



HEMEL HEMPSTEAD SCHOOL NEWS

www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

23rd November 2007

HeadLines

This week has been an 'in the spotlight' one for the school. Christie Productions have been on site filming an episode of 'Poirot' entitled 'Cat Among the Pigeons' which will be shown in the new year. Our girls have had an opportunity to dress as 1930s school girls and take part. What a fantastic opportunity for them! Why have we been chosen? Partly because of our proximity to London and the setting we can provide of vintage school buildings of some aesthetic merit but also because we can be relied upon to supply talented students who don't make a fuss about acting with David Suchet or actors of his ilk and produce professional performances at the first time of asking.

GMTV have also resurfaced this week following our successful appearance for them on GCSE results day. The Conservatives published their proposals for education reform this week and I was asked to comment on their mobile phone ban and their Headteacher autonomy issues. The interviews turned out to cover a wider range of issues but again our students gave a good account of themselves, even arriving at school at 6.15am so that a sequence on handing in mobile phones could be filmed. I was also interviewed live for IRN which syndicates to all the independent stations and then had a live interview with Mercury Radio. Richard Gaisford, the GMTV reporter, predicted that I would hear from friends and acquaintances I hadn't heard from for years following my broadcast and he proved to be correct! I am still waiting for the call to take over from one of the leading actresses in 'Poirot' but may have to be content with singing melodiously (I will let the students judge!) on Friday in 'X Factor' which Year 10 student Matthew Gill has organised on behalf of 'Children in Need'. Another example of how responsible, committed and talented our students are.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*****Gold Week*****

Mon 26th Nov	Year 13 PE Revision Conference
	Year 13 English Conference
Thurs 29th Nov	Year 13 Ethics and Philosophy Trip

Fri 30th Nov	Occasional Day—School closed
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*****Blue Week*****

Mon 3rd and Tues 4th Dec	Year 11 Art Mock Exam
Weds 5th Dec	Year 13 Design Conference
Thurs 6th Dec	Year 12 Parents' Consultation Evening

Canteen News

The new homestyle menu has started this week—some new dishes have been introduced and some of the old favourites are back. Let us know what you think. We are still trying new ideas for morning break and hot chocolate is now available at Breakfast Club on a trial basis.

Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 20th December 2007 at a cost of £3. Menu and ticket details will follow next week.

Thank you to everyone who supported our cookie sale last week when we raised £30 for Children in Need.

Mrs J Davis, Catering Manager

MODERN LANGUAGES MAGAZINES (Yrs 8-11)

If you have subscribed to a magazine, they are available for you to collect during break or lunchtime from the languages office. If you did not subscribe, but would like to, please see Mrs Lutz.

PTA NEWS

Jumble Sale: A very big thank you to everyone who helped set up on Friday evening and on the day selling and clearing up. We raised over £700.

Family Portraits Day—2nd December 2007

Flyers about this event were sent to Years 7, 8 and 9. It will be held at the school and costs £10. There are still a few appointments left and if you are interested please obtain a form from Student Services as soon as possible as requests have to be received by Thursday 29th November at the latest.

Next meeting: Monday 21st January 2008 in the Library.

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

Modern Languages—Target Language Raffle

From Monday 26th November we will be starting a new and exciting venture in Modern Foreign Languages. All teachers will be armed with raffle ticket books!

If a student talks to the teacher in French or German, then he or she will receive a raffle ticket, which should be kept in a safe place! Students may talk to the teachers at any time during break, lunchtime or during lessons, when asking to take off their coat, asking for help, finding out what to do next, etc.

All students are eligible—you do not have to be studying a foreign language, so all Year 12 and 13 students are well placed to join in too!

The raffle will be drawn in W8 at breaktime each Friday and there will be prizes each week for the winning student(s). Winning raffle ticket numbers will be displayed on the door of W8 and students should bring their ticket to claim their prize.

Good luck!Bonne Chance!Viel Glück!

Miss D Benjamin, Modern Foreign Languages

Quote for the Week: "Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety nine per cent perspiration." **Thomas Edison**

Arts News

Auditions for Rock Challenge

Auditions for next year's Rock Challenge will take place on Thursday 22nd November 2007 as follows:

Years 7 and 8 at lunchtime in PA1

Years 9 and 10 from 3.30—5pm in PA1

Dance Nation Show

Reverb will be performing Dance Nation Show at Lion Theatre, Longdean School on Saturday 24th November at 7.30pm. Tickets are available on www.dancenationshow.co.uk

Mrs C Lang, Dance Department

Children In Need XFactor

Auditions took place for XFactor today when our judges whittled the hopefuls down to the final ten (names will be released on Monday). However, their job is done and now the decision is down to you. On Friday 23rd November at 7pm, the ten remaining acts will perform, including the Staff Choir, fighting for your votes to win The XFactor. It's a show not to be missed. Tickets will cost £3 and are available at Student Services. Every penny goes to Children In Need, so please support the performers and this great charity.

Matthew Gill 10A

Partnership link with Mgezwa School, South Africa

During the past week, the main school assemblies were taken by Mrs Bailey, Miss Dayton and Mrs Botha. The theme was our partnership with Mgezwa School in South Africa. They were privileged to visit the school over half term and were able to share with our students both the similarities and differences between us and the potential there is for each school to learn from the other.

Forming a link with a school abroad allows students in both institutions to become more aware of global dimensions, such as sustainable development, the interdependence of nations and social justice and equity. Students can share what is common in their subject learning, celebrate what is different and learn about their partners' lifestyles and culture. At the same time, we aim to encourage enterprise and a willingness to develop understanding of fundamental human values.

As a Performing Arts School, we were particularly interested in the music, drama and dance of the South African school and the teachers went out armed with recording equipment. The aim is to produce a CD with the songs of both the Mgezwa and our own choirs on it—and, thanks to the wonders of technology, even sharing songs— then to sell these CDs to raise funds for the Partnership between the schools. The standard of singing recorded at Mgezwa was astonishing, as your sons and daughters will confirm, having watched the video of a recording session in assembly. But we are confident that our choirs can also produce a wonderful sound and that the CD will be well worth purchasing! Please look for it in January 2008 and buy as many copies as you can.

While both schools have high standards academically, in the Arts and in sport, it was clear to us that there is a major differential between the schools in terms of resources. The Partnership is emphatically not a one-way charity exercise—it is a mutually supportive partnership for learning. But we are lucky enough to have two sponsors, Student Awardz and Team Strides who have offered to help ship over to Mgezwa some tea chests of books which have become superfluous during the re-stocking of our library. The website address for Student Awardz is www.studentawardz.co.uk and contains photos and music.

We would like to fill the tea chests with pens, pencils, rulers and exercise books. The students at Mgezwa have to provide all stationery for themselves and many come from basic homes, some without water or electricity. Their enterprise in making homemade toys and articles such as lanterns is impressive: perhaps our students could show equal enterprise in finding the resources to furnish their fellow learners with the small articles of stationery they cannot make themselves.

If you and your children would like to donate any of the following items, please bring them to Student Services by Thursday 29th November: pens, pencils, maths equipment eg. compasses, protractors, calculators, exercise books. 6-11 year olds also attend the school so any storybooks or practical toys or games to encourage learning through play would be valued.

We are very excited to be starting this partnership. We have much to learn and gain and much to teach and give. We hope that you will feel keen to support the school in this international link and will buy lots of copies of our CD when it comes out after Christmas!

Ms N Darby, Assistant Headteacher

A-Level Recital Evening

An eclectic range of music filled the air around Heath Barn on Tuesday 13th November. The music was provided by A-level students as part of the department's Recital Evening.

The evening kicked off to a fantastic start by Joe Suddick performing 'Myths and Photographs' on Electric Guitar. This is an extremely technical piece, which Joe performed excellently and with much virtuosity. Sophie Moore then enthralled the audience with her rendition of 'Samba Triste', on saxophone. The complex and intricate rhythms were handled confidently and accurately.

Lindsay Smith followed with a charismatic Martinu piano piece, 'Columbine Dances,' which was controlled beautifully with much use of effective phrasing and dynamics.

Following on from these fast moving works, Ian Patrick changed the atmosphere of the Recital room by singing the pensive and thoughtful 'Under the Greenwood Tree' by Walton. This was sung maturely with good vocal control whilst the story was told effectively through the music. Rebecca Openshaw continued the calm ambience by playing the peaceful 'Larghetto' on violin. This was performed with good control and beautiful phrasing.

Eleanor Cooke performed a Basozzi work on an instrument rare to the Hemel Hempstead School, the bassoon. This was handled well and the 'jolly' element came through clearly. Fifi Mills then entertained the audience with the song 'So in Love' from the popular musical 'Kiss Me Kate'. Seonagh Steele relaxed the audience with 'The Water is Wide' which was performed fluently. Continuing with the musical theme, Abigail Spear sang 'The Man I Love' which was handled very maturely with much use of emotion.

The penultimate performance consisted of Martin Cheung on guitar, supported by Chris Pennycook and Thomas Stancombe. 'Voodoo Child' by Jimi Hendrix was evidently well rehearsed and performed confidently.

Saxophonist Tiago Chan was the evening's final performer. This virtuosi realisation of 'Light of Sothis' by Amy Quate was handled successfully with much control over dynamics. The outcome of this technically accurate, yet musical performance produced a good round of applause from the audience.

For many of the above students, this Recital Evening was the first time they have had the daunting challenge of performing solo on stage. They all did extremely well and performed confidently. Well done!

Miss E Poat

Year 7 Science Trip

The Year 7 trip to the Natural History Museum on Monday 19th November was very successful and there will be students' write-ups in next week's newsletter.

Miss M Phung, Science Department

Partnership with Mgezwa School, South Africa

We still need pencils, pens, rulers etc. to fill the boxes to be sent to Mgezwa School. We also need any educational toys and books for 5-11 year olds. There is a lead story about our partnership on www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass and photographs of the visit.

Please help by bringing in these items to Student Services. Thank you.

Mrs M Botha

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 answerphone on **01442 390103 by 9am if possible**


FIXTURES
Saturday 24th November

Football v Marlborough, Years 7 and 9 (A) 8.30am

Years 8 and 10 (H) 9am

Tuesday 27th November

Football—U12 5-a-side @ Tring 3.30>5.30pm

Netball—Yrs 9 and 10 v Kings Langley (H) 3.30>5.30pm

Basketball—U16 ESBBA v County Upper (A) 3.30>5.30pm

Wednesday 28th November

Basketball—U19 ESBBA v Hylands (A) 3.30>5.30pm

Thursday 29th November

Basketball—U14 ESBBA v SCC (H) 3.30>5.30pm

RESULTS

Year 9 Basketball v JFK won 79-77

Year 10 Football v Astley Cooper won 4-2

NEWS

As the cold weather is closing in please could all students ensure that they come adequately prepared for PE lessons. Tracksuit bottoms may be worn provided they are navy blue with a gold stripe. These can be bought from Stevensons. Both boys and girls should be wearing their rugby shirts for outside lessons.

Congratulations to the U16 Football squad who beat Astley Cooper earlier this week to progress to the next round of the District Cup.

Miss E Bevan, PE Department

Studentawardz

Please check out the Studentawardz website—

www.studentawardz.co.uk It has details of our sports

fixtures and results and news about our South Africa partnership.


Headteacher's Commendations

For gaining a place with the County Dance Company:

Bradley Sarginson 13N

For excellent work in German: Rebecca Armorgie 9A, Katie Mogan 9F, Priya Odedra 9F, Alex Calver 9F.

For excellent work in French: Adam King 9C.

For excellent work in Chemistry: Arran Sparrow 10L, Adam Kaye 10F, Madhurima Dey 10N.

For excellent work in Science: Elizabeth Merrill, Emma D'Amery, Louise Guthrie, Lorenzo Bellini, Tiffany Harrison, Matthew Bate-man, Ryan Georgiou, Zoe Denis, Louis Mayhew, Thomas Watkins, Bethany Dony 7L.

For excellent Sports Leadership: Jamie Allen 10N, Gemma Annis 10C, Fareena Asmat 10A, Amber Bartlett 10F, Sam Beasley 10F, Allyce Beaumont 10N, Abigail Bryce 10F, Harriet Bullock 10L, Arran Sparrow 10L, Bethanie Suddick 10F, Samantha Sydney 10N, Polly Taylor 10P, Sean Taylor 10F, Daniel Twine 10P, Louise Verro-ken-Jones 10C, Lilyma Yousuf 10L.

For excellent service to the school: Alice McQuade 10C, Holly Moxon 10A, Alex Openshaw 11F, Adam Amamou 8A, Thomas Howe 9P, Jack Howe 7L, Nicola Kennett 7N, Oliver Price 8C, Lauren Kempster 7A.

For excellent work in RE: Francesca Quinn 7F.

For coming in to school early to appear on GMTV: Harriet Bullock 10L, Amy Mairs 10N, Helena Mansbridge 10C, Alex Dobby 10N, Lilyma Yousuf 10L, Amy Capel 10L, Mary Pattinson 7P, Ellenor Ward 7P, Tim Chang 7P, Luke Harris 7C, Jonathan Rae 10C, Tom Franklin 11A, Connor Deadman 11A, Matthew Tamplin 10N, Jake Eilbeck 11N, Luke Thomas 11N.

Sport

FIXTURES



RESULTS

Miss E Bevan, Learning Leader: PE

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter No.

Gold Letters are also available via our website—
www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

