



NEWSLETTER

7th July 2025

Upcoming:

Wednesday 09/07
Year 8 Rounders Tournament
at Ashmole School

Wednesday 09/07
Summer Concert

Monday 14/07
Year 10 Geography Trip Day 2

Tuesday 15/07
Year 7 Kew Gardens Trip

Tuesday 15/07
Year 8 Bletchley Park

Tuesday 15/07
Year 9 Nuclear Mud Races at
Brentwood

Wednesday 16/07
End of Term Assembly at St Jude's

Wednesday 16/07
Last day of school (finish at 12:00pm)



Message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

The week just gone seems to have been defined by extraordinary weather! Monday and Tuesday saw very high temperatures around school and our students and staff coped admirably, even if we had all rather wilted by the end of the second day. The heatwave across Europe also affected our Year 10s on the trip to Munich - but again, this was all coped with smoothly. Thanks to Mr. Supperstone and Miss. Barker for organising and accompanying the trip. Sunday also saw a short - but very sharp - storm descend upon the PTA Summer Fair, but it certainly did not create a dent in the atmosphere of celebration and cheer. It was an amazing event, full of crafts, plants, food, talks, music performances and much more, with very high footfall. One cannot underestimate the amount of time, dedication and preparation that went into it and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vibhor, Surabhi and the entire PTA committee and team of volunteers for devising and delivering such an event - and all in the cause of raising funds and engagement from which the school will benefit. I must of course, also thank Richard Cain and his site team for all their hard work.

On Thursday, we held our Open Day: this is a normal working day for most of the school but of course all are involved- from our Year 7 and Year 12 guides and speakers to so many support staff working on preparations to all the teachers and students who carried on unflustered as hundreds of visitors toured round, looking into lessons. Particular thanks to Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Walker for making it run so smoothly and allowing us to show off the school so comprehensively. Visitors were justifiably impressed by all they saw.

With best wishes for the week ahead,

Mrs E. MacLeod
Headteacher

Donations to HBS Trust: <https://www.hbschool.org.uk/about-us/support-us/>

Ort Jump Mentoring Programme

It was fantastic to attend the Ort Jump mentoring graduation last week, which was attended by students, mentors, teachers and the Ort team, as well as their corporate sponsor, Fladgate. We are delighted to have had around 10 of our Year 12 students signed up to this programme for the first time this year.



Through the programme they were matched with mentors in the industry they are interested in, and had at least four meetings with them, assisting them with interview skills, CV writing, LinkedIn profiles and networking. They also attended other sessions provided by Ort and submitted a creative reflective piece.

This is what a couple of our students have said about the programme:

I'm really happy that I signed up for the ORT programme....My mentor, is so nice and has been really helpful throughout the whole process. Over the course of our meetings he reviewed my CV and gave me some advice on how to improve it, and he also did a mock interview for me. When I signed up for the programme I was feeling quite overwhelmed, but I think it's been really nice just to speak to someone about careers and I've learned a lot from him. PR wasn't an industry I knew very much about so it was nice to learn something new. Overall I think it's been extremely valuable!

I think the ORT programme is great as it's allowed me to discuss my future in terms of my career with someone already in that field. It's quite difficult to get this opportunity otherwise, unless you know someone personally in that field. Particularly, I have written a personal statement for my mentor to read and discuss with me, which is really helpful as I know the weaknesses and strengths of it. Also, it will save me a lot of time during the summer holidays! He also talks about his personal experience in the field, which is obviously quite unique and allows me to question whether I truly want to pursue a career in this field.

For further info please see <https://ortuk.org/jump/>

We hope to join up to the programme again next year. And if any parents are keen to support this valuable programme through offering their time as a mentor, please get in touch with the Ort team (info@ortuk.org)!

Claire Leek, Assistant Head (Pastoral and Personal Development)

Sue Klauber

On Monday, Year 8 were visited by published author Sue Klauber. Sue came to talk to students about her books Zinc and Cobalt, which were inspired by the real life experiences of her Father, Aunt and Uncle as Jewish people during World War Two.

After learning that that her Father had been a Codebreaker, her Uncle had been a Special Operations Executive and her Aunt had been involved in the Resistance, she decided to pen a book series about their thrilling and courageous experiences.

During her talk, Sue showed students examples of coding games she played with her father when she was young, even allowing students to have a go at cracking some codes themselves! She also spoke about the role of Codebreakers during the Second World War. This linked well to the Year 8 trip to Bletchley park, which will take place at the end of term.

Students were captivated by old family photographs and tales of heroism and adventure. It was fascinating to hear what the codebreakers achieved, and how their impressive skills made such a difference to the war, as well as our lives today.

<https://www.sueklauberbooks.com/>



KS3 House Obstacle Course

On Monday, 30 June, members of the Senior Prefect team hosted a thrilling House Obstacle Course for KS3 students on the MUGA. Each form sent four enthusiastic participants to tackle challenges like hockey dribbling, hurdles, netball shooting, and an egg and spoon race. The sun was shining, everyone showed great team spirit, and the cheering never stopped! After a tight contest, Hazel took 1st place, with Rowan and Maple tied for 2nd, and Willow in 3rd. Well done to all those who participated!

Thank you for helping us organise the obstacle course, it was a great afternoon.

Nandita J, Year 12



Year 12 Life Skills Programme

Conservation and Community of Hampstead Heath

Last Friday, year 12 had one of our last life skills sessions. Jo Maddox, a session leader from Heath Hands, came to speak to us about the conservation of Hampstead Heath. Heath Hands is a community charity that has been running for around 25 years already. They help to conserve 350 hectares of green space in North London, mainly Hampstead Heath, getting thousands of people involved each year, with 180 regular volunteers.



Heath Hands' main goal is to maintain a variety of habitats on Hampstead Heath to improve biodiversity. Currently, there are several different types of habitat, for instance woodland, wetland, wildflower meadow, heathland and more, and there is a large biodiversity of life, with 700 different species of veteran trees and 390 different species of fungi, some of which are extremely rare. To inform the management of the different habitats, volunteers monitor the key species on the heath, including grass snakes, butterflies, dragonflies, stag beetles and hedgehogs.

One of Heath Hands' main projects is hedgehog monitoring. There are three ways of doing this: making footprint tunnels, torching or using trail cameras. We even got to see some photos of an adorable hedgehog coming out at night! Maddox also taught us ways in which we could help hedgehogs. For example, you can make or adopt a hedgehog house, link your garden to the wild or spread the word to help hedgehogs.

What a wonderful way to end our life skills journey! Thank you to all the organisers of the life skills talks. There was such a rich variety of topics discussed, and I hope next year's students will enjoy the programme.

Ruby H, 12D

DofE Training Day - Thursday, 26th June 2025

What a fantastic day we had at our Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) training day! An incredible 95 students took part in a jam-packed session full of energy, enthusiasm, and adventure.

From learning how to read maps and master navigation to brushing up on emergency procedures and first aid, our students were completely immersed in the skills they'll need for the great outdoors. There was also a full kit – and plenty of teamwork, laughter, and learning along the way.

The day was led by our wonderful expedition providers, AtoZ, who were thoroughly impressed by the engagement, enthusiasm, and positive attitude our students brought to every activity. These groups are ready to take on the challenges ahead!

This training day was a big step forward as the students prepare for their expeditions in September and October 2025. It's safe to say, they're already gearing up for it with excitement and determination!



Student Testimonial – Mishikaa Vivekanandhan

On Thursday, 26th June, we had the fantastic opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Training Day, which helped us learn vital skills and tips to prepare for our upcoming Bronze DofE expedition in September next year.

We kicked off the day by learning how to handle key first aid situations, including how to respond in an emergency situation. This was followed by a session on expedition food – we explored different types of meals we could take with us and the importance of choosing food that is both nutritious and easy to carry. This was then followed by a practical session on how to safely set up and use a camping stove.

Next came the kit-packing workshop, where we were shown what essentials to bring and how to efficiently pack our rucksacks. The day concluded with training on essential navigation and map-reading skills, along with a detailed briefing on how our expedition will be carried out.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and enriching experience for all of us. A huge thank you to Miss Mehta for organising such a fun and exciting day - I can't wait for our Bronze DofE expedition in September!

