



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

22 February 2008

www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

I love musicals and musical theatre. My mother was a professional singer whilst my father directed or built elaborate sets for hundreds of plays. Their proudest moments included my appearance twenty five years ago as Maria in 'The Sound of Music' and the first musical I directed, 'Godspell', back in 1982. I am looking forward with great anticipation, therefore, to our BTEC group's performance of 'Godspell' at Kings Langley on Saturday. Songs like 'Day by Day' and 'Bless the Lord' will bring back happy memories and I am sure they will show off our students' talents to the full.

Our students were very much on show in the week before half term. On Friday 1st February I had received the call from the OfSTED administrative team that our inspection would take place the following Wednesday and Thursday and to expect a call in an hour from the Lead Inspector. This began seven days of frenzied activity to prepare for and experience something which had been anticipated for some time.

During their time with us, the inspectors observed over forty lessons, interviewed more than fifty students, spoke to the senior team for many hours on a range of issues and received comments from parents. On the Thursday afternoon, they reported back to the Chair of Governors, our County School Improvement Partner, the Deputy Headteacher and myself. Their 'headlines' included:

- The school is judged '**good** with *many outstanding* features'
- There has been considerable progress since the previous inspection
- Leadership and Management are **very effective**
- The capacity to improve is **very good**
- Focussed action by the Headteacher at GCSE has led to **outstanding** results
- Teaching and Learning are **good**
- Results are **good** overall and **outstanding** at KS4
- SEN students make **outstanding** progress
- Behaviour is **very good**
- Attendance is **above average** and **improving**
- Personal development and well being are **outstanding**
- Care, guidance and support are **outstanding**
- Curriculum is **outstanding**

The full report will follow next week. Copies will be sent to you then and one will be published on the website. To say that I am very pleased with the outcome and the judgements is an understatement. We have cause to be very proud of our school, but I will say more next week in this newsletter.

And so back to musicals! Whilst luminaries like Laurel and Hardy, Morecambe and Wise and The Beatles had appeared on the stage of the Embassy Theatre in Peterborough, the week after I starred as Maria in 'The Sound of Music' the theatre closed. It was purely coincidental, I can assure you. On the last night of my first musical production of 'Godspell', I felt as proud as I thought I could ever feel, yet when I heard from the inspectors on the 7th February how wonderful our students were and what they thought about their school and their teachers, I was as proud and pleased as I have ever been. Be prepared to read a superb OfSTED report next week!

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



Hemel Hempstead School Year 13
Btec Performing Arts Proudly Presents
an Amateur production by arrangement with
Samuel French Limited ...

GODSPELL

SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2008
SHOWING ONE NIGHT ONLY!
EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE!

GODSPELL
Conceived and Originally Directed by
JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK

Music and New Lyrics by
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Originally Produced on the New York Stage by
Edgar Lansbury/Stuart Duncan/Joseph Beruh

Time: 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

Venue: Kings Langley Community Centre

Price: Adults £5 Concessions/Students £3
(Tickets available from Student Services or
on the door on the night)

Telephone: 01442 390100



Open University PGCE

Have you ever thought of becoming a teacher ?

As an Open University partner school, we are pleased to bring the Open University's flexible teacher training course to your attention. This is a unique PGCE course designed to open up opportunities for graduates who want to teach but, due to their existing personal, professional or financial commitments, require a flexible, individualised training programme.

The Open University course has training places available for secondary Science, Mathematics, Music, Design and Technology, Modern Languages and Geography. All course modules are distance learning materials that you can study in your own time. You will be expected to carry out some continuous blocks of teaching practice, but the timing of these can be agreed with your placement school – and you can take up to three years to complete the course – training at a pace that suits you and your family. If you already have experience of teaching, you may be able to claim exemption from some of the course.

Most of the students on the course are people like you – people with children who have enjoyed supporting their own children's schooling and would like the challenge of working with young people. Many of them have worked in other careers, and want a change of scene – and have valuable experience to share with the pupils they teach.

You can apply at any time, and we have start dates throughout the year, so if you think this might be the opportunity you have been waiting for, you can find out more about the OU PGCE course on the Open University website (www.open.ac.uk) or by phoning the Student Registration and Enquiry Service on 0845 300 6090.

Sport



RESULTS

Basketball

Year 8 Boys v St Georges, won 48-45

Year 11 Boys v Ashlyns, won 63-31

FIXTURES

Saturday 23rd February

Football v Bushey Meads

Monday 25th February

Sports Tour Netball Squad v Tring (A)

Sports Tour Football Squad, Year 10 v Year 11 (H)

Wednesday 27th February

U16 District Football v JFK (H)

U14 Basketball v St Georges (A)

Thursday 28th February

U15 Girls Basketball @ Longdean

U18 County Cup Tournament v Queens (H) 2pm

Friday 1st March

Football v St Columbas College

House Sports –Football

Year 7 Boys Latimer v Nettleden (Latimer won)

Year 8 Boys Latimer v Nettleden (Latimer won)

This week has seen the culmination of the House Sports weeks that were keenly contested before half term.

The results of the finals, played on Thursday 21st are above.

A huge thanks to the Sports Ambassadors for organising and running this very successful event which I am sure is set to continue in the future.

Congratulations to the U16 Basketball side who, in beating Ashlyns this week, have advanced to the District Finals – Well done and Good Luck !

Miss E Bevan, PE Department

Years 7 and 8 Chinese Calligraphy Workshop – Chinese New Year

On Thursday 7th February, it was the Chinese New Year. This is the Year of the Rat and the start of the 12 year cycle. To celebrate, I went to the Chinese Calligraphy workshop with my friend. There, we learnt to use the traditional Chinese writing tool – a brush pen (a bit like a paintbrush). We started with a practice sheet because the pen was quite tricky to use – we had to keep our hand very upright. We then made a ‘Happy New Year!’ card which said good ‘luck’ or ‘fortune’ on it and two good luck signs to put on our doors (for good luck, obviously!). One said ‘Happy New Year’ (*Sching Ya How*) and the other ‘Congratulations, it’s the new Year!’ (*Gon tshee va tai*).

 (*Chinese for Happy New Year*)

It was a very enjoyable workshop, and I learnt a lot. A brilliant way to begin the 15-day Chinese New Year celebrations!
Amélie Lecoeuche, 8P

“Teng Chieh”

The Lantern Festival (called *Yuan Xiao Jie* or *Teng Chieh* in Chinese) takes place under a full moon and marks the end of the Chinese New Year season. It has roots in Hinduism and Buddhism and is celebrated in countries such as China, Taiwan and Thailand and in Asian immigrant communities around the world. Business and other official closings depend on the region.

Celebrations feature fireworks and folk dancing. Highlights include traditional public performances such as the dragon parade and the lion dance. The special food associated with the Lantern Festival is *yuanxiao*, a round, sweet, stuffed dumpling made with sticky rice flour that symbolizes family unity, completeness and happiness.

People hang paper lanterns along streets and around homes and carry them around parks and outside temples. Lanterns may appear in the shapes of dragons, birds or other animals. People write auspicious phrases on the lanterns to ward off evil spirits and to attract good ones; some will decorate their lantern with a riddle and award a prize to the first person who solves it. The light given off by the lanterns is said to attract heavenly spirits and allow celebrants the chance to see them.

History: The Lantern Festival has origins in the beliefs of Brahmanism, a branch of the Hindu religion, and is generally thought to have evolved during the first century into an observance honouring Buddha (Buddhism having grown out of Hinduism). The Chinese have celebrated the Lantern Festival for nearly 2,000 years since the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 221 AD). The lantern, a source of light, is a traditional symbol of the lengthening days of spring. The legend of the Jade Emperor, wherein a village was spared a deity’s wrath by lighting lanterns, is also associated with the festival. *Mrs J Ramnarine*

Library Notice :

A big **‘Thank You’** to Year 7 parents who bought over £200 worth of books for the Library at the recent Parents Evening. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Mrs E Krajewski, Librarian



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.**

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 114 Year 8 Maths Trip to Watford Football Club

Letter 115 Year 8 Maths Trip to Watford Football Club

Letter 116 Internet use at home

Letter 118 Year 12 Geography trip to Cranedale Centre

Letter 119 Year 9 Parent Consultation

Letter 120 Year 9 Somme visit

PTA News

WANTED – someone to review our charity accounts at the end of our accounting year (21st August). We do not need a full audit, so if you can help us and have a financial qualification, please contact our Treasurer at the email address below.

Next meeting is Monday 3rd March 2008 at 7pm in the Library.

Jumble Sale 8th March 2008, Main Hall 10am.

We are now collecting jumble. Please telephone the numbers below to arrange for jumble to be collected from the school car park. Thank you.

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

Year 9 Writing Challenge



Please could I remind Year 9 students that we have been selected and that this will start on Monday 25th February at lunchtime (1.45 – 2.15pm) in Rooms W1 and W2 (refer to notice on English Office door).

Mrs J Ramnarine

Headteacher's Commendations

For excellent work in ICT: Olivia Bauldreay 8N, Andrew Coe 8P, Jack Eykelbosch 8P, Jacob Buckley 8C

For excellent work in French: Ben Kay 7P, Mary Pattinson 7P, Emma D'Amery 7L, Dionne Donaldson 7L

For excellent work in German: Amelie Lecoecuche 9P, Stephanie Foster 8L

For excellent work in English: Callum Harbour, Rory Tinker, Kieran Cavanagh, Hollie Clarke, Mary Pattinson, Ben Kay 7P



Dates for Your Diary

Feb	***Gold Week***
Sat 23 rd	Year 13 Performance of Godspell at Kings Langley Community Centre
Sun 24 th	A Level dance Set Study Day DofE Gold Training Day – Sixth Form Study Area
Mon 25 th	Year 12 History/Politics Trip
Wed 27 th	Year 12 General Studies Day Years 10 and 11 COPE Trip
Thur 28 th	Year 11 Art Trip to Royal Academy/Tate Britain Rock Challenge Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening Year 9 English Theatre Trip
Fri 29 th	
March	***Blue Week***
Sun 2 nd –	Year 10 German Exchange to Speyer
Sun 9 th	
Mon 3 rd –	Year 11 English GCSE
Mon 10 th	Speaking and Listening exams
Wed 5 th	Year 8 Maths Trip to Watford FC
Fri 7 th	Year 12 Ethics and Philosophy Revision Conference

Maths Puzzle of the month, January:

A short-list for the crew had been drawn up consisting of 5 European, 4 American and 3 Russian astronauts. Those short-listed were subject to extreme testing as only seven astronauts were required for the trip, plus a leader and a doctor who were not included in the short list as they had already been selected. The crew, therefore, total nine members. How many different possible teams of nine could be made up from the short-listed astronauts if each team had to include: 3 European, 2 American and 2 Russian astronauts, plus the leader and the doctor?

Solution:

There are 10 different ways of choosing 3 astronauts from the 5 Europeans who had been short-listed. (Let the 5 astronauts be A,B,C,D, and E: ABC, ABD, ABE, ACD, ACE, ADE, BCD, BCE, BDE, CDE)

There are 6 different ways of choosing 2 astronauts from the 4 Americans who had been short-listed. (Let the 4 astronauts be F,G,H and I: FG, FH, FI, GH, GI, HI)

There are 3 different ways of choosing 2 astronauts from the 3 Russians who had been short-listed. (Let the 3 astronauts be J,K and L: JK, JL, KL)

So in total there are $10 \times 6 \times 3 = 180$ different teams that can be made up from the short-list of astronauts.

Winners this month are: Rachel Lotts 7N and Zoe Littlechild 7L (Please collect your prizes from the Maths Office)

February's puzzle of the months is:

A gardener has fewer than 500 pot plants of chrysanthemum cuttings, which he is trying to arrange as neatly as possible in the greenhouse. First he tried arranging them in rows of two, but found there was one left over. Then he tried them in rows of three, but again there was one left over. Likewise he tried them in rows of four, then five, then six and always found one left over. Finally he tried in rows of seven and this time the rows were exactly even. How many plant pots did he have?

Please return answers on a piece of paper with name and form to the Maths office by the end of the month.

Mrs A Kirby

