



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

24 April 2009

www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

Monday felt like the start of the Summer term: the weather was everything it hadn't been on many days during the holiday. I encountered hot air balloons on the horizon on my way home from school and any silence was punctuated with birdsong. On the school front, the hall floor was at its shiniest and the preparation for the examination season was well underway.

The staff met on the INSET day and we talked about how to make this the best school in the universe followed by much moderation of coursework and various visits from examiners. The assemblies for the week have been on the topic of respect; I, like many of you I suspect, have been mesmerised by the transformation from potential disrespect to total respect as Susan Boyle performed on 'Britain's Got Talent' or at least on the YouTube video viewed one hundred million times or more. I exhorted our students to be the questioning, enthusiastic people they are whilst retaining the respect for staff and fellow students that makes an organisation like ours a happy, productive and moral institution. I expect our youngsters to greet peers and elders respectfully as they progress around the site throughout the day. Good relationships based on old fashioned courtesies go a long way to create a great school. I don't expect them to question the 'givens' of school life: correct uniform, obeying instructions, behaving immaculately, but I do believe that respect is earned because of how we conduct ourselves and what we do... and that applies to everyone in our school community.

In my assembly, I cited a few instances where respect and how it is earned are questioned. In the story of the rich young man or ruler, as he is sometimes called, in Luke's gospel, Jesus makes someone realise that outward gestures or words without substance are as nothing. In an anecdote about my own school days, I recounted the tale of my Headmistress who ruled by fear but earned my respect when she wrote me a beautifully entertaining and sympathetic letter when I was in hospital. She went on to mentor me in my ambition to be the first member of my family to go to university and despite her old fashioned values and lack of worldliness became a role model of note to generations of girls.

I hope that I am not striking too controversial a note when I say that it is more common for parents today to question the way that the 'respect ethos' operates in schools. The school behaviour policy is very clear and I make no secret of what the school stands for, so it is very disappointing when we are not supported on aspects of dress code or discipline structure.

Our school is based on the three Rs :Respect, Responsibility and Relationships. The majority of the dealings in school illustrate this vividly but any tendency towards disrespect causes the walls to shake. That is why respect will be a theme running through these newsletters this term.

For example, whilst the summer term may bring with it balloons, blossom and birdsong, it also heralds a certain immodesty in dress from some of our students, especially sixth form girls. Much as it makes me sound like dear old Mona Mathews, my own Headteacher of yesteryear, who measured the length of our skirts with a ruler, I have to state that we come to school to learn, not to sunbathe or tread the catwalk, and that the uniform rules stay essentially the same during this term except that, on very hot days, shirt sleeve order will be declared. And she is probably turning in her grave in the knowledge that a few students were brought to our school gates on day one sporting new nose piercings. As John McEnroe so disrespectfully intoned: 'You cannot be serious!'

May I thank all the teachers who gave of their time over Easter to run revision classes. May I thank the parents who have sent their children back to school dressed to learn and eager to participate and may we all look forward to a joyously productive term.

*Nose piercings are not allowed and I am not prepared to condone them by allowing students to wear plasters over them. Respect!

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



ARTS NEWS

This is the season of practical exams in all the Arts subjects. AS and A2 Dance exams were held during the Easter holidays, while A2 level Theatre Studies exams took place this week. Music students are completing compositions and preparing for their individual performances while Art students are putting the final touches to portfolios and begin their day-long exams shortly.

We wish the students all the very best.

A Safe Place to Be

Parents are reminded that from 8 am every morning students are welcome at the Breakfast Club in the Dining Room, where fresh fruit, toast and hot drinks are on sale. At the end of the school day, the Library remains open until 5 pm. Students can do homework, read, play board games or go on the computers there.

Ms N Darby

Talent Show Review

Raising money for the Y11 Prom may have been the name of the game for the Talent Show held on the last Thursday of the Spring Term but the students of the Prom Committee also did a splendid job of raising spirits after a busy and intensive Spring Term. I have to confess that I had my doubts as to whether the Committee would muster a decent audience and sufficient talent so soon after X Factor and Anything Goes. However, they proved me wrong as, once again, auditions had to be held to whittle down the talent to the final ten acts who performed to another full house.

Amy Berloth and Sid Reid danced in perfect synchronicity to open the show, throwing the gauntlet down to fellow dancers Nameless, a truly mixed age act, ranging from Y7 right through to a very nimble Miss Black and a very youthful-looking Mrs Cracknell. Singers and musicians provided the bulk of the talent and, indeed, the winners of the competition, Paraless, featuring Rosie Hoskins, Megan Impey and Adam Edgeworth, coupled virtuoso talent with true stage presence. Louis Bransgrove and Lauren King slowed proceedings right down with their acoustic duet but nevertheless demonstrated absolute command of the audience and of their material. Steph Allen joined Tom Durrant for a self-penned number which was truly impressive while JMR's performance (J Stratford, M King, R Fenemore) belied James' introductory claim that 'he was a little bit scared'! Boys from the lower years have shown the ability to reduce the audience to stitches in these shows - rappers 05 and entertainers MCJS took on this role in this particular show – while Daniel Fay provided genuine variety with his seemingly endless supply of yoyos and his unflappable temperament.

The second act was made up of special guest acts, some of which featured members of staff. Mr Miller poured every drop of emotion into his memorable performance, ably backed by a sixth form band. Kris Banks and Matt Bailey have perfected a hybrid art form called Drance (Drama and Dance) which, on paper, sounds like Pan's People's interpretations of chart hits on Top of the Pops in the 1970s. In reality, it is absolutely outstanding and this performance reinforced as it was by Miss Sepala, Miss Billinge and Mr Colquhoun, was highly memorable. The evening was completed by an act entitled 'Boyonce' which featured the male members of the Prom Committee dancing, in leotards, to 'Put A Ring On It' – this was absolutely hilarious and congratulations must go to the boys for their bravery and skills!

I would like to thank the members of the Prom Committee – Amber Bartlett, Helena Mansbridge, Matt Gill, Kenny Mitchell, Joe Welton, Caleb Parker, Sammi Rees and Charlotte Bateman – for a most entertaining evening. They organised the whole event by themselves, which was most impressive, but they were, of course, dependent on staff support for judging, guest acts, front of house, box office, refreshments etc., and I would like to thank all staff involved.

Mr Jordan

PUNCTUALITY

From the start of this term a new system will be in place to improve student punctuality at the beginning of the school day. Students who are regularly late (on more than three occasions in a term) will be placed on a punctuality register. Once placed on the register, any student who is late will receive notice of a lunchtime detention, to be conducted on that day. The detention will be run by Senior staff and Middle leaders and will last half an hour. Parents and guardians will be informed when students are placed on the register and subsequently if they have been late.

Mr A Stuart, Assistant Headteacher

Library Notice

Please send in any Times Books for Schools tokens by Monday 27th April so that we can place our first order. The new scheme has now started so please continue collecting tokens to help us provide new books for our students.

Many thanks.

Mrs E Krajewski, Librarian

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

TESCO and Sainsbury's Vouchers for Schools

A reminder that we are collecting the Tesco and Sainsbury's promotional vouchers. Please hand them in to Student Services. Many thanks.

Students Ties

If students need a replacement tie they are available from Student Services at a cost of £6.50.

Mrs A Davis, Student Services

English Department Book Amnesty

Could students return any English texts they are no longer using to the English Department as soon as possible.

Mrs H Redfern

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.

SPORT



FIXTURES

Monday 27th – no fixtures

Tuesday 28th – Yr 8 Athletics Vs Bridgewater & JFK away 4-6pm

Wednesday 29th – no fixtures

Thursday 30th – 1st 11 District Cup final Vs TBC 5pm KO
Leverstock Green FC
County Athletics league match 1 @
Jarman Park 4-6pm

SPORTS NEWS

The Year 8 football team have had another highly successful season reaching the final of the District Cup. The team were extremely unfortunate to lose to Kings Langley 1-0 in extra time. The following day, they played the semi final of the County Cup against an extremely strong Queens side and were victorious on this occasion, winning 1-0, again in extra time. Subsequently, the final will be played on Tuesday 28th April. The game will kick off at 6 pm. All parents are more than welcome to attend and support the school. The venue for the game will be: Sandridge Rovers FC, Spencer Recreation Ground, Sandridge, St Albans.

Mr A Stuart, Assistant Headteacher

All lunchtime practices have started and timetables have been issued to all form groups and are also displayed on the PE notice boards. All students involved in Athletics, Rounders and Cricket squads should be attending practises and must regularly check notice boards for details of matches/team sheets etc.

Ms N Moore

PTA News

Fundraising

Please see our entry on the school website under 'News and Events'.

HHSA Meeting – Monday 27th April at 7pm LRC – all welcome.

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

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 183 Music Timetables

Letter 184 DoE Silver/Gold Qualifying Expeditions

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

Science Revision Classes for Year 11, 12 and 13

The following revision sessions will run from the week beginning Monday 27th April.

In most cases there will be more than one teacher available, students from all class sets are encouraged to attend and to use these sessions as opportunities to clarify their understanding and aid their preparation for the forthcoming exams.

Sessions may change to suit demand.

Please speak to your Science teacher if you have any questions.

See the Science notice board outside the Science office for updates.

	Lunch 1.30 – 2.10 pm	After School 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Monday	Year 12 Chemistry in CH1	Year 11 Physics in PH1 and PH2
Tuesday	Year 11 Physics in PH1 Year 12 Physics in PH2	
Wednesday	Year 13 Chemistry in CH1 Year 11 Biology in SC3	Year 12 Physics in PH1
Thursday	Year 11 Physics in PH1 and PH2 Year 12 Chemistry in CH1 Year 12 Biology	Year 11 Science in SC3
Friday	Year 13 Physics in PH2 Year 11 Chemistry in CH1 Year 11 Applied Science in CH2	

Dates for Your Diary



Blue Week

- 27th** Year 11 Art Exam
28th Apr Year 11 Art Exam
 The Young Shakespeare Company performance to Year 9
 Year 12 General Studies Day
29th Apr Year 11 Drama Exam
 Sixth Form Prom
30th Apr Year 10 Catering Exam
 Years 7/8 Junior Maths Challenge
 Year 8 Geography visit to Docklands
 Year 12 Drama Exam
 County League Athletics, 3.30 – 6 pm
 Year 10/11 English Theatre Trip
1st May Year 10 Catering Exam
 Year 8 Geography visit to Docklands

Gold Week

- 4th May** Bank Holiday – school closed
5th May County League Athletics, 3.30 – 6 pm
 Year 12 Art Exam
6th May Year 13 Art Exam
7th May Year 13 Art Exam
 Year 11 MFL GCSE Oral Exams
 ‘Big Little Theatre Company’ performances
8th – 11th May Year 10 D of E Bronze Practice Expedition
8th May Year 11 MFL GCSE Oral Exams
 Year 13 Art Exam
 ‘Hemel at War’ project website launch

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For service to the school: Adam Amamou 9A,
Rosie Watts 8L

For excellent work in Art: Olivia Pinnock 7P,
Tessa Wilson 7P, Lauren Stone 7P

For excellent work in English: Callum Nolan
7N, Amal Janason 7N, Tsungai Lewry 7N,
Shivam Modwadia 7N

For excellent History research: Zoe Wills
13P, Rosie Hutton 13C, Alex Brook 13A,
Ed Gardner 13A

Excellent work in History: Sidra Sadiq 9A,
James Price 9A, Keiran Duke 9N, Andrew Coe
9P, Hollie Bishop 9A, Ellie Pinnock 9C, Ross
Taylor 9A, Katie Towse 9C

Excellent work in Dance: Daniel MacLeod 9F,
Ryan Howe 9A, Lydia Carroll-Aylett 9C, Noah
Jones 9L, Lewis Kent 9N