



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

21 November 2008

www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

According to some reports, standards are slipping in all areas of life: exams are easier, children are more unruly, shop assistants are increasingly unhelpful, police officers don't assist you across the road any more and even the Queen said: "Prince Philip and me..." last week. Well if the Queen can't speak the Queen's English, what hope is there for the rest of us?

But was she right or was she wrong? I often take children to task for poor grammar or using the vernacular rather than a more formally appropriate English. I am probably fighting a losing battle if a word like 'meh' (try saying it; the sound is the meaning...) can enter the English dictionary as it did recently.

Indeed, I am sometimes taken to task by my team of HeadLines proof readers, all keen to catch out the Head when her subjunctives and gerunds become entangled, whilst knowing that much of it is about tuning in to someone's unique use of language... or could it be the difference between the Fenland lingo and the Hertfordshire patois?

The most hated phrases in current parlance were voted for by 'Daily Telegraph' readers in a poll a couple of weeks ago. In comparing these with a similar list compiled at Oxford University, the only irritating phrase in common was "shouldn't of" but, clearly, phrases such as

- Fairly unique
- I personally
- Up until
- At the end of the day
- At this moment in time
- With all due respect

As well as the old favourites like

- Literally
- Basically
- Absolutely
- Upcoming

and

- 24/7

received many votes. Well, "it's not rocket science is it?" Yes...that won many supporters too!

I am pleased that English is such a well loved and successful subject in this school. I am delighted that our Library is such a well frequented part of the school and equally happy that the adults in school take out as many books as the students ...if not more. Have standards slipped? Certainly formal grammar is not taught as it once was and Latin, although regaining ground in some schools, is hardly taught at all in state schools, despite its good influence on written English.

If you would like to read more about the mangling of language, then you might like to read or request for your Christmas stocking a tome entitled 'Damp Squid: the English Language Laid Bare'. Of course, the title illustrates how 'squib' has become 'squid' from both over usage and a lack of understanding of the key word. Come to think of it, what do you say: "off my own back" or "bat"?

Language is an evolving thing and we would not have such a rich and exciting one without the innovative contributions of Shakespeare, the Beatles and txt! What would be unforgivable is if schools 'dumbed down' so much that the works of Dickens or the Brontes or Austen or Keats or Wordsworth were exchanged on a literary ebay for Rowling, Wilson or Morpurgo. The classical and the modern can exist together in harmony and populate the culture and language magnificently.

Something which has become a staple of my reading is the Hemel Hempstead Gazette; it reassures me this week that society was probably as awful, in its way, 100 years ago as two young men were in court for bullying boarders at Berkhamsted Boys' School. The pair had been 'throwing chestnuts, knocking off their hats and pushing boys to the ground. You see, it wasn't all Latin Grammar and polite manners in 1908! Fifty years ago, life hadn't looked up in Berkhamsted when a pond at Puttenham had become so full of sludge that a moorhen was seen to turn up its nose and walk away from it.

The latter story doesn't prove my point at all but I thought it was about time a moorhen appeared in these headlines for the first time. My point is a simple one: life and language move on but schools must play their part in educating to the highest ideals so that the best is not lost and sloppiness in expressing ourselves is not allowed to thrive.

This week Amelie Lecoeuche sent me a poem about House Dance she had written which she thought I would like because "it's the kind of genre you read out in assembly". Did I like the poem? Absolutely!

continued/

A poem I wrote

We are the masters of music.
When we are given a tune,
We give a mind, a body, and a soul.
Finally, with heart and breath,
We give movement.

Sometimes, we harness the music
To tell a tale,
A story of people, creatures,
And their lives.

Sometimes, we harness the music
To become people,
With a country, or a status;
King, Queen, Chinese, Indian.

Sometimes, we harness the music,
But not to be.
We entertain, entrance,
Capture imagination.

When we rehearse,
We rule the song –
Bending, twisting, taming

But when we enter the stage,
The music, the same tune we tamed,
Takes hold of us.
It spreads its wings,
And together we soar
To the heavens.

We are no longer the masters.
We are the dancers.

by Amelie Lecoeuche 9P



Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

PTA News

Our next meeting will be on Monday 1st December at 7 pm in the Library. We would love to see you there.

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

Gold Letters issued recently:

- Letter 75** BTEC Sport 'Body Worlds' Exhibition
- Letter 76** KS4 Dance trip to 'Edward Scissorhands'
- Letter 77** Year 9 Options Information Evening
- Letter 78** Year 10 German Exchange/Work Experience

All Gold Letters can be viewed on our website:
www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

JOB VACANCY

Strategic Area Partnership Office Part-time Administrative and Employer Links Post for the 14-19 Strategic Area Partnership Office based in The Hemel Hempstead School.

Approximately 5 hours per week (usually Wednesday pm and Thursday am – some flexibility will be needed). Term time only; fixed term contract until August 2009. Salary scale: H3 (£16,072) £8.33 per hour.

Own transport essential.

The job will involve offering administrative support to the Business, Admin., and Finance Diploma Development Group, liaising with employers and working closely with the SAPG Co-ordinator.

For further details: 01442 400110

Application: Send a letter of application and CV to SAPG Office, The Hemel Hempstead School, Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1TX or email to

t.gogol@hhs.herts.sch.uk

Closing date: Wednesday 26th November 2008.

Important Information about EMA Payments

The following announcement has just been made public. We want to assure providers, colleges and all young people that applications will continue to be processed and the helplines will continue on the same numbers and all providers should continue to use their existing systems to make payment to their ALG and EMA learners.

LSC APPOINTS NEW SERVICE PROVIDER FOR LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES

“The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has discontinued its contract with Liberata and appointed Capita to take on its full range of learner support services – including Education Maintenance Allowances (EMA) and the Adult Learning Grant (ALG).

Learners have suffered weeks of delay in receiving payments as a result of Liberata encountering technical difficulties in processing EMA applications. The focus of the LSC and Liberata throughout this period was to ensure that all possible steps were taken to overcome these delays. At one stage the backlog of applications was in excess of 200,000. Liberata has worked to reduce this backlog to below 12,000 and the remaining applications are expected to be cleared within the next few weeks.

Despite this progress, the LSC’s view is that a change of supplier is the best way forward. The LSC has been in talks with Liberata about the future of the contract for the past four weeks and has decided to move the contract to another supplier.

We can now announce that the Learner and Learning Provider helplines, processing and payments service will transfer from Liberata to Capita on 28th November. With effect from that date, Capita will bring in a new senior management team to oversee the staff and operations in Coventry, Manchester and Darlington processing centres.

We would like to reassure learners that payments will continue and, that during the transfer period, outstanding applications will continue to be processed.”

Mark Haysom, Chief Executive of the LSC said:

“We have said throughout that it is unacceptable for young people to have their EMA payments delayed.

Capita has a long history of working on programmes such as EMA and we are delighted they are able to take this contract forward and provide learners with the service they deserve. We are working with Liberata and Capita to make the transfer as smooth as possible. Although the transfer will not immediately fix all of the helpline and processing problems, it will help us to improve the future service for young people, colleges and learning providers.”

Learner Support Service on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council

To all parents of pupils in Years 9, 11 and 12 REMINDER!

DACORUM CAREERS FAIR, 24th NOVEMBER

Please put a note in your diaries to attend the Dacorum Careers Fair taking place at 6 – 9 pm on 24th November at the Civic Centre in Hemel Hempstead, (HP1 1HH).

There will be around 40 employers available to talk to you about career opportunities including: Sir Robert McAlpine, Pure Digital, DSGi (Dixons), PricewaterhouseCoopers, Herts County Council, Armed Services, Colleges, the University of Herts and Training Organisations (please see the school website for the full list).

There will also be talks taking place on the following subjects: Apprenticeships, University Finance and the new Diplomas.

There is no charge for attending the event, and there is free parking in the Civic Centre car park.

Ask your children for the letters they have been given over the last two weeks advertising this event.

Mr P Nash, Careers Department

HEADTEACHER’S COMMENDATIONS

For Excellent Work in Geography

Lucy Bridger 8A

For Service to the School

Adam Amamou 9P, Sophia Amamou 7P, Lauren Kempster 8A, Amelia Wright 10A.

For Contribution to House Dance

Jasmine Bond 10P, Sarah Rae 12A, Anna Rundle 12A, Sophie Wadmore 12A, Hannah Parikh 12A, Catherine Dean 12A, Michael Holloway 12A, Robyn Eames 12A, Claire Green 12C, Amber Haynes 12C, Hannah Richardson 12C, Jenna Love 12C, Michaela James 12C, Ryan Bellman-Jeffreys 12C, Duncan Philpott 12C, Helen Gleave 12C, Emma Fredskild Green 12C, Rosie Lutt 12F, Natalie Richardson 12F, Rianna Sarsons 12F, Alice Cook 12F, Larissa George 12F, Eve Clancy 12L, Emma Saunders 12L, Natalie Pigott 12L, Grace Alexander 12L, Natalie Ashburner 12L, Amy Howse 12L, Bronte Archer 12L, Sam Dashwood 12N, Luke Meredith 12N, Mark Allday 12N, Amber Marsh 12N, Nicole Hardwick 12N, Benjamin Tavener 12N, Fiona Moore 12N, Michael Deane 12P, Paul Minter 12P, Benjamin Walsh 12P, Nicola Bennett 12P, Chloe Turner 12P, Kris Banks 13F.

Year 10 Catering

On 12th and 13th November Mr Mansbridge, of Mansbridge Bakeries, came into our catering classes to make pizza and bread rolls with 40 Year 10 students. Mr Mansbridge was kind enough to provide us with all of the ingredients. He showed us how to make the bread rolls and pizza first so that we knew what we were doing. He made it look really easy but it wasn’t when it came to doing it for ourselves. It was a really good experience to have a master baker show you what to do and the whole class was very grateful to him for coming in. It was also an enjoyable experience. It was quite a quick process but tricky. We made the bread rolls first; they were difficult to get smooth but turned out OK. Once we had made the rolls we made the pizza base by spreading the dough evenly round the tray then, when we had done that, we spread the tomato sauce on the base and added the cheese. The rolls and the pizza were put into the oven and turned out very well and tasty too. From the lessons our classes have learnt some good techniques and skills from Mr Mansbridge to help us with our cooking in the future.

On behalf of both of our classes we would like to thank Mr Mansbridge for his time, his effort and also the ingredients he provided for us; this is all greatly appreciated.

*Rebecca Carson 10F and Adam King 10C,
on behalf of Year 10 Catering*

Dates for Your Diary

Gold Week

- 24th Nov** Years 9, 11 and 12 Careers Event at The Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead, 6 – 9 pm
- 26th Nov** Year 9 Options Parents Information Evening 6.30 pm
- 27th Nov** Years 12/13 Design Conference
Year 9 West Herts College Open Evening at Cassio Campus 5 – 8 pm
- 28th Nov** *Occasional Day – School closed to students and staff*

Blue Week

- 1st – 2nd Dec** Year 11 Mock Art Exam
- 2nd Dec** Year 9 Diploma Information Evening 7.30 pm
- 3rd Dec** Years 12/13 Dance trip to Laban Dance Centre
Year 10 BTEC Sport to 'Body Worlds' Exhibition
- 4th Dec** Year 12 Parents Consultation Evening
- 5th Dec** CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Calendar update:

Christmas Carol Service - Tuesday, 16th December

Maths Lectures

On Tuesday 18th November 'A' Level Maths students went to visit the University of London for a series of lectures on how maths is used in the real world. The lectures were very interesting, from how to manipulate the stock market to make a lot of money, how spinning objects allow satellites to rotate in space, to how to co-ordinate attacks on submarines using planes. Overall it was a very enjoyable and informative day, and we would like to thank Mr Sutton for giving us the opportunity to go to these lectures.

Thomas Clayson 12A

Would you like to become an Exam Invigilator?

Working alongside experienced invigilators you would provide an invaluable service to The Hemel Hempstead School by helping set up exams and supervising candidates.

If you are interested in finding out what this job entails, we are holding an information session on Tuesday 25th November between 9.30 am and 10.30 am.

Invigilators are required in December, January and from mid-May to the end of June.

Hours worked are agreed in advance. £8.20 per hour.

Please call Mrs McCausland, Examinations Officer on 01442 400111.



Cycling to school

If you wish your child to cycle to school please request the appropriate application form from Student Services. On production of the completed form and sight of a Herts Road Safety/Cycling Proficiency Certificate a cycle permit will be issued. Students who do not have a permit should not be cycling to school.



SPORT

FIXTURES

Sat 22nd Nov

Football v JFK: Year 7A (H), Year 7B (A), Year 8 (H)
Year 9 (H), Year 10 (A) 8.45 – 11 am

Mon 24th Nov

1st XI County Cup Football v John Warner (A) 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Tues 25th Nov

Year 8 Netball @ Adeyfield

Year 7A and 7B Netball v Cavendish (A)

U19 English Schools Basketball v Downham Market (A)

Weds 26th Nov

U14 County League Basketball v St Columba's College (H)

Thurs 27th Nov

Year 9 Netball @ Astley Cooper

Year 10 Netball @ Adeyfield

U15 English Schools Basketball v Hitchin (A) 4.15 pm

RESULTS

U15 English Schools Basketball v Parmiters lost 70-51

U15 County League Basketball v Ashlyns won 77-55

Football v Marlborough: Year 7 won 8-0

Year 8 won 8-0

Year 9 won 3-1

Year 10 lost 2-1

Year 8 Netball: v Longdean won 2-1

v Bridgewater drew 4-4

v Tring won 6-1

v Kings Langley won 6-1

Year 7 Netball: v Bridgewater

A Team won 15-10

B Team won 17-0

Mr P Bryson, PE Department

NETBALL NEWS

A great result. Shelley 5 were first to take the court on Sunday at the Watford Netball League, meeting Watford Premier 3. After a steady start they stormed ahead, to leave the court with a score of 31-20 goals, in their favour. Shelley 5 are a team of HHS students who went to University, and on completion of their courses, formed a netball team, to rejoin Shelley Netball Club, your School/Club link.

Shelley 4 met Gadeside 5, but were unable to take the lead and lost the game after producing some good netball. The next round saw the return of Jenna Love into Shelley 3, having bounced back after a serious operation. After an exciting tussle between Shelley and Watford Premier 2, they eventually lost 26-28, but gained a point for a close score. Finally, Shelley Juniors and Shelley 6 met, with the weather deteriorating badly to cold drizzle. Bravely, in poor conditions, both teams showed great skill and team spirit, cheered on by a large band of supportive parents. Shelley Juniors walked off the court as winners with the highest score, but both teams were winners by showing good competitive netball skills under poor conditions.

Mrs K Worrell MBE