



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

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www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

Did you find it hard to believe the survey results about the towns in Britain that people have visited? It seems that rather like many of the characters in Flora Thompson's 'Lark Rise to Candleford', some of us hardly venture outside our own towns. Of course, unlike Hardy's Wessex folk or Jane Austen's gentry, we do travel to airports and fly off to exotic locations. However, people in Hemel Hempstead may live their lives without having seen Hull or Harrogate. Perhaps I should take back some of my former remarks about us being citizens of the world and inhabiting a global village. And I would if it were not for stories such as the current headline-dominant tale of pandemics to come. Swine Flu has risen to the top of our priority fears and even the USA, a country in which relatively few of the population hold passports and that almost prides itself on aspects of its isolationism, has had its borders breached.

Over the coming days, we must hope that the pandemic does not develop in the way the World Health Organisation says it might, but the radio on the way to school declaimed various public health announcements about strategic sneezing, the disposal of tissues and the washing of hands. Very surreal to listen to; almost like waking up in the middle of World War Two and hearing the announcer tell me to grow my own veg, carry my gas mask or give up my garden railings to be melted down for the war effort.

Whilst I do not want to scaremonger and have weeping children at the school gates as seen on last night's news, I do want to ensure that we are doing our best to protect everyone on the school site. To this end, we are ensuring that the hand-washing facilities are more than adequate and that anti-bacterial hand-wash is available. The DCSF have published guidance for schools and we are following it.

To think that it could come to schools and businesses across the country closing down as well as any area where large crowds can gather! I am struggling to find positive things to say except that the reaction of the WHO and the health professionals here is encouraging. It is also the kind of situation that brings people together.

Against this background, life in school continues to be dominated by the examinations. GMTV came in today to interview four of our Year 11s for a piece to be broadcast next Wednesday and Thursday on revision and the pressures of preparing for exams. Coursework deadlines were met and some practical and oral exams have taken place. We remain very confident about our results. This week's assemblies were delivered by Dee Fisher, a parent, and were about Great Ormond Street Hospital. What a marvellous institution it is!

The Year 8s drew the County Cup final with King's Langley School and we will share the cup for the year. Congratulations to them and well done for being the Year 8s who have achieved the double of success in football and basketball. Well done also to Student Achievement Leader, Kirstie Touhey, for completing the London Marathon and raising lots of money for charity. Our dancers and actors have been completing superb work in their practical exams and I thank the staff from a range of subjects who have given of their time for additional practices and performances.

I would like to thank all the parents who wrote to our MP and Secretary of State and others to lobby for the return of our 'lost' funding. It worked. I heard yesterday that the £51,000 would be restored to the budget. That is great news and a good example of the partnership between school and parents.

When people in Peterborough ask me where I work and I say Hemel Hempstead, you can almost guarantee that the next question will be 'where is that?' Sometimes we are very lacking in knowledge about our own country. Pandemics aside, I would urge us to enable our youngsters to see the best of Great Britain. I think that I have visited most towns and cities and my favourites are Edinburgh, Alnwick and Cambridge, Liverpool, Perth and Newcastle but there are so many wonderful places aren't there? My absolute favourite in the British Isles in Pitlochry in Perthshire but I am a bit of a novice when it comes to Welsh towns and would welcome some recommendations. We'll prove that survey wrong!

Finally, may I wish our Art department every success next week when OfSTED visit on Wednesday and Thursday. I am sure it will be an outstanding report!

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



ARTS NEWS

Year 7 Spelling Bee

On Monday Olivia Jones, Sam Catt and Robert Veall competed in The Times Spelling Bee. Our team fought valiantly against some very strong competition and came a very dignified sixth in the South East heat.

Ms H Redfern

Year 9 Romeo and Juliet Workshop

On Tuesday the Young Shakespeare Company brought *Romeo and Juliet* to The Hemel Hempstead School. Our students gained an insight into Romeo's turmoil and the dilemma the young lovers faced as well as being given the opportunity to direct the cast. Part of the workshop required students to come up with suggestions about how characters should be played and how Shakespeare's most famous lines should be delivered. Needless to say our students came up with some very original ideas that certainly challenged the actors and some of our more traditional expectations. Whether Shakespeare intended for the play to be delivered as a musical or in the genre of an Australian soap opera is still being debated!

Ms H Redfern

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Re: Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams - Spring Term

Congratulations go to Tasmin Mason and Lucy Wiseman on passing Grade 1 piano with Merit and Joe Suddick for passing Rock School Grade 8 electric guitar with a Distinction.

Excellent, well done!

Mrs D Bailey, Director of Music

Reminder:

Year 10 RS GCSE Exam Tuesday 12th May

Year 10 students are reminded that their RS GCSE is now less than two weeks away!

Remember to make sure you revise all the five sections as you have to answer one question from every section.

Also try and use the exam questions in your revision guide so you won't be surprised by the type of questions you will be asked.

Good luck and keep revising!

Miss F Dayton, Acting Subject Leader RS

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For Excellent History Research

Huw Wales 13F

For Excellent Work in English

Joseph Nicholls 7P

For Participation in The Times Spelling Bee

Championship

Sam Catt 7L

Robert Veall 7L

Olivia Jones 7L

For Outstanding Work in Dance

Mel Hardy 10C

Laura Dowse 10P

Eloise Phillips 10F

Chelsea Flynn 10F

English Department Text Book Amnesty

Following the success of last week's text amnesty we are urging students to continue searching shelves and return any English texts they are no longer using to a member of the English department.

Ms H Redfern

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 185 UK Mathematics Trust Team Maths Challenge

Letter 186 Free Instrumental Tuition Offer

Letter 187 Year 10 BTEC Sport Spinning Class

Letter 188 Year 12 visit to Oxford

Letter 189 Year 8 English viewing of 'Billy Elliot'

Letter 190 Year 7 Geography trip to the Chilterns

Letter 191 Year 10 Work Experience

All Gold Letters can be viewed on our website:

www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

School policies can be viewed on our website under 'about HHS/School Policies'. If you require a hard copy of any of the policies please get in touch with the School Office.

S J Samwell

An Engineering Experience

During the Easter holidays I took part in a four-day Engineering Experience course with the Smallpeice Trust. Smallpeice is an organisation that promotes engineering-related careers to secondary school students, by organising similar holidays and visits into schools (called STEM days).

The holiday I went on – Engineering Experience – took place at Harper Adam’s University. I was one of one hundred Year 9 students who attended. The course had three main parts to it; a beginning engineering challenge that took one afternoon, a two-day build and test on an engineering project run by guests from various companies and an evening of entertainment and activities.

The first afternoon engineering challenge was to build a robot. We worked in groups, were given a chassis with wheels and had to attach batteries and switches to make it move, as well as arms with different devices fixed to them so that the robot could complete a course. It had to pop a balloon, sweep a collection of small objects into a pen, pass through and under a few gates, press a switch, (to turn off a ‘bomb’) and carry a ‘bomb’ back over the starting line. It was a very interesting task, even if controlling the robot was a bit tricky.

The two-day task I did was set by Jaguar-Landover, and it was to build a (miniature) 4x4 for the Red Cross. We had a budget to manage, and had to learn about pulleys and gears, carry a passenger (an egg), compete in a drag race and climb a steep hill. Although my team’s car could do most things, its inability to climb hills lost many points.

Jaguar-Landover was one of the three companies who ran a challenge and gave a talk about their careers. The other two were Babcock Marine and the Royal Navy. The talks were both interesting and motivating.

Finally, there were the evening activities. We all had separate rooms at the university, so these were the only times we went off-site. The activities were mainly fun and informal – a disco and bowling - but we also had a formal course dinner, when we went to RAF Cosford and invited important guests to see our work. We stood in our groups by posters, answered questions and explained what we had done, before sitting down with them for a three-course meal.

The entire experience was varied and exciting and I recommend it to anybody interested in engineering. Smallpeice Trust have a website, so if you are interested, you can visit www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk.

Amelie Lecoecue 9P

PTA News

Summer Fair May 16th

Unfortunately we have had to cancel this event.

Quiz Night

Saturday May 16th at 8pm in the Sixth Form Study Centre.

Mr Chappelow has arranged a Quiz Night for the HHSA. Tickets cost just £4 per person. Teams of up to 8 please.

We are not including food this time, but please bring along your own drinks and nibbles. There will be a raffle.

As we have had to cancel the summer fair we need to raise funds in other ways. So please get a team together and come along for a real fun evening for very little cost. Flyers have been sent out with students, so please search for them.

We really look forward to seeing you there.

Sunday 7th June at 10.30 am, school car park

Book fair/sale and car boot sale in the car park (in the dining room if raining).

We are holding the above event as a fundraiser for the HHSA.

We really need donations of books and DVDs; if you can donate some please contact the number below.

Entry is £5 for sellers and free to buyers. Please come along and join us and help raise much needed funds.

We have recently donated £500 to the Science Department towards costs for the Honduras trip.

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



Dates for Your Diary

Gold Week

4th May Bank Holiday – school closed

5th May County League Athletics, 3.30 – 6 pm
Year 12 Art Exam

6th May Year 13 Art Exam

7th May Year 13 Art Exam

Year 10 Catering Exam

Year 11 MFL GCSE Oral Exams

‘Big Little Theatre Company’ performances

8th May Year 11 MFL GCSE Oral Exams

Year 13 Art Exam

‘Hemel at War’ project website launch

Blue Week

11th, 12th, 13th, 14th

Year 8 Biology visits to Boxmoor Trust

11th Year 12 Art Exam

County League Athletics 3.30 – 6 pm

12th May – 24th Jun GCSE Examinations

12th May – 8th Jun AS Examinations

12th May Year 10 RS GCSE Exam

13th May English Schools Track and Field Cup

14th May Year 10 Catering Exam

Year 10 Triple Biology Module

15th–18th May Year 10 D of E Bronze Practice Expedition

15th May Year 10 Catering Exam

16th May HHSA Quiz Night

Students Ties

If students need a replacement tie they are available from Student Services at a cost of £6.50.

Mrs A Davis, Student Services

Yom Ha’atzma’ut, celebrated 29th April, is Independence Day in Israel, commemorating the declaration of independence of Israel in 1948.

Mrs J Ramnarine

SPORT



FIXTURES

Tues 5th May

County Athletics 2 League at Jarman Park 4 – 6 pm

Thur 7th May

Years 7 + 8 Rounders at Kings Langley 3.30 – 5.30 pm

Fri 8th May

Year 8 County Cup Cricket v Aldenham (A) 4pm

RESULTS

The Year 8 Football squad competed in the Final of the County Cup against Kings Langley on Tuesday 28th April which resulted in a 0 – 0 draw. It was decided that the title will be shared between the teams – well done boys!

SPORTS NEWS

Alex Hatt will be competing at the regional swimming competition this weekend – good luck.

Lewis Malcolm-Hancock has been selected for the U13 County Rugby squad – congratulations.

On Monday 27th April the PE Department were lucky to have an outside instructor from *Skip to be Fit* come into school to take some PE lessons. The sessions involved the students skipping in a variety of ways to improve their fitness. The students who took part throughout the day thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and we hope to see John the instructor back another time with *Box to be Fit*.

Mrs N Moore, PE Department

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.