



HeadLines

One of the reasons for our tremendously successful examination results was the effective targets set for students. Over the past few years, our Learning Review days have served a particular purpose in enabling a dialogue to occur between parents, students and tutors to allow targets to be set. However, those days have reduced the teaching and learning time with students and we believe that it is time to dispense with them and incorporate a different and better system into the way we work.

To address the issue of effective targeting whilst retaining sufficient discussion between home and school, we have introduced academic tutoring which will run on a fortnightly basis for our youngsters. In next week's newsletter, one of our new Assistant Headteachers, Mr Stuart, will explain what academic tutoring is and how it works. Running alongside this, there will be opportunities for parents to participate in the formulation, planning and monitoring of targets. These will include parent consultation evenings, coursework and border-liner evenings, written dialogue via the student planners, interim reports and individual meetings with tutors or student achievement leaders to be arranged as requested or needed throughout the year.

Students will begin the year knowing their academic targets and how they will work towards achieving these. For a school with such excellent results this year, my vision is that every student will attain level II and progress to level III in two years time. In other words, we will reach a school target of 5 A* - C of 100% and our figure including English and Maths will rise from this year's magnificent 77% to as close to the 100% as our ambition allows. Our GCSE figure has risen by 12% in two years with the English and Maths figure rising by 17% in two years. This will have an impact on post-16 work which will mean more students than ever gaining As and Bs at A level. This is a very good school which is on the brink of being declared an outstanding school.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Gold Week

Weds 26th Sept Year 8 International Languages Day
Thurs 27th Sept Year 10 Art Trip

Blue Week

Thurs 4th Oct Open Evening for Year 6 Parents
Please note school will finish early—letter to follow.
Fri 5th Oct Jeans for Genes Day

Surveys and standards

The **parental survey** results have been received and they are very pleasing, giving us real insight into parental views and expectations. Thank you to the 363 families who responded [31% response rate] One of the governors' committees will be looking at the survey results in some detail and we will report their findings to you as soon as we can.

Investors In People visited us for a re-recognition exercise this week and we met the new standards with flying colours. Features which were praised particularly were

- Exam results and academic outcomes
- Learning and development opportunities
- Support for new staff, particularly Newly Qualified Teachers
- Clarity of vision for the organisation
- Effective management at all levels
- Leadership qualities expected of all staff

Congratulations to all our staff on this success.

Quote of the week: "All human beings by nature, desire to know." Aristotle, Greek philosopher

Looking for your support

The HHSA is looking for your support over the coming year. We look forward to meeting parents of Year 7 students on 11th October in the hall from 7pm for our Cheese and Wine Evening and anticipate seeing many more of you at future events including a quiz evening. More details and dates will follow but we would love you to take part in as many activities as possible this year, activities which serve two purposes: raising money for items of equipment and having great fun!

Miss S J Samwell

SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

We have a date for our Autumn Jumble Sale - Saturday 17th November at 10am. Please start sorting through your wardrobes and cupboards. We can start taking items from you straight away, please contact me on the number below or email me. We would also appreciate any help you can give us either on the Friday after school (16th November) or actually selling on the day.

Dates for your Diary:

Jumble Sale Saturday 17th November at 10am.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 12th November at 7pm in the Library in the main school, all welcome.

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

Year 8 International Languages Day

We are pleased to announce that Year 8 will be off timetable on Wednesday 26th September for International Languages Day. The students will have the opportunity to learn about languages and cultures not normally taught at the school. Languages on offer will be Japanese, Greek, Portuguese, Cantonese, Italian and Welsh, and will be taught by members of staff from within and outside the Modern Languages Department. Students need not bring their normal books but must have their planners and pens. Look forward to an exciting day!

Mrs R Cunnie, Modern Foreign Languages Department

Jeans for Genes

On Friday 5th October, we are supporting this important annual fundraising event, which helps to raise much-needed money for thousands of children who have been diagnosed with genetic disorders. Enjoy wearing your cool jeans, bring in £1 and help to change lives!

Jasmine Bond, 9P

Black History Week

October is Black History Month. It is celebrated nationally, but will be celebrated in the school the week commencing Monday 8th October.

During the week there will be lunchtime activities for Year 7 and 8— Chinese Calligraphy, Chinese Language/Games and Rangoli, for which there will be a small charge. Other year groups will have the opportunity to go to video clubs, have a henna tattoo (**parental permission only**) and will take part in drama workshops and discussions in lessons throughout the week. The school has organised influential speakers including Dwight Smiley from MECCS, Stefan Bailey (QPR Midfielder) and Shaun Bailey, a Young Candidate from Lambeth Council to speak and spend time with students this week.

On Wednesday 10th October the school will hold a Multicultural Evening in the hall from 6.15-9.30pm. Everyone will have the chance to join in cultural workshops, watch performances from our students and other performers in the area, listen to guest speakers such as the Mayor and taste exotic food from the Caribbean and India. This evening is open to everyone, so please come along!

Look on the School website latest information for news on these events.

Mrs J Ramnarine

Year 10 English Gifted and Talented Trip

On 9th and 10th July three students from Year 10 were chosen to attend a two-day English course at Queens School in Watford. The aim of the two days was to write the opening of a novel; the purpose was to not only create fear within the reader but to also inspire the reader to continue reading. We really enjoyed our two days and it really helped us to produce a superb piece of writing that can be used in our coursework. We would like to thank Queens School for allowing us to attend the classes, plus Mrs Wickett, the Head of English at our school and Ms Underhei, Head of English at Queens.

Fiona Moore, IIN

Canteen News

Welcome back to all our old customers. We extend a special welcome to our new Year 7 customers who seem to be enjoying their new experience here at The Hemel Hempstead School. If you have any questions or queries regarding the food, we are always happy to listen and help if we are able to.

In line with government legislation cakes are no longer available at break time but why not try our range of speciality breads. So far we have tried tomato, cheese and onion, fruit, marmite pinwheels, lemon curd and jam twirls. Let us know what your favourites are or make suggestions for new fillings for us to try.

Also, look out for the 'Eatwell' promotions available every week.

Mrs J Davis, Catering Manager

Headteacher's Commendations:

Excellent work in Art: Eloise Phillips 9F.

Excellent work in Science: Keith Johnson 9A, Sarah Kinley 9P.

To all poets in Years 7 to 9:

Do you have a pile of poems just waiting to be published? Have you never written a poem before and would love to have a try? Now is your chance! Take part in the Young Writers' poetry competition; create a poem of no more than thirty lines on a topic of your choice and bring it along to the English Department. For further details and an entry form, see Miss Johnson.

Miss C Johnson, English Department

School answerphone for sickness or 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 answer phone on **01442 390103 by 9am if possible**.

Sport

FIXTURES

Saturday 22nd September

Football - Year 7, 8, 9, 10 A&B squads v Queens (A) 8.45 - 11am

Year 10 5 a-side Community Tournament @ Cavendish 9am - 2pm

Tuesday 25th September

Year 7 Netball @ Astley Cooper 4 - 5.30pm

Year 8 Netball @ Adeyfield 4 - 5.30pm

Year 10 ESFA v Chiswick Community School (H) Kick Off 4pm

Wednesday 26th September

Year 11 and senior Netball @ Berkhamsted Collegiate 4 - 5.30pm

Year 8 Basketball v Bridgewater (H) 3.30-5.30pm

Year 8 County Cup Football v Sheredes (A) 3.30-6.30pm

Thursday 27th September

Year 9 Netball @ Astley Cooper 4 - 5.30pm

Year 10 Netball @ Adeyfield 4 - 5.30pm

Saturday 29th September

Netball - Under 16 County Tournament at Parmiters School 9am

Football—Years 9 and 10, venue tbc.

RESULTS:

Netball

Year 7: v Astley Cooper 11 - 0 win, v Longdean 5 - 0 win, v Tring 4 - 1 win, v Adeyfield 10 - 0 win

Year 8: v Adeyfield 1 - 7 lost, v Kings Langley 2 - 4 lost, v JFK 1 - 4 lost, v Astley Cooper 12 - 1 win

Football

Under 16 ESFA v Leventhorpe 1 - 3 lost

Year 7 A v Berkhamsted 4 - 1 win

Year 7 B v Berkhamsted 3 - 0 win

Year 8 A v Berkhamsted 8 - 2 win

Year 8 B v Berkhamsted 4 - 4 draw

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to the Year 7 Netball team who made an excellent start to their netball careers at The Hemel Hempstead School, winning all four matches convincingly. The Year 7 Football teams also made a good start on Saturday beating Berkhamsted away. Congratulations must also go to Jamie Shaw in Year 8 who has been selected to represent Dacorum in the District Football squad this season.

Miss E Bevan, Head of PE

On Tuesday 18th September the Year 8 Netball team went to Adeyfield School for the first Mini League of the season. The team; Sophie Hatchett (Captain), Jess Armitage, Shona Berloth, Lydia Shepherd, Chloe Conroy, Alex Eykelbosch, Olivia Bauldrey, Sarah Grover. The girls played well although a bit rusty after a summer off. The pace was too quick at times, however for the most part the girls held their own and there was some lovely defending in what were some very tough games. The girls shone through in a game against Astley Cooper with a 12-1 win. Well done girls. What a great start to the season – the only way is up! Player of the Match: Shona Berloth

Miss F Fraser

Gold Letters issued recently

Letter No. 10 Years 10, 12, 13 Immunisations

Letter No. 13,14,15 Year 10 English Set Texts

Letter No. 16 Rambert Dance Company

Letter No. 17 Year 9 Assessment

Letter No. 18 Year 9 Start of Term Letter

Letter No. 19 Year 7 English Department Letter

Letter No. 20 French and German Magazines

Letter No. 22 Year 7 Progress Groups

Letter No. 24 Black History Month

