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ISSUE 30

7 JUNE 2024

## Headlands Headlines

### Message from Mrs Stamford

Welcome back to the last half term of the year! I hope you all had a lovely half term and are feeling refreshed and ready for the next 6 weeks!

Last night we met our new Year 7 intake. It was a delightful evening and so wonderful to meet our new students and find out all about their hobbies and interests and the qualities they will bring with them up to Headlands School. We hope our new students will enjoy their transition activities and join us for Summer school on 22nd July!

This week our Year 11 and 13 students have continued to impress us with their attitude and dedication towards their exams. The focus and resilience our students are showing is inspiring and we are so proud of everything they are achieving throughout this process. Finally this week, as part of the D-Day Commemorations, our Year 8

student Charlotte White- who is a member of the Sea Cadets here in Bridlington- spent the day at the Bayeux War Cemetery where she welcomed and escorted some of the remaining veterans. She was fortunate to hear first-hand their stories and recollections from 80 years ago.

Charlotte was also able to find her Great Grandfather's grave. The day ended at around 1am on the 6th after the fireworks at Pegasus Bridge which marked the first encounter of D-Day. Freedom of choice, democracy, pluralism and other values we enjoy today were bought at a price through the service and sacrifice of the international alliance and this event gave Charlotte the opportunity to be able to remember and reflect such a momentous moment in our country's history.

Mrs Stamford  
Head of School.



### Headlands Darts Championships

The eagerly anticipated "Headlands Darts Championship" is underway, where 43 pupils will be competing in the inaugural competition with a trophy or a medal being the prizes on offer. Round 1, what a turnout from supporters, cheering on their favourite players. Great wins for Haiden Ritchie, Leo Redhead, Alfie Grange and Kamil Niemyski. It was a real day for the Year 8s as well as Ryan Gardiner going through on default. The evening also saw another Year 8 through, Lucas Padden with great support for him as well as the Year 10s turn to start with George Tolson and Owen Gadd making it through. The final day of round 1 saw Lewis Williams win convincingly, Rossco Wilkinson battle out a Year 8 derby against Reagan Jackson-Shaw and a surprise win for Nicholas Traves against Marley Kilburn. Next weeks headlines will see the Round 2 and round of 16 reports.

R1 Results: Haiden R 2-1 Aden-Jay S, Ryan G 2-0 Charlie W, Alfie G 1-0 Finlay W, Kamil N 2-1 Charlie W, Lucas P 2-1 Cody F, George T 2-0 Jamie H, Owen G 2-1 Ralphie G, Rossco W 2-1 Reagan JS, Lewis W 2-0 Roman S, Nicholas T 2-0 Marley K

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## Mrs Bone's Newsflash

This week we will have watched and observed the incredibly poignant images on the television as the world remembers D-Day. For those of us listening to the D-Day Veterans recalling their 80 year old memories of this poignant day, it has been emotional. I certainly struggled not to well-up. For those of us who had relatives who served in the Armed Forces during World War II it remains imperative we continue to share and pass on these memories to our children so that future generations will not forget. Included in this week's edition of Headlands Headlines is the poem by Tomas Roberts. Please take the time to read this poem and if possible, talk about the significance of this week and D-Day as we remember those who gave us today.

Have a good weekend,  
Mrs Bone  
Executive Head

### This is the poem:

The People Who Gave us Today, by  
Tomos Roberts.

Across the ports of Southern  
England,

as nightfall fell some stopped to  
pray,  
a monumental operations eve,  
was 80 years ago today.

They watched and waited for their  
window,  
calculated tides and tempestuous  
weather,  
and as Normandy slept the stage  
was set,  
for a day that would change the  
world forever.

The paratroopers prepared for  
their perilous passage,  
the Royal Air Force soared toward  
enemy lines,  
and a naval fleet of a scale  
unrivalled,  
traversed a channel chocked with  
mines.

And soldiers most barely in their  
20s,  
armed with fortitude so few  
acquire,  
faced with a fate we just can't  
fathom,  
each charged head first in that fire.

For a second contemplate that  
courage,  
that sacrifice so void of self,  
to give your life to foster freedom,  
for the benefit of someone else.

When the longest day was finally  
finished,  
and they'd seized a foothold on  
that ground,  
because of all who bravely bore  
that burden,  
the Atlantic wall came crashing  
down.

That's why we dwell on D-Day  
decades later,  
why we mark such days from  
history,  
why we honour those that were  
dealt that duty,  
and protect their lasting legacy.

Why we gather together to give  
recognition,  
it's a promise, a vow that will not  
cease to show,  
gratitude for the lives and the  
future they fought for,  
in a safety and freedom that they'll  
never know.

It's why we teach each fresh new  
generation,  
to stay connected in one common  
way,  
and as long as their stories are  
never forgotten,  
we'll remember the people who  
gave us today

## Art Club

These are some of the masks  
that we have been making in art  
club for the past few weeks. I  
think they all look fab, well  
done to everyone.

Miss Ward



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## You Said. We Did.

Thank you to all of you who completed the Attendance Questionnaire. We had over 200 responses which is approximately a fifth of our parent / carer population. Please find below a summary of the key themes, what you said, and what we have done in response:

### 1. Toilet Access:

**You said** - you are concerned that period anxiety is preventing your daughter from attending school due to limited access to toilets during lesson time.

**We did** - From Monday 10 June 2024 the girls and boys toilets at The Tower will be open 10 minutes into lessons and close ten minutes before the end. They will continue to be re-opened during lesson changeovers, breaks and lunchtimes. Students will be able use Toilet Passes during this 40 minute period to access the toilets. Should your daughter not have a Toilet Pass and require one due to concerns regarding their periods please liaise with their Head of Year in the usual way.

**You said** - you are concerned that your daughter manages her periods well, but sometimes there is an emergency situation during lessons and they are scared to ask the teacher to go to the toilet.

**We did** - a poster with a "Code" phrase will be displayed in the girls toilets on a weekly basis. Teaching staff will be made aware of what this "Code" phrase is on a Monday morning. Discreetly girls will be able to use this "Code" phrase with teachers and then access the toilets immediately.

### 2. Taking Time Off School for Holidays:

**You said** - it is cheaper to take holidays during term time and for many of you working in the tourism industry, taking holidays during the summer school break is not an option.

**We did** - We understand this and as parents / carers you have to make individual family decisions in the best interests of your children. However as public servants we are bound by the legislation imposed on us by the Department for Education. As a result we would be breaking the law if we authorised holidays and did not follow the appropriate rules and procedures. The finances generated via Fixed Penalty Notices goes to the Local Authority, not the school.

Moving forward Mrs Bone will endeavour to ring every parent who puts in an Exceptional Leave Form for a holiday (150 to date this year) to ensure consistency of message around this issue.

### 3. Worry V Anxiety

**You said** - you would like some support in understanding the differences / similarities between "normal" teenage worries and more troubling anxieties, what services are available and what strategies you can use to support children in your home.

**We did** - Mr Stamper (Associate Assistant Head - Mr Stamper) is compiling a range of online parental information sharing events for 2024 - 2025. This theme will be one of the first to be presented.

### 4. Staff Absence

**You said** - you are concerned that staff absence is impacting on your child's learning experience in school.

**We did** - Unfortunately unplanned staff absence due to illness is something that is challenging to plan for. However we are aware that during the winter months staff absence mirrors that of student absence in school. As a result we have informed staff that for the academic year 2024 - 2025 we will only grant one member of staff any planned absence per day. Statistically, and this is worth noting, we have the lowest teacher cover (supply) budget in the East Riding. So whilst we recognise any unplanned staff absence is not ideal, within the local context we do manage staff absence very well.

Thanks once again for completing this survey and we trust you can see we have actioned your key priorities.

Mrs Bone

## GENERAL ELECTION 2024

The Association of School and College Leaders calls on all politicians to commit to:

- 1 End child poverty.** It is simply appalling that 4.3 million children live in poverty in the UK. Children are not in a fit condition to learn if they are cold, hungry, and live in housing that is inadequate. Ending child poverty must be a national priority. As an immediate step, free school meals should be extended to all families in receipt of Universal Credit and a process of automatic enrolment implemented.
- 2 Immediate action to rescue the special educational needs system.** Children are missing out on vital support because of delays in education, health and care plans; schools cannot afford the costs of SEND provision and there aren't enough places in special schools to meet demand. The whole system is on the brink of collapse.
- 3 Address the education funding crisis.** Schools across the country are having to set deficit budgets and plan further cuts to provision. This is not sustainable. All schools and colleges must be funded sufficiently. Education should be treated by policymakers as an investment – in children and our country – rather than as a cost.
- 4 Invest in support services for children and families.** The decimation of Sure Start centres, and lack of capacity in children's social care and mental health support services have left schools and colleges picking up the pieces as an unofficial fourth emergency service. Vulnerable children need specialist support services and schools must be able to focus on education.
- 5 Tackle teacher shortages.** Long-term erosion of teacher pay has made it uncompetitive, and high levels of workload are driven by the underfunding of education and punitive accountability (Ofsted inspections and performance tables). The solution is inescapable – better pay and conditions to improve recruitment and retention.
- 6 Fix school and college buildings.** Years of underinvestment have left around 700,000 pupils learning in schools that need major rebuilding or refurbishment. Many schools are riddled with asbestos and others are disrupted by the problem of crumbling concrete. All school and college buildings should be safe, comfortable environments.
- 7 Improve the fortunes of the 'forgotten third.'** The way that our exams system operates means that every year about a third of children do not achieve at least a grade 4 in GCSE English and maths. This rules them out from many education and career options and condemns them to a grinding cycle of mandatory resits with many falling short of a grade 4 once again. We have to do better for these young people.
- 8 Stop the 'bonfire of the BTECs.'** Many tried and tested applied general qualifications, such as BTECs, are being defunded as part of ill-conceived government reforms. This will reduce student choice and lead to young people dropping out of post-16 education.
- 9 Ditch single-phrase Ofsted judgements.** They drive stress and anxiety, damaging the wellbeing and morale of education staff. Negative ratings stigmatise schools making improvement harder to secure. Schools and colleges should not be reduced to a label.
- 10 Celebrate schools, colleges, and our fantastic education staff.** Some politicians are quick to snipe at schools over issues such as sex education, gender-questioning children and policies on mobile phones when schools are already doing a good job on these matters. This denigration must stop. We need a more positive discourse about education.

Read our General Election manifesto at [www.ascl.org.uk/manifesto](http://www.ascl.org.uk/manifesto) and support our campaign #EducationMatters.