



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

24 October 2008

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HeadLines

It hardly seems possible that a half term has passed and that we are soon to embark on the run-up to the festive season. Once the new half term begins so does the round of House events, parents' evenings with the accompanying reports, Carol Service and Christmas concert with Mistletoe Day and Speech Night beckoning right at the end of term.

Many of the annual events have passed by already; the Roman Legion has marched in and out, students have glided sedately to Hampton Court and numerous trips have taken place. In this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, I trust that our own odes to autumn have been mellifluous and as aesthetically pleasing as we would wish them to be. Some of the days of September and October have been sunny and bright but the recent wet, windy weekdays have been sufficient to remind us of the darker days ahead. One of the pleasant things about our school grounds is that the passing seasons are well marked by the trees and squirrel behaviours and insect life. I have tested and found to be true, quasi-scientifically, the hypothesis that conkers deter spiders from our door!

When the clocks are turned back at the weekend, so does the time of year revert just as artificially into its wintry phase. The lights that punctuate the various religious festivals such as Divali lighten our darkness, occasionally with the extravagant explosions associated with Guy Fawkes but more commonly with the ever more numerous twinkling pulses that declare the earlier start of Advent. The October half term usually finds me in Northern California watching the beautiful autumnal colours in the Sonoma vineyards or seeing the descendents of Hitchcock's birds circle overhead at Bodega Bay, but this year I will be tending my garden and preparing for a move from the watery fenlands to the verdant hills of Hertfordshire. So much changes throughout our lives and so much stays the same: 'Plus ca change...'

I think one of the most energising things about this school is that whilst we value tradition and delight in the constants constructing our days, we are also enthusiastic about the next generation of students finding out and trying out 'the shock of the new': the thrill of the new house captains leading the first house event of the season, the new teams out on the football pitches or the basketball courts, the new cast of the latest school musical rehearsing or the latest elected members of the new school council proudly taking their places and representing the views of their peers. The school is a busy, bustling place, whether it be on the superb International Languages Day held this week or in the dance workshops which attracted youngsters like bees to a hip hop honeypot last week. 'Much have I travelled in the realms of gold' is a favourite line from a much loved sonnet. I've always identified with Keats' sentiment and have been able to do so more emphatically since being at The Hemel Hempstead School.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 47/48 Year 11 Science Coursework Catch-Up

Letter 50 Years 10/12/13 Textiles visit to The Clothes Show

Letter 52 Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening

Letter 49 GCSE Celebration Evening

Letter 51 Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening

Letter 53 Army Combat Team visit to Year 9



'Hip-Hop' Dance Workshop

The 'Hip-Hop' Dance Workshop, inspired by Andy Instone, was truly amazing. It was fun and energetic. Andy made everyone feel welcome as well as making them laugh. He is an inspiration to dance, not to mention his groovy moves!

His performance and workshop was well worth giving a go; anyone who didn't join in really did miss out. It was the best lesson I've had throughout my school life.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed myself, as did everyone else, and a great thank you is needed for Andy Instone and Urban Strides.

Lewis Kent 9N

Roman Legion Day

Last week Year 7 spent the day learning about life in Roman times. In the morning we learned all about the Roman lifestyle. We learned about their foods, their toilets, their gods and their housing. I especially enjoyed seeing Zöe being made up, using crushed beetle juice for lipstick.

In the afternoon we met Marcus, a centurion, and Caius, a legionary. They showed us their swords and their daggers. You had to be right handed to hold the swords and fight in the correct way. We then learned how to march as a legion, in various formations, ready for battle. That was fun! After this, we went outside and Marcus and Caius showed us how to use various weapons. They threw some javelins, flicked some arrows into the air and flung some golf balls from a sling. I really enjoyed the day, even though some parts were a bit gory. I think everyone will remember this great experience!

Lauren Nicell 7F

Job Vacancy

Exam Invigilators £7.50 per hour

Are you interested in being an Exam Invigilator? Working as part of a team, you will be responsible for setting up exam venues and supervising candidates taking exams. Training will be given and full support provided by the exams office. Applicants must be well organised, confident and able to work flexible hours. Work will be available during our exam seasons in December, January, May and June.

Further details are available on our website at www.hemelhempsteadschool.co.uk If you are interested please apply, via letter of application and Hertfordshire Support Staff Appointment and Person Specification forms (available on our website) to Mrs S Cooper, Headteacher's PA, The Hemel Hempstead School, Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TX. Tel: 01442 390100. Fax: 01442 233706. E-mail: admin@hhs.herts.sch.uk The Hemel Hempstead School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Closing date: 7th November 2008

PTA News

JUMBLE SALE

This will be held on 8 November 2008 at 10am in the School Hall. We are frantically collecting jumble, so if you have any, please contact us to arrange when you can bring it to School.

We also need help to sort on the Friday and sell on the Saturday - please come along to help if you can.

The **AGM** was held on Monday evening and the following were elected to hold office for the next year:

Judith Stallworthy	Chair
Alison Beer/Pip Ashburner	Secretary
Stewart Stallworthy	Treasurer
Sandra Samwell	President

The position of Vice Chair was unfilled

Next meeting 17th November 7pm in the Library

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

HOUSE DANCE FESTIVAL – Monday 10th November

The new House Captains have worked tirelessly and with great enthusiasm in preparing for the first major House event of the academic year. Rehearsals are in full swing and should not end later than 5 pm. Tickets will be on sale from Student Services at every break and lunchtime from Monday 3rd November and will cost £2 each. I look forward to seeing many of you there during the evening.

Mr J Mitchell

Black History Week Form Quizzes

12 Ashridge and 9 Chalfont have won the quizzes, both scoring 11 out of 22 in the 'We were there' quiz and 10 out of 20 in 'What are the following famous for?' Well done to both form groups.

Mrs J Ramnarine

Divali/Diwali

Divali began on 19th October. It is the Hindu New Year festival which lasts from one to five days. During the festival lights are hung out and fireworks are exploded. It is a festival of light, coinciding with the darkest night of the lunar month.

Various interpretations are given to the festival in different parts of India, but it is generally associated with Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and prosperity or with the victorious return of Rama and Sita to the kingdom of Ayodhya after their exile. Divali marks the beginning of the Indian financial year.

Sikhs also celebrate Divali as the sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind, was released from Gwalior prison on this day. The Guru refused to accept release when it was offered by the emperor Jehangir unless 52 imprisoned Hindu Princes were also given their freedom. To meet the Emperor's condition that only those who could hold onto his cloak could leave the prison, the Guru had a cloak with long tassels.

Dates for Your Diary

Blue Week

4 th Nov	PSHE Collapsed Timetable Day
6 th Nov	Years 12/13 Senior Maths Challenge
7 th Nov	Year 12 University of Herts Study Skills Day

Gold Week

10 th Nov	HOUSE DANCE
11 th Nov	Year 9 Options Carousel Day
13 th Nov	Year 11 Parents Consultation Evening
	Year 12 General Studies Day

Calendar update:

Christmas Concert - Friday, 5th December
Christmas Carol Service - Tuesday, 16th December

Library Notice

Parents are reminded that the opening hours of the Library are 8 am until 5 pm. Students will not be able to access the Library before 8 am. The Library will not be open during the school day on Tuesday 4th November due to it being used for a PSHEE activity. Thank you.

Mrs Krajewski, Librarian

PSHEE Day and Target Setting Day – Tuesday 4th November

This year we have identified one day each term to focus on the wider areas of education not usually associated with formal examinations but equally important because of their impact on the lives of your child/our students.

In partnership with you, the parents, we endeavour to steer every pupil through the opportunities available, to a safe, rewarding and successful future.

On this day, each year group will have an appropriate focus covering Personal, Social, Health, Economic well being and work related preparation. The programme for the week is printed on the next page.

This format allows us to focus on specific areas whilst also affording Form Tutors the time to begin a target setting process with each of their tutees. These targets will be written in your child's planner and I am sure you will want to encourage your child to work towards these targets. They will be monitored by Form Tutors and reviewed during Academic Tutoring or the PSHEE Day on 21st April.

Our thanks go to the following organisations/individuals:

Steve May/Gemma Ling – Community Police Support Officers

Mrs L Head – IT Teacher

June Wilkinson – Nat West Bank

Bud Windeler – Druglink

Nick Crispin – Magistrates Court

AdAd Theatre Company

Major Wurr and the Army Combat Team

Peter Pamfrett – Enterprise

Adam Clarke – Herts Careers Service

'Speak Easy' – Enterprise Company

'Inside Knowledge' – Business Link

Mrs M Botha

Hemel at War

History students have recently been given the opportunity to get involved with a 'Hemel at War' project, contributing to the project's website and archive. One of the most exciting elements of the project is the opportunity to interview people from Hemel Hempstead about their war experiences.

On 16th October Mrs Abbott arranged a trip to the British Legion to meet War Veterans. I went along with Alex Brook 13A and Sammy Rees 11P. We conducted an interview with the veteran we were paired with and a recording was made of both questions and answers so that the information can be put onto our website.

I interviewed a man named Henry Whiting who has lived in Hemel Hempstead since he was three years old. He subsequently detailed his experience of the Second World War, including how he felt in battle and the everlasting effect the war has had on his life. Not only did I find the visit historically enlightening, the experience was both fascinating and humbling.

It has been very exciting to get involved in historical research and to contribute to an archive that will preserve the memories and experiences of so many unrecognised local heroes. The trip was hugely enjoyable and successful and the 'Hemel at War' team are beginning to make plans for a second visit that will allow students to meet with more men and women, to share their fascinating experiences.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge any budding historians who share an interest in historical research or World War II to get involved in the project; students of all ages are welcome. Also, if any students have any information or know of anyone who would be able to contribute to the 'Hemel at War' archive, please contact the History Department, it would be immensely appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Abbott, Mr Ross and Mrs Wright who have taken time to direct this exciting project.

Rosie Hutton13C

SPORT

FIXTURES

Tues 4th Nov Yr 7 Netball @ Astley Cooper

Yr 8 Netball @ Adeyfield

Yrs 8, 9, 10 District Football v Watford (A) 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Thu 6th Nov Yr 9 Netball @ Astley Cooper

Yr 10 Netball @ Adeyfield

Yr 7 Netball v Abbots Hill (H)

Fri 7th Nov U13 and U14 County Basketball Trials



RESULTS

Yr 8 Girls Basketball v Cavendish won 58-29

Yr 7 County Cup Football v Sheredes won 4-1

Yr 8 Willacy Shield Football v Priory School won 3-1

U18 English Schools Football v County Upper School won 3-0 Football v Sandringham

Yr 7 lost 2-1

Yr 8 lost 7-2

Yr 10 drew 2-2

Yr 11 County Cup Football v Dame Alice Owens lost 8-1

Yr 11 English Schools Football v St John Lawes lost 4-0

SPORTS NEWS

Year 9 Netball Mini-League Thursday 16th October

This week only four teams were present at the Mini-League Tournament at Astley Cooper School. The other teams were Astley Cooper, Tring and Ashlyns. After a steady start against Tring School with each centre being converted alternately we managed to move two goals ahead through some fantastic defending by Olivia Scott and some excellent centre court play. The final score was 5-3 to HHS.

The second game, against Astley Cooper, was entirely different. The team had to battle hard against the opposition to eventually win 2-1. Finally the team played Ashlyns, a well established team. Despite a few errors of play on our part the girls were able to pull off a 4-3 win with some excellent shooting from Shona Berloth. Player of the match: Charlotte Blair-Smith for some excellent shooting.

Shelley Netball News

At last, a sunny day for the Watford Netball League. The first team to take a court was Shelley 6. This team is made up of some very enthusiastic Years 8, 9 and 10 students from HHS, who determinedly took on Connexions Vipers, and walked off the court at the final whistle with a great win of 32-24. Strong defence by Rebecca Tyne and Emma Worger and great shooting by Molly Blake, clinched the game.

The next set of games saw Shelley 5 versus an experienced Panthers and Shelley Juniors versus Cosmic. Alex Eykelbosch had a bad fall in her game but bravely carried on to help her team beat Cosmic 36-34. Sadly Shelley 5 went down to Panthers after holding them to a draw at half time.

Finally, Shelley 4 met Connexions Ice in the last round of matches. At the end of a very unsettling game, they managed to hold it to a draw of 20 goals each. Some fine shooting by Amy Berloth helped the team to overcome a tense situation.

Great play by all teams.

Mrs K Worrell, MBE

Year 7 Textiles Club

A Textiles Club for Year 7 students will be taking place on Thursdays starting 6th November from 3.30 – 4.30 pm in Tech Room 4. Please see Ms Dent to secure a place as numbers will be limited. Parents will be asked to sign their child's Planner to indicate they give permission for them to stay for the Club.

Ms Dent, Technology Department

