



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

Issue 667

11 April 2008

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HeadLines

I wonder if you have a view on the timing of the Easter holidays? Many schools have opted for a long weekend over Easter and a later two week break that will remain the same every year. Although Easter will never be so early again for a very long time, the relationship of the dates to the lunar calendar will mean an ever changing picture. Perhaps parents would send me any thoughts on the matter which I can express at the next meeting with county officials?

I awoke on Easter morning to snow settling on the fen and March hares leaping over the fields. By midday, it was as though it and they had never been. I feel privileged to live in two such contrasting yet beautiful landscapes as Hertfordshire and North Cambridgeshire. My Peterborough home gives me the most wonderful skies imaginable and my Hertfordshire base has introduced me to the splendour of the Chilterns, an England that I hardly knew before I came to Hemel Hempstead. Just as the landscape of sky and countryside changes, so it seems the social landscape changes. Being able to read and hear more world news over the past two weeks has not made it more palatable or comprehensible. Yet, I begin this term with a sense of optimism for our school and our young people. I thank our staff for the Easter revision classes they oversaw and the teachers who accompanied the Sports Tour to South Africa. I look forward to meeting my counterpart from our South African partner school who will be visiting shortly. I eagerly anticipate our Fun Run as much as I do the start of the examination season. Already, I have made some excellent appointments of new teaching staff for next academic year. Soon, the building of our new Performing Arts space will begin. The positives are there to be proclaimed.

Easter is a time for new life and new beginnings built on the sure foundation of the old, tempered with the humility and fragility of the season: 'my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride' as the words of Isaac Watts' great hymn declares.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary



Blue Week

- 15th Apr** Year 12 Higher Education Funding Meeting
7.30 pm in School Hall
- 17th Apr** Year 8 Geography visit to Docklands
Year 11 GCSE Art Exam
- 18th Apr** Year 8 Geography visit to Docklands
Year 11 GCSE Art Exam
Girls Netball trip to Wembley Arena for England
v Malawi
- 19th Apr** Year 12 Theatre Studies rehearsals

Gold Week

- 21st Apr** A Level Drama Practical
- 22nd Apr** Year 8 Hidden Histories Drama and Dance
Workshop (selected students)
Year 11 PE First Aid course (22 students)
- 23rd Apr** Year 12 General Studies Day
Year 10 PE First Aid course (22 students)
- 24th Apr** HOUSE DANCE
- 26th Apr** D of E Bronze Competency

MFL Stars of the Month – February

Congratulations to the MFL Department's February Stars of the Month. The students we picked for their great work or outlook this month were as follows:

Year 7: Sam Kirby, Zoe Dennis, Olivia Church, Holly Woolatt, Colin Perreira.

Year 8: Aaron Austin, Melissa Cornelius, Ross Briden, James Price, Cale Tilford, Dylan Bransgrove, Lillith Hickling, Adam Amamou.

Year 9: Bridget Philpott, Naomi Davis, George Smith, Emily Toseland, Alex Radford, Chloe Cavanagh, Sahrish Mahmood, Jordan Smith, Gareth Whalley, Toby Dickman.

Year 10: Polly Taylor, Sean Taylor, Karl Hobbs, Lucy Hughes, Amber Bartlett.

Year 11: Abbie Smith, Tom Larman, Tom Franklin, Tom Smith, Jack Parsons, Zoe Farrell.

Year 12: Zoe Wills



arts colleges



arts colleges

A Welcome

Mrs Bailey has now gone on Maternity leave. We are extremely grateful that she made it safely – (the baby is due next week!) and we welcome Miss Wainwright to the Music Department to take over Mrs Bailey's teaching. A graduate of Durham University, Miss Wainwright has been teaching locally for a while and we are very grateful to have obtained her services in our hour of need! We extend a hearty welcome and wish her well in her time with us.

The Busiest Season of the Year.....

Although there haven't been as many public performances as usual, this is a time of frenetic activity for students and teachers in the Arts. Practical exams are almost upon us, and throughout the holiday I kept stumbling upon groups of students and their teachers hard at work rehearsing for that scary moment when the examiner walks in to watch. Art had an all day session too, with students preparing for their exam in a few days' time.

Perhaps Dance has had the most tension-filled run up. A water leak in PA1 meant the dance floor had to be taken up while the leak was fixed. Work began the week before the Easter holiday, but unfortunately the contractors had underestimated the complexity of putting back not just the sprung floor, but the 'dance floor' that goes over the top of the wood. It may look like the linoleum in your kitchen, but it is actually a complex construction that needs extremely careful handling! For a brief period, the Dance teachers were trying frantically to arrange an alternative venue for the exam this Sunday, but mercifully the contractors realised the gravity of the situation, consulted some experts and were able to restore the floor to a safe and suitable state. So we wish all the A and AS level dancers everything of the best on Sunday as they perform in PA1 for the examiner.

Ms Darby, Head of Performing Arts

Music Department Notice

Instrumental Reports have been issued this week to all individual Music students. Please confirm receipt by signing and returning the reply slip. Thank you.

Mrs Jackson, Music Dept

Non-Uniform Day 20 March 2008

Our non-uniform charity day, 20 March, raised £838 for the Hospice of St Francis. Thank you to everyone who participated.

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.**

Sport

Fixtures

Weds 16th April Senior/Yr 11 Rounders @ HHS

Thurs 17th April Yr 8 Athletics v Bridgewater (A)

Year 9/10 Rounders @ Ashlyns

Fri 18th April Girls Netball Trip to Wembley Arena for England vs Malawi



Sports Relief Non-Uniform Day 14 March 2008

Our non-uniform charity day, 14 March, raised £1498. This amount was divided equally between Sports Relief and the South Africa School Exchange. Thank you for your support.

Reminder - Year 8 Docklands Field Trip

All permission slips and payments should now be handed in to the School Office. If you have not handed them in please do so as soon as possible. 8ag1, 8ag4, 8bg3 and half of 8ag3 will go on Thursday 17th April, and teaching groups 8ag2, 8bg1, 8bg2 and half of 8ag3 will go on Friday 18th April. *Geography Department*

ASDA – ‘Go Green for Schools’ vouchers

If you shop at ASDA and reuse your carrier bags or purchase a ‘Bag For Life’ you will be given a ‘Go Green for Schools’ voucher. Please would you collect them and hand them in to Form Tutors or to Student Services as we can redeem these vouchers for eco-equipment. The scheme runs until 30th June 2008. Thank you.

Mrs Allen, Reception

PTA News

Summer Fair June 14th

All our efforts are now aimed towards this event. Help us make it the best Summer Fair yet. Do you wish to run a stall? If you do please contact me as soon as possible to ensure you have a table.

We are looking for donations for our Tombola stall. If you have any unwanted gift items we would be happy to take them from you to swell our stall and profits. Next meeting is Tuesday 15th April at 7pm in the Library.

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

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 145 Year 13 Biology Field Trip

Letter 146 Year 10 German Exchange Itinerary