronger and being 1% better every day!'



Mr Gardener:

'Outside of work I do two main activities. I enjoy going to the gym; I try to go three times a week. My next hobby is golf. I find it is a nice walk with friends, with an added bit of competition. As odd as it sounds, these two hobbies do complement each other well. The strength training helps me muscle the ball around the golf course and the golf keeps me walking for 4+ hours so it keeps my cardiovascularly fitter. Both of these hobbies allow me to switch off from the worries of life.'

Mrs Barrett

'Outside of school I love to keep fit. I lift weights at the gym three to four times a week. I also keep and ride horses. Their daily care keeps me pretty active - mucking out stables, lugging hay and water around etc and the actual riding requires good core muscles and flexibility too. It's not easy to always fit it in, but I manage it by planning ahead, getting up early and training/ mucking out before work! It is a huge priority for me as people get older muscle mass naturally declines, so it is really important to actively build it being able to hopefully live a long and active life!'



Mr Caffull:

'I mainly play cricket and golf. As soon as I began playing cricket, I fell in love with the sport and have not stopped playing, and coaching, since! Sometimes it comes as a challenge, as work can get in the way of life. However, my sport is normally on set days, so I can plan around these times. Cricket also is played mainly during the summer holidays, which means I can play without a worry of work. Sport allows me to release the stress of the day. It also gives me something to work towards and look forward to after a week at school'

Miss wright:

'I make my health and fitness a priority because I know how much they impact both my mental and physical wellbeing. I train five times a week, alternating between strength sessions and running, to keep my body strong and my mind clear. With work and my own children, finding time isn't easy, so I've built it into the start of my day — getting up at 4am four days a week to make sure it happens before other responsibilities take over. Training first thing in the morning sets a positive tone for the day; it boosts my mood, sharpens my focus, and helps me feel happier and more balanced.'

Miss Murray:

'Sport features heavily in my life outside of work and I absolutely love it. I play as Goal Attack in netball every week for a social team and go to a CrossFit gym several times a week. I have only been going to CrossFit for 6 months and I've learnt so much. There are still loads of things I can't do but I'm determined to be able to do a pull up by the end of the year! I do have to prioritise exercise at the end of a busy work day but I always feel so much better when I go to the gym both mentally and physically!'



Mr Addis

'I play rugby for Drybrook RFC and go to the gym. Staying active is always a priority for me as it is something I have always done, so I find it very difficult to not do anything at all the majority of the time. I make sure to plan my week out around rugby training on Tuesday and Thursday and then matches on a Saturday. I plan to go to the gym around this, making sure to go at least 2 times a week. Sometimes things do stop this from happening, but I get back into a routine as soon as I am able to. It helps massively with both my physical and

mental health and allows me to socialise with other people.'

A Sentimental Bake Sale

By Sophia Hawkins

Following the tragic loss of photographer, poet, and student Phoebe last year, Year 11s came together to organise a bake sale in order to raise money for the charity organised by Phoebe's parents. This was used as an emotional outlet for students, and offered support, as it occurred the day before the one-year anniversary of her passing. Her charity has been set up in the hopes that people's mental and physical health can be supported.

The bake sale was an overwhelming success, and many students donated notes of a large amount rather than the established prices ranging from £1-£2. Of course, since the bake sale was for a cause that is of great significance to us as a school, it's not surprising that many people donated. However, the sum is still unbelievably incredible at £603.96 – our most successful one yet!



After finding out about the genuine selflessness of our students and the money they had raised, Phoebe's parents expressed that they were "speechless, grateful and emotional".

We are all very appreciative for the many cakes both baked and donated and are proud of how much money was raised for such a meaningful and worthwhile cause.



A career spotlight-Mr Buckenham

By Olivia Cameron and Scarlett O'Moore



How do you help students who struggle in Maths?

Once we identify students who are struggling in a particular lesson, we will try to help them individually during the lesson. Offering a different way to understand the topic in hand or just identifying and setting right a misconception will help the student move on.

How do math teachers support the transition of year 6 to year 7?

We have in the past had transition lessons in Maths when Y6 students come into school prior to starting Y7. Once students arrive in Y7, we already have them in sets based on their SATs scores from primary school, so that helps with the level we teach them at initially. There is a staggered start for homework, with Y7s normally starting about 4 weeks into the year.

What made you want to be a maths teacher?

I have always loved working with numbers, which I used a lot in my previous career prior to teaching. Helping my own children through their GCSEs made me think I could do a good job teaching Maths to others, so I gave it a go and have loved it ever since making the switch.

How do you make sure students understand the Maths they're learning?

Using mini whiteboards in lessons gives us an overview of how well every member of the class is understanding a topic. Identifying those who are struggling allows us to direct our efforts to help those students. If a significant number are not following, we will go back and reteach a topic, perhaps in a slightly different way to see if that improves understanding across the group.

What's the biggest struggle students have in Maths?

Understanding why we use letters as well as numbers (the scourge of algebra!). Once students accept it, they might come to love Algebra as much as all of the Maths teachers do.

What strategies do you use to challenge students who find maths easy?

We have extension tasks on hand for any students who finish work early, or may issue them a challenge question that is subtly different to the stock questions being completed by the rest of the class.

What do you like most about Maths?

Algebra, closely followed by more algebra.

What is the difference between A level maths compared to GCSE?

The transition into A level in Y12 is gentle to start, generally just extending on GCSE topics. But it rapidly becomes harder as students' progress, with new topics being introduced at pace. Lots more homework and the use of lots of personal study time is needed if students are going to be successful studying Maths at A level.

What skills do the student and teachers need to do A level maths?

Firstly, they need to pass GCSE at grade 6 or above (preferably a 7 or above). A level builds on GCSE skills through Y12 and gradually introduces new topics too. Y13 is tough, with teachers covering lots of new topics whilst readying students for their exams and ensuring those going onto study Maths at University are ready to transition to further education. To be successful at A level, you need to have a love of numbers (and letters), have a good GCSE grade and - most of all - be prepared to work extremely hard. It is not an easy A level, but is well respected by universities and employers.

FUN FRIDAYS AND HOUSE COMPETITIONS

By Olivia Cameron and Scarlett O'Moore

13th March 2026 - Egg and spoon race

For this house competition, students took a trip back in time to 1918 where they enjoyed the egg-cellent art of the egg and spoon race. Every year was practically treading on eggshells trying to get to the other side. No one was yolking around. Many eggs were cracked but there were also many victories. Could you have made it to the other side without a breakage?

6th March 2026 – Clear the dungeon

Everyone got ready to sharpen their Maths skills and free themselves. The Maths block transformed into a treacherous Maths puzzle. To win, you had to become the "Number master" and clear all the secrets that lay within the walls by using strategies, quick addition, subtraction, or multiplication. Everyone had to hack the secret by creating smart and fast equations, ensuring every student freed themselves and the dungeon was cleared before it was too late. It was high-stakes and fast-paced where accuracy counts .

Would you have cleared the dungeon?!

27th February 2026 - Planet search

The planet search was out of this world, with the gripping experience of trying to uncover the location of the planets. Students ecstatically rushed around the school trying to uncover the mysterious location of each planet and where they lie. The investigative factor of it had students overjoyed - it was like hide and seek beyond the earth. Students said that it was really exciting and helped them discover more about planets and about the most important planet we call Earth. Would you have had what it takes to discover planets?

A SPOTLIGHT ON OSCAR HALL-LONG

BY BRANDON TARAGOS



What is your favourite instrument or music genre?

My favourite instruments consist of piano, guitar and drums. My favourite music genre is alternative rock and Indie rock.

Who is your favourite musician?

My favourite musician HAS to be Britney spears. I love every album from her first to her last. Her amazing voice really makes me feel like I'm someone else. It makes me feel like I've left my body sometimes (especially when I'm upset) my favourite song

HAS to be Hit me Baby one more time.

Do you have an inspiration?

The rapper DaBaby was my biggest inspiration. Although I love Britney spears, DaBaby's rap albums really interested me in music when I first began. My older brother always listened to his tracks, especially his biggest hit "LETS GO". Harry Styles from One Direction also inspired me to play instruments because , although he was young, he found fame and found a way to showcase his talent to the world. I want to be like him.

What has been the hardest part of learning and doing GCSE music?

The hardest part of GCSE music has to be the slideshows. We have had to make four slideshows about four different types of music (Reggae, sci fi, minimalism and disco) I don't enjoy creating slideshows and I much prefer practical work e.g. playing piano guitar. I struggle with learning to play using sheet music. When I began playing instruments, I learnt directly from YouTube (I still do now).

Why and when did you start music?

I started music in year 7, when I was about 12. I started on a tiny keyboard and I did it purely out of boredom. My parents always tried to get me into different hobbies such as Football, Rugby, Cricket, Karate. I did not enjoy any of them. After playing a keyboard for the first time, a fire ignited within me and I began to passionately play. I have now won the talent show and I am among the elite musicians such as Mrs Greenhow, Beethoven and Mrs Lewis! I think, when I play, I seem to have an iron touch within fingertips. I can hit the keys stronger than anyone I have ever met and believe that I obviously have potential.

Meet the Senior Leadership Team:

An Interview with Mrs Sharples

By Martina Gospodinov



Your title is Assistant Head for student experiences, what does this encompass?

Student experiences are all of the nice things that we do in school so that will include: the house system, so organizing all the competitions that happen and all of the house points and awards that come along with them. Trips are also another thing that I organise. This year we have three year group trips: Year 7 went to 'We the curious' in Bristol, Year 8 went to Cotswold farm park, and Year 9 are going to Berkeley castle! I also organise the activity week which happens at the end of the school year.

What was your journey towards becoming the Assistant Headteacher for school experiences like?

My journey has been very mixed and has given me a wide range of experiences across the school. I first started as a teacher of PE and quickly became Head of Girls' PE / Deputy Head of PE, which I loved. At this time I was also a Deputy Head of Year, working with Mr Ogden, who I am glad to be working with again. I then progressed to becoming a Lead Practitioner focusing on developing teaching and learning across the school. It was during this time that I became Head of Psychology: a role I still hold and absolutely love. Following this, I took on the role of Head of PE, which was a great opportunity for me to lead a department. I then became Head of Character, which is essentially the role I now carry out as Assistant Headteacher. I have undertaken many different roles in this school and have genuinely loved each one. They have all taught me valuable lessons about leadership, teaching and learning, curriculum development, pastoral care and much more, and have helped shape where I am today.

What inspired you to start teaching?

That's a great question! I'm not too sure what inspired me but I've wanted to become a teacher probably since I was in year 6 and I think I always knew that I was going to become a teacher! When I got to secondary school, my PE teacher was a very inspirational and amazing woman so that definitely helped steer me in the direction of teaching.

What does your daily routine look like?

I come into school at 7 o'clock in the morning and I'll check through my Psychology lessons and through my emails to make sure that everything is up to date. I then go stand by the entrance to welcome all of the students in and hopefully give them a nice start to the day. Then I go and start teaching; my main lessons right now are Psychology in year 12 and year 13 but I also teach PE for my year 9s which I absolutely love!

What is your greatest achievement as a teacher?

I think that there are quite a few! One of them is seeing girls in my PE group joining clubs outside of school. Another thing is that my year 13s last year got incredible grades in Psychology, which made me feel beyond proud and really really happy! But, overall, I think that my biggest achievement was hitting my career goal of becoming the Assistant Head and I'm also incredibly proud to be a part of the staff team in this school!

What is it like teaching Psychology at A level?

I absolutely love it! I think that it is really challenging as it is a hard course but it is so interesting as you learn about different behaviour and the reasons behind it, so you can take so much from it by applying it to your day-to-day life!

Why did you decide to add the enrichment programme to the school curriculum?

A big part of my role this year was adding an enrichment programme which I am incredibly proud of! I think that every single child should join a club as I think it is a very important opportunity and I want to make sure that every child gets it. Not everyone may be able to have such an opportunity outside of school, so I decided to add it to everyone's timetable as everyone deserves to be a part of a club that they can enjoy!

What are some of the highlights of your role?

Definitely seeing children being happy! When I see the things that I have done, and then see children enjoying them, and just knowing that I helped, makes me feel very happy and it is very fulfilling and heart warming!

What are some of the challenges that come along with your role?

I wouldn't say that there are many challenges. The only challenge that I can really think of is when students don't involve themselves in activities. For example, not everyone attends 'Fun Friday' which is something that is very enjoyable so I think that it is sad to see that not everyone is going.

A spotlight on sport- Max Tobias

By Adrian Blair

Why did you start football?

My Dad would take me to the park and we would play football; he wanted me to play football but I really like tennis so I had to choose between football and tennis. I started off as a striker at the age of 5 and then moved to a better position for another team when I was 8.

What's your position?

I play CDM, CAM but, when I started off, I played as a striker. I like playing CDM because that's my natural position. When I was younger, I enjoyed being a goal scorer but, as time went on, and I played more competitive football, I decided striker wasn't for me.

How do you feel before a match?

Before a match, I don't feel nervous - I just do my daily routine and then I feel more confident. On the way to the games, I play music to get me into the mood and fired up. This help me focus on the jobs I have to do to win my games. I also eat healthy food in the morning to give me energy so I'm wide awake.

What is your biggest achievement so far?

My biggest achievement is when I signed my 2-year contract with under 16 and that made me feel proud and made my family proud.

Who is your favourite player and do they inspire you?

My favourite football player is Cristiano Ronaldo. But another person that inspires me is Koobie Mainoo, who plays for Manchester United, because he plays in my position and he plays like me. Also, Ryan Gravenberch is a Liverpool player and he is also one of my favourite players, even though I support Man United.

What is your biggest setback?

My biggest setback is when I had trails for Birmingham City but I didn't get in - but I didn't let that affect me. It boosted my confidence to keep pushing for my dreams.



Career spotlight- Mr Dewfall

By Olivia Cameron and Scarlett O'Moore



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

My first job was a swimming pool cleaner at 14; I enjoyed the independence as I was fully accountable for a clean and safe to use swimming pool. I've also been a labourer, worked in maintenance at a leisure centre, swimming teacher, manager and, when I lived in Tanzania, I sailed tourists from an eco-lodge around the coast to specific historical sights, reefs for

snorkelling/diving and sandbanks.

Why did you choose to work at HP?

I chose to work at HP because I wanted to work in a state school as I was state school educated.

What inspired you to teach History?

I think it's the richness of history. That it is more than just dates and events. There are human stories that resonate with us today. We can see behaviours in society and economics that impact all decisions in the world. I also find it incredibly interesting that 12,000 years ago we first started to organise cities and now we are travelling to space and debating

What do you personally enjoy about working here?

I enjoy teaching the History and Politics curriculums, which I am immensely proud of. It's great to have so many conversations about history and culture with students.

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

Previously, I was in the Royal Navy so I suppose I would still be there. Alternatively, I would have thought to have worked in construction/engineering like my family.

What values are you trying to instil in your students through history?

Some of the values I'm trying to instil are:

Curiosity about the world, its past and how it impacts today

Persistence. That it is not always going to go well but we can plan to prevent problems and deal with it

Easter facts

By Ben Walker



- Over 80–90 million chocolate eggs are eaten in Britain annually.
- The first chocolate eggs in the UK were produced by Fry's in 1873.
- The world's largest chocolate bunny, made in Brazil in 2017, weighed 9,359 pounds.
- Historically, wearing new clothes on Easter was thought to bring good luck.
- In Bermuda, kite flying on Easter Monday is popular.
- Why does the date for Easter change? Unlike other religious festivals, the date varies and can change annually. This is determined by the lunar calendar and the spring equinox, rather than a fixed date on the solar calendar.
- The rarest date for Easter is March 22, occurring extremely infrequently (e.g., 1818, next in 2285). Other very rare dates are March 23, March 24, and April 25, with April 25 being the latest possible date and also quite uncommon.
- Currently, the Guinness World Record for the biggest chocolate Easter egg belongs to a creation crafted in Italy in 2011. This monumental egg, towering at a staggering 10.39 meters (34 feet) in height and weighing in at a hefty 7,200 kilograms (approximately 15,873 pounds), dwarfed anything that had come before it.
- In many places, children roll eggs down hills to symbolise the rolling away of the stone from the tomb.
- Easter Sunday is a very special time for Christians. After Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, his body was taken down and buried in a tomb. On Easter Sunday the tomb was empty because Jesus rose from the dead.

Easter Recipes

By Ben Walker

Classic Hot Cross Buns

Ingredients: Strong white bread flour, mixed spice, cinnamon, dried fruit (raisins/sultanas), milk, butter, yeast, and sugar.

Method: Mix to form a dough, incorporate the fruit, and let it rise. Shape into buns, add the flour-paste cross, bake until golden, and glaze with apricot jam while warm.



Classic Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

Ingredients: Grated carrots, brown sugar, eggs, oil, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and pecans.

Method: Mix wet and dry ingredients, stir in carrots and nuts, and bake. Once cooled, top with a cream cheese frosting and garnish with extra walnuts or candied carrots.



Chocolate Easter Egg Nests

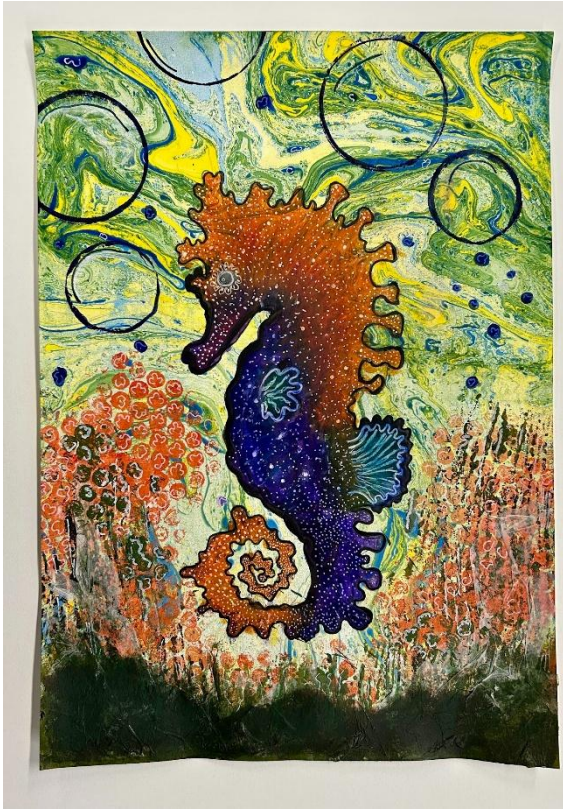
Ingredients: Shredded wheat or cornflakes, milk chocolate, and small chocolate eggs (such as Mini Eggs)

Method: Melt the chocolate, mix in the cereal, spoon into paper cases, and make a small well. Top with eggs and let them set in the fridge.



A celebration of Art and Textiles from Term 4

Year 7 Art competition entries



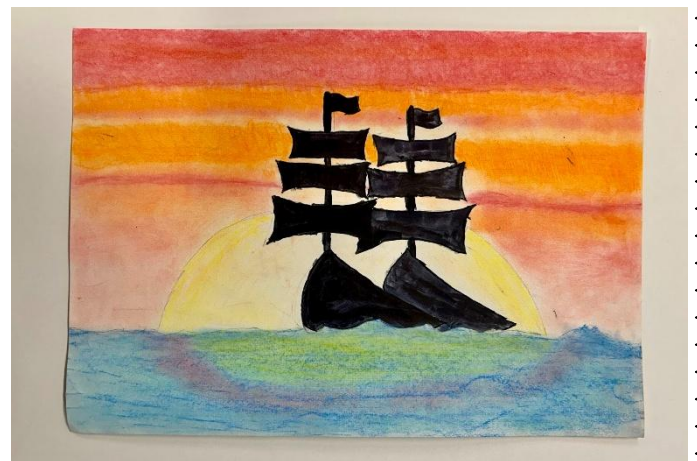
Violet Rudland-Beck Year 7



Giulia Mitran
Year 7



Aviela Kubiku Year 7



Adhya Elango Year 7