

# HOULTON SUMMER NEWS 2022



HOULTON  
SCHOOL



## Welcome from the Principal

### Dear Houlton Family,

What a busy and exciting half-term we have enjoyed since our last newsletter at Easter. We have now completed almost all our recruitment for new teachers and support colleagues.

They join us in anticipation of welcoming our second cohort of pupils in September and pupils have very much enjoyed being part of the process as Pupil Panel members, tour guides and taking part in lessons delivered by candidates as part of the assessment process, 'I never imagined we would be helping to choose the new teachers. It has been really interesting meeting them and having the chance to say what we think'.

Next half-term, we'll share with you some pen-portraits of the latest members of the team as your child will also be working with some of our new staff next academic year.

We were delighted that thanks to the generosity of our friends at Urban&Civic we were able to take our founding pupils to the London Science Museum. As one pupil said to me on the way round '...this is the best school trip I've ever been on' and I agreed it was certainly exciting! Not only was it a privilege to visit the various exhibits that once stood in the very building from which I am penning this piece, but the wider museum was such a melting pot of innovation, aspiration and excellence that we couldn't help but be inspired.

We were also delighted to celebrate her majesty's Platinum Jubilee this week with a special lunch, decorations and we thought about all the incredible contributions Her Majesty has made to our lives during her reign in assembly. To be 96 and still in service to us all is an incredible achievement.

Please enjoy a restful half-term holiday before we return for the final six weeks of our inaugural year together. I'm so proud of the community we're building together and thank each of you for your ongoing support.

Enjoy the Jubilee celebrations: God save the Queen!

**Michael McCulley**  
Principal



# Exploring our school's impressive history at the Science Museum

This term, pupils and staff from Houlton School took a special trip to the Science Museum to find out more about our school's unique and ground-breaking history.

The focus of the occasion was to visit the iconic Rugby Tuning Coil, which now sits proudly on display in the Science Museum's Information Age Gallery, but was once at the heart of Houlton School's campus during its former life as Rugby Radio Station.

The Rugby Tuning Coil, also known as the Aerial Tuning Inductor, was used to tune antenna to the right frequency at Rugby Radio Station. When it began its service in 1926, the Tuning Coil transmitted "British Official Wireless News Messages" across the British Empire and to ships at sea. At that time, it was at the centre of the world's most powerful radio transmitter, allowing the UK to communicate throughout the globe.

This incredible technological innovation also played a vital role in British communications during World War Two and throughout the Cold War, before it was decommissioned in 2003 and passed on to the Science Museum.

Thanks to the kind support of Urban and Civic - who were amongst the key partners involved in the development and opening of Houlton School - every pupil and member of

staff from across the school was invited to take part in the visit.

Johanne Thomas, Regional Director for Communities and Partnerships at Urban&Civic and Trustee of the Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET), of which Houlton School is part, said: "We were delighted to sponsor the visit to the Science Museum and it was a real pleasure to personally accompany the children and staff on the visit. We know through our close working relationship with the school just how enthusiastic the pupils and team are about the history of their school building.

"The experience of seeing the Tuning Coil and the information dedicated to Rugby Radio Station was a perfect way to celebrate this history, remember the importance of the radio station to our country's communications advances and the sense of pride that comes with that. It was a great day!"

Making the most of their time at the Science Museum, pupils also had the chance to learn more about the impact that technology has had on society and the wide-ranging reach of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), throughout our lives.

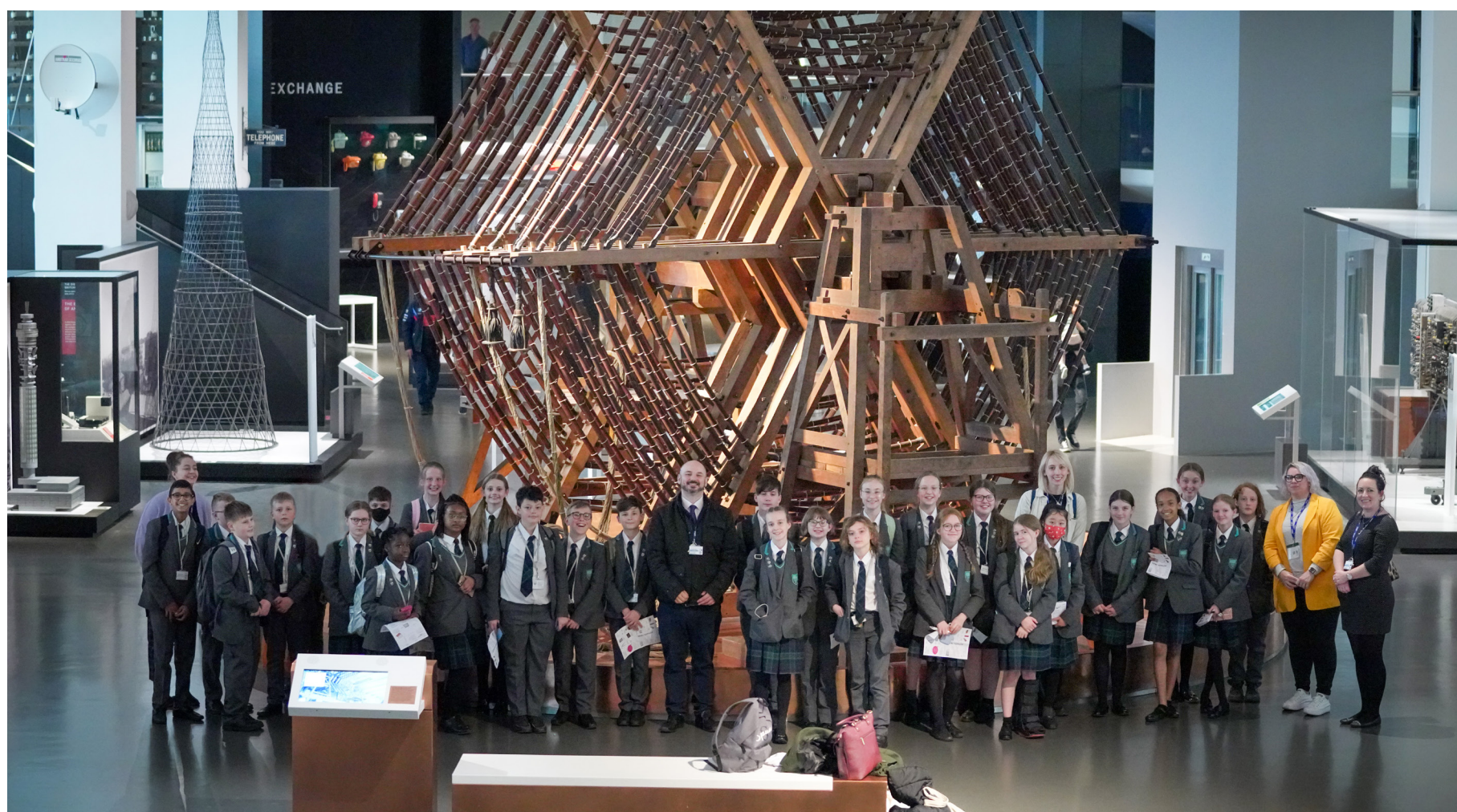
Chloe Buckenham, Vice Principal at Houlton School, said: "Every day our pupils and staff are inspired by the unique heritage



of Houlton School, so it really was extra special that our first whole-school trip was to visit such an important part of our school's history.

"Pupils and staff alike were blown away by the opportunity to see the Rugby Tuning Coil in real-life, and to find out more about the global impact that Rugby Radio Station had on communications and technological innovation during the last century.

"Our thanks go to Urban&Civic for providing this opportunity and for helping to make the day so memorable."





# Junior Maths Challenge

Earlier this term 56 pupils took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. They had to use all areas of their mathematical knowledge and show true resilience with some of the tricky questions. A huge congratulations to all of the pupils who took part in this challenge as it was a fantastic first effort for many of them.

We are pleased to announce that many of our pupils achieved such a high score in this competition that they have been given special recognition with a **BRONZE**, **SILVER** or **GOLD** award.

## Bronze Winners

Amaya (7W)
Claudia (7D)
Chloe C (7W)
Andras (7M)
Imogen (7S)
Callum (7W)
Ellen (7A)
Isabelle (7D)
Freddie (7M)
Cass (7D)
Liv (7M)
Mya (7A)
Elisa (7S)
Kanyinsola (7W)
Eira (7A)

## Silver Winners

Luca (7M)
Millie (7M)
Arjan (7M)
Caitlyn (7A)
Ant (7S)

## Gold Winners

Joel (7S)
Timothy (7O)

Timothy did so well that not only did he achieve best in school, but he also has been invited to compete in the Junior Maths Kangaroo Competition later in the year.

By Miss Jasmine Etheridge, Head of Faculty: Mathematics and Numeracy

**Answers:** 1. E, 2. D, 3. D, 4. E

## Are you as smart as a Houlton Year 7 Pupil?

1. Which of these has the greatest value?

A.  $20 + 22$   
B.  $202 + 2$   
C.  $202 \times 2$   
D.  $2 \times 0 \times 2 \times 2$   
E.  $20 \times 22$
2. Think of any number. Add five; multiply by two; add ten; divide by two; subtract your original number; add three. What is the resulting number?

A. 10  
B. 11  
C. 12  
D. 13  
E. 14
3. Kiwi fruit contain roughly two and half times as much vitamin C as the same weight of oranges. What weight of kiwi fruits contains approximately the same amount of vitamin C as 1kg of oranges?

A. 100g  
B. 200g  
C. 250g  
D. 400g  
E. 550g
4. Today is Thursday. What day will it be in 100 days' time?

A. Tuesday  
B. Wednesday  
C. Thursday  
D. Friday  
E. Saturday





# Languages news



## It's Crêpes o'clock!

This term in French, our pupils analysed an authentic recipe for crêpes from the French magazine Marie-Claire. After translating the recipe and sharing their past experiences in trying French food, they went to the Food and Nutrition classroom, and had a go at making crêpes! This experience of a French classic, together with a 'tour de France' of French cuisine in class, allowed them to answer our Big Question: Is French food overrated?

## Mon père ne me comprend pas

On Tuesday 18th June, we are extremely excited to host our first ever visiting theatre

group at Houlton School. Onatti Productions will perform the play 'Mon père ne me comprend pas' to our Year 7 pupils:

"It is Hélène's Birthday, 16 today. When Hélène doesn't get what she wants for her birthday she wishes for better presents, a cooler family, in fact better everything! When her wishes start to come true she regrets her wishes and misses normality. She is also planning on going to a restaurant with two of her friends. But her friends have fallen out over a boy and she is the mediator. Not the birthday she had in mind when she woke up!"  
(c) Onatti Productions LTD

By Mr Matthieu Raffy, Subject Team Leader:  
Modern Languages



## Discovering the Elizabethan era

This half term, Houlton pupils have been researching the European Renaissance, particularly the Elizabethan era. They have found out about the theatres, William Shakespeare, public executions, religious conflict and much, much more...This has culminated in them writing some spectacular brochures advertising a time-travel holiday package back to the 16th century.

In addition, pupils have been exploring Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice through a variety of physical activities, including a story woosh, in which they acted out the play in 45 minutes. Pupils have been particularly thoughtful in their consideration of the theme of anti-Semitism, exploring the character of Shylock to unpick what makes him so much more than the archetypal villain. They have thoroughly enjoyed the play and we are looking forward to studying more Shakespeare over the next five years.

By Mrs Sian Warde, Head of Faculty:  
English, Literacy and Drama



## June is Pride Month

1st June sees the start of Pride Month, a celebration of diversity, love and acceptance.

Some of our pupils have been enjoying the Netflix series Heartstopper, based on the graphic novels by Alice Oseman. Heartstopper is about love, friendship, loyalty and mental health and encompasses all the small stories that make up the lives of friends that together make up something larger – which speaks to all of us.

If you are a fan of the series, you will be pleased to know that the library now has a set of the graphic novels available to borrow. Visit the library as soon as you can as there have been many requests for this series already!

By Miss Annie Divver, Pupil Experience Leader, Year 7



# Can Design Make Life Easier?

## Empathy in Design and Technology

"We spend a lot of time designing the bridge, but not enough time thinking about the people who are crossing it."

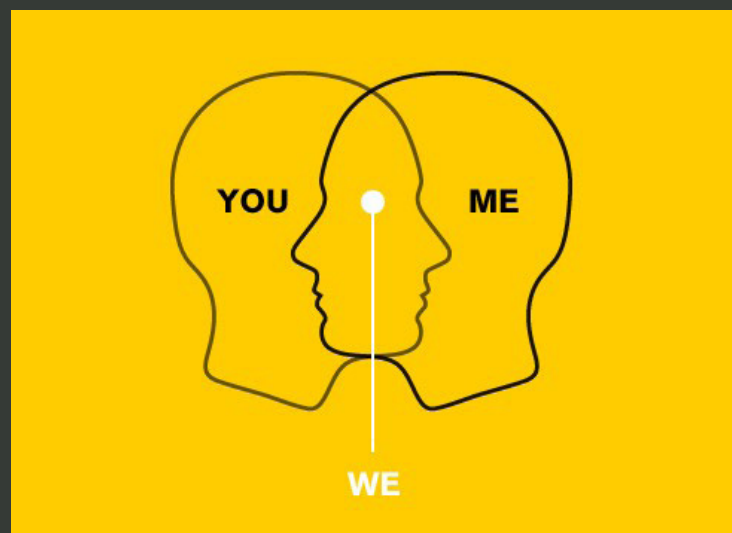
Our young designers are starting to affirm their moral and ethical standing within the context of design. Developing an understanding of the needs of our community has become something of greater significance within design and technology education over the last few years.

Each designer at Houlton explores the process of developing empathy by delving into the lives of others, specifically identifying those with physical disabilities or users with social or economic challenges. By collecting

anthropometric data, our designers have been able to apply these data to achieve ergonomic designs which are safer, more comfortable and reduce the risk of injury.

## So, you've got a problem?

A critical approach to problem solving is creativity. The Big Questions in Design and Technology encourage pupils to think outside of the school system and deepen their enquiry with friends, family or a particular community; for example, pupils are currently exploring the question, Can Design Make Life Easier? Well, our designers think



we can make life easier and are currently designing and manufacturing a new type of salad server to better understand the impact design choices have on the end user.

By Mr Russell Hill, Subject Leader: Creative

# Powering creativity

The Creative department's core values are 'be bold, be brave, be brilliant'. These values are central to our thinking and doing, every day, all the time.

Pupils are encouraged to celebrate failure and relish in the process of trial and error. You will see in our art studios a wall where pupils readily display work that didn't quite work out, or prototypes in the workshop that are a clear example of the challenges faced during designing and making. Across Design and Technology, Art and Design and Food Preparation and Nutrition, failure is not just expected, but it is encouraged.

Although we actively promote creativity across the curriculum, the challenge of creative subjects is clear. Last year, researchers at Imperial College London found that new medical students are now starting to lack the manual dexterity skills essential to conducting life-changing surgery. Academics and public institutions are brimming with curriculum-supporting projects to help bridge this gap through inter-disciplinary enquiries, workshops and promotional material. As a department that is passionate about innovation, we must attack these issues head on, from within. Academics at the V&A Research Institute have found that manual dexterity for these vital professions can be improved by working with artists and designers. Via its Encounters on the Shop Floor programme, medical students are brought together with ceramicists and embroiderers to learn how to connect art with science. It is an example of interdisciplinary working at its best, and exactly the sort of thing that a creative, modern national curriculum should look towards.

Aside from the demonstrable impact that creative subjects can have on pupils, it is critical that pupils are continuously exposed to real life briefs, problems and causes to which they can respond to. This ethos should be adopted and embedded across the entire school curriculum, from forest walks to cross-county football matches.

Creative education is not about drawing in geography or painting in a Spanish lesson, it is about introducing pupils to the breadth of skills they need to conquer 21st Century Britain.

The government has made much of the so-called "grand challenges" posed by the fourth industrial revolution. The rise of robotics, automation and AI is transforming the world of work. Whilst science and technology teaching will unquestionably be important in meeting these challenges and opportunities, so too will the creative subjects.

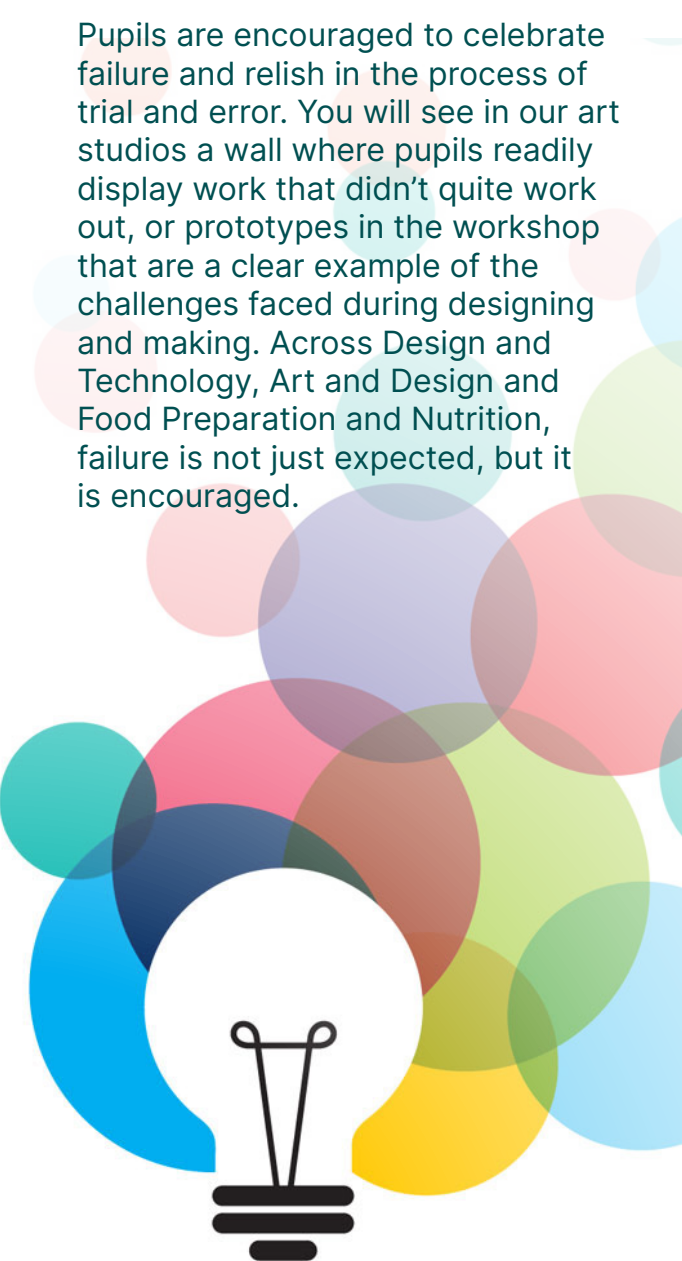
However, despite the best efforts of organisations such as the V&A, the only way to make the creative, problem-solving, well-rounded individuals of the future is to start building them in the most logical place – the classroom.

## How do we do this at Houlton?

- Each Big Question is bolstered to one of the following qualities: Morality, Ethics, Aspiration and Sustainability.
- The 'Big Question' which spans an entire sequence of learning encourages pupils to think outside of the school system and deepen their enquiry with friends, family or a particular community, for example, pupils are currently exploring the question, Can Design Make Life Easier? in which they identify the need for empathetic design.
- Pupils are asked to frequently reflect on their own moral judgements and ethical positioning through artwork analysis, readings of current affairs and topical debates.

As a leader of creative education, I immerse all pupils at Houlton School in the power of creativity. After all, our future depends on it.

By Mr Russell Hill, Subject Leader: Creative





# Peer Wellbeing Champions

We were delighted to complete our Peer Wellbeing Champion training this term; thank you to Lynne Tyler from Compass for such a superb session. Our team of Champions are now working on initiatives to support wellbeing across the school.

As a school, our pupils' wellbeing and safety is of paramount importance. We value kindness and integrity and it is great to see our young people taking such a proactive approach to supporting others. Following an application process, the pupils involved have also been selected as our school Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and will also be undertaking the Diana Award Ambassador Training in June. #bekind

By Miss Chloe Buckenham,  
Vice Principal



# Fundraising

Our thanks go to everyone across our Houlton School community for the generosity they have shown in our fundraising initiatives over the last few months.

We're incredibly proud of pupils' efforts when they helped to organise a collection of £151.78 as well as non-perishable foods, clothing, and other necessities ready to be transported to Ukraine by UNICEF.

We're also pleased to announce that our recent bake sale in aid of the Houlton School Centre for Communication raised £134.54.



# Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

This year, Her Majesty the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service.

To celebrate, we held 'The Big Jubilee Lunch' in our Power Hall Refectory. This included a very British roast dinner with Jubilee themed treats for dessert, with donations also being collected for the Rugby Foodbank.

Did you know that the Queen sent her very first tweet on the day that she visited the Rugby Tuning Coil at the opening of the Science Museum's Information Age Gallery in 2014? (Pictured)





# Houlton PE/ Dance news:

## PE Curriculum this half term

Our pupils have been participating in Athletics and Rounders lessons this half term. In Athletics, we are focusing on a range of track and field events with each pupil winning points for their colleges, which will go towards their overall sports day totals. These events include Discus, Shot putt, Javelin, 100m, 400m, 800m and more. Our big question for athletics is 'What attributes make a successful athlete?'.

Exciting news in the PE department this term is that we now have our very own Houlton Sports kit ready for September. We would just like to say a massive thank you to Webb Ellis for creating these wonderful kits for our pupils to wear. We have our Netball, Football and Rugby kits with more kits to be added as we grow.

## Co – curricular clubs

For the summer term we have Rounders, Athletics and Cricket clubs running on various week nights until 4:15pm. We are building/practicing for upcoming fixtures in the next half term where the pupils will be competing against other schools in the district.



## Upcoming fixtures

### Indoor Cricket Vs Ashlawn

7th June

### Indoor Cricket Vs RFSS

14th June

### Indoor Cricket Vs AVS

TBC

### Rounders

Dates TBC


### Town Championships (Athletics)

29th June

### Sports Day

Tuesday 19th July

Please follow our twitter page with all news regarding fixtures, results and PE department news.

 @HoultonPEdept

Our next pupil of the term will be announced in the summer. As a reminder, our PE department are looking out for the following qualities:

- Gone above and beyond to help out in PE/Dance lessons
- Demonstrated exceptional effort and enthusiasm consistently across the term
- Taking an active part in our co-curricular clubs and teams
- Positive attitude and a willingness to learn
- Polite, punctual, reliable and organised pupil

## Dance

We have begun our summer Dance projects where pupils are now selecting a style of Dance from last term to develop and enhance into an effective piece of choreography. Pupils have been selecting from Street, Irish, Bollywood, Charleston, Pasadoble and Tap. Our big question is 'What makes an effective piece of choreography?'. It is fantastic to see the pupils use their initiative and creativeness

to develop sequences as well as working effectively in small groups. We are looking forward to the showcase for each college in their last lesson of the term. Mrs Forrest has been running our Dance and Cheerleading clubs every week with fantastic numbers attending our Cheer club again this term.

By Miss Abbie Hartfield, Teacher of Physical Education and Mathematics





# HOULTON

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## SCHOOL

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