



HeadLines

News items about the expected overhaul of the examination system don't necessarily fill one with confidence....rather like the economy at the moment. Will SATs disappear? I can't claim to be a fan of testing at 7 and 11 and 14. Whilst I can definitely see the point of proper assessment; knowing the ability and potential ability levels of children and working towards fulfilling that potential, I don't believe that the current SATs match up to their own publicity. Our English SATs have not been accurately marked for at least three years now and a saga of endless letters to and from Headteacher to examination board have ensued.

I have to say that I prefer the outcomes and indicators which emanate from GCSEs so that I can assess how much progress students have made from the time they join us to the time they take the significant public examinations. My view is reinforced by some excellent news this week. In a recent publication from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust entitled 'Data Drives Transformation' we are named as one of only 36 schools nationally who deserve special mention for having met three criteria: 1) being in the 100 most improved schools 2) being in the Value Added celebration group (ie achieving much better results in 2007 for our Year 11s than have been predicted for the intake at age 11) and 3) being in the group of schools with at least 60% of their pupils achieving five good GCSEs including Maths and English.

What does all this mean apart from the fact that we are doing a great job for our students? It means that we are officially a 'High Performing Specialist School'; a very elite category. I also received an 'official' phone call this week to tell me that we have been given a *second* specialism! This is fantastic news and the culmination of two and a half years' focused work to achieve another specialism. What will it be? We do not know yet. We will be offered a choice of eight and we will consult widely before putting forward a first choice and a second choice. We join the 5% of schools across the country in this exclusive club. Congratulations to my leadership team, staff and governors, students and parents for all they have done to earn this high honour and genuine benefit to the school in terms of revenue and resources. Well done everyone!

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For Form Presentation: Kamil Akhtar 13F.

For Excellent Work in English: Olivia Church 7A, Lucy Bridger 7A, Sarah Worger 7A, Conor Blake 7A, Levi Smith 7A, Grace Masters 7A, Amelie Lecoeuche 8P, Sarah Kay 9A.

For Excellent Work in Maths: Joe Gibbs 9A.

For Excellent Work in Geography: Sonia Odedra 7F, Francesca Quinn 7F, Emma D'Amery 7L, Alice Markham 7L.

Parental Forum

The next Parental Forum will take place on **Wednesday 11th June (6.30pm)** in the Library. Our forums meet on a half termly basis and are open to all parents. At our last forum, we discussed a range of issues regarding communication with parents and the input from those who attended the meeting has proved extremely valuable in our planning for next year. I will give some feedback on this at the June forum. The focus for our next meeting is **homework**. If you have views on this subject which you would like to share with us, you are most welcome to attend. I would be very grateful if you could contact my PA, Mrs Coe, to indicate your interest in attending. If you would like to propose a topic for future meetings, please contact us in the same way. I look forward to seeing you at the forum.

Mr Jordan, Deputy Headteacher



Library Notices

Due to the installation of a new Library Computer system we will be unable to lend any books between Thursday 22 May and Tuesday 10 June. Although this sounds a long time it does encompass half-term and is, in reality, only nine days. We will still be able to accept returned books and books will still be available for use within the Library for most of this period.

The Library will be closed on Thursday 5 June and Friday 6 June while the new system is being installed. We will also be closed on Monday 9 June and Tuesday 10 June to accommodate an English masterclass activity. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Ellen Krajewski, Librarian

Maths Stars of the Month April

Congratulations to the following students:

Sarah Cosgrove 7C, Holly Woollatt 7P, Dominic Holmes 7F, Alex Marsh 7N, Charlotte Lancey 7C, Matthew Harris 8L, Jamie Lamb 8F, Emily Cook 8P, Danielle Lewis 8A, Ross King 8N, Denika Roberts 9L, Will King 9L, Emma Nisbet 9L, Sarah Kay 9A, Zoe Harbour 9P, Alex Rutherford 10L, Maddy Dey 10N, Stacey Peaks 10A, Jon Nash 10F, Hannah Carson 10P, Robyn Eames 11A, Emily Duff 11F, Arfana Saddique 11L, Ehnah Ahmed 11P, Sophie Horwood 11L.

Puzzle of the month for April

The two winners for April Puzzle of the month are **Becky Walshe 8N** and **Amelie Wright 9A**. The answers were $a = 17$, $b = 29$ and $c = 97$. Congratulations to you both! Please come to the Maths office to collect your prizes.

May's Puzzle of the Month explores some of the many interesting properties of the number 666. Why not submit an entry yourself; it's easier than it looks!!

Puzzle of the Month for May

The number 666 has been studied extensively by Mathematicians because of its many interesting properties. For example: $666 = 6 + 6 + 6^3 + 6^3 + 6^3$. If you write down the first six Roman numerals in order from largest to smallest you get DCLXVI = 666.

Question: There are two ways to insert + signs into the sequence 123456789 in order to produce the number 666 and just one way in the sequence 987654321. Can you find them?

Mrs Kirby, Mathematics Department

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

CIB (Children in Britain) Advertisement Host Families Wanted

- Generous conditions: up to £414 for 4 weeks
- A chance to make friends with a family in sunny Canaries
- A rewarding experience for your own family
- A way of improving your Spanish
- A £30 bonus for every family you recommend who accommodates a student for 4 weeks

If interested, please contact: Claire on 01442 393607, or for more information: Elizabeth on 01582 713148 or hees@cib.es

MFL Department April Stars of the Month

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

Year 7: Nicola Kennett, Daisy Smith, Courtney Rowe, Zain Ahmed, Kristian Formes, James Sweetnam

Year 8: Chloe Lancashire, Olivia Scott, Niamh Ginger, Emily Cook, Jack Morrell, Christian Schramm, Owain Jordan-Smith, Sophie Hatchett, Elinor Pinnock, Chelsea Gray

Year 9: Abbey Everett, Jacinta Goff, Lauren Sumner, James Storkey, Thea Simkins

Year 10: Andy King, Rebecca Munjic, Suzie Kirton, Alex Bourne

Year 11: Nasmina Chowdhury, Natalie Johnston, Philip Foscoe, Tom Smith, Becky Crawley

Year 12: Ed Gardner, Lauren King, Daniella Serrano

Dates for Your Diary



Gold Week

19th May Yr 9 Triple Science Parents Info Evening 7 pm
21st May – 20th Jun A2 Examinations*
23rd May Rock Challenge at Portsmouth
25th May D of E Silver/Gold Planning Day
Mon 26th – Fri 30th May **HALF TERM**

Blue Week

2nd – 6th Jun Yrs 7, 8, 9 and 10 School Exams
4th Jun 'It Snows' Drama production at Hampstead Theatre
5th Jun Yr 11 Drama Trip to 'Woman in Black'
6th June Yr 12 Art Trip to Tate Modern

* Practical examinations may take place outside of this date range

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

Canteen Notice

With effect from Monday 2nd June, Breakfast Club will no longer be available. Breakfast Club will re-launch in September.

Smartcards will continue to be topped up at morning break and lunchtimes.

Mrs Hoare, Asst Catering Mgr

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.

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 no later than Friday 23rd May to Student Services.

Matron

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.

Flags (Estate Agents) will donate funds to us if we display boards (like 'For Sale' boards) advertising the School Fair and Flags. Please let us know if you would be prepared to have a board on your property for approximately two weeks before the Fair. Thank you if you have already offered – we still need more.

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. Thank you to those who have offered.

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

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

Tesco Computers For Schools Vouchers

Thank you for your help in collecting and donating Tesco vouchers to our school. The most recent voucher scheme has now ended. If you have any further vouchers, we would be grateful if you would send them in to school as soon as possible.

IT Department

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 169 Year 13 Textbook Returns

Letter 170 Year 11 Prom and Revision Magazine

Letter 171 Year 12 Art Trip to Tate Modern

Sport

FIXTURES

- Mon 19th May** Yrs 7/9 Athletics @ Jarman Park 3.30 – 6.45 pm
Tue 20th May Yr 9 District Cup Cricket v JFK (H) 4 – 7 pm
 Yrs 7/8 Rounders @ Kings Langley
Thu 22nd May Yr 10 Sports Leaders Top Link Festival 1 – 3 pm
 Yrs 9/10 Rounders @ Ashlyns

RESULTS

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Yr 7 Rounders | v JFK 2½ - 1½ (lost) | Yrs 9 /10 Rounders (mixed team) |
| | v Bridgewater 4 – 2 (won) | v Tring (draw) |
| | v Kings Langley 5 – 4 (won) | v Kings Langley B (won) |
| | v Adeyfield 4 – 3 (won) | v Kings Langley A (lost) |
| Yr 8 Rounders | v Adeyfield 6½ - 3½ (lost) | Yr 11/Senior Rounders |
| | v JFK 6½ - 3½ (lost) | v Cavendish 7 - 1½ (won) |
| | v Kings Langley 6 - 2½ (lost) | v Longdean 5½ - 2½ (won) |
| | v Cavendish 7 – 6 (lost) | v Tring 2 – 8 (lost) |
| | | v Adeyfield 8 - 7½ (won) |

HHS were winners of Mini Tournament

- Yr 7 County Cup Cricket v Queens – won
 Yr 8 County Cup Cricket v St Albans - lost
 Yr 10 District Cup Cricket v Tring - lost
 Yr 10 County Cup Cricket v St Albans - lost



County League Athletics

Yrs 8/10 Jarman Park 6th May

- Yr 8 Boys** 3rd - 43 points
Yr 10 Boys 4th - 33 points
Yr 8 Girls 5th - 22 points
Yr 10 Girls 4th - 22 points

Yr 8 Boys

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Relay – 2 nd | Shot – K Cook 3 rd |
| Pole Vault – N Jones 2 nd | Javelin – C Telling 3 rd |
| High Jump – J Hobbs 3 rd | Hurdles – A Austin 3 rd |
| Triple Jump – Z Booth 2 nd | 100m – D Bransgrove 2 nd |
| | 200m – R Cassidy 3 rd |
| | 800m – S Izzard 2 nd |
| | 1500m – R Taylor 1 st |

Yr 8 Girls

- High Jump – S Grover 1st
 800m – S Morris 2nd
 1500m – A Eykelbosch 1st

Yr 10 Boys

- | | |
|--|--|
| Hurdles – M King 3 rd | High Jump – J Harris 3 rd |
| 400m – M Farrelly 3 rd | Long Jump – M Farrelly 3 rd |
| Pole Vault – P McClellan 2 nd | Shot – S Bailey 3 rd |
| Javelin – R Khan 3 rd | |

Yr 10 Girls

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 200m – E Phillips 3 rd | High Jump – L Jones 1 st |
| 300m – L Verroken-Jones 2 nd | Shot – H Bullock 1 st |

Yrs 8/10 St Albans 12th May

- Yr 8 Boys** 3rd – 50 points
Yr 10 Boys 3rd – 42 points
Yr 8 Girls 4th – 24 points
Yr 10 Girls 3rd – 42 points

Yr 8 Boys

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Hurdles-A Austin 3 rd | Pole Vault - N Jones 2 nd |
| 200m - J Hobbs 3 rd | Long Jump - D Bransgrove 2 nd |
| 400m - Z Booth 2 nd | Triple Jump - Z Booth 1 st |
| 800m - S Izzard 3 rd | Shot - K Cook 2 nd |
| Relay – 3 rd | Discus - J Shaw 2 nd |
| | Javelin – A Suqlain 2 nd |

Yr 8 Girls

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 800m – S Morris 2 nd | High Jump – S Grover 1 st |
| 1500m – A Eykelbosch 3 rd | |

Yr 10 Boys

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Hurdles – M King 2 nd | High Jump – J Harris 1 st |
| Relay – 3 rd | Long Jump – C Hart 1 st |
| | Discus – M Wadlow 1 st |
| | Javelin – R Khan 3 rd |

Yr 10 Girls

- | | |
|---|--|
| Hurdles – S Reid 3 rd | Long Jump – I Hudson 2 nd |
| 200m – E Phillips 2 nd | Triple Jump – L Verroken-Jones 2 nd |
| 300m – L Verroken – Jones 1 st | Shot – H Bullock 1 st |
| 1500m – R Armorgie 1 st | Discus – H Mansbridge 3 rd |