



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

14 March 2008

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HeadLines

At the end of last week I was in Cambridge at the Hertfordshire Headteachers' Conference. I've always loved the city since my youth, becoming especially attached to its beauty and culture and history in my student days. As I walked from the railway station to Corpus Christi College on Friday, I passed my old house in Norwich Street. If you've read P D James, she used the exact address for the scene of a murder in one of her novels.

How, you may ask, am I going to link that experience to anything relevant to the school this week? Well, in a sense I am not. As we approach the end of the Spring Term, it becomes an appropriate time to reflect on times past and look forward to new beginnings. Much more so than the start of the Spring Term, this time of year brings with it an era of promise and a sense of future. Watching the Spring lambs on Sunday afternoon at a farm where small children were gathered in force to stand in awe at the miracle of lambs and chicks put terrible weather and budgets into perspective. I look forward to presenting our Easter assemblies next week.

This academic year has provided us with much to look back on with pride. The accolades and awards for the school are still arriving: a letter of congratulations on our OfSTED report from the Director of Hertfordshire Children Schools and Families, John Harris, a first ever appearance in the Financial Times Top 1000 Schools (the top 25% of Secondary Schools in the country) based on 'A' Level results and an invitation to join the SSAT 60% Club (the less than 25% of schools who achieve 60% 5A* - C grades including English and Maths). On Tuesday we were given planning permission for our new Performance block which will open in September.

So many things to celebrate! So many things to do! Last night, Year 9s and Year 11s and their parents received excellent advice and support on revision. Over Easter, many classes will be run by staff to ensure that students get the results they deserve. We will be putting plans into operation to make the next school year better for everyone as our School Improvement Plan so clearly delineates.

At Cambridge last week I was given time to think and the opportunity to hear some stimulating talks on education for which I am truly grateful. Even Headteachers need time for reflection and I hope that Easter will provide that for all of us.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

Armed Services Personnel

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) wishes to collect information about the number of students whose parents or guardians are current members of the regular armed forces. This information will facilitate research into the problems faced by Service children, allowing trends to be recognised and, possibly, resources targeted more effectively. If this applies to you, please give details in writing to the School Office. Thank you.



arts colleges

Teaching the Mgezwa Way



arts colleges

Last week our assemblies were about the trip to Mgezwa School by Mr Chappelow and Miss Harris. Some Year 7 students were given the experience of being taught in a similar way to children of the same age in Mgezwa School. The first difference was to put three classes together in one room to create a class of over 90, as is normal in Mgezwa School. In such a class it was important that all the students paid attention and kept to the rule that they only speak when asked and they stand up to do so. The class was taught the same lesson on the National Symbols of the UK and South Africa as Mr Chappelow taught in Mgezwa School. Each new fact that was given was repeated by the class in unison and they then had to complete a test in silence. To their credit, the students of 7A, 7C and 7N behaved extremely well and their tests proved that their learning was very effective. At the end of the lesson it was emphasised that the big difference between The Hemel Hempstead School and Mgezwa School was that the students at Mgezwa were being taught in English and not their mother tongue, xhosa. The Year 7 students may not have learnt so quickly had the lesson been in xhosa!

Mr Chappelow

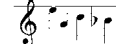
World Book Day

Last Thursday saw World Book Day, a celebration of reading and books shared by 100 countries across the globe. In true Hemel Hempstead School style, students participated with commitment and enthusiasm. Throughout the week, it was a joy to listen to numerous confident, fluent and expressive readings of sections of students' favourite books during year assemblies. Well done to all the Year 7s and 8s involved in Thursday's House Book Challenge for making it such an enjoyable library event. Particular congratulations must go to Jesse Toms (8L) who clinched a win for Latimer House. The poster competition, which is currently helping to advertise the school's Easter Readathon in celebration of the National Year of Reading, produced some amazing pieces of artwork and was finally won by a first class entry from Charlotte Chappell (10C).

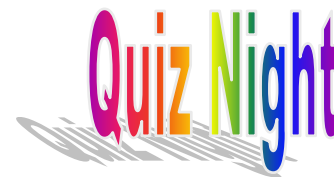
Many congratulations to all involved in any of the World Book Day activities. Don't forget to get down to your bookshop and use your voucher to help purchase your next book. Happy reading!

Miss Bradley

MUSIC AT



ST JOHN'S
a community project



Saturday 19 April 2008
Hemel Hempstead School Hall

7.30 start (prompt)
Tables of 8 (maximum)
£7.50 per person - includes supper
Bring your own drink/glasses

Tickets available from: Alan Munford
16 St Nicholas Mount, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2BB
☎ 01442 242543

Email: alan.munford@btinternet.com

Please make cheques payable to "Music at St John's"
Registered Charity No. 1119580

Geography Department Notice

Please remember to return payment for the London Docklands fieldtrip by the end of term.

Day of trip:

Thurs 17th April - 8ag1, 8bg1, 8bg2 and half of 8ag3

Fri 18th April - 8ag2, 8bg1, 8bg2 and half of 8ag3

Students have been informed of the days they will be attending. *Mrs Collingwood, Geography Department*

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 133 Dacorum Technology Tournament

Letter 134 Yr 7 Spring Interim Report

Letter 135 Yr 8 Spring Interim Report

Letter 136 Yr 10 Spring Interim Report

Letter 137 A2 Biology Revision Conference

Headteacher's Commendations

For Excellent Work in History

Harrison Bassett 7N, Harry Satterthwaite 7N, George Brooks 7N, Daniel Ford 7N, Alexander Marsh 7N, Amelie Lecoeuche 8P, Samuel Izzard 8L, Paige Young 8C, Ross Taylor 8A, Lauren Bodiam 8L, Stevie Farrow 8L, Alice Masterman 8F, Chloe Lancashire 8N, Charlotte Blair-Smith 8C, Katie Towse 8C, Sydney Clark 8P, Alice Rimmer 8L, Bradley Keeley 8C, Elissa Benedetti-Smith 8N, Anthony Power 8C, Lauren Dempsey 8L, Sasha King 8N, Mark Cowley 8A, Olivia Scott 8L.

For Excellent Work in ICT

Eloise Phillips 9F, Robyn Theobald 9N, Daniel Vials 9P, Rebecca Wood 9A, Zoe Brook 9F, Philippa Carr 9P, Anna Maduro 9L, James Prowse 9A, Lajor Cole-Etti 9C, Alexander Calver 9F, Keith Johnson 9A.

For Excellent Service to School

Lauren Kempster 7A, Rachael Phipps 7A, Adam Amamou 8A, Oliver Price 8C, James Fraser 10P.

For an Excellent Trench Model for History

Ella Trevillion 9C, Philippa Carr 9P, Melissa Hardy 9C, Alexandra Hatt 9L.

For an Excellent Castle Model for History

Thomas Swift 7P, Ollie Cox 7P, Jessica Miller 7P, Amy Penhallow 7P, Charlotte Keene 7P, Ellenor Ward 7P, Mary Pattinson 7P.

MFL Stars of the Month

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

Year 7: Mary Pattinson, Amy Dowse, Rowena Pynaert, Jessica Miller, Ellouise Flack

Year 8: Charlie Monk, Sam Woffendin, Stephanie Foster, James Baxter, Katy Ferguson, Mark Cowley, James Price, Georgia Buck

Year 9: Rosie Hoskins, Alex Dukes, Adam Sibun, Naomi Messenger, Sam Evans, Cat Smith, Freya Martin, Eloise Phillips

Year 10: Harriet Bullock, Andy King, Louise Verroken-Jones

Year 11: Abi Mawer, Nicole Hardwick, Emma Saunders, Juneid Mahmood

Year 13: Toby Podmore

Miss Eder, MFL Department

PTA News

Jumble Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who helped on Friday and Saturday.

We raised a massive £571.

If you have jumble in storage we will be more than happy to take this from you for our next sale in the Autumn.

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

Sport

Fixtures

Sat 15th Sports Tour Family Day /BBQ
Mon 17th U12 Basketball County Rally @ Longdean
 2.30 pm
Tue 18th Yr 8 Hockey @ Tring
 Yr 11 District League Football v Longdean (A) 3.30 pm
 Yr 7 County Cup Football semi-final v Owens (A) @
 Old Owens FC 2.30 pm

Results

Year 7 Hockey v Kings Langley won 1-0
 v Tring A won 2-1
 v Bridgewater won 1-0
 v Tring B won 3-0

Year 7 Football v Tring won 5-2

This year's District Cross Country competition was keenly contested on Thursday March 6th at the Field of Hope, Gadebridge. Congratulations to *all* the runners who performed very well for the school. Individual results are printed opposite.

Team results were as follows:

Year 7 Girls 4 th	Boys 4 th
Year 8 Girls 1 st	Boys 2 nd
Senior Girls 4 th	Boys 3 rd

In addition to this I would like to congratulate Umar Sheikh and Shona Berloth. Umar will be representing Hertfordshire Cadets at the National Cross Country Championships and Shona has been invited to return to the next round of County Netball training and trials. Congratulations to the Year 7 Girls Basketball squad who came second at the District Tournament and to the Year 7 Football squad who have advanced to the District finals. Congratulations also to the Year 8 Boys Basketball squad who were runners-up to St Columba's College in the County final on Wednesday.

Miss Bevan, Learning Leader, PE Department

Non – Uniform Day

Students may wear non-uniform to school on Thursday 20th March in exchange for a donation of £1 (handed to Form Tutor at registration) towards our local hospice, St Francis Hospice in Berkhamsted.

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.**

HHS Cross Country Results: Scorers

Yr 7 Girls

5th Quinn
 7th Rogers
 13th Bartlett
 25th Markham
 42nd Lancey
 47th Bellis

Yr 8 Girls

1st Eykelbosch
 2nd Grover
 3rd Morris
 6th Moores
 19th Walker
 25th Baker

Yr 9 Girls

1st Armorgie
 6th Kinley
 10th Phillips
 17th Richards
 27th Taylor

Yr 10/Senior Girls

7th Gallagher
 11th Pigott
 16th Pestaille
 19th Lovell
 21st Freeman
 25th Munjic

Yr 7 Boys

7th Tinker
 20th Mayhew
 22nd Beardsworth
 23rd Gray
 35th Barnett
 36th Reynolds

Yr 8 Boys

2nd Taylor
 4th Schramm
 7th Izzard
 21st Craig
 24th Munjic
 35th Jones

Yr 9 Boys

1st Edwards
 11th Penhallow
 21st Richardson
 25th Marsh
 31st Territt

Yr10/Senior Boys

3rd Sheikh
 10th Wadlow
 14th Twine
 17th Ford



Sponsors Needed

Andrew Cracknell, ex-pupil and son of Mr and Mrs Cracknell in PE, is running the London Marathon on April 13th. He is running for the charity Lupus UK and would love you to sponsor him. If you feel you can sponsor him for even a small amount, please contact me at school or drop me a line to school, pledging your gift. Many thanks in anticipation.

Mrs Cracknell

Dates for Your Diary



Blue Week

18th Mar SPRING CONCERT 7 pm in School Hall
19th–25th Mar Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold
 Practice Expedition

19th Mar Yr 12 Higher Education Information
 Evening 7.30 pm, Sixth Form Study Centre

21st Mar–4th Apr Easter Holiday

24th Mar–6th Apr Sports Tour to South Africa

7th and 8th Apr INSET days–school closed to students

Gold Week

9th Apr Summer Term begins
 Parents' Forum, 6.30 pm (for parents who have already confirmed their attendance and any other parents/guardians who do so prior to the meeting).

10th Apr Yr 9 Science Level 7 Masterclass 3.45 pm

13th Apr A Level Dance Exam