



Message from Mrs Stamford

Yesterday was a great day for Headlands School. During the day we had over 60 exhibitors attend our careers fair. There really was something for everybody and students from Year 7 right through to Year 13 had the opportunity to speak with employers from a vast array of industries and further education. Some of the conversations were really insightful and the information, advice and guidance given to students was extremely helpful in deciding next steps for the students.

Following this last night we had our Year 9 Options Evening. The evening was well attended and students were really engaged with the process and there were lots of effective conversations about possible subject choices. We hope you found the evening interesting and are able to make some informed choices about

subject choices moving forward. Yesterday was also World Book Day. Yesterday some amazing and entertaining conversations were had between staff and students about the variety of books we have read over our lifetimes. Some popular options for students were the David Walliams collection, the Harry Potter series and A series of Unfortunate events.

One of my personal favourite books is The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay because it tells a powerful story about determination, courage, and believing in yourself. The journey of the main character, Peekay, shows how one person can overcome difficult challenges through resilience and hard work. I love how the novel mixes emotional moments with inspiring lessons about identity and standing up for

what is right. It reminds me that even one person can make a difference if they stay strong, have a positive mindset and keep going.

Find out what other staff have been reading in the list below.

Friday 20 March will be a non uniform day to raise money for Comic Relief. SCOPAY will be open for anyone who wishes to make a donation.

Some advance notice that this term ends for all students on Thursday 26th March at 12.05pm

Mrs Stamford
Head of School

Mrs Bone's Newsflash

This week our future Year 7 students learnt they have secured their place at Headlands School in September 2026. Newspaper reports indicate we are one of only 18 secondaries in the East Riding to be oversubscribed this year. I fully appreciate that Monday for so many of our families was a day of relief and joy, but for others who didn't secure a place for their child there is now a period of worry.

As a parent I have experienced the disappointment and anxiety of not securing a place for my children at our preferred local school and have been through the Appeals process. I would encourage those of you who have not secured a place at Headlands School for September 2026, and who are unsure of your next steps, to contact the Local Authority School Admissions team who are in the best position to

support and advise you.

Careers, careers, careers! As someone who studied a vocational degree in Fisheries Science at the University of Hull, and then worked in the commercial world of industrial recruitment for 6 years, I remain deeply committed to ensuring our students have the best possible opportunities to experience the "world of work" whilst at school. Providing students with these experiences 100% allows them to make informed decisions about their future careers and their employment routes.

This week has been no exception with the amazing Careers team led by Mr Stamper (Assistant Head - Community) Mrs Smuts (Subject Lead - Business Studies & IT) and Mrs Douglas (Teacher of Business Studies & Reading Intervention) bringing

together employers, colleges, universities from across the region to ensure all our students from Year 7 - 13 had the opportunity to meet face to face with a range of professionals to help inform their future decisions. Thank you to everyone involved in our annual Careers Fair - I do not underestimate the complexities and logistics of organising such an event and it is truly a worthwhile experience and one that directly influences our students' futures.

Have a good weekend, and let's hope the sun keeps shining!

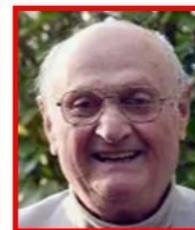
Mrs Bone
Executive Head



National Holocaust Centre Trip

As part of their A-level studies, fourteen of our Year 12 and 13 historians visited the Holocaust Centre near Nottingham for a powerful and thought-provoking day of learning. A highlight of the visit was hearing from Dutch Holocaust survivor Stephen Frank, who spoke movingly about his experiences during and after the Second World War. Students took part in a workshop exploring "responsibility" for the Holocaust, debating the roles of key figures such as Adolf Hitler, the Einsatzgruppen and Rudolf Höss. The discussion directly supported their A-level coursework and demonstrated their thoughtful understanding of the historical debate surrounding the "Final Solution," including recognition that anti-semitism long predated the Nazi regime and remains an issue today.

The group also explored the museum's exhibitions, which trace the development of antisemitism from the diaspora through to the Nazi era. Students encountered a wide range of moving artefacts, including camp uniforms, personal belongings from Auschwitz, Star of David badges, and items connected to victims such as Anne Frank and Simon Winston. One particularly poignant source was a painting by a survivor imagining family members he never met because they were murdered during the Holocaust.



Simon Winston (to the right) who as a child who hid under a pigsty for 9 months in Poland to escape the Jewish ghetto and to bribe guards to bring him food and eventually facilitate his escape. His father had cashed in all the family money and bought gold which was hidden in the brush and given to Simon and his brother and helped them survive.



Stephen during a recent Newsround special in which he takes his teenage granddaughter Maggie on a journey to learn about his experiences during the Holocaust. They visit Amsterdam to learn about his happy family life there before the war, and what happened to Dutch Jews during Nazi occupation. They travel to Terezin in the Czech Republic, where Steven was held, to learn about the horrors of life inside concentration camps the camps. Finally, the pair travel to Auschwitz to learn about what happened to members of Steven's family who didn't survive the Holocaust.

Hearing the testimony of Holocaust survivor Stephen Frank was one of the most powerful and unforgettable parts of the visit. Stephen described how his ordinary childhood in the Netherlands changed forever on 10 May 1940 when Germany invaded. Almost immediately, anti-Jewish laws were enforced: Jewish families were banned from parks, zoos and public places, forbidden from owning pets or using radios and telephones, and forced to wear the yellow Star of David. Stephen recalled not understanding why this was happening, as he "looked like any other Dutch boy." Former friends abandoned him, and in December 1942 his father was arrested. Stephen later learned that his father was tortured and murdered in Auschwitz.

In January 1943, Stephen and his family were sent to Westerbork, which he described as "the Auschwitz made of wood." Conditions were overcrowded and degrading, with bunkbeds, guard towers and the primitive "communal" toilet pits. Disease was widespread, including dysentery and scarlet fever. He remembered wandering near the perimeter fence as a nine-year-old boy and being set upon by guard dogs while guards laughed. Stephen was later deported in a cattle truck on a 39-hour journey with no food, water or space to sit, surrounded by darkness, fear and the stench of human waste. On arrival at Theresienstadt, he was separated from his mother and survived on just two slices of bread a day. He witnessed the cruelty of selections to Auschwitz, where siblings were deliberately split apart and children begged not to be separated. This he saw as the epitome of "evil". As liberation approached and Russian forces drew near, Stephen and other children were forced to carry boxes containing the ashes of murdered Jews, as the Nazis attempted to hide evidence of their crimes. He remembered children weeping when they recognised familiar names on the boxes. The boxes were then dumped in a river. Stephen spoke movingly of liberation — the unforgettable taste of tea made with condensed milk and the comfort of sleeping in a real bed for the first time in years. He ended his testimony with a powerful message: "tolerance and respect for others are essential in a multicultural society", and we must ensure that such hatred is never allowed to happen again. He also said that he has "let go of the hate" for those who mistreated him as that would otherwise "consume him".



National Holocaust Centre Trip



The final opportunity for students was a visit to "The Journey" — a recently modernised, interactive experience. Moving through a series of rooms set in Germany in 1938, students followed the true story of a German-Jewish boy and his increasingly harsh experiences under Nazi rule. They witnessed how discrimination affected him at school, at home and in the streets during Kristallnacht, before learning of his eventual escape to Britain on the Kindertransport. Tragically, like many children who were rescued, he never saw his family alive again.

The visit was an invaluable experience, deepening students' historical knowledge while reinforcing the importance of remembrance and understanding. A trip to Beth Shalom (near Nottingham) is highly recommended and the students were a credit to themselves.

Students placing stones in the memorial garden, each one represents 1 victim of the 6 million who died in the Holocaust. Beth Shalom is trying to get 6 million visitors to commemorate those who died.

Congratulations to:

Chloe Garbutt and Phoebe Heasman who have both been accepted to become flag bearers for the Women's Cricket World Cup on 18 June at Headingley Stadium at the start of the West Indies and Scotland game. Amazing opportunity for them both and huge congratulations from everyone at Headlands School!

Headlands Staff Book Recommendations

One of my favourite books is *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen* by Alan Garner. I remember it being read to me as a child and feeling totally immersed in the mystical (sometimes frightening) caves, along with the eerie characters/creatures that dwell across Alderley Edge. – Mrs Fisher.

One of my favourite modern texts is *The Life Impossible* by Matt Haig. The protagonist, a retired teacher, embarks on a journey to investigate the death of an estranged friend. It's a story full of intrigue, wisdom and magic.- Mrs Cutler

Bounce by Matthew Syed, a really good read to challenge your beliefs on where success comes from.- Mr Fairlamb

I 100% recommend 'Circe' by Madeline Miller. It's a gorgeous retelling of the Greek myth from the perspective of female protagonist, Circe. No longer the evil witch written by men, instead Circe shows us a version in which she is strikingly human.- Miss Smith.

My favourite read of the last year has got to be *Rewitched* by Lucy Jane Wood. It has all the witchy escapism I could've wished for. A tale of finding your spark from within and trusting what is meant for you. A five star read! :) - Miss Grey



Headlands Staff Book Recommendations

"A Higher Call" by Adam Makos & Larry Alexander- It tells the courageous true story of a German pilot who risked his life to save a severely damaged American B17 during the Second World War, and how the two pilots, Charles Brown & Franz Stigler, would reunite decades later and become close friends for the rest of their lives. It's a story that shows that even during the darkest moments of our history, there's still courage and chivalry in the world. – Mr Cunningham

My favourite book is 'A Pinch of Magic' by Michelle Harrison. It blends magic, a mysterious family curse, a thrilling adventure and a rather fearsome granny into a story that keeps you turning the pages!- Mrs Kilburn

The Invisible Life of Addie La Rue by V.E. Schwab- A beautiful fantasy spanning over decades about a girl that is always forgotten by everyone she meets and signs her life away to a devil but is remembered by one person. It's a really beautiful book that has stuck with me. – Mrs Richards

One of my favourite novels is Jamaica Inn by Daphne Du Maurier. Apart from it being an exciting story about Cornish wreckers and smugglers, the protagonist is a woman who stands up to a male-dominated society. This is especially notable, not only because the story is set in the 18th century, but because it was written in the 1930s. – Mrs Echevarria

The Witches by Roald Dahl - A fine reimagination of the typical witch. -Mr Robinson

My favourite books are the Harry Potter series. I queued round the block every year a new one was released as a child, enjoyed the movies when they were released and loved reading the books within children when they were little. – Mrs Hudson

"Winning Ugly"-by Brad Gilbert- It an engaging read about professional tennis players and strategies used to beat opponents who are better than you-essentially am tool for over-achieving in life and tasks-beating better players and this can transfer to other areas of life-exams/business/university i.e. playing to your strength and your opponents weaknesses/ working out how to nullify their strengths/using your mind not just power and strength- It won me many a match-sadly not enough to get to Wimbledon – Mr Wormald

Elmet by Fiona Mozley - Set in Yorkshire. Beautifully dark and disturbing! The landscape, the storyline, the characters. Wow! – Mrs Goodwin

My favourite book is Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton.- The way the book explores the biotechnology boom of the 1980s and expands on this into the science fiction of Dinosaur cloning really drew on my fascination of all things DNA. – Mr Cooke

Flour Water Salt Yeast by Ken Forkish - This book is the holy book of breads.- Mr Woodcock

One of my favourite modern books is Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell. A stunning novel that moves from 18th Century explorers through to a science fictiony all-too-realistic future . The story is a series of interlocking stories - and I felt genuine grief after the first few sections as I feared I'd never met the characters again- only to be dazzled later by the continuation of their stories. His most ambitious and best work to date. – Mr Murray

The Magic Faraway tree which I read as a child and I have never forgotten about it, it is very magical. I am really looking forward to seeing the film soon- Mrs Jones

The Time Keeper by Mitch Albom - punished for trying to measure time, the story follows Father Time as he tries redeem himself and gain his freedom by helping two unlikely individuals. – Mrs Fox-Lawson