

# High School News

Issue 1: October 2012



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Dear Parents/Carers

The start of an academic year is always full of surprises. We have new staff and students joining the school and we hope that they settle well and enjoy being part of the special community that is the High School.

Year 7s, 12s and all the girls that started in other year groups have settled in really well and are clearly enjoying their experiences. This was particularly evident during Open Evening where we literally had hundreds of young people helping out in departments and acting as guides. We had many splendid comments from our visitors about our young people. They really are our best ambassadors. The Year 7 students who spoke on this occasion, were absolutely fantastic, despite the fact that they have only been in the school for three weeks. The school has increasingly become more popular and the hall was filled to capacity for the three talks.

The Year 7 bonding trip to Croft Farm was a great success and you can read about it in the newsletter. Year 7 students have also been creating animals using newspapers and sellotape in their tutorial periods. I now have an array of these animals in my office – ranging from an owl to an elephant ridden by a human. Such ingenuity clearly shows talent.

Prize-giving was also a splendid occasion, which was made even more memorable by our guest speaker the Reverend Beverly Boden, who is a former student of the school. Her speech was interesting and certainly left everyone with three things to think about.

The summer holidays were once again very busy in school. We installed a new wireless network which will come into use as soon as we put together our social networking policy; a new fire alarm system was fitted in school; the second Sixth Form Common Room was refurbished; GP2 was created; the pink and yellow toilets were given a facelift and the Languages classrooms were redecorated and new carpets were fitted. In my six years at the school, we have almost redecorated most areas. The rest are being planned for over the next two summers. Unfortunately, however, the school is like the Forth Bridge: once we finish the first cycle, we will have to start again.

Over the summer, we also had our first ever World Challenge expedition to Thailand and Laos. It was certainly an amazing experience for the students as they had to raise £3,000 each, in the preceding 18 months, for the expedition before they took part in it. You can read about their adventure in the newsletter.

I have to end my section of the newsletter by offering my congratulations to Years 7 and 8 for organising a most amazing Macmillan coffee morning. I don't think I have ever seen so many cakes in one place. There was such an assortment that you could smell them from reception and certainly they had taste buds tingling all morning. This was such a splendid effort as the students raised £516.38 from the event. My thanks also go to Mrs Simpson and Ms Wilkes for their support of the students. I certainly enjoyed a variety of cakes that morning and in fact took one home to my family.

I hope that you enjoy reading about other events that have taken place over this very busy term.

Enjoy the week's holiday. I hope we have good weather over the break so that we can enjoy the great outdoors.

With best wishes.

**Mrs E Sawicka**  
**Headteacher**

# Year 7 Bonding Trip to Croft Farm, Tewkesbury



On Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, the whole of Year 7 went on a Bonding trip to Croft Farm.

The day was filled with various fun events which included canoeing, bungee running, archery, an obstacle course and team building games!

At the beginning of the day, we split into groups which enabled us to find new friends in other tutor groups. Every one really enjoyed bonding with other friends and getting to know people better which made us more confident.

We canoed up to Tewkesbury and back in Kata canoes. It was hard but we all worked as a team. When we were doing bungee running, we had to race to see who could get the furthest and when we stopped the elastic flung us back. In archery we were challenged to shoot our arrow as close to the centre circle as possible. It was challenging as it was windy. When we took part in the team building games, it included running, climbing and puzzles.

It was a great day out and we all made new friends.

**By Maddy Cross and Rebecca Smith 7H**



## My experience of the Cheltenham Literature Festival

At the Cheltenham Literature Festival this year, there was an array of writing talent all eager to promote their books: J K Rowling, Jacqueline Wilson and many more famous faces.

The subject of Street Art was quite big this year at the festival. There was a lecture about Banksy, an opportunity I couldn't miss. I thought the lecture was interesting but the three men lecturing could have been a bit more enthusiastic! It looked as though they had just got their talk from the internet! Pure Evil, a street artist, was very detailed in his description.

The next day, I saw Cathy Cassidy. She talked about her new book 'Summer's Dream' and she read an extract from it. I got all my books signed and she was really kind. I looked around all of the book stalls, seeing the books and having fun with my family. The one thing I loved about the festival was that everyone there was having fun. There was something for everyone.



CHELTENHAM FESTIVALS

**Ellie O'Driscoll 7J**

## Starting in the Sixth Form

As a student who already came from the High School, I didn't have the worry of not knowing the school, students or teachers. We had an induction day filled with different games, quizzes and activities. We were all put into mixed groups, which gave us a chance to get to know people. The whole of Year 12 also took a trip to Gloucestershire University, which involved lectures on learning styles, creating timetables as if we were University students, a tour, referencing and other helpful skills. The trip was then followed by a pizza and games evening, which was great fun. Some of us played hide and seek around the school and twister and it was a great chance to get to know more people in a relaxed setting. I was previously worried about the change from GCSE to A level. This, however, hasn't been too difficult (so far), as long as you stick to the '5 hours per subject per week' of work. It's good to be only focusing on subjects you enjoy and want to do. I feel we've settled in well as a year group.

**Emily Pickett**

We have settled in really well here at the High School for Girls. It was quite daunting coming from Tommy's and Crypt but we found the 'getting to know you' activities and the pizza afternoon really helped. Everyone is really friendly and the teachers are really approachable. We look forward to our two years here.

**Jamie Cave and Daniel DeGruchy**

## Busy start in the Sixth Form

It has been a busy start to the term for our Sixth Form students. We have greeted our New Year 12 students and welcomed back our Year 13s. Year 13 have come back refreshed and inspired by their AS results and are already working extremely hard on their UCAS statements and planning their upper sixth year.

Year 12 enjoyed an induction programme full of 'getting to know you' and team-building exercises.

In the second week Year 12 visited the University of Gloucestershire Park Campus for a Study Skills day. Activities here ranged from 'Knowing Your Learning Style' to 'Time Management at University'. Following our trip, we had a pizza afternoon which involved nineteen large pizzas being delivered - the poor delivery man! The pizzas were followed by games such as twister and hide and seek.

We are now beginning our fundraising for this year with our first event being the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' for the Macmillan cancer charity. A fantastic start to the academic year!

**Mrs H Rogers**  
**Assistant Director of Sixth Form**  
**(Maternity Cover)**

## Richard Graham MP visits HSFG

On Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> September Richard Graham, Conservative



MP for Gloucester, visited the High School for Girls.

Richard began by talking to the students about his vision for Gloucester, stating that he stood for election in 2010 hoping to improve the city of Gloucester and serve its constituents.

Richard then took questions from Politics students from both Year 12 and 13, and a few other sixth formers who were drawn to the event. SF1 was packed with students wanting to ask a question and get involved in the debate. The event certainly proved that politics isn't dead amongst the young as often reported in the media.

### Questions included:

- What can be done to increase participation in Politics?
- Should Andrew Mitchell resign over 'Plebgate'?
- Why have Crypt and Gloucester Academy had extensive rebuilds but HSFG has been overlooked?
- Should our electoral system be changed from First Past the Post to a more proportional system?
- Will the universal credit lead to cuts in benefits for disabled people?
- Did Richard support the increase in tuition fees to £9,000 a year? (He did)
- Is it fair that Scottish students don't have to pay to attend university but English students do?
- Did Richard support the scrapping of GCSE's and replacing them with Ebacc qualifications as proposed by Michael Gove?
- What's happening with cuts to police in Gloucester?
- Should the media be more closely regulated after the phone hacking scandal and Leveson inquiry?
- Did Richard believe in 'grade inflation'?

The questioning was robust but polite. The students had clearly thought carefully about their questions and were very well informed about current political issues. Richard fielded their questions and gave honest answers - even if he knew the students weren't likely to agree with him (particularly on tuition fees)!

All in all, it was a fantastic debate, which the students have benefited hugely from. HSFG would like to thank Richard Graham for attending, and we hope to welcome him back next year for another question and answer session.

**Mr Hood**



## World Challenge: Overcoming Challenges

**Helen:** How brave are you? In our lives we have to face many difficulties which can get us down. This is all due to our fears. We do not realise but we live in a little comfort zone we create for ourselves and every time it gets harder and harder for us to leave it and start the fight with those challenges.

**Anastasiya:** Today, 17 of us are able to make this judgement because of the World Challenge expedition we took part in this summer. The challenges we faced were not ordinary ones and definitely not the ones we would face whilst living in the UK. By being exposed to a completely different culture, we understand how easily the fear conquers us. But the lesson to learn is to remember that the earlier you let go of your fear and believe in yourself the more successful and happy you will be. Fear stops us.

**Jess:** Can you imagine arriving in a completely different country where nobody speaks your language, or can hardly understand what you are talking about?

**Harrie:** It may not sound difficult but that was how our first day in Thailand went – 8 hours sitting at the train station not knowing what to do with a brief itinerary to hand. 15000 dollars group money in money belts for food, transport and accommodation for the following month. Sounds scary? That definitely wasn't a colourful arrival each of us imagined. It was time to take responsibility and make our own decisions. We already felt out of our comfort zone and the prospect of being in charge of our expedition was daunting. Although there, we had to make decisions for ourselves and rely on each other to

work as a team.

**Grace:** During the following 4 weeks, we had to learn how to deal with every situation we faced, as a team. It wasn't always easy; to be perfectly honest, it wasn't easy most of the time. And it wasn't because we were a bad team, we got on very well. Being away from home, however, not being able to talk to your family and friends whenever you were feeling low played its vital role.

**Beth:** There were many times when each of us felt heavy hearted, lonely and sad. One of the most important lessons learnt on expedition was to consider each other, give each other support and be each other's backbone in

the most emotionally difficult times and situations – home was 8,000 miles away.

**Ellie N:** Though, it was tough most of the time, we managed to lift the spirits, look at things positively and enjoy ourselves as the clock was ticking and there were fewer and fewer days left to spend in the two beautiful, spiritually and culturally rich countries of Thailand and Laos.

**Aisha:** For the duration of the trip, we took part in a number of activities. These included trekking, elephant riding, visiting waterfalls, spending time with local children in the rural village and in the children's cultural centre in Luang Prabang, Laos.





**Lauren:** Trekking was one of the most memorable parts of the whole expedition. The trek consisted of two parts: the acclimatisation in Laos, which lasted for two days and the main Thailand trek, which consisted of 4-5 days. It was a challenge, especially with the leeches but an exciting experience at the same time. Trekking through the jungle, walking across the mountain rivers and climbing up and down big, steep hills will definitely stay in our memories for a very long time.

**Molly:** Can you imagine the feeling of waking up on an early wet morning? It is pouring down with rain and you've slept on the floor in a hut in the middle of the jungle? Comfort was non-existent to start with and then you had to put on the clothes that you wore the previous day that were soaking wet? Not the nicest experience of your life, but

definitely worth it to make you appreciate the shower, proper toilets and your warm bed.

**Khloe:** Moving onto something more pleasant, the elephant riding! This was what most of us were so looking forward to. It was impossible to go to Thailand and not ride the Asian elephants. As part of our rest and relaxation activities, we completed a day course in looking after elephants. This was in the Lampang Elephant Conservation Centre where we learnt how to ride them, give commands, wash them and even make elephant dung paper.

**Ellie R:** Finally, coming to the most important and enriching part of the trip – all the time spent with the children. Though we had to leave the project site by order of the government and even had our passports taken (This was another challenge). We had so much to share with these children, so much to teach them and to learn from them at the same time. We understood how lucky they are not to be influenced by the excesses we have in the developed world. They were happy with the simplest things and grateful for every pen and sticker we gave them. They were tremendously excited to take part in every game we played with them and a language barrier was never a problem. We made everything possible to buy school equipment for the children we got to know and donate money for the Nong Sai Village School which will soon be ready to welcome 50 children living in the village.

**Juliet:** The memories of the time spent with the children brought a huge smile come to our faces and the warm feelings these children left in our hearts will always accompany us wherever we go. This expedition made us independent and helped us to create strong long-lasting friendships.

**Georgy:** So whatever it is you have to do today that you feel unsure or scared about - don't leave it, thinking there will be a lucky day. Make the most of today because in our lives there will always be times for celebrating a success and times for embracing the failures. The fear should never stop you from doing something you love, enjoy, or something that will bring a long term and short term feeling of happiness and achievement to you.

**Saffron:** We have to overcome difficulties with a smile, support other people and try to find support in others for ourselves. Remember - failure and challenges bring success. We hope that today taught you a lesson that will

help you get through the challenges that you will all face in life. We hope that our World Challenge experience has opened your eyes to the opportunities that are available for you if you are willing to take the risk! We hope that this assembly will benefit you by listening to our experiences, just as it did for us in taking part. Thank you for reading!

**World Challenge Team**



# Do you want to know more about Japan?

Last January, the High School was approached by a school in Tokyo, Japan to see if we were interested in a new international link. Fujimigaoka School is very similar to the High School, catering for girls aged 11 to 18. It has the same high standards and the students are keen to do well and achieve the best they can.

In March, three students from Fujimigaoka came for a one day visit as part of a two week stay in the U.K. They enjoyed their time at the school, meeting students and attending some Business lessons. Their English was excellent which was very lucky as our Japanese was limited! Following the short visit in March, links with Fujimigaoka have progressed well including a visit in July by a member of staff to Tokyo as part of their holiday.



The next stage of our link is that a 16 year old student is going to come to the High School and stay with us from January to March 2013. She will be attending lessons and taking part in all school activities. Ideally she would like to stay with a family while in the U.K. so we hope to split the visit into 3 separate months and are asking if anyone is interested in offering a home to this student for one month. There will be a weekly payment available for accommodation and food. The student will have excellent English and hopes to be involved with all aspects of English family life.

Are you interested in having a guest for one month next year and learning more about life in Japan? If so, contact Mrs Lloyd-Owen at school (lloyd-owenl@hsfg.org).



## Textiles Exhibition at Gloucester Museum

Some of the work from our students is to be displayed at an exhibition entitled 'Textile' in the Community Gallery at Gloucester Museum from 15<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Go and have a look!



*One of the pieces of work, from the High School, used in the publicity for the exhibition 'The Elves and The Shoemaker' by Tilly Springer.*

## Information for Year 12/13 Parents/Carers

With the scramble seen this year for places on HE courses and the increased fees that many institutions are charging, added to the continuing rise in the jobless figures for 16 to 24-year-olds, it is now crucial that young people and their parents have access to as much help when looking at their options after they leave school or college.

11ten Direct recognised this need and produced [Parentadviser.co.uk](http://Parentadviser.co.uk)

Our intention is to provide a service to assist parents in giving informed advice and guidance to their young people in addition to that on offer from school or college.

[ParentAdviser.co.uk](http://ParentAdviser.co.uk)



# Duke of Edinburgh Expedition at the High School



Walking for miles and miles with aching feet and a heavy bag may not seem like the average teenager's normal weekend, but for those of us who took part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award practice expedition, this tiring but team-building event became a reality.

We all arrived at the campsite, nervous but excited, on Friday evening. As we had not yet walked a day, we enjoyed the evening getting used to our team and having fun. After cooking and relaxing, we snuggled down in our sleeping bags.

When we woke up, the real work began. We started our walk, but initially in the wrong direction, which must have been a sign for how the day was going to go!! We made progress, but were behind schedule, and as the day wore on the weight of the bags together with the steep valleys were starting to take its toll. We ended up walking for more hours than planned, due to getting lost several times in the woods. Luckily, we all worked as a team, helping each other up the hills, and catching each other at the bottom of them. We eventually made it to camp, but feeling worn out, emotional and vowing 'never again'.

Following a good sleep Day 2 ended up being much better than the first. We were determined even though the strain of the previous day had affected us. This time we went the right way and kept a good pace - though on some of the final hills, many of us were ready to give up. We all, however, shared our food, kept each other going and finally completed the walk without too many blisters!

We made mistakes during this practice expedition, but we learnt from these mistakes along the way. Looking back, I know that with detailed planning, good concentration, and relying on your friends, anything's possible and we look forward to our assessed expedition.



## News from the Dining Room

This term, we have welcomed the Year 7s and they have settled in really well, mastering the ordering system with ease.

Some girls are enjoying the salad bar - Julie is always devising new and interesting salad dressings with bean sprouts, mange tout and baby corn. On the mid-morning break we have introduced PK Pitta Pockets and they have gone down really well - look out for more flavours next term. There will be some changes on the lunchtime menu from next term until Easter, with more hot desserts and more wintery fare to reflect the weather.

In the first week after half-term, we will be having a **Halloween Special** and there will also be a special menu for **Languages Day**. Look out for notices about the Christmas Lunch on 18th December: this is a pre booked lunch and tickets must be bought in advance from the Catering Team. No other lunch will be available on that day.



**Mrs Armstrong, Catering Manager**

## Hillfield Gardens Sculpture Design Competition

HSFG Art Department has been asked to provide a selection of designs for a sculpture in the newly improved Sensory garden which is part of Hillfield Gardens, between Denmark Road and London Road. The gardens had become dilapidated and overgrown and it is hoped that the public will enjoy using them again in 2013. There will be further replanting and landscaping during the next few months. The grand re-opening will be on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

This is a wonderful opportunity to take part in our local community. The 'Friends of Hillfield Gardens' have done most of the clearing of undergrowth themselves and will select the most appropriate design before commissioning craftsmen to make and set the piece in the garden during the spring. A lottery grant of £5000 must cover all expenses.

Year 9 students are taking part in the competition during their Art lessons. Any other student is welcome to enter and may



during Thursday lunchtime attend Art Club in AS2 between now and 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Inspiration for the designs has been stimulated by looking at images both of the gardens themselves, the various architectural and historical features, and the specimen trees. Students need to consider the health and safety of those who use the park and must make a design which will not require maintenance.

Perhaps there are members of our school community who might be able to help with providing the stone, timber, metal or other materials which may be needed? Or perhaps the skills necessary to construct the final piece?

**Miss K Fairhurst, Art Department**

## Hong Kong: A Dream Destination for University Study! - Competition Winner

Daniel Aldred, who left the High School in July, was one of the five winners of the "Hong Kong: A Dream Destination for University Study". Here is an account of his summer in Hong Kong.

I had an absolutely spectacular time, both at the summer school - the University of Hong Kong (the best University in Asia) and also exploring the many wonders of Asia's World City. A notable experience on my trip was attending a reception organised by the British Council for a Transnational Education Awards competition which saw seven Hong Kong local students take up various placements at UK universities. At this reception I was invited to speak with Michelle Li, Deputy Secretary for Education for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, China. Before I was invited to speak with her, the secretary welcomed me to Hong Kong in her speech and referred to me as a "UK scholar".

I was also mentioned in speeches by senior members of the British Council in Hong Kong and met various dignitaries, such as the Director (Education) for the Australian Consulate-General.

The HKETO is also organising for the winners to



write for an education journal.

To finish off my brilliant summer, after the press release about the competition was printed. I was interviewed by BBC Radio Manchester for a programme about Chinatown.

**Daniel  
Aldred**





## English Schools Cross-Country

We have not entered this competition for a number of years and following our recent success in athletics competition, we felt it was an ideal opportunity to reintroduce cross-country. We have been very lucky to secure the services of local coach, Kerry Newell and our new Cover Supervisor, Miss Collier, who is also a very keen athlete, to assist with the coaching of the teams. The junior and intermediate teams travelled to Bromsgrove School in Worcestershire for the first round of the competition. The teams performed very well against some very strong opposition. The junior girls competed over a 2.3km course - Matilda McDermott-Krasker was our highest placed junior finishing 15<sup>th</sup>. The team finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. The intermediate team ran over a course of 2.7km with Daisy Woodford finishing as our highest place finisher in 17<sup>th</sup> place. The Intermediate team also finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place. We hope that we are able to defend our District Cross-Country title at the end of term.

**Miss Leathart**

## U16 Netball Tournament

A squad of nine netball players was selected from Years 10 and 11 to represent HSFG at this very competitive tournament which was held at Cheltenham Ladies Collage at the end of September.

The matches at this tournament are always closely fought and the standard of netball is generally very high – this year was no exception! All nine squad members gave their heart and soul in every match they played and although they only lost two of their eight matches. HSFG were placed fourth in their section.

Congratulations to all players involved – they were a real credit to themselves and the school.

**Mrs Kirk**

## PE Kit and Lost Property

We are becoming increasingly concerned at the amount of lost property that we collect every week. We are surprised at the amount of kit that is also unnamed. Lost PE kit is kept in the lost property bin in the Gym changing rooms. We endeavour to get all named kit back to students. Unfortunately un-named kit often sits languishing in this bin as we are unable to do anything with it. Please ensure that your daughter's kit is clearly named to ensure that should it become lost, it can be returned to her. I would also like to stress that students' kit should be washed after every PE lesson. Students must ensure that their PE kit is locked securely in their lockers and should not be left in the changing rooms or in the lockers outside the library.

**Miss Leathart**



## Laura Murphy selected for HiPac Hockey

Congratulations go to Laura Murphy in Year 12, who has been selected for the Futures Cup in hockey which will take place in Leeds during the October mid-term

break. She has been selected for the HiPac squad following several months of training at regional centres. HiPac is the tier of performance below England and the England selectors will be present at the Futures Cup. This is a tremendous achievement and we wish her the very best of luck at the tournament.

**Miss Leathart**

## Support Winston's Wish every time you shop online - at no extra cost to you!

With **Give As You Live**, thousands of brands including John Lewis, Play.com and Tesco have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase you make online to us. All at no cost to you and at no cost to us!

Just **go to [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)** and discover **Give As You Live** today. If you sign up by December 2012, **Give As You Live** will donate an additional £5 to us when you spend £10 or more. It's a winner!



## Nominate Winston's Wish for Charity of the Year

Can you nominate Winston's Wish for charity of the year at your work place or school? With 2013 looming, many organisations are looking for a new charity to support. With your help, it could be Winston's Wish! By choosing us, this will allow Winston's Wish to help more bereaved children and young people to live with their grief and rebuild positive futures.

Contact our team on [community@winstonswish.org.uk](mailto:community@winstonswish.org.uk) for more information.



## Communication with Parents/ Carers via email

We hope that you are receiving information about school events via our emails.



If you are not receiving these emails, please check your spam/junk folders; you may need to give permission for HSFG emails to go to your inbox. Alternatively, we may not have your correct email address or we may not have an email address for you at all. Please send any updated or new email addresses, together with the name of your daughter/son, to **office@hsfg.org** or amend/add them on the data sheet when your daughter/son brings them home over the next couple of weeks. If you have the emails sent to your work email address but you are often away from the office, perhaps it would be better to have them sent to your home email address as well, so that you don't miss anything important.

**Mr McShane, Deputy Head**

## Sixth Form Buddy System

As a student at the High School retaking Year 12, I think the idea of a buddy system is great. I'm paired with Emilia Furvito, who is someone who has had to go through Year 12 and is now in Year 13 who can offer me more personal advice on how to benefit from the resources available and to help me use my time more effectively for exam preparation. Most importantly, my buddy is someone I can talk to on a similar level whereas in a classroom, I may be reluctant to ask a teacher for advice. At first, I was quite hesitant about the idea but I've since grown to see the concept as beneficial in getting myself more prepared for the summer exams and Year 13.

**Ebe Ukandu**



## 'Community Connection' Scheme



The High School has recently signed up to become part of the **Gloucester Rugby 'Community Connection' Scheme**.

As part of the scheme, we are eligible to receive a match ticket discount of 10% on all tickets. Buying tickets in this way will also result in the school receiving 10% cash back on every ticket sold.

Tickets will be available to buy through school and will be advertised to students in registers and on the notice boards outside the PE Office. Tickets can also be booked by individuals through the GRFC Ticket Office.

If you would like to book your match day tickets as an individual or family group using this scheme, you will need to quote the following and you will need to go to the ticket office to purchase your tickets.

Cash back scheme - Unique Reference Number 11054437  
High School for Girls

If you have any queries about the scheme, please contact Miss Leathart in the PE Department.

## Alcohol Awareness and Teenagers – Under- standing and Reducing the Risks - Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October – 7.00 pm



We wish to remind you that parents/carers of students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have been invited to this event.

The session will be held in the library and starts at 7.00 pm. Please return the slip from the letter or email [office@hsfg.org](mailto:office@hsfg.org) if you wish to attend.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Mrs Dallow**

## Advice for parents/carers/students to protect against cyber-bullying

### Parentline Plus

Free confidential 24-hour Parentline  
**0808 800 2222**

### Anti-Bullying Alliance

The website provides information and advice for parents, children and schools on ways to tackle bullying.  
**[www.anti-bullyingalliance.org](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org)**

### Bullying UK

Useful information and links for parents and children on how to deal with all types of bullying, including cyberbullying.

**[www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)**

### Childline

Sometimes your child may want to talk to someone completely different from you or the school.

Childline offers free and confidential support to young people ringing about bullying. Make sure your child knows the Childline number and website address:

**0800 11 11**  
**[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)**

### Childnet International

Information, advice, resources for children, parents and schools on

getting the most out of new technology, and safe and responsible use.  
**[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)**

### Direct Gov

Information and support for children being cyberbullied as well as those doing the bullying.

**08451 205 204**  
**[yp.direct.gov.uk/cyberbullying](http://yp.direct.gov.uk/cyberbullying)**

### Kidscape

Information and help for children who are being bullied, and a helpline for parents of bullied children.

**08451 205 204**  
**[www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)**

## What's on in Term 2 - 2012/13

Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Term 2 begins This is Week 2</b>
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 11 mock exams begin Year 8 HPV vaccinations PTA Committee Meeting – 7.30 pm
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 10 Spanish Exchange students visit UK (leave 15 <sup>th</sup> )
Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Consultation Evening for Year 12 Parents/Carers and Students – 5.00 – 7.00 pm
Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Governors' Business Management Committee meeting – 6.00pm
Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	PTA Quiz Night – 7.00 pm
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Consultation Evening for Year 13 Parents/Carers and Students – 5.00 - 7.00 pm
Wednesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> December	'Languages Day'
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Second-hand uniform sale – 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Charity Concert at Gloucester Cathedral – 7.00 pm
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 7 visit to 'Wind in the Willows' pm Governors' Board Meeting – 6.00 pm
Wednesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Swimming Gala in GL1 – am
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 9 History visit to the Black Country Museum
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Mock Interviews – am
Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Governors' AGM – 6.00 pm
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch served at school
Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service at Gloucester Cathedral – 2.00 pm
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Term 2 ends at 1.30 pm</b>
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December	<i>School closed for Staff Training</i>

*Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – Friday, 4 January 2013 – Christmas Break*

### School to Work

We would love to hear from parents/carers if:

- you could offer a work experience placement for a Sixth Form student at your place of work (10th - 14th June)
- anyone would be able to offer interview practice to Year 11 and 12 students (either general or job/subject-specific)

Please could you email all relevant details to Mrs Sissons, Careers co-ordinator ([sissons@hsfg.org](mailto:sissons@hsfg.org))



## Term Dates for Students – 2012/13

- Term 1:** Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September – Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012
- Term 2:** Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> October – Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012
- Term 3:** Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013
- Term 4:** Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013
- Term 5:** Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April – Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013
- Term 6:** Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013

## Collection of Students for Appointments

The school operates safeguarding procedures and takes responsibility for its duty of care for students seriously. Therefore, we would be extremely grateful if parents/carers would abide by the procedures set out for all students in the main school. **Any student, who needs to leave the school site during the day, must be collected from Student Services at the school by a parent or named individual for that student.** Please be aware that we cannot make any exceptions to this procedure for any student in Years 7-11. Parents/carers are requested not to park on school grounds when collecting daughters/sons for appointments.

### HSFG Student Absence Line:

**01452 389983**

(24 hour dedicated absence answerphone)

or email:

**absence@hsfg.org**



### Payments to School

When sending in cheques for activities, please write the student's name and form on the back of the cheque and place in an envelope labelled with the student's name and the name of the trip. Cheques should be made payable to 'High School for Girls'.

### Second-hand Uniform

Please bring any second-hand uniform into school for our second-hand uniform sales. The sale of second-hand uniform raises funds for the school and also helps parents/carers. We are particularly short of small sizes. Please ask your daughter to bring in any donations to the main office. The next sale is on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December.**



New website coming soon ...

**www.hsfg.org**

## Frighmare at Over Farm

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

Kids can take a trailer ride to the pumpkin patch, win prizes in Spooky's Theatre Mask Hunt and more during the day, while adults can enjoy the Haunted Hayride, Stage Fright and Panic in the evening.



Venue: Over Farm, Over, Gloucester, GL2 8DB

Dates: Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October

Times: Daytime events from Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> October start from 10am, and Haunted Hayrides from Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October begin from 6.30pm, 7.30pm and 8.30pm.

Admission: Tickets for the Theatre Mask Hunt cost £1.50 per child, and all other daytime event ticket prices are to be confirmed. Tickets for the evening events cost £20 per adult, including the Haunted Hayride, Stage Fright and Panic.

Telephone: (01452) 521014

## Parking

Parents/carers - please refrain from parking on the zigzag or yellow lines in front of the school at any time during the day. Parking on these lines endangers both pedestrians and cyclists and, above all, is illegal.



## Pudsey Bear Parachuting at Gloucester Cathedral

**Saturday, 10 November 2012**

The Golden Valley Kite Fliers are inviting local children to take their teddy bears along and join Pudsey in parachuting along a zip wire high in the Cathedral Nave with all proceeds being donated to Children in Need.

Times: From 9.30am. Telephone: (01452) 528095.



## Cheltenham Racecourse Fireworks Display

**Saturday, 3 November 2012**

On Saturday 3 November 2012, Cheltenham Racecourse will once again be the setting for the popular annual Cheltenham Round Table fireworks display – one of the biggest fireworks displays in the south west of England, no less.

As well as the fireworks, a funfair and live stage show are expected to be adding to the excitement once again this year, with tickets available on the gate and all profits going to local charities.

**Times:** From 5pm

**Admission:** Tickets are expected to cost £6 for adults and £4 for children aged 5 to 14 years, available on the gate.



## Uniform – Main School

Can parents/carers make sure that students are dressed appropriately for school.

Blazers must be worn to and from school whilst hoodies of any description are not part of school uniform.

Some students are rolling up their skirts or, at least rolling down the waistband, and thus damaging the zips. Skirts need to be worn properly and **as previously stated, only the school regulation skirt is acceptable.** This is a straight skirt with a vent at the back. Lycra, jersey or any material which clings to the body will not be allowed. Skirts also need to be knee length. It is important that the students look smart when going to and from school.

## Term Dates 2013-2014

**Term 1:** Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September – Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Term 2:** Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**Term 3:** Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Term 4:** Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**Term 5:** Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014

**Term 6:** Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014

## Year 13 Study Leave

Study leave begins on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January at 3.30 pm and students should return to school at 8.35 am on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January.



## High School for Girls

Denmark Road, Gloucester GL1 3JN

Tel: 01452 543335 Fax: 01452 549862

Email: office@hsfg.org

Website: [www.hsfg.org](http://www.hsfg.org)

