



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

19 January 2008

www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

And so the examination season starts. A/S and A2 modules have started being examined for Sixth formers. Science modules for Year 10's are happening too. Given the brevity of this term, it will be no time at all before the main examination season is upon us. Whilst Year 13's have already made many choices, Year 11's and Year 9's will be required to make some significant choices in the next few weeks. I would exhort all those making choices and settling upon options that it is best to leave one's options open and not to declare definitively that wanting to be a rocket scientist or a pop star dictates 'these subjects and these subjects only'. I would also encourage the choice to be one guided by enjoyment. If you really like or even love a subject, you are much more likely to do better at it.

This is also the time of year when the leadership team and I put together the School Improvement or Development Plan. We believe that we have constructed a visionary and challenging plan for the school, but we need your help in setting our priorities and tasks for the next three years. To that end, I will be requesting specific help from parents and students during this term. This will begin at the parents' evenings this week and continue into other events. We have, of course, utilised the comments received via the parental survey.

This school is an outstanding one in so many ways but I want it to be outstanding in every way. I realise that there is work to do and targets to set and you can help me and my colleagues to ensure high quality at every level in order that the students 'get the very best deal possible' so that they can fulfil their potential.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

Gold Week

DecemberMon 21st

Year 10 Science Modules

Weds 23rd

Year 11 Science Modules

Thurs 24thYear 11 Science Modules
Our Town, School Play in
Main School Hall at 7.30pmDoors open at 7.00pm
£4.00, Concessions £3.00

Blue Week

Tues 29th –Weds 30th

Year 7 Trip to Temple

FebruaryFriday 1stYears 10 and 11 BTEC Group
Lyric Theatre Trip

PTA News

Next meeting: Monday 21st January 2008 in the Library. Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (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 late in due to a medical appointment, or is absent for any other reason. Please call our school answerphone on **01442 390103 by 9am if possible.**



Have you lost your mobile phone in the last few days? If so, please go to Student Services.



Working on set for 'Poirot'

Being chosen to be an extra in the murder mystery series 'Poirot' was an incredible and amazing experience for me, as I'm sure the other girls who were chosen would agree. We were warned about getting up early for the first day of filming, but for a lot of the girl costumes, hair in curlers, filling our faces with a selection of breakfast helpings and hot chocolate on a double decker bus!

The parts we had to play were school girl extra in an all girls' school where a murder had yet to take place – all set in the old gym. Seeing the cast walk around, particularly the fantastic David Suchet, made some girls squeal with excitement and their faces were a picture!

There was a lot of waiting around which was a great opportunity to talk to other adult extras who told us about other famous people they had worked with, what films or other television programmes they had been in, and their opinion on a lot of different actors – autographs were given out and two men had their own fan club it seemed!

Polly Taylor and I were lucky enough to have quite a long chat with the great David Suchet who was so lovely and kept in character with his Belgian accent the whole time. He spoke so nicely to us and even gave us advice on how to excel in our acting careers. I was so drawn in that I didn't have time to feel star-struck and felt to impressed by him that he had made the time to talk to us.

We did work hard over the two to three days and I personally enjoyed very minute as there were a lot of laughs and great performances taking place too. I am so lucky to have been chosen to work on Poirot and glad as I can now see what it is like to work in the acting business which I shall hopefully look forward to in the future. All the teachers supervising and the people working on the set were superb the whole time and I would like to thank Mrs Heale and Miss Samwell very much for letting the school girl extras be a part of it .

Blair Shun, 10N

Talking Success

Three teams took part in the Rotary "Youth Speaks" competition on Tuesday night. In a strong intermediate section, our Year 9 teams of Tom Durrant, Eloise Phillips and Sarah Kinley, and Lloyd Petchey, Ben Storrie and Chris Veall were unlucky not to be placed.

Our senior team has won through to the regional finals in Leighton Buzzard at the end of the month. The team of Huw Wales, Max Taylor and Jenny Tucker, all from the Lower Sixth, chose "Africa" as their topic, and spoke with passion and purpose about the problems facing the continent and what we could and should do to help. The judges particularly praised their teamwork and their ability to speak directly to the audience without much recourse to notes.

Together with a senior JFK team, they will represent the Dacorum area in the next round. We congratulate them and wish them every success.

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 93 Advance Writing Classes

Letter 95 GCSE Art Exam

Letter 96 GCSE Art visit to the Tate and Royal Academy of Arts

Sport



RESULTS

Basketball Year 7 Girls v Tring, won 8-4
 Year 7 Girls v Kings Langley, lost 12-16
 Year 7 Girls v Bridgewater, 8-8 draw
 Year 7 Girls v Astley Cooper, 26-8 won

Football Year 7 C/C v Chancellors, won 8-1

Year 8

Hockey v Cavendish, won 8-7

Football Cavendish, 7-aside Team 1 won 1 lost 2
 Team 2 won 2 lost 1
 Team 3 won 2 draw 1

Basketball U16 basketball v Westfield, 58-43 won

Hockey Year 9 v Cavendish, lost 3-10

FIXTURES

Saturday 19th January

Football v Adeyfield, Years 7 & 10 (A), Years 8 & 9 (H)

Monday 21st January U15 C/C Basketball v Queens (A)

Tuesday 22nd January Year 7 Hockey (A) Tring
 Year 8 Basketball (A) Tring,
 U19 ESBB v West Hatch (A)

Wednesday 23rd January

U15 C/C Basketball v St Georges (A)

U14 C/C Basketball v Parmiters (A)

Thursday 24th January

Year 9 U14 Girls Hockey v Tring (A)

U19 Basketball v SCC (H)

U12 D/C Basketball v Tring (A)

Friday 25th January

U16 District Football v Ashlyns (A)

A new competition structure which is being trailed throughout the district has seen students participating in a variety of activities in the last two weeks. Activities included:

- Years 9 & 10 girls and boys Trampoline
- Years 8 & 9 boys Hockey
- Years 7 & 8 girls Dance
- Years 7,8 & 9 Swimming Gala
- Year 10 Table Tennis

At the end of the second week back the PE Departments diary is jam-packed with fixtures. With such a short period of time until half term the department certainly is a hive of activity. Extra-curricular practices have started and other clubs and activities are running at lunch and after school. Look out for the information about Year 10 girls Aerobics, Skateboarding Club, Majorettes and more !

Miss E Bevan, PE Department

Headteachers Commendations

For excellent work in Dance: Jordan Dukes 8C, Zachary Farrell 8C, Kelly Egerton 10A, Louise Verroken-Jones 10C

For excellent work in Graphic Products: Beth Bellis 7N, Elizabeth Merrill 7L

PTA News

Recent purchases made on behalf of the school include :

- Alpha smart word processors for SEN department
- A selection of Maths games for the Maths department
- A new TV and a DVD recorder for Resources department
- A portable DVD player for SEN department
- 20 portable CD players for Modern Foreign Languages

We hope to continue raising much needed funds in 2008 so we may carry on giving back to the school.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and thank you for your help and support during 2007 and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

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

Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (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.**