



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

2 May 2008

www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

Given the wealth of information available to all of us via the internet and wall to wall news channels, everyone can become an instant expert on anything. The current horrific news story which has put Austria on the map in a defamatory way has resulted in the tabloids and the broadsheets regaling us with all we need to know about the Austrian character and taking the moral high ground on at least a 'why didn't they see this coming' attitude, when previously all they seemed to know about Austria emanated from 'The Sound of Music'.

We can also be very trusting of seemingly factual data. Wikipedia is an excellent example of why we should not have faith in such 'facts'. Look up this school or any other person or institution you know well and you will find that people have added misinformation or their own views masquerading as fact. The lies are compounded because the media use Wikipedia's fallacious material and then you end up with, for example, the obituaries for the famous composer of TV themes, Ronnie Hazelhurst, who was attributed with pop and rap compositions which were not his.

So, who can we trust? One problem for schools and universities is the proliferation of sites where students can find essays and coursework to access and copy as their own work. Plagiarism and offering others' work as one's own is rife, apparently, and examination boards have required more and more rigorous screening measures to cope with this, as have schools.

When I was nine or so, there was no internet and the world seemed a simpler place. I possessed two particular books in which I believed was contained all the knowledge I would ever need; one was the Golden Wonder book, a large volume of extracts from literature and famous poems, the other was an encyclopaedia full of astronomy, history and geography. I told myself that if I knew everything in those books, I would know everything I would ever need. That certainty lasted about six months until someone asked me a mathematical question whose answer did not appear in either book.

Knowledge and the acquisition of knowledge is a wonderful thing, but the ability, and indeed the freedom to make judgments and analyse and make up our own minds is a more precious gift and one which is a significant part of our teaching at this school.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For Excellent Service to the School

Jack Parsons 11C
Michael Deane 11P
Natalie Piggot 11L
Natalie Ashburner 11L
Michaela James 11C

For Excellent Attitude in English
Christopher Mann 7C

For Excellent Work in RE
Grace Masters 7A

For Excellent Work in Dance
Ross Taylor 8A
Jack Benedetti-Smith 8N

For Excellent Work in Maths
David Nisbet 10F

For Participation in Readathon
Andrew Coe 8P
Jenny Imrie 7F

PRESS RELEASE - Date: 24 April 2008

Top Local School Rewarded For Value-Added Success

Specialist schools and academies have been recognised by the Specialist School and Academies Trust (SSAT) for adding value to students' GCSE achievements.

The Hemel Hempstead School is one of 518 schools nationally which have been invited to attend a celebratory dinner in London on 24th April 2008.

On the night, 25 schools will be receiving an award, including the five schools achieving the highest Jesson Value-Added (JVA) score, the five schools achieving the highest JVA score including English and Maths and the 15 schools achieving 20 points or higher on the JVA value-added scale.

The awards coincide with the publication of the SSAT's Educational Outcomes Report. This is the seventh year the SSAT has published this study and the first time it has included data from English and Maths GCSEs in the results.

Commenting on the schools' achievements, Elizabeth Reid, Chief Executive of the SSAT said:

"I would like to congratulate these schools for their outstanding achievement in adding value to their students' results

"It is important that we recognise success in the education system as it is the product of hard work, good leadership and innovative approaches to teaching and learning, but most of all because it means more young people are succeeding and realising their potential.

"The access to and effective use of data is one of the most important tools with which school leaders can raise standards.

"It will play a central role in ensuring we meet the Prime Minister's target that every school has at least 30% of their pupils achieving at least five good GCSEs including English and Maths by 2011."

The basic criteria for schools to be eligible for the award are they must be specialist and have been designated in 2006, or earlier, they must be affiliated to the SSAT, and a comprehensive or modern school.

Each of the 518 schools recognised will have met at least one of the following criteria:

They would have achieved 10 points or more JVA for the five GCSEs at grades A* - C, or, 10 points or more JVA for the five GCSEs at grades A* - C including English and Maths. The Hemel Hempstead School falls into the latter category.

The awards will be presented at the British Academy of Film and Television Awards, London, on Thursday, April 24th. Headteacher Sandra Samwell will be receiving the award on behalf of her school. She said "This is one of many accolades we have gained this year because of our exceptional GCSE results. I am delighted that the work of my staff and students has been recognised in this way".

Gold Letters issued recently:

- Letter 156** Year 8 Ecology Field Trip
- Letter 157** Year 7 Geography Trip to Chilterns
- Letter 158** Year 11 Geography Revision Sessions
- Letter 159** Ecuador Trip 2009
- Letter 160** Rock Challenge
- Letter 161** Year 8 Billy Elliott
- Letter 162** SEN trip to Council Chambers

BCG VACCINATION PROGRAMME – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Information about the BCG vaccination programme has been sent home with all students in Years 7 and 8. If, having read the information, you believe your child should be considered for vaccination please return the completed screening form to Student Services, no later than Friday 23rd May.

Matron



arts colleges

English Revision Guides

The English Department now has four revision guides for sale covering most aspects of the English Language and Literature examinations. Prices start at 20p and rise to 60p depending on the size of booklet. Students interested should talk to their English teacher or Mrs Evans for more details.

Mrs Evans, English Department

Easter Readathon

Well done to all those of you who took part in the Readathon over the Easter holidays to raise money for our South African partnership school, Mgezwa School. It was great to see pupils enjoying their reading and raising money for a good cause at the same time. The winner of the £20 Waterstone's voucher for raising the most money is Rebecca Walshe 8N. Runners-up were Andrew Coe 8P and Jenny Imrie 7F. They each receive Headteacher's Commendations.

Miss Akeroyd

Partnership with Mgezwa School

Shoku Amirani, from the BBC, attended the Celebration of our Partnership and interviewed staff and students. The website www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass now has a full report with audio if you would like to find out how the Partnership is growing. The CD is still on sale and you can hear clips from this on the website.

Mrs Botha

The Bayeux Tapestry Revealed?

On Wednesday 30th April three Year 13 students, Toby Podmore, Andrew Mawer and Yu-Fan Zhao gave a talk to the Hemel Hempstead Local History and Museum Society. They chose the topic 'The Bayeux Tapestry Revealed?' and proceeded to challenge our usual view of the creation of the tapestry and the events it depicts. This was a thought provoking evening that sparked some discussion and was much appreciated by the audience. Members of the society, many of whom had been pupils at the school, also enjoyed a look around the History Department and were particularly pleased to see a display of photographs of the school and other memorabilia provided by Colin Hollick.

The History Department would like to thank Colin and the students for their hard work and for providing us with a highly entertaining and enjoyable evening.

Mrs Abbott, History Department

Sickness/absence line

Please will all parents contact us **daily** if your child is sick, going to be late in due to a medical appointment, or is absent for any other reason. Please call our sickness/absence line on **01442 390103** by **9am** if possible.



Dates for Your Diary

Gold Week

- 5th May BANK HOLIDAY
- 6th – 9th May Year 9 SATs
- 6th7th8th9thMay Year 8 Biology visits to Boxmoor Trust
- 8th May D of E Bronze Parents' Information Evening, 6 pm in Sixth Form Study Centre

Blue Week

- 12th May Yrs 10/11 Science Exam
- 12th May – 4th Jun AS Examinations*
- 12th May – 23rd Jun GCSE Examinations*
- 15th May SEN visit to Duxford
- 16th May Yrs 8/10 County Athletics
- 16th–19th May D of E Bronze Practice Expedition

* Practical examinations may take place outside of this date range

Summer Term Calendar amendment: The House Music Festival has moved to Monday 30th June

House Cup Report – April 2008

Current standings

House	Pendley	Flaunden	Ashridge	Latimer	Chalfont	Nettleden
Points	1,355	1,315	1,260	1,210	1,200	1,190

Competition is becoming more intense as all the Houses are in contention for being the first winners of the House Cup. Particular stars over the past term are Flaunden and Chalfont, with both Houses doing very well in a range of House events.

The main activities that have contributed to the House Cup over recent terms are:-

Flaunden House won **House Christmas Decorations**

Chalfont House won **House Science**

Attitude to Learning marks from Spring Term Interim Reports – Pendley were winners.

Sports Week activities run by Year 11 Sports Leaders won by Latimer.

House Dance won by Flaunden with Chalfont amassing the most points by coming second and winning a shield for Best Choreography.

Best attendance figures came from Flaunden House.

Latimer House won **House Book Challenge**.

Pendley won **House Maths Challenge** for the Autumn Term.

House Art for this term was won by Ashridge and Latimer who earned a bonus 20 points for being the only Houses to have submitted their entries on time.

Mr Mitchell

Sport



Fixtures

- Tues 6th May** County Athletics, Match 3, Yrs 8/10 @ Jarman Park 3.30 – 7 pm
- Wed 7th May** Yr 10 District Cup Cricket v Tring (A) 4 – 7 pm
Yr 11/Senior Rounders District Tournament @ HHS
- Thur 8th May** Yrs 9/10 Rounders @ Ashlyns

Results

Years 8 and 10 County League

Athletics Results 21 Apr 08

Year 8 Boys	3 rd - 41 points	Year 10 Boys	3 rd - 43 points
Year 8 Girls	3 rd - 38 points	Year 10 Girls	3 rd - 38 points

U14 Boys

75m Hurdles – A Austin 2nd
200m – D Bransgrove 2nd
800m – C Schramm 2nd
1500m – R Taylor 2nd

Pole Vault – N Jones 2nd
Triple Jump – Z Booth 1st
Discus – J Shaw 3rd
Shot – R Howe 3rd

U14 Girls

75m Hurdles – L Harris 3rd
100m – D Craig 2nd
200m – O Scott 2nd
800m – S Morris 1st
1500m – A Eykelbosch 1st

High Jump – S Berloth 2nd
Long Jump – L Moore 3rd
Javelin – J Archibald 2nd

U16 Boys

75m Hurdles – M King 2nd
200m – D Rutherford 3rd
400m – M Wadlow 2nd
800m – M Church 3rd
Relay – 3rd

Pole Vault – J Stratford 2nd
High Jump – J Harris 2nd
Shot – T Foster 3rd
Discus – M Wadlow 2nd
Javelin – R Khan 3rd

U16 Girls

100m – A Maduro 3rd
200m – E Phillips 2nd
400m – R Payne 3rd
800m – S Kinley 2nd
1500m – R Armorgie 2nd

Triple Jump – H Pestaille 3rd
Shot – H Bullock 1st
Javelin – J Stollar 2nd

Years 8 and 10 County League

Athletics Results 28 April 08

Year 8 Boys	3 rd – 42.5 points	Year 10 Boys	3 rd – 42.5 points
Year 8 Girls	5 th – 28 points	Year 10 Girls	3 rd – 33 points

U14 Boys

75m Hurdles – A Austin 2nd
200m – D Bransgrove 2nd
400m – K North 3rd
800m – S Izzard 2nd
1500m – R Taylor 3rd

Pole Vault – N Jones 2nd
Long Jump – Z Booth 1st
Triple Jump – C Woodrow 1st
Javelin – C Stewart – 3rd

U14 Girls

75m Hurdles – L Harris 3rd
800m – S Morris 1st
1500m – A Eykelbosch 1st

High Jump – S Berloth 3rd
Discus – S Foster 3rd

U16 Boys

75m Hurdles – M King 1st
400m – M Farrelly 3rd
Pole Vault – P McLellan 1st

High Jump – J Harris 1st
Long Jump – M Farrelly 2nd
Shot – S Bailey 2nd
Javelin – R Khan 2nd

U16 Girls

200m – E Phillips 3rd
400m – R Payne 2nd
800m – S Kinley 2nd
1500m – R Armorgie 2nd

Triple Jump – H Pestaille 3rd
Shot – H Bullock 1st
Javelin – A Hatt 2nd

Mr P Bryson, PE Department

PTA News

Summer Fair - 14 June

We have a Watford Football Club pennant, signed by this season's team, which we wish to auction to raise funds for the Summer Fair. The pennant is on display in the Trophy Cabinet (House Corridor by Student Services). If you would like to place a bid for it, bring your bid to Student Services by 3.30 pm 13th June.

Flaggs (Estate Agents) will donate funds to us if we display boards (like 'For Sale' boards) advertising the School Fair and Flaggs.

Please let us know if you would be prepared to have a board on your property for approximately two weeks before the Fair.

Keyway Driving School have agreed to attend the Fair and offer a short taster in one of their cars with a qualified instructor.

Please let us know if you would 'Make and Donate' a cake for our cake stall (not fresh cream). Just let us know now, and bring your cake along on the day.

Our Raffle this year will have prizes of £100 cash, a Television, £50 cash, and a DVD player - watch out for tickets shortly.

Our next committee meeting is 12th May from 7pm until approximately 8pm in the Library - please come along as we need your help and ideas.

Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (01442 393266 or mobile 07749 727350), email s.stallworthy@sky.com