



# The Hemel Hempstead School

## News

Issue 705

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[www.hhs.herts.sch.uk](http://www.hhs.herts.sch.uk)

### HeadLines

In a week when pheasants were seen parading across the school fields whilst the whole site acquired the ambience of Spring, the sunshine, not to mention the excitement of House Drama lifted the spirits and lightened our hearts.

The pheasants had not heard about the advancement of our plans to refurbish our catering facilities and introduce menus based on fresh local produce. Well there's 'fresh' and 'FRESH', I suppose. As someone who has had many close encounters with these feathered creatures whose IQ level is somewhat questionable including an incident when one walked into my garden from the black fen soil beyond and tried to make friends with the cat, I know much about the pheasant and, indeed, the partridge. I now know even more about catering firms who operate in schools nationally and how far the quality of school meals has progressed since the pilchard salad and pink blancmange moulds that greeted Christine Bass and me when we returned from our swimming lessons every Friday lunchtime at Cromwell Road Junior School. England was trapped in post war austerity for rather too long! By May half term, the school will have decided upon a new catering firm and we will have news of the bid we have made for funding canteen refurbishment. From September all of us will have the opportunity to benefit from first class, professional, civilised surroundings and food of which Jamie... or even Delia would be proud. I know that the students will benefit from a new start on catering and I hope that many parents will avail themselves of the opportunity to see what is on offer for the children as we will publish menus and information regularly in this newsletter.

Plans are well advanced for our new Food Technology rooms with orders for equipment and making things ready for builders to come onto site. Also well in hand are refurbishment and re-roofing of Heath Barn where work starts shortly. Our main challenge will be to continue Music lessons as normal during the repairs, but Dacorum Borough Council's conservation team and the renovation team from county have been very helpful to us in ensuring that the work is done to the highest specification and with the least disruption. Dacorum Sports are also involved in improving the height of netting around the astro-turf so that stray footballs do not damage a new roof. Another project which is very live is the pursuit of plans to make the site safer for the pedestrians by altering vehicle access to the school and pathways around the place. I will let you know the detail of this as soon as more definite decisions have been made.

Alongside all these projects, we are aiming to re-floor the majority of classrooms and to embark on a redecoration spree from Easter onwards so that all of South Block, West Block and Sixth Form accommodation are spruced up and more conducive to good learning.

What of longer term plans? Well, we have some hopes that we will benefit from 'Building Schools for the Future' but that relies on national funding and government intent remaining intact. In the meantime, the governors have formed a Premises Strategy group which has already started work on rationalising and optimising the use of the site whilst searching out our own sources of funding and mechanisms for change. As you know, we have a vision for an outstanding school that is 'world class' and determination is strong to make that happen: to guarantee a superb education which stretches back into the past, occupies the present and inhabits a successful future.

**Sandra Samwell, Headteacher**

#### Reminder – Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are banned from use in school. Students should not be carrying them at all. There is a system for handing them in to Student Services. If students are found with mobiles, they will be confiscated. They will be returned to a parent or guardian – not directly to the student.

*S J Samwell*

**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.

#### HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATION

**For Excellent Work in Maths:** Olivia Church 8A, Holly Woollatt 8P, Louise Guthrie 8L, Alana Smith 8P.

**For Excellent Dance Performance in House Assembly:** Laura Dowse 10P, Grace Alexander 12L, Amy Howse 12L, Emma Fredskild-Green 12C, Eloise Fouquet 13C.

**For Excellent Work in Science:** Fergus Tinker 9P.

**For Excellent Work in History:** Gabrielle Cole 7P, Tessa Wilson 7P, Joe Nicholls 7P, Mark Cowley 9A, Elliott Craven 9P, Jack Dickinson 9A, Ross Hawkins 9C, Bradley Keeley 9C.

**For Excellent test results in French:** Craig Mogan 8C.

**For Achievement in Music:** Bridget Philpott 10P, Zoe Harbour 10P.



### Year 13 BTEC Variety Show

On 10<sup>th</sup> March Year 13 BTEC produced an amazing concoction of variety acts, compered by Richard Pinner, who once again managed to 'wow' his audience with magic tricks and witty jokes. All ten performers added a unique flair to each piece. Matt Bailey, Toni York, Amie Flowerdew, Lyndsey Moore, Kris Banks, Sam Bateman, Daniel Serrano, Coral Baker, Tami Smith and Bijou Bond produced a fun-filled imaginative show. From Matt Bailey's 'Funky Human Puppet' to Coral Baker's 'My mother said I never should' monologue, all the pieces were very different and showed much rehearsal time. Year 12 BTEC's favourite piece was 'Hairspray' which showed the whole company's ability and performance skill with singing, dancing and acting. The boys' performance of 'Drance' was a unique effect of dance and drama using mime, also Sam Bateman's composition and singing skills were outstanding in 'Diamond Ring' with her dancers and backup singers. Thank you for a wonderful evening. We have a lot to live up to!

*Year 12 BTEC Group*

### West End role for ex-student

We are delighted to share a little exciting news. Clare Halse, who left the school in 2005, has begun rehearsals as a dancer in the West End production of 'Wicked'. She will take the stage on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Clare studied dance under Miss Sepala and had major roles in 'Les Miserables' and 'Rock Challenge' during her time at the school. On leaving us she went on to study Musical Theatre at Arts Educational in Chiswick, London.

We wish Clare all the very best – the Dance Department hope to catch a performance!

### House Chess Challenge

The Chess Tournament is being held in the Library at lunchtime over the next two weeks. The Junior tournament, Years 7-9, is being held from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March. The Senior tournament, Years 10-11, is being held from 30<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Get involved by signing up in the Library or speaking to your House Captain. Come to play or to support your House.

*Thomas Clayson 12A*

### Dates for Your Diary

\*\*\*Gold Week\*\*\*

23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Mar House Chess Challenge Week 1

Year 12 Geography Field Trip  
Year 9 – Police give talk on misuse of alcohol  
Years 12/13 Dance A level Exam Performance, PA1  
5.30 – 7 pm

24<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening, 4.30 – 7 pm

25<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 8 Maths group visit to Watford FC

26<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 12 Science visit to Body Worlds Exhibition  
Year 12 Higher Education Information Evening, 7.30pm

27<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 11 – Police give talk on misuse of alcohol  
Year 7 (7A, 7C, 7F) visit to National Maritime Museum  
Year 11 Music GCSE Practical Exam

28<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 12 History visit to National Portrait Gallery

29<sup>th</sup> Mar Years 12/13 Dance Exam Preparation 11 am

\*\*\*Blue Week\*\*

30<sup>th</sup> Mar – 3 Apr House Chess Challenge Week 2

30<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 7 (7L, 7N, 7P) visit to National Maritime Museum  
Year 11 Music GCSE Practical Exam

31<sup>st</sup> Mar Year 10 Science group visit to Boxmoor Trust

Year 11 Dance Practical Exam 3.30 pm

Year 12 Drama Exam

Peripatetic Music Parents Evening, 4 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Apr Year 8 Maths Set 1 visit to Watford FC

Year 12 Biology Field Trip meeting, Library, 6 pm

Year 10 German Exchange Parents Information Evening,  
Sixth Form Study Centre

2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Apr Year 12 D of E Gold Practice Expedition

Peripatetic Music Parents Evening, 4 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Apr Last day of term

4<sup>th</sup> Apr Years 12/13 Dance Practical Exam

### FIXTURES

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Mar Yrs 8/9 Football v Cavendish (H) 9 – 11 am

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar Yr 8 County League Basketball Semi-Final v Sheredes (H)  
3.30 – 6 pm, Yr 8 Girls County League Basketball Semi-Final v St Columba's  
College 3.30 – 6 pm, Yr 9 Boys County League Basketball Final v SCC at St  
Columba's College 6 – 8 pm (meet at 3.30 pm).

Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Mar Yr 8 Girls Basketball at Tring 3.30 – 5.30 pm,

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Mar Yr 7 Girls Football Mini League @ Cavendish,

Yr 8 Boys County League Basketball Final v SCC at St Columba's College

Thu 26<sup>th</sup> Mar Yr 10 District Cup Football Semi-Final v Ashlyns (H) 3.30-6pm

### RESULTS

Year 7 Basketball v Cavendish drew 18-18

Year 8 Football District Cup Semi-Final v Bridgewater won 3-2

Year 7 Football County Cup Semi-Final v Queens lost 3-2

Year 7 Football District Cup Semi-Final v Cavendish won 2-0 aet

Year 9 Basketball County League Semi-Final v St Mary's won 44-35

### SPORTS NEWS

Good luck to the Year 7/8 Girls and the Year 9 Boys Basketball squads who are on route to the County Finals. Finals are on Monday at St Columba's College, St Albans. Tip-off 4 pm and 6 pm respectively. The squads have performed really well all year and have learnt so much since September. Good luck in the Final!

*Miss E Bevan, Learning Leader: PE*

**Advertisement - An Evening With ...DALEY THOMPSON**, Double Olympic Decathlon Champion and **GEOFF CAPES**, Olympic Athlete and Strongman at Campus West, Welwyn Garden City, Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7.45 pm (doors open at 7 pm). In aid of The Ron Pickering Memorial Fund. Tickets £12.50, £11 concessions.

Box Office: 01707 357117

### Gold Letters issued recently:

**Letter 158** Year 12 History visit to The National Portrait Gallery

**Letter 159** Year 7 Interim Report

**Letter 160** Ecuador trip meeting

**Letter 161** Year 8 Interim Report

**Letter 162** Peripatetic Music Parent Evening

**Letter 163** Year 8 Maths Set 1 visit to Watford FC

**Letter 164** Year 11 English visit to theatre 'An Inspector Calls'

**Letter 165** Year 9 Interim Report

**Letter 166** Year 10 Spring Interim Report

**Letter 167** Year 13 (2009/10) Biology Field Trip

*All Gold Letters can be viewed on our website: [www.hhs.herts.sch.uk](http://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*

### PTA News

**JUMBLE SALE – TOMORROW** The Jumble Sale takes place tomorrow, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Jumble will be accepted in the school hall until 9am Saturday morning.

#### Fundraising

Please will you help us to raise some money through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)? All you have to do is log on to their website, register your details, and choose Hemel Hempstead School Association as the charity / organisation you wish to support. Once you have registered successfully, make the site a 'favourite'.

Every time you buy something online – through Amazon.co.uk for example – you just log on to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk), find Amazon.co.uk, and make your purchase as normal. In this way it costs you nothing extra, but we get 2.5% of what you spend.

If you're not sure how or what to do, log on to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and read 'How it works', 'Using this site' or 'FAQ'. You'll soon get the hang of it.

So far just eight of our members have joined, and we have received a cheque for nearly £30 – for doing nothing!

Additionally, instead of using a search engine such as 'Google' please consider using [easysearch.org.uk](http://easysearch.org.uk). Don't forget to register Hemel Hempstead School Association as the charity / organisation you wish to support, then make the site a 'favourite'. You can also make [easysearch](http://easysearch.org.uk) appear in the little box in the top right hand corner of your Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox. Just ask if you have any problems.

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