



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

11 January 2008

www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

One of my favourite sets of books to read during my childhood was the 'What Katy Did' novels by Susan Coolidge [1835-1905] She also composed three volumes of verse which includes the following:

New Every Morning

Every day is a fresh beginning,
Listen my soul to the glad refrain.
And, spite of old sorrows
And older sinning,
Troubles forecasted
And possible pain
Take heart with the day and begin again.



This is the start of a term when it is easy to make resolutions and harder to keep them. It is a term full of tests and exams and options and decisions for young minds to take and make. I would wish those decisions to be taken well and wisely and for the challenges to be approached with determination, passion and courage.

We inhabit a world which tends to trivialise. Last week, I was invited to appear on GMTV. We have become the school of choice when it comes to education items. This time, the school being closed for Christmas, a limousine was sent to collect me and take me to the studios. It was fascinating to see behind the scenes and be treated as though I was a famous person: my 15 minutes of fame. However, I was being interviewed about techno gadgets and whether I was going to allow students to bring PSPs and their like into school. My answers are immaterial and I am sure you could predict what I might say, although I did muse on how students of the 80s brought rubik cubes into school. I didn't mention the students of my generation who occasionally smuggled transistor radios past the gates or even had knitting competitions under the desks in the particularly tedious Civics' lessons. Ah, those innocent times!

What struck me about the whole experience was that whilst I was waiting to sit on the GMTV sofa with Richard and Penny, the Pakistani High Commissioner was about to arise from the sofa. I had spoken to him in the green room about the death of his friend Benazir Bhutto the previous day. My place in the scheme of things was very trivial compared with the profound issues raised by the death of a significant leader.

It seems to me that New Year Resolutions are all very well but they often address the more superficial aspects of our existence. I would like to think that at this time of Epiphany, we look to the possibility of 'A leap of understanding' just as the Magi experienced in Palestine 2000 years ago so that we too may 'begin again' in a real and engaging way.

Happy New Year to you all.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*** Blue Week***

Monday 14 th January	Herts Dance Gifted & Talented Boys day
Tuesday 15 th January	Year 10 Science Modules
Wednesday 16 th January	Year 9 Options Carousel (Students)
	Year 9 Options Evening (Parents)
Thursday 17 th January	Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 18 th January	Year 10 Science Modules

Gold Week

Monday 21 st January	Year 10 Triple Science and Year 11 Science Modules
Wednesday 23 rd January	Year 11 Science Modules
Thursday 24 th to Friday 25 th January	'Our Town'



Art

Our Town

The first school production of this year will be performed on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th January at 7.30 in the school hall. Thornton Wilder's 'Our Town' is the most performed American play and it is easy to understand why. This gentle play explores universal themes of love, life and death in a sympathetic and often amusing fashion, appealing to a varied audience. Wilder had interesting views on mid 20th century theatre and created a play with some challenging staging and dramatic technique. Consequently, the play has continued to entertain and engage its audiences throughout the years with each performance.

The cast features students from Years 7 –13. As always, the cast have risen to the challenge due to sheer talent and hard work. We would welcome your support on both nights and hope you will enjoy the play. Tickets will cost £4 (£3 concessions) and will be available from student services from Monday 14th January.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Heale

Year 10 and 12 Trip to The Clothes Show

On Wednesday 12th December Year 10 and 12 Textiles students went to The Clothes Show Live Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham. We went to numerous stands featuring fashion, hair and beauty, University and College stands and a College catwalk show. Gemma Edney-Groves and Suzie Kirton were lucky enough to meet Big Brother star Ziggy. The Catwalk Show began at 3pm and there were many male and female models and dancers wearing a variety of clothing styles, including Caprice's underwear range. The dancing was very well choreographed and the show was amazing and overwhelming. It was a fun day which we all enjoyed.

Rosie Poynter 10L and Gemma Edney-Groves 10P

Request from the Textiles Department

If you have any sewing patterns, wool, knitting needles or general haberdashery (eg. threads, zips and buttons) which you no longer have a use for, please could you pass them on to the Textiles Department where they will be gratefully received!

Maths Puzzle Winners December 2007

Maths puzzle of the month winners for December are:-

Timothy Clay 7P and Ross Briden 8P

Prizes can be collected from the Maths office.

Mrs A Kirby

Headteacher's Commendations

For excellent work in ICT: Bridget Philpott 9P

For an excellent Hampton Court Project: Andrew Coe 8P, Chloe Conroy 8L

Taking part in an assembly on resilience: Grace Kershaw 7F, Tara Keith 7F, Jenny Imrie, Francesca Quinn 7F, Dominic Holmes 7F, Matthew Henton 7F, Andrew Rae 7F, Molly Bonham 7F, Paige Baah 7F, Nicholas Mower 7F, Alice Stride 7F

For excellent projects in Geography: Zack Farrell 8C, Chloe Conroy 8L, Stephanie Ferguson 8L

Sport



FIXTURES

Saturday 12th January

Football v Cavendish - 9.00 > 11.00am

Yr 7a & b (H)

Yr 8 (7-a-side on Astro turf – meet at Cavendish)

Year 9a & b (A)

Year 10 (H)

Monday 14th January

Year 11 County League Basketball v Chauncey (H) 3.30 > 6.00

Year 8 County League Basketball v Longdean (A) 3.30 > 6.00

Tuesday 15th January

Year 7 girls Basketball v Tring (A) 3.30 > 6.00

Year 8 girls Basketball v Tring (A) 3.30 > 6.00

Wednesday 16th January

U18 County League Basketball v St. Georges (A) 3.30 > 6.30

U15 ESBBA Basketball v Hylands (H) TBC

Thursday 17th January

Year 9 Basketball v Longdean (A) 3.30 > 6.00

Year 7 Hockey v JFK (H) 3.30 > 5.30

RESULTS

U16 County League Basketball v Westfield – won 58-43

Gold Letters issued recently

Letter No. 86 Year 11 Careers Forum 31/01/08

Letter No. 87 Year 8 Interim Report

Letter No. 88 Year 12/13 AS Biology Coursework & Field Trip

Letter No. 89 Year 10 Parents Evening

Letter No. 90 Year 9 Parents Information Evening

Letter No. 91 Year 7 RE Trip – 30/01/08

Letter No. 92 Year 7 RE Trip – 29/01/08

Matron

Pay Spine H2 £14,732 (£10,696 pro rata)

32.5 hours per week, 8.30 – 3.30 pm term time only plus some training days

We are looking to appoint a matron to provide First Aid and promote the well-being of students in school. The successful applicant will also carry out some administrative duties including those relating to student medical care and medication as well as accident and Health & Safety reporting.

Further details are available on our website at www.hemel Hempstead school.co.uk. Please apply in writing via letter of application and Hertfordshire Support Staff Application and Person Specification forms (available on our website) to Mrs S Cooper, PA to the Headteacher, The Hemel Hempstead School, Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TX. Tel: 01442 390100. Fax: 01442 233706.

E-mail: admin@hhs.herts.sch.uk

Online applications may be made via:-

www.hertsdirect.org/teachinherts

Closing date for applications: 18 January 2008

PTA News

Next meeting is 21st January 2008 in the Library at 7pm.

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

School answerphone for sickness and absence

Please will all parents contact us **daily** if your child is sick, going to be in late due to a medical appointment, or is absent for any other reason. Please call our school answerphone on

01442 390103 by 9am is possible.